

Packaging and Practices of Speciality Type Corn: Pop Corn

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Corn (*Zea Mays*) is one of the important cereal crop in the world. It play a vital role in agricultural economy both as food for men and feed for animals, because of its higher yield potential compared to other cereals so it is called as "Queen of Cereals". In India 49% of corn is used in poultry feed industry, 12% as animal feed and 25% as food in various forms. Currently in India depending upon its type, corn is used in various forms. Pop corn (*Zea Mays* var. *evarta*) is perhaps the most primitive of the surviving race of corn. It is a most popular foodstuff in peri-urban areas in big cities of all over the world. This corn type is characterized by a very hard, corneous endosperm containing only a small portion of soft starch. Pop corn is essentially small-kernelled flint type. In pop corn several grain colours are grown viz., white, yellow, red etc. However, yellow types are more common. When kernels of popcorn are heated, they explode and produce large puffed flakes (popping). Once popped, pop corn has two basic shapes:

Packaging and practices of pop corn:

Climate:-

Pop corn requires considerable moisture and warmth from germination to flowering. The most suitable temperature for germination is 21°C and for growth 32°C. Extremely high temperature and low humidity during flowering period damage the foliage desiccate the pollen and interfere with proper pollination, resulting in

poor grain formation

Soil:-

Any type soil suitable for produce a good pop corn. Soil pH should be in the range of 6.5 to 7.5 to get a good crop. Pop corn seeds germinate more slowly than dent corn, and the seedlings grow at slower rate. Thus, medium to coarse textured soils, which warm slightly faster than fine-textured soils, should improve germination, emergence and seedling establishment. The pop corn root system is less extensive than that of normal corn. Therefore, high clay soils and or poorly drained soils will weaken the roots, increase lodging and ultimately reduce corn yield.

Land Preparation:-

Land preparation for popcorn is similar to that of normal corn. To ensure the optimum moisture for germination, pre-sowing irrigation should be applied. After reaching the field to tilth condition, two cross ploughings with disc plough and one ploughing with cultivator followed by planking were done for good seedbed preparation. If needed, a spike-tooth harrow or other finishing tools can be used with the last pass over the field to smooth the seedbed.

Sowing time:-

Optimum time of sowing is depends on type of variety, weather condition, soil type and irrigation facility etc. However, most appropriate time of sowing is the last week of May to the first fortnight of July. Planting later than 15Th July often results in a reduction of yield. Early planting permits

the crop to mature and reach the desired harvesting moisture of 15-18% by early to mid-October. Rabi sowing preferably is completed in between October end and middle of November so that the crop can establish itself before the onset of winter.

Seed and sowing method:-

Seed rate for popcorn is lower than for normal corn because of its smaller kernel size. Seed was dibbled on the side of the ridges at a spacing of 15-20 cm keeping 3-4 cm seed depth. With irrigation facility the population should be from 80,000 to 83,000 plants/ha. A slightly lower population is used for dry land areas. Thus recommended seed rate of popcorn varieties is 12-14 kg/ha.

Seed treatment:-

Before sowing of the pop corn, the kernel/seed should be treated with Imidacloprid @ 2ml/kg seed, to avoid the insect attack.

Varieties:-

Amber Pop, Jawahar Pop corn-11, pearl Pop, VL Amber

Fertilizer management:-

Fertilizer requirements for pop corn are similar to normal corn. Fertilizer doses should be decided on the basis of soil test. In general the recommended doses of fertilizers are 120: 60: 40 kg/ha each of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O. In common the efficiency of nitrogen utilization during Rabi season is better than kharif season. Nitrogen requirements are based on expected yield. The nitrogen should be applied into three split (1/3 each as basal, teaselling and grain for-

mation stage) doses. As pop corn seedlings grow slower than normal corn, a starter dose is more important than subsequent split doses. However, it must be kept in mind that high nitrogen rates can cause lodging, especially when less than the recommended rate of potash is used while, full dose of P_2O_5 and K_2O should be applied at the time of sowing with a uniform application of 25 kg/ha zinc sulphate once in three seasons.

Intercropping:-

Pop corn being a snack items can successfully be cultivated in peri-urban areas in world wide. Though, instead of cultivating pop corn as sole crop it may be intercropped with other highly remunerative crops like cabbage, cauliflower, radish, spinach, coriander, potato, marigold, garlic, tuberose, gladiolus, spices and pea etc. It provides additional income to the farmers from unit area and makes agriculture more productive, profitable and sustainable.

Irrigation:-

Irrigation of pop corn is the same as that for normal corns. Some growers like to delay early irrigation to stimulate better rooting of the developing plants. However, the value of this practice has not been determined. Irrigation during pollen shed is not recommended. Irrigation, should continue until the black-layer has formed in the developing kernels.

Weed Control:-

Two hand-weeding are sufficient at 25 and 50 days stage after sowing to check weed growth. Tractor or bullock drawn cultivator is usually undertaken once at knee-high stage if weed situation requires. For chemical weed control, application of Atrazine or Simazine @ 1 kg a.i. per hectare at the time of sowing or before emergence of plants is used. This gives

weed protection up to 30-35 days after sowing.-

Insect and Disease Control:

Pop corn is more susceptible than field corns to diseases especially stalk rots and ear rots, and blue eye disease caused by three types of moulds *Penicillium viridicatum*, *P. cyclopium* and *Aspergillus glaucus*. These pathogens not only affect the crop in the field but may also affect stored grains leads to low popping volume, low germination and sometimes a high level of toxicity. This disease is best controlled by proper aeration during storage. However, application of Bavistin @ 1 g a.i. per litre takes care of most of the foliar diseases.

Maturity:-

Pop corn matures in 85-90 days in kharif and 95-105 days in Rabi. Since kernels are the monetary product, harvest should necessarily be done on the attainment of physiological maturity, which is evidenced by the formation of a black polyphenol layer at the base of the kernels. For optimum popping expansion the pop corn should be dried to 14-15% grain moisture. The harvested and shelled pop corn is stored in moisture-proof sealed containers.

Harvesting and Storage:-

Either ear or shelled popcorn may be harvested. Moisture at harvesting for ear corn should be 18-20% and for shelled corn 16-18%. Harvesting equipment should be adjusted accurately and carefully so that kernel damage is prevented. Damaged kernels do not pop properly and will cause a discount on the grain market. Depending on the proximity of the processing plant, the grain may be delivered directly at harvest or stored on the farm until delivery is requested. If on-farm storage is required, stor-

age facilities must be clean and good aeration must be provided. Aeration is essential for extended storage. Generally, the delivery of the grain is taken at 14-15% moisture, so the storage and aeration facilities must be able to remove some grain moisture. Relative humidity of 70% will maintain the grain at the proper moisture. Kernels that are too dry will not pop properly. Dirt, cob remnants and other foreign material at harvest must be cleaned before storage. Proper moisture level is the reason to store pop corn properly. For day-to-day use pop corns are to be stored in airtight container and in cool cupboard. Pop corn should not be stored in refrigerator. Air inside a refrigerator contains very little moisture and can cause the pop corn to dry out.

Marketing:

Pop corn is mainly produced under contract farming, which specifies the varieties and the acreages to be planted. The grower usually buys the seed through the contracting company. Pop corn seed grown without sales contract is difficult to market and is risky for farmers who do not have appropriate storage facility with good aeration.

Popping Quality:-

The quality of pop corn is expressed as popped volume, shape of the popped kernels, tenderness, and flavour. Only volume can be measured easily. The popped volume is perhaps most important because the commercial buyers buy on weight basis but sell the popped pop corn by volume. The conventional oil popping methods are still most common. However, air popping and microwave popping are becoming increasingly important in the retail market. Popping expansion of the commercially occupied pop corn varieties in USA

is 40: 1, while that in India is just 20: 1. Problems associated with low expansion volume, the high number of unopposed kernels and scorching of popped kernels make conventional popping superior to microwave popping. Popcorn variety, the moisture content of the kernels, storage conditions, type of package, and microwave oven wattage influence the quality of microwave popping.

Value Addition:-

Pop corn while being popped can be coated with salt or sugar or cheese. Sometimes coating with chocolate, enhances the market value and consumer acceptance. The manufacturers prefer butterfly type of popping due to increased volume since pop corn after popping is sold on a volume basis but consumers prefer mushroom types.

Future Strategies for Pop corn in India-

Till date in India no hybrid of pop corn is available. Thus the produce has less uniformity, which in turn affects their market acceptance, particularly in international market. Therefore, there is a need to develop pop corn hybrids in India. Second problem associated with Indian pop corn cultivars is less popping ratio. Best pop corn variety has popping ratio of 20: 1 as against 40: 1 in USA and they group in medium size only. Thus there is scope to breed for pop corn cultivars with enhanced popping ratio and with soft texture and bigger volume. During breeding, scheme selection is to be made towards kernels with thick pericarp, hard coating with soft starch cavity

inside. For this purpose efforts may be made in screening of germplasm and their utilization in breeding schemes. Popping ratio of pop corn is very much dependent on storage as well as popping temperature and moisture. Therefore, appropriate drying and storage of pop corn grains are very much essential. In USA and other developed countries food industries are involved in packaging pop corn with appropriate oil, butter and salts in popping bags. These bags are ready to pop in microwave. As a result such packings are very handy for end users and they fetch very good market price. Such entrepreneurship is very much essential in India. This is possible only with support from food industry and policy makers.



Training under tribal sub-plan concludes

PASIGHAT, February 1:

The week-long training programme under Tribal Sub-Plan conducted by College of Agriculture, Pasighat under All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal, Aromatic Plants and Betelvine at Mongku village of East Siang district concluded on February 1.

Total 40 women participants attended the training programme on “Post harvest management and value addition of medicinal and aromatic plants”.

The participants included members of women SHG, farmers and unemployed rural youth of the village.

In her lecture, the coordinator of the programme Dr Helen Soibam, emphasized about the importance of post harvest management in medicinal and aromatic plants and also demonstrated value added products such as candle, soaps and ginger candies etc.

The co-coordinators of the programme Dr Naorem Yaiphabi Chanu discussed on insect-pest management measures stressing more on the use of biological control measures as well as ITK's and Dr Nancy Lego educated the farmers about the scope and importance of medicinal and aromatic plants in the North East region.

Dr TS Mehra, Nodal officer of AICRP-MAP&B, Pasighat Centre shared knowledge on the rising importance of essential oil and uses.

Promoting the organic cultivation of MAPs, hand-hoe was also distributed to the trainees during the valedictory programme.

AWBI member stresses on animal birth control awareness

ITANAGAR, February 2:

Ram Raghuvanshi, member of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory advisory body and chairman of Slaughter House Committee held a detailed discussion regarding Animal Birth Control Programme or Legal or Illegal Slaughter House Inspection with the officials here at the conference hall of Capital DC office on Friday.

Stressing on the need to have awareness regarding animal birth control, Raghuvanshi that NGOs may be identified who are keen to work for the welfare of the street animal and all kind of support for the same would be provided from his end.

He advised to start a campaign for street dog-free Itanagar. He assured to guide, assist and help the state machineries in the field of animal birth control and setting up and regulating slaughter house in the state.

Raghuvanshi also asked the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary (AH&V) department to properly utilise the ambulances available with their department for the welfare of the animals.

He also inquired regarding the existence of Gaushala to which Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) joint commissioner Datum

Gadi informed about cattle pound at Banderdewa.

Gadi informed the AWBI member that stray animal drives are being carried out from time to time by IMC and district administration after which the animals are auctioned off or provided shelter at cattle pound at Banderdewa.

He also updated the chairman about the status of the IMC constructed abattoir house.

Raghuvanshi is on a visit to inspect abattoir house constructed by IMC. Earlier, the DC informed that a committee had been constituted which is working on to find out the exact no of street animals to further help in providing them with shelter.

Among others, Capital district medical officer (DMO), deputy director (AH&V), DAHVO, and APMC member secretary attended the meeting.

CM reviews progress of Sela tunnel, says 'looking forward to its inauguration by PM'

ITANAGAR, February 2:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu conducted an on-site inspection of the Sela tunnel project on February 2 to review the ongoing works towards all-weather connectivity to Tawang district bordering Tibet.

The ambitious Sela tunnel project, which is nearing completion, is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“We look forward to the inauguration by PM Narendra Modi Ji and the dedication of the same to the nation,” CM Khandu said in a social media post on Friday.

The Sela tunnel, announced by the government in 2018, will be the world's longest twin-lane tunnel at an altitude of

13,000 feet, provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang, and cut down travel time to the border district by at least one and a-half hour.

Construction of the tunnel is being carried out by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)'s Project Vartak.

During the visit, Khandu met with the BRO officials, who are tirelessly working on this strategically vital project. "My compliments to them for their dedication," he posted on X.

The Chief Minister said: "This tunnel, near Sela Pass, is a crucial link for overcoming challenges posed by snowfall and landslides, ensuring constant access to Tawang. This milestone will also enhance connectivity to the region near the Line of Actual Control with Tibet."

It may be mentioned here that the State Governor Lt General (retd) KT Parnaik, in his 75th Republic Day address, stated that the BRO is set to complete the Sela tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, the world's longest twin-lane tunnel above 13,000 feet that will allow faster deployment of weapons and soldiers to forward areas in Tawang near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The project comprises two tunnels, one 1.5 km long (twin tubes) and the other 1 km length. The tunnels are connected to the main BCT (Balipara-Charduar-Tawang) axis through approach roads.

It will bypass the existing narrow road leading to Sela Pass, allowing unhindered traffic movement during the winter.

Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation of the project on February 9, 2019, and its construction commenced on April 1 of the same year.

DC stresses on immersive traditional experiences to boost village tourism

PASIGHAT, February 2:

The Department of Tourism, East Siang district, with the active support of NGO Gidang Angong Society on Friday organized a one-day tourism awareness campaign on "Homestays and Tour operation" cum cleanliness drive at Balek village under Pasighat Sadar with the objective to boost village tourism and create employment opportunities through tourism sector.

East Siang deputy commissioner Tayi Taggu on the occasion said tourists visit our villages for immersive experiences of our local culture, heritage, cuisines, traditional housing, traditional warm hospitality, cleanliness and greenery.

Citing the success story of Siluk village in transforming as the cleanest village of the district, he said that now the village draws a large number of domestic and foreign tourists.

The DC exuded confidence that the likeminded youth of Gidang Angong Society, who have come together to give back to their society under the NGO will continue such community oriented initiatives in creating employment generation in villages through tourism sector and sought their innovative ideas.

District tourism officer Leena Perme highlighted that the tourism awareness campaign as part of the activities commemorating National Tourism Week on the theme "Sustainable Journeys, Timeless Memories", has been organized to promote community awareness and participation in village tourism, as the community

members are the main stakeholders for sustainable rural tourism.

ZPM Tamut Tasung also stressed on cleanliness and plantation drives, protection of wildlife and flora while speaking on eco and cultural tourism.

Gidang Angong Society spokesperson Tobom Dai presented a briefing of the society's activities.

The programme included presentations and interactive sessions with homestay owner and eco-warrior Talut Siram on the topic of 'Homestay & Sustainable tourism' where he also gifted sapling as a mark for promotion of eco-tourism.

Dhritiman Hazarika, promoter of cultural tourism, architect & digital promoter of Green Squad, gave a presentation on 'Zero waste management, cultural tourism and hospitality'.

John Tayeng, who won the Best Tour Guide award 2023 shared his experience on tour guiding, while Kepang Nong Borang, homestay operator & Swachh Siluk Abhiyan champion, spoke on homestay and cleanliness drive to achieve status of 'Swachh Siluk Village'.

Gidang Angong Society (GAS) president Olom Moyong, general secretary Ated Moyong and chairman Tangasing Dai along with team members, gaon burahs, PRIs, village member of Balek were among others present on the occasion.

Rijiju inaugurates several projects in Kra Daadi

GANGTE, February 3:

Union minister Kiren Rijiju on February 3 inaugurated several projects in Kra Daadi district.

Addressing a gathering at Gangte, Rijiju, the Minister for Earth Science, claimed that remote areas of the state have witnessed massive development in the last 10 years.

Rijiju inaugurated five projects undertaken by the Public Works Department, including the construction of infrastructure of Gangte Government Upper Primary School at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore, inspection bungalow at Gangte at Rs 2.5 crore, ground at Rai Balo Government Secondary School at a Rs 1 crore, multi-purpose community hall at Dambu Happa village at Rs 4 crore and two badminton courts at Cham-bang town at Rs 1.5 crore.

He said the government is committed to providing LPG connections to every house, and all villages in the state will have 100 per cent mobile connectivity in the coming months.

Cabinet approves creation of Keyi Panyor, Bichom districts

ITANAGAR, February 5:

The State Cabinet on February 5 gave its nod to the creation of two new districts – Keyi Panyor with headquarter at Yachuli and Bichom headquartered at Napangphung – thereby increasing the total number of districts in the state to 28.

The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pema Khandu here endorsed the Arunachal Pradesh (Reorganization of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The decision is expected to have significant influence in the forthcoming General Elections 2024.

The creation of these districts is slated for introduction

during the forthcoming legislative assembly session, commencing on February 8.

Addressing a press conference at the civil secretariat here, government spokesperson Bamang Felix disclosed that the Keyi Panyor district, formed by dividing the Lower Subansiri district, will have its headquarters situated in Yachuli (Ter Gapin-Sam Sath area).

Felix emphasized that the cabinet has emphasized respecting traditional boundaries, urging both communities to prioritize public interest.

“As many as 67 posts have also been created consisting of Group A, Group B non-gazetted, Group C, MTS and ALCs,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Bichom district is set to be carved out from East Kameng and West Kameng districts, with Napangphung designated as the district headquarters.

The move aims to enhance accessibility to remote areas and expedite economic development through the Seva Aapke Dwar 2.0 initiative.

Encompassing an area of 2897 square kilometers and a population of 9710 (as per the 2011 census), the Bichom district will include 20 villages from West Kameng and 11 from East Kameng district.

The villages from West Kameng to be included into Bichom district include Nafra, Upper Dزون, Lower Dزون, Ditchik, Rurang, Nachibon, Nakhu, Dibrick Wothung, Sanchipam, Khel-long, Khazalang, Lapusa, Nijung, West Sachung, Najang, Janaching, Sabang, Upper Challan and Lower Challan.

Meanwhile, the Pitchang, Kajung, Chijang, Kadeya, Sapung, Pochung, Afaksung, New Sapung, Yangsey, Yangpe and Pacherodong

villages from East Kameng will fall under the new district.

The state cabinet also approved several initiatives for Bichom, addressing concerns in adjacent areas of East Kameng district.

These include funding for the Eklavya Model Residential School in Bana, issuance of Land Possession Certificates (LPCs) for land/farms of Nyishi individuals in the Aka area, and the survey and preparation of DPR for the construction of a road from NH-13 to Richukrong circle headquarters for improved connectivity.

Felix clarified the existing Bana EAC headquarters will remain as EAC headquarters without being demoted to the status of circle while status quo shall be maintained against ZPM of Bana block.

“With the creation of the proposed district, the state cabinet has approved the creation of various categories of posts therefore there will be no surrender of any existing posts,” the spokesperson said.

The cabinet on the day also approved the Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill 2024, and Amendment of the Arunachal Pradesh (Land Settlement and Records) Act 2000 (Act No. 10 of 2000).

These bills will be tabled in the ensuing budget session for discussion and assent.

To fortify fire and emergency services, the cabinet sanctioned 53 additional posts across various categories, to be deployed in heliports and airports under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN). These include 5 station officers, 6 sub-fire officers, 12 head constables (drivers), and 30 firemen.

Furthermore, the cabinet

gave the nod to the establishment of new judicial courts, with the creation of 103 posts spanning various categories

These include the creation of posts for one district and session judge, one additional district and session judge, 6 first class judicial magistrates, 80 ministerial staff and 15 contingency staff (paid posts).

RGU celebrates 41st foundation day

RONO HILLS, February 5:

Education Minister Er Taba Tedir on Feb 5 acknowledged the resilience of stakeholders in overcoming the initial challenges the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) faced during its journey thus far.

Addressing the 41st Foundation Day of the university on Sunday here, Tedir lauded the university's outstanding performance during the challenging times of the COVID pandemic, where RGU emerged as the premier institution in tackling the pandemic.

"The RGU's leadership position among all universities in the state is a testament to its unwavering dedication to academic excellence, research innovation, and inclusive education", he said.

On the occasion, Tedir urged students, faculty members, and administrators to synergize their efforts and collectively realize the university's vision and mission. The minister also commended the exemplary leadership and contributions of vice chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha, whose tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the university's growth.'

The day's celebration began with a floral tribute to the Wall of Heroes. The esteemed dignitaries took part in comprehensive re-

view of the stalls featuring books, agriculture stalls, painting, skill hub and handicrafts which were displayed by students, faculty members of RGU and invitees for display of their artifacts.

Vice chancellor Prof Kushwaha presented a comprehensive report card of the university's progress, highlighting key achievements and milestones attained over the years. He also gave a glimpse into the remarkable journey of the university and underscored its commitment to academic excellence, research innovation and holistic development.

In addition to showcasing past accomplishments, Prof Kushwaha shared exciting plans for the future. He announced the forthcoming construction of additional hostels to address the growing accommodation needs of students, demonstrating the university's proactive approach to enhancing student welfare and fostering a conducive learning environment.

Sensei Raj, Founder and CEO of World Economic Summit Restore Global 360, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the crucial intersection of environmental sustainability. In his engaging deliberations, Raj underscored the paramount importance of environmental sustainability in the contemporary global context.

Against the backdrop of burgeoning global challenges, he articulated how leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) could significantly bolster the sustainability of Indian brands amidst myriad of international brands which has literally engulfed most Indian brands.

The university fraternity comprising of the faculty members, non-teaching staff, research scholars and students of the university attended the function.

As part of the celebration,

documentary film screening was also organised in the convention hall of the university. Documentary film "I am property" by Karry Padu and "The Songs We Sing, The Drums We Beat" by Dr Kom-bong Darang, an alumnus of Department of Mass Communication, RGU was screened for an enthralling audience comprising of students, faculty and staff members in the Convention Hall.

DC calls for coordination to resolve FTI water supply issues

YUPIA, February 5:

Issues pertaining to water supply to the Film and Television Institute (FTI), Jote, were elaborately discussed during a coordination meeting of the district administration, PRI leaders and Central Public Work Department (CPWD) at the DC Conference Hall here on Feb 5.

Chairing the meeting, Papum Pare deputy commissioner Jiken Bomjen called for coordination between all the stakeholders to resolve the water supply issues to FTI.

"The fact that FTI, Jote is first in the NE and third in the country is a matter of pride for entire Arunachal Pradesh. Such important project should be nurtured by all of us for its long-term success and sustainability," Bomjen said.

While urging the CPWD to be empathetic to the grievances of the land donors, the DC added that, "Engaging with the stakeholders and the community for feedback and collaboration can contribute to effective infrastructure management in the future."

Replying to the request of the land donors and PRI

members to appoint PHED as the executing agency for the water supply project to FTI, which otherwise is controlled by CPWD; the DC asked the leaders to submit a representation with proper justifications, duly countersigned by the admin officers of the jurisdiction.

GPC Rakap Taba Kunia, while speaking on behalf of the land donors, informed that the public of Jullang, Rakap have cooperated with the CPWD and have made no claims on any civil work so far.

“However, the water supply work, for which the survey was conducted by the PHE department, GoAP with the assistance of the PRI members and GBs of Jullang Rakap village, should involve the PRI members during the execution. PHED should be made the executing agency for the water supply project, as an in-house department will be easily available for repair and maintenance in the later period,” he said.

EE, CPWD Prasoon Kr Pal, while sharing the status of the water supply to FTI informed that since the efforts to supply water to FTI, through bore wells have failed due to water table issues, natural sources are being explored.

He also agreed in principle to accommodate the land donors in the water supply project.

The FTI is an ambitious project of the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry whose foundation stone was laid on 9th February, 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

GPCs of Rakap, Poma, Khamir and Shashikant, Project Manager, Kenge Constructions attended the meeting.

GTGH becomes first hospital of AP in digital transformation

ZIRO, February 8:

The Gyati Takka General Hospital (GTGH) in Ziro under Lower Subansiri district has become the first hospital in the state on digital transformation with distribution of free laptop computers to doctors.

Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner Vivek H.P handed over laptop computers to doctors of GTGH under the Integrated Hospital Management and Information System Scheme including Telemedicine for all doctors of Lower Subansiri working at GTGH, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres at his official chamber here on Thursday, 8 February.

While congratulating the health workers of the district, the DC said the initiative has digitalized the District Hospital, CHC's and the PHC's under Lower Subansiri making it the first district in the state on digital transformation of the health centres in terms of online patient registration, e-prescription and teleconsultation.

Lower Subansiri District Medical Officer Dr. Nani Rika further informed that the Telemedicine Hub at GTGH was also activated from today which would allow patients from peripheral health centres of the district to connect with GTGH through telehub for teleconsultation while also connecting with TRIHMS telehub for specialist and super specialist consultations.

Among others, the official laptop distribution ceremony was also attended by Lower Subansiri DRCHO Dr. Singpor Rigia, State

Nodal Officer iHMIS Dr.Gomi Basar, Medical Superintendent GTGH Dr.Koj Jarbo, MO in-charge CHC Old Ziro Dr. Hage Nobin, doctors and officials of GTGH.

CM calls on governor, discusses range of issues

ITANAGAR, February 6:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Feb 6 called on Governor Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik at Raj Bhavan here and discussed matters about the ensuing Assembly session, developmental activities in the border areas, and welfare measures.

“They took an overall view on issues related to security, education, health, and tourism,” a communiqué from the Raj Bhavan said.

During the meeting, the governor discussed with the chief minister “the need to monitor and steer the projects for fructification for the coming financial year in line with Viksit Bharat @2047 vision”, it said.

The governor also suggested harnessing the potential of the state's youth, particularly in games and sports, art and cultural activities, and entrepreneurship. He emphasised an inclusive programme, including educational endeavours to help the youth become entrepreneurs and job providers.

The chief minister updated the governor on developmental issues of the state as well as the activities being planned for the ensuing Statehood Day.

He also apprised the governor of the remedial steps taken by the state government to address the ‘challenges’ of the people, the communiqué added.

RGU vital contributor to state's growth: CM

RONO HILLS, February 7:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Feb 7 said that in the 40 years of the Rajiv Gandhi University's (RGU) functioning, it has been a vital contributor to the state's growth through various research and academic collaborations as well as through the contributions of the many alumni who have passed out from the university and are serving in key positions in Arunachal's governance, in politics and in entrepreneurship.

"I salute and thank the alumni of the RGU for their contributions and that is one of the reasons also that I have a special concern for the university", he said speaking during the inauguration ceremony of 21st Uni-Fest celebrations of the varsity here.

Stating that though the state government does not have a direct role in the working of the RGU as it is an autonomous body, yet Khandu said, "I have always done my best to handhold the University and support its infrastructure growth, as it is our own students who study and grow here, and later become part of the state's work force in many capacities."

Sharing that since his last visit in 2018 during an earlier edition of the Uni-Fest, all felt needs of the University represented to him have been fulfilled, which include construction of the rostrum and viewing galleries, a student activity centre, widening and carpeting of the road leading to campus and the soon-to-be commissioned water supply project, he said that the government will stand with the RGU at all times.

Responding to a four-

point appeal of the RGU Students' Union president Tagru Bai, the Chief Minister assured to take up the requirements on an immediate basis, including institution of a Gold Medal in the Department of History in honour of former Chief Minister late Dorjee Khandu, construction of a pedestrian pathway and cycling track, construction of a two-storeyed University Central Canteen as well as pathway illumination.

He also asked the Vice Chancellor and stakeholders of the university to discuss and propose any additional requirement that it may have.

Elucidating on the responsibility of the RGU's students, he said that youth have a major role to play in the state's growth as they are the future leaders, policy makers and work force. In this, he said, technology is emerging as a game changer and is rapidly evolving, and newer opportunities are coming up.

"So, one has to embrace technology and adapt it to our needs and leverage it for better result delivery, be it in academics, governance or business", he said.

Giving the example of the state govt's own e-filing, e-cabinet and re-Vidhan projects, Khandu said that with the right intervention, technology can work wonders for development.

Further deliberating on the status of education in the state, Khandu said that the education sector needs a major push and restructuring and that his government has been taking up many pragmatic and decisive steps to be able to deliver on better education.

He said that there is a huge move to upgrade the school education services and infrastructure and also to strengthen higher education, in which the TRIHMS and

the newly founded Arunachal University will have a major role.

He further said that recognizing that the youth are the powerhouse of the future, it has been the government's thrust to create opportunities for youth to showcase their talent and skills and for that it has been supporting various events in sports, music, dance, and the arts as well as a Start Up Mission to support young entrepreneurs.

Heralding the emergence of a new and vibrant Arunachal, on a path of great progress, Khandu called upon the participating youth to think big in their vision for the future. "Only when you think big, can you achieve big things. We have to begin with creating goals for ourselves and work towards achieving those", he said.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, RGU Vice-Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha said that in no other State does the State government support a central university as much as the government of Arunachal does.

"Arunachal is a wonderfully unique state, because whether it is issues of welfare of the faculty, or providing facilities for students to even ensuring the life of the University community is comfortable by way of projects like the water supply, roads or solar lighting, the Chief Minister has always been a good friend and benefactor of the RGU. In his last visit to the RGU campus in 2018, he had assured to deliver on all the 7 requests made to him. It is a matter of great joy to the University that not only has he ensured that those 7 projects get completed, but he has gone beyond that and supported more projects. We are deeply grateful to him for this", the VC shared.

Calling on the students to immerse themselves fully into

the 3-day event, he said that the UniFest, which is being held after a hiatus of 4 years due to the Covid pandemic and other constraints, is not only a space for mere participation or competitions but an occasion for bonhomie and for preparing them for the future. He called upon the participants to be prepared for any challenge and any obstacle at all times, whether be it in examinations or in real life.

RGU Registrar Dr NT Rikam, Dean of Student's Welfare Prof Hui Tag and RGU Students' Union President Tagru Bai also spoke on the occasion and highlighted various facets of the celebrations and the naming of the participating house teams after the state's emblems- mithun, orchid, hollong and hornbill.

MLAs Tana Heli, Jike Tako and Gokar Basar, AAPSU general secretary Ritum Tali and Dr Vaishali Kushwaha, the first lady of the university were also present on the occasion.

The highlight of the inaugural event was a wonderfully choreographed mega cultural presentation that showcased the linguistic and cultural diversity of the many tribes in the State, which still stand as one Arunachal.

Guv felicitates NCC cadets who participated in R-Day parade

ITANAGAR, February 7:

Governor Lt General KT Parnaik (retd) on Feb 7 felicitated the cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC) from the state, who participated in the Republic Day 2024 parade at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, at Raj Bhavan here.

Senior under officer Dibanlu Bellai, under officer Rehilu Diu of 22 AP Bn NCC Pasighat and un-

der officers Nangram Yanyong and Tago Yaya of 1 AP Bn NCC Naharlagun were felicitated along with Lt Palvinder Singh, associate NCC officer by the governor.

The governor congratulated the NCC cadets and said that the state is proud of them. "Your selection and participation in the prestigious parade reflects your hard work, commitment and fervent spirit", he said.

The governor advised the cadets to share their experience of the R-Day parade, so that it inspires many more girls and boys to join NCC and imbibe disciplined lifestyle and physical fitness. He suggested them to share a small presentation, once they go back to their educational institutions. He also asked the NCC officers to help organise the same.

The governor also congratulated the mothers of the cadets, who attended the function. "It is your motivation and encouragement that your daughters could excel in their co-curricular activity", he said.

The governor further complimented the NCC officers for their contribution in the participation of the cadets from the state in the R-Day parade. Stating that NCC is the largest resource for feeding the Indian armed forces, he exhorted the officers to groom and motivate the cadets of the state to join the India armed forces.

Commanding officer, 1 AP Bn NCC Naharlagun, Col Roshan Verma briefed the governor about the participation of cadets from Arunachal Pradesh in the Republic Day parade.

First lady of the state Anagha Parnaik, group commander, NCC Gp HQ Tezpur, Brig SS Gill, officiating commanding officer 22 AP Bn NCC Pasighat, Lt Col Vijay Singh Tanwar and youth

welfare officer, department of education, Sokun Singh, mothers of all the four cadets, Yewetsi Belai, Segle Diu, Nangram Padap and Tago Yalar were present on the occasion, amongst others.

DC reviews status of power grid transmission line in Lower Siang

LIKABALI, February 7:

Lower Siang deputy commissioner Rujjum Rakshap chaired a meeting to review the status and progress of ongoing Power Grid transmission lines of Lower Siang district here on Feb 6.

The meeting was attended by administrative officers, DFO, EE (Power), EE (Transmission), DLRSO, Chief General Manager Power Grid and other representatives of Power Grid.

During the meeting, the status of the work and related problems cropping up during the implementation of works were discussed in details.

The DC gave a timeline for completion of work to Power Grid and at the same time assured all the possible help from district administration's end.

Arunachal's developmental focus aligned with 'Saptarshi' priorities: Guv

ITANAGAR, February 8:

Governor Lt Gen K T Parnaik (Retd) on Feb 8 said that the government's focus areas of development are well aligned with the 'Saptarshi' development priorities to guide the state during the 'Amrit Kaal', thus providing a blueprint for an empowered and inclusive

economy.

Addressing the first day of the Budget Session of the state assembly, the governor said that under Chief Minister Pema Khandu and his 'Team Arunachal', the state has witnessed massive development.

"The government is following the 'Antyodaya' approach to ensure that the benefits of development reach the last mile and the last person. The last eight years have been a never-seen-before era for Arunachal, where the government has made historic, transformational, systemic, and structural changes that have improved the lives of all the citizens, especially benefitting the poor, the women, the youth and the farmers", he said.

The governor said the government had left no stone unturned to make the vision of a "happy, cohesive, and inclusive" society with the generous support provided by the Centre, for all the efforts and priorities.

"We have all been witness to the record pace set in all sectors, whether it is providing ghar, bijli, paani, swacchta, sadak, rail, air and port connectivity to people. Wherever you see, the extreme dedication to the nation and state through 'kartavya' and 'sewa bhaav' of my government is reflected", he said.

From the third largest start-up ecosystem to improved road safety, port and rail traffic, highways, decline in death rate, improved sex ratio and substantial reduction in teacher-pupil ratio our 'Vikas' yatra has gone from strength to strength, Parnaik said.

"Fulfilling the aspirations of the youth, livelihood generation through self-employment opportunities while continuing with our investment in infrastructure for improved connectivity has

been and will be the vision of my government for a prosperous and happy Arunachal Pradesh in the Amrit Kaal and becoming a developed state of a developed nation", he added.

Referring to the prudent financial reforms of the state, the governor said that the guiding pillar 'Governance Reforms and Prudent Financial Management' is aligned with the financial sector guiding pillar of the 'Saptarshi'.

The government has ensured that more resources are spent on socially useful and economically productive investments while not defaulting on any commitments in terms of loan repayments, salaries and wages, and pension dues, Parnaik pointed out.

"Our guiding pillar investment in human capital is aligned with the youth power guiding pillar of the 'Saptarshi'. My Government envisions a future with accessible and quality education and learning available for all", the governor said.

He added, "To become Viksit Arunachal, we must become an Aatma Nibhar Arunachal first. That is why this is one of the key strategic pillars of our vision, where key sectors must contribute to make the state self-sufficient." Parnaik added that the unprecedented progress achieved by the state was due to making substantial investments towards enhancing connectivity, fostering cultural exchange, boosting tourism and facilitating trade.

"As a result of focused investment in the road sector, in the last 8 years, there has been a 91 per cent increase in length of highways from 1,042 km in 2015-16 to 1,992 km in 2022-2023 and 64 per cent increase in overall road length. The road density has increased from 36.65 sq km to 65.99 sq km since

2015-16 and 195 bridges have been built to connect the previously unconnected areas", he said.

The governor added that the state is looking ahead to an additional 2,857 km of national highways, which are slated for construction, with an allocation of Rs 44,000 crore by the Centre.

The Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) is a shining example of synergy and convergence to create infrastructure in the remotest areas of the state, Parnaik said.

"With the motto connectivity to activity to vibrancy in our border areas, 1,452 villages have been systematically mapped, 455 priority villages have been identified for development, and 252 border habitations have been connected through the construction of 2,506 km of roads, to improve ease of living of remote rural communities", he said.

As a result of these interventions, "We have started witnessing the welcome reverse migration in many border area localities. I am confident that sustained focus of the government on the VVP will further promote activity and vibrancy in these areas", Parnaik added.

East Siang, Tawang celebrate 100 pc tap water connection under JJM

PASIGHAT, February 8:

The East Siang district has achieved the feat of 100 percent tap water connections eight months before the deadline, said Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman DWSM Tayi Taggu during the celebration of 100 percent Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) as part of Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), held at the College of Horti-

culture & Forestry auditorium here on Feb 8.

Addressing the gathering, the DC stated that the Jal Jeevan Mission is an initiative of the Government of India to ensure that every household in the country has access to safe and sufficient drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024.

Congratulating the JJM team and the people of East Siang district as whole for becoming one of the “Har Ghar Jal” (water connection to every house) certified districts in the country, Taggu said this was a remarkable accomplishment and it would not have been possible without a collective spirit among the local leadership, people, mission mode efforts by the JJM team and the state government.

He advised the people to take responsibilities for ensure timely maintenance and appropriate steps to protect the assets created by the government.

Restricting access to natural waterways in catchment areas helps protect our drinking water and is an integral part of good land management, the DC said.

The actions of people living in and visiting water catchment areas can significantly impact downstream communities, opined Taggu adding that typically, catchment management and water treatment are combined to minimize public health risks.

He also gave away awards to three best village water and sanitation committee, three best trained women in FTK handling and three best field staffs.

EE (PHED) Oling Talo and AE (PHED) Eleena Gao presented detailed report of achievement through power point presentation.

Among others, the program was attended by the HoOs, ZPMs

and Gram Panchayat members.

Meanwhile at Tawang, the The Tawang division of Public Health Engineering and Water Supply department also celebrated the achievement of safe drinking water in every house of the district under the JJM.

The district achieved its target officially on 15th of January 2024 and to celebrate its achievement the department organised a programme at Zomkhang hall, Tawang in which the implementing support agency all the three units of Women's Welfare Association Tawang, Jang and Lungla, three best village water sanitation committees (VWSC), best women trained in field testing kits and best field workers were presented with trophy and cash awards through DC Kanki Darang and other senior officers present.

In his address, the DC spoke on importance of water for living beings without which life is unimaginable. He congratulated the team and all the ISA members in contributing for achieving the mission. “We are lucky to have abundance of water sources but should make judicious use of our water sources”, he said.

He lauded the sincere service being provided by the water supply department for uninterrupted drinking water supply despite sub zero temperature in Tawang.

He further said the JJM is not complete without making our villagers being trained in self-sustaining methods. He asked the youths trained under skill development programme in plumbing, fitting etc to come forward and offer their services in making their village self-sustainable in drinking water facility, minor repair and maintenance works of electricity supply etc.

Earlier Executive Engineer

PHED Tawang Gepiam Mize, in his keynote address, informed the house about challenges the department has faced in accomplishing this mission, he expressed his gratitude to all the members of DWSC, VWSC, ISA and his own staff and engineers for giving their all out support in achieving the target of Har Ghar Jal in the district.

The ISA and VWSC members also shared their experiences and conveyed gratitude to union and state government for providing safe drinking water in every household.

A video on catchment area protection was also shown to the members during the programme.

Two day session of AP Legislative Assembly begins

ITANAGAR, February 8:

The two day thirteenth session of the Seventh Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly began here on Thursday, January 8 with the ceremonial Governor's address.

Obituary references:

The House paid rich tribute to former MLA Late Yumsem Matey who was shot dead by unknown miscreants near the Indo-Myanmar border in Lazu circle of Tirap district on December 16, 2023.

The house observed a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul of the late leader.

Late Matey, represented Khonsa West Assembly Constituency in Tirap district and served as an MLA from 2009 to 2014 and lost the election in 2014. Before joining politics, he worked as an Adult Education Officer in the Department of Education. Matey was intending to contest the ensuing election.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, while condemning the brutal murder of late Matey, termed it as inhuman and shameful act. He said that as peace is a prerequisite for development, government is taking all out efforts to ensure that peace, tranquility and security prevails in the region. Speaking on his close association with the former MLA, Mein said that in his demise, the state lost an aspiring and promising leader.

Participating in the obituary reference, Home Minister Bamang Felix informed that the Police swung into action immediately and the perpetrators involved in the killing of former MLA Yumsem Matey were identified the very next day, adding that they had come through the porous Indo-Myanmar international border.

Felix stated that as it was a cross border crime and highly sensitive and volatile in nature, police recommended the investigation of the case to Police Headquarters (PHQ), Itanagar and subsequently the PHQ recommended the case to the home department, which in turn, recommended it to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) during December last week.

The Home minister told the house that the NIA team reached the place and started the investigation. The government is determined to leave no stone unturned to unearth the case and no one would be spared, Felix said. Terming the killing as an attack on the people of the state, the minister said police is providing full cooperation and support to the NIA to deliver justice to late Matey, besides reviewing the security of Tirap, Changlang and Longding belt.

While conveying his condolences, Felix said that the former member was a thorough gentleman and one of the finest men to work with.

Earlier, Assembly Speaker PD Sona initiated the proceeding in paying tributes to the former MLA. Sona, while giving a brief on his bio data, said that the demise of late Yumsem Matey has created a vacuum. In his death, the state has lost a visionary leader," he said.

While participating in the discussion, PHE & DoTCL Minister Wangki Lowang said that several incidents of killing and kidnapping are happening in the area by the anti-social elements since 2001 including killing of former MP late Wangcha Rajkumar and former MLA late Tirong Aboh, adding international borders need to be secured and properly guarded. He urged upon both the state government and GoI to make the sensitive international border a foolproof security for protection of the people especially the TCL region.

All the speakers including RWD Minister Honchun Ngamdang, members - Laisam Simai, Gabriel Denwang Wangsu, Wanglam Sawin, Tanpho Wangnaw, Chakat Aboh, Wanglin Lowangdong strongly called for measures against the anti social elements in the region and strong security and vigil along the Indo-Myanmar border.

While Wangsu advocated for attending the challenges and development of the Ollo community, one of the most backward community represented by late Matey as the best tribute to the former leader, Lowangdong suggested for a memorial in honour of the former leader so that people remember him in days to come.

The AP (Re-Organization of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu while moving the Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organization of Districts) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 for

consideration and passing on the floor of the house said that two new districts, namely Keyi Panyor and Bichom have been created for administrative convenience of the people inhabiting in the areas and thanked the members for cooperating and supporting the government in its pursuit to bring about accelerated development in the state.

As the state is strategically located and have the most difficult terrain in the country, Khandu informed that Keyi Panyor district with hqs at Yachuli is created by bifurcating from Lower Subansiri, while Bichom district with hqs at Napangphung has been carved out from East Kameng and West Kameng districts. This makes the total number of districts in the state to 28.

The Chief Minister stated that creation of the two districts was done to fulfill the socio-cultural aspects of the people and deliver socio-economic and development activities, besides providing convenient administrative set up.

The demand for creation of Bichom district is an old one and the district is being created to bring far-flung areas under easy accessibility and acceleration of economic development through various govt initiatives after discussions with the CBOs, he said, adding it would benefit communities including Miji, Sajolang, Aka (Koro) and Puroik.

The Chief Minister said that 27 villages of West Kameng will be merged with Bichom district from Nafra, Khazalang and Sirilang circles and 28 villages from East Kameng from Lada and Bana circles, while Keyi Panyor district will have administrative circles at Yachuli, Yazali, Kora, Deed, Paramputu and Pistana.

He further informed the house that 67 new posts in various

categories have been created for both the districts with a financial implication of Rs 3.5 crore annually.

Khandu, while informing that the seventy yrs long Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary problem has been resolved amicably, sought the support and cooperation from the members and assured to take along the development initiatives in the future.

Ministers Mama Natung, Taba Tedir and Tage Taki and MLAs Goruk Pordung, Dongru Siongju, Jikke Tako, Lombo Tayeng, Tana Hali Tara, Nyato Dukom, participated in the discussion and thanked the government for fulfilling the long felt demand of the people and facilitating growth of the indigenous identity of the communities residing in the areas as well.

The Assembly also took up series of businesses during its first day sitting.

Bills introduced:

The session saw introduction of four bills, which included - The Arunachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in charge Finance, Chowna Mein, The Arunachal Pradesh (Land Settlement and Records) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by Minister Nakap Nalo, The Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by Home Minister Bamang Felix and The Arunachal Pradesh Re-Organization of Districts (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Panel of Chairmen:

Speaker PD Sona announced the name of MLAs – Goruk Pordung, Mutchu Mithi, Dasanglu Pul and Ninong Ering as panel of chairmen for the current session.

Presentation of Reports:

The house also adopted the Eleventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee, presented and moved by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bamang Felix on the floor of the house.

Wanglin Lowangdong, Chairman of Committee on Government Assurances presented the 8th Report of the Committee. While, Committee on Public Undertakings Chairman Ojing Tasang presented the 5th Report of the committee in the house, Chow Zingnu Namchoom, Chairman of Public Accounts Committee presented its 80th (Action taken) Report.

Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2023-24 & Vote on Account for 2024-25:

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in charge Finance, Chowna Mein presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2023-2024 and Vote on Account for the year 2024-25 (4 months from 1st April, 2024 to 31st July, 2024) which were unanimously passed by voice vote without discussion.

DCM Mein also presented the Finance Accounts Vol-I & Finance Accounts Vol-II for the year ended 31st March, 2023.

AP Appropriation Bills passed:

The house passed the Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2024 and the Arunachal Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Accounts No. 2) Bill, 2024 as introduced and moved by the DCM & Minister in charge Finance Chowna Mein during the daylong session.

Earlier, the Assembly Secretary reported the assent of the Governor to four bills namely The Arunachal Pradesh (Airport area Planning and Development Authority) Bills, 2023, The Ar-

unachal Pradesh Court Fees Bills, 2023, The Arunachal Pradesh GST (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and The Factories (Arunachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Later, the Speaker adjourned the house for the next day.

9th edition of Arunachal Film Festival begins

ITANAGAR, February 8:

The 9th edition of the Arunachal Film Festival (AFF), organised by the information & public relations (IPR) department, began at Dorjee Khandu Convention Centre here on Thursday, February 8 celebrating the outstanding and creative cinematic talents of the state.

Secretary IPR, Nyali Ete while giving the brief insight of the Festival, emphasized on the quality rather than quantity of the participants in his address and urged all the participants to make use of the suggestion box by stating “constructive criticism is good for betterment forall”

Himansu Sekhar Khatua, Director of Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, who attended the programme as Chief Guest spoke of the potential of Arunachal Pradesh relating to the virgin state of the land regarding the talents in the field of Cinema. He accentuated the importance of these festivals and to have a film policy like any other states of the nation, urging the government of the State and the IPR department to create film policy to advocate the local film makers.

He also spoke about the upcoming Film and Television institute of India, Jote, Itanagar, highlighting the benefits it will give to the filmmakers of the state.

The Director of IPR, Onyok Pertin and Deputy Director Marbang Ezing also spoke on the occasion.

The program went on with the screening of an Award-winning short film by Director Stenzin Tankyong (of Ladakh) Titled LAST DAYS OF SUMMER.

The First day of the Arunachal Film Festival featured a diverse lineup of regional films created by talents of the state, along with a Notable film by late Director Buphen Hazarikha, "Mera Dharam meri Maa," the first feature-length movie of Arunachal. The film was screened in the Mobile Digital Movie Theatre alongside the best short film contenders for this year's festival.

The session ended with an Award winning film by Domenic Sangma (film Maker) RAPTURE"

Simultaneously, a discussion session was held at the Amphitheatre with Meenakshi Shedde (film critic and curator) and Dominic M. Sangma (film maker) as the moderator. Consecutively, on the other venue, the theme of the discussion was 'Film Future: Roadmap for Emerging Film makers.

Another Workshop took place on Colour Grading by Prithvi Bhuddavarapu (Colourist) as a resource person, where interested learners got to learn about the art of colour grading and its importance in film making.

The day ended with a Panel Discussions and Q&A Sessions on "Promotion & Marketing of Regional Films" with the Panelists consisting of Domenic Sangma (film Maker), Tai Gungte (Actor), Jack Taniya Budh VP, (Protocol FFA), and Mingkeng Osik, (President FTGA) and Sanju Dodum as the Moderator.

The engaging panel discussions and Q&A sessions with

filmmakers and industry professionals provided valuable insights into the creative process, technical aspects of filmmaking, and the unique challenges and opportunities of producing, Promoting and Marketing of regional Films not only nationally but also regionally itself.

2 day AP Legislative Assembly session concludes

Assembly passes 3 bills

ITANAGAR, February 9:

The two day thirteenth session of the Seventh Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on its last sitting on Friday unanimously passed three bills by voice vote. The bills were introduced on the floor of the house here on Feb 8.

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in charge Finance, Chowna Mein introduced and moved the Arunachal Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 for passing. While Land Management Minister Nakap Nalo moved the Arunachal Pradesh (Land Settlement and Records) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Home & Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bamang Felix moved the Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024 before adoption of the motion and passing.

Discussion on Motion of thanks on Governor's address:

Chief Minister Pema Khan-du said that Arunachal Pradesh in particular and North East in general are seeing unprecedented development in every sector since 2014 after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over the reign of BJP government at the centre. Special attention have been given to the region for its challenges and opportunities

and Arunachal Pradesh being strategically sensitive state with three international boundaries is getting special focus to make it more progressive and secured.

Delivering his statement during motion of thanks on Governor's address, the chief minister presented a detailed scenario of the initiatives, policy reforms and achievements of the government under his leadership. He also dwelt upon all the major sectors including health, education, infrastructure development, road communication connecting the unconnected areas, women empowerment, fiscal achievement etc.

Financial achievement from budget of Rs 12,500 cr in 2016 to Rs 30,000 cr in 2023 shows a significant increase in the state's financial status, the chief minister stated.

The motion of thanks on Governor's address delivered on the first day of session was moved by MLA Kento Jini and seconded by MLA Tanpho Wangnow.

Reformation in recruitment process with setting up of ASSB for merit based recruitment in Group C & D and reconstitution of APPSC is one of the major milestones of the govt, he said and called upon the educated youths to prepare for the competitive exams and hoped that the state would be full of quality work force and developed work culture with effective delivery mechanism in next 5-6 yrs.

Khandu informed that the development oriented, decisive and foresighted government have resolved many vital issues including the long vexed boundary problem with Assam. He said to strengthen the international border areas in the first phase, 455 villages have been covered under vibrant village programme with

various projects and more than 1000 kms of roads sanctioned under road sector, besides 187 projects for an amount of 105 cr to develop tourism related activities in border areas. Khandu also announced that JJM have achieved 100% saturation in the state thus providing water supply to each and every habitations.

DCM Chowna Mein in his deliberation also highlighted on every aspect of policies and programmes of the government bringing massive development in the state.

Almost all members whole heartedly participated in the discussion and supported the motion of thanks on Governor's address and praised the 'Team Arunachal' government under the leadership of Chief Minister Pema Khandu for the accelerated pace of development in the state through its various vibrant policies and programmes and welfare initiatives for the people of the state.

"State witnessed an unprecedented development in various sectors touching and changing the lives of thousands of people, besides bringing about revolutionary changes in health care sector through CMAY cards", stated Kanubari MLA Gabriel Denwang Wangsu. Elaborating on some of the vital sectors including road communication, education, health care facilities and water supply, besides others, Wangsu termed this period as golden era of governance and development and considered the Governor's address as the 'Report Card' and 'Performance Report' of the government.

Nampong MLA Laisam Simai mentioned on the prudent fiscal management and reformative measures of the state government which brought some real transfor-

mation in the state.

While supporting the motion, Koloriang MLA Lokam Tasar emphasized on border area development programmes (BADP) for model villages in border areas, innovative-integrated fund to promote self sufficiency and rehabilitation of migrated people from the border areas.

Participating in the discussion, senior (INC) MLA Lombo Tayeng raised some major social issues, including need for strong mechanism to deal with drugs issues, marketing of surplus agri-horti produces and increase in subsidy amount for house construction under PMAY scheme etc, while Bordumsa MLA Somlung Mossang said that the state government is working on bringing true spirit of development in the constituencies in particular and state at large.

Earlier, while moving the motion, Kento Jini appreciated the Governor for covering every sectors of governance projecting various path breaking initiatives and achievements of the state government on the line of 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas'.

Later, the Speaker adjourned the house, the last session of the present Assembly sine die.

Seminar on women entrepreneurship held

DEOMALI, February 9:

The women's cell of WR Government College here in Tirap district, in collaboration with the IQAC, organised a two-day national seminar on 'Women entrepreneurship and skill development: Issues, challenges, and opportunities in Northeast India' on 8 and 9 February.

During the inaugural ses-

sion, Deomali ADC Vishakha Yadav emphasised the women's historical role in economic development and their empowerment through entrepreneurship.

Prof Tasi Kaye spoke on the significance of women entrepreneurship and encouraged utilising government policies for socio-economic upliftment.

Prof MK Jana highlighted the Gandhian principles for local entrepreneurship development in the Northeast to leverage the region's natural resources.

Drs Monshi Tayeng and Modang Reena also participated in the seminar.

The second day saw the participation of eminent academicians from the Northeast, both in-person and virtually, sharing valuable insights across various disciplines.

Arunachal Film Festival concludes

ITANAGAR, February 9:

The Arunachal Film Festival continued its celebration of cinematic excellence on its second day, offering an exciting lineup of workshops, film screenings, and discussions. Building upon the success of the first day, the festival provided attendees with opportunities to engage with local and national talents in the film industry, explore diverse storytelling perspectives, and appreciate the vibrant culture of Arunachal Pradesh.

The second day program featured workshops on cinematography and acting, which were well-received by attendees. The cinematography workshop, led by Indranil Mukherjee, a professor at the esteemed Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), offered valuable insights into visual storytelling and the art of

cinematography. The acting workshop, conducted by talented actor Paalin Kabak, explored the nuances of transitioning from stage performances to on-screen acting, providing attendees with a deeper understanding of the craft.

Alongside these engaging workshops, the festival also showcased a diverse array of feature films. While the Mobile Digital Movie Theatre screenings focused on local short films by emerging Arunachali filmmakers, the Auditorium lineup featured thought-provoking films such as "Tora's Husband" by director Reema Das and "GURAS" by Saurab Rai. These films contributed to the festival's exploration of diverse storytelling perspectives and added to the vibrant atmosphere of cinematic appreciation, the Q&A session after the screening of each film gave the audience to know more about the films and the maker themselves.

The Day also witnessed the screening of this year's best Documentary contenders in the Mobile Digital Movie Theatre.

The day ended with the Announcement of this year's Competition winners, where "RANGRUNG YA RANGBEE HEH" by Mankap Nokwoham took the first place followed by "TOH LEIN (GAMES & SPORTS)" by Chau Anandra Namchoom coming in the runner up position, in the Short film Competition. In the Best short Documentary competition "THE SONGS WE SING THE DRUMS WE BEAT" by Kombong Darang took the first place and "A GRITIS LAD" by Akom Don Emma placing second.

In closing remark secretary of IPR Nyali ete addressed the short comings of the festivals and reassured all the the attend-

ees that these shortcomings will be addressed in the future festivals.

As the second day of the Arunachal Film Festival comes to a close, attendees and organizers alike can reflect on the rich experiences and insights gained from this celebration of cinema. The festival has provided a platform for emerging talents, facilitated engaging discussions, and showcased a diverse range of films, all while promoting and developing the film industry in Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Film Festival shined a spotlight on Northeast Indian cinema.

Naharlagun Police conducts Road Safety Awareness Campaign

NAHARLAGUN, February 10:

In an effort to promote road safety and to foster a culture of responsible driving, the Naharlagun police conducted a series of events as part of the Road Safety Month, themed 'Sadak suraksha, jeevan raksha'.

"The centerpiece of this campaign was a two-wheeler rally that traversed the route from the Dree ground area to the SP office, Naharlagun, Nirjuli. Members of prominent biking clubs, including the Arunachal Bullet Club, the Royal Arunachal Rider Bullet Club, the Gliding Piranhas Bullet Club, the Dawnlit Devils Bullet Club, and the Tani Riders, along with police personnel enthusiastically participated in the programme," the release stated.

The SP Mihin Gambo himself was at the forefront in emphasising the importance of adhering to safety measures such as wearing helmets and seat belts. Delivering insightful lectures on traffic education, he underscored the need for

collective responsibility in raising awareness about traffic rules to curb the alarming rise in road accidents.

Addressing the participants, Gambo urged them to "become ambassadors of road safety, actively engaging in the dissemination of crucial information to the broader community," and added that "reducing road accidents requires a concerted effort and a change in mindset towards responsible road behaviour."

"In a proactive move to involve the younger generation, the Naharlagun police also organised an essay competition at VKV Nirjuli. The event was aimed to instill awareness of road safety among students, fostering a sense of responsibility from an early age," the release said.

"As the Road Safety Month unfolds, the Naharlagun police remain committed to creating a safer road environment through sustained efforts, educational initiatives, and community engagement," the SP said.

Road safety awareness march organised

ITANAGAR, February 10:

Over 300 students from various schools and colleges, besides officials from the transport department and the traffic police marched from Akashdeep market to the tennis court on February 10 to raise awareness among the people about traffic rules.

State Road Safety Officer Parul Gaur Mittal appealed to the citizens to strictly follow the traffic rules for their own safety and for the safety of co-travellers. She advised drivers to not make phone calls or use mobile phones while driving.

Traffic SP Sachin Singhal

asked the students to spread the message of road safety everywhere they go, while Transport Director Kanto Dangen said that “even one person not following traffic rules makes the roads unsafe for others.”

The State Road Safety Lead Agency, in collaboration with the traffic police, organised the awareness march as part of the National Road Safety Month.

The Road Safety Month is being observed across the state by organising various activities, like awareness campaigns in schools and colleges, enforcing motor vehicle rules on roads, and conducting eye examinations for drivers.

DCM inaugurates Nyishi Indigenous Art & Archive, Cultural Centre

ITANAGAR, February 10:

The newly built Nyishi Indigenous Art & Archive-Cum-Cultural Centre was inaugurated on February 10 in AB-Sector, Itanagar by the Deputy Chief Minister, Chowna Mein. Established by the Nyishi Nyidung Mwngjwng Rallung (NNMR), this cultural hub stands as a testament to the rich heritage of the Nyishi indigenous people, serving as a vital repository for their art, traditions and history.

In his address, DCM Mein underscored the importance of preserving indigenous culture amidst modernization, advocating for a balance between embracing modernity and honoring tradition. He highlighted the enduring presence of indigenous culture in Arunachal Pradesh, exemplifying how age-old traditions persist in contemporary society.

DCM Mein lauded the Indian Government led by Prime Minister Modi for their dedication

to safeguarding ancient traditions across India's diverse States. He noted that the Arunachal Pradesh Government is also steadfast in their endeavour towards preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the State, that were inherited from the forefathers since ancient times.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of indigenous priests (Nyibu) in cultural preservation through passing down of traditional ethos and values onto the younger generations, Mein stated that the State government has extended various schemes to support this traditional institution.

Mein further lauded the NNMR for their collaborative effort for the establishment of cultural centre.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Minister of Education, Cultural Affairs & Department of Indigenous Affairs, Taba Tedir, Deputy Speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Tesam Pongte, MLA Anini, Mopi Mihu, Secretary of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, Pige Ligu and Director, Sokhep Kri, among others.

Lowangdong inaugurates water treatment plant at Pullong village

PULLONG, February 11:

Borduria-Bogapani MLA Wanglin Lowangdong on February 11 inaugurated a water treatment plant (WTP) in Pullong village in Tirap district.

The WTP has a capacity to treat around 55,000 litres of water per day. It will provide drinking water to 156 households in Pullong village, which has a total population of 561.

The project was construct-

ed under the JJM at an estimated cost of Rs 4.91 crore.

Lowangdong commended the Khonsa PHE&WS division for the “successful and timely completion of the project.”

PHE&WS EE Bharat Sonam highlighted the project details.

DC (i/c) Tana Bapu, Borduria CO Yowa Anya, Kapu ZPM Wiram Matey, Nocte Women's Association chairperson Chasoam Wangchadong, PHED officials, PRI members, GBs, chiefs, and villagers of Pullong were present on the occasion.

Pongte inaugurates numerous projects

CHANGLANG, February 12:

Deputy Speaker Tesam Pongte on February 12 inaugurated a number of projects, including a water supply augmentation project, in Simnom village in Changlang district.

The project, which will provide drinking water to 11 households, was executed by the PHED under the JJM.

The second project inaugurated was a G+1 RCC classroom for the Govt Middle School in Phangtip, executed by the RWD.

Thereafter, Pongte trekked to ‘salt well’ (waisok sum). CC steps have been constructed from the main road down the hill till the natural salt well site by the UD department.

Later, the deputy speaker inaugurated a new general ground in Yatdam and a children's park conceptualised by the Yangkang Development Committee and executed by the UD department.

Pongte was accompanied by Changlang ADC Marpe Riba, Circle Officer Ripi Doni, Yatdam ZPM Kapseng Khungkh, the head

of the executing department, and public leaders of the circle.

Lowang Graces Achievement Of 100% Fhtc Saturation under JJM

KHONSA, February 12:

Tirap district has achieved the target of 100 percent functional household tap connections (FHTC) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Celebrating the achievement on February 12 PHED Minister Wangki Lowang appealed to the people to use water judiciously.

Highlighting the objective of the Arunachal Pradesh Protection of Drinking Water Catchment Area Act, 2023, Lowang urged the people to protect the drinking water catchment areas to preserve drinking water sources.

He also expressed concern over “the water future of TCL region, based on hydrological report,” and assured to “take necessary measures for a water-secure future.”

The minister discouraged jhum cultivation, and urged the people to grow more trees, “which will help replenish groundwater level.”

DC (i/c) Tana Bapu congratulated the people of the district for achieving the goal of ‘Har Ghar Jal’ under the JJM.

Tirap ZPC Chattong Lowang commended the district PHED team for successfully implementing the JJM in the district. She urged the panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees to continue their support in maintaining the water supply assets.

Earlier, PHED EE Bharat Sonam delivered a presentation on the water status and the JJM in Ti-

rap, operation and maintenance of water supply system, the Arunachal Pradesh Protection of Drinking Water Catchment Areas Act, 2023, and issues and challenges related to water supply in the TCL region.

Later, the five best-performing VWSCs were awarded certificates, mementos, and cash prizes by the minister as a token of acknowledgment for their pivotal role in “ensuring the efficient operation and maintenance of water supply assets.”

The programme was attended by all the stakeholders and leaders, including HoDs, ZPMs, public leaders and VWSC members.

Rijiju distributes 23 appointment letters at ‘rozgar mela’

ITANAGAR, February 12:

Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju on February 12 distributed appointment letters to 23 newly inducted candidates who were recruited in various departments and Ministries of the Central Government in a Rozgar Mela held at the North East Frontier Headquarters, Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, Itanagar.

Congratulating the newly recruited youths, Rijiju urged them to contribute in the mission of making a ‘Vikshit Bharat’ by 2047. He said that a lot of responsibility falls on those recruited today as they are the ones who will be shaping the nation in the next 25 years. He asked all to work towards a common goal of making India a developed nation. Highlighting the work of Modi government, he said through the Rozgar Mela, the present government aims at providing employment in a transparent way and within a set time frame.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also joined virtually and distributed more than one Lakh appointment letters to newly inducted appointees at 46 locations across the country via video conferencing and addressed them while motivating them to serve the nation with zest and zeal. PM Modi also launched online module on i-Got Karmayogi portal by pressing the remote button.

The Rozgar Mela job fairs are expected to leverage further employment generation, provide gainful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and direct participation in national development.

DA signs MoU with Duliajan for medical equipments

NAMSAI, February 13:

The Namsai district administration has signed a MoU with Duliajan (Assam)-based Oil India Limited for medical equipment for the Namsai district hospital on February 13.

The PSU will provide equipment worth Rs 1 crore within this financial year as part of its corporate social responsibility.

DCM inaugurates Infrastructural Assets at the Tamla-Du Festival Ground

MEDO, February 13:

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein inaugurated the infrastructural assets, including boundary walls, a stage with a dais, a sitting hall and a dining & kitchen building at the Tamla-Du Festival ground while joining the celebrations of the Tamladu Festival 2024

of the Mishmi community in Medo village on February 13.

Applauding the executing agencies for the timely completion of the infrastructure, Mein noted that the permanent structure will be beneficial for cutting down on recurring expenses associated with setting up make-shift arrangements to accommodate large gatherings and organise functions during festivals. He also assured that the construction of a permanent shed for the local Puja Mandap (prayer hall) within the premises along with the concrete pavement of the festival ground will be soon added to the pipeline.

Mein also stated that the period from around December to April is filled with a plethora of vibrant festivals of the diverse tribal communities all around Arunachal Pradesh, such as the Poi Pee Mau, Reh, Losar, Boori Boot Yullo, Shapawng Yawng Manau, Ali Aye Ligang, Mopin and so on. He talked about the potential of building cultural tourism in the State, as per his recent discussion with the Advisor of Rural Tourism & Homestays, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Raj Basu. These festivals play a major role in preserving the traditional heritage of the indigenous communities and offer a wide spectrum of local customs, delicacies, etc. to be explored by tourists.

In addition, the Government plans to double the funding allocated to the Department of Indigenous Affairs for the continued preservation and promotion of culture. At the gathering, Mein also relayed the vision of PM Modi towards realizing the fullest potential of all Northeastern states, without which India's greater development will remain incomplete.

Taking Arunachal Pradesh as a prime example of development

in the NE region, the Deputy Chief Minister underscored the progress made in terms of infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, hydropower, etc. over the past couple of years under the Khandu-led BJP Government, with constant support from the Central Government. With a 136% rise in GSDP, more than 104% growth in per capita income, 172% surge in States Own Revenue (SOR), and 136% increase in GST revenue collection, compounded with other strategic factors, Arunachal Pradesh happens to be among the top performing states in North East India in terms of financial management, he said.

From FY 2015-16 up till now, a total of 19863 km of all-weather roads have been constructed, out of which 2482 km of roads form part of the National Highway. The road density has also increased from 36.65 km per sq km to 65.99 km per sq km during this tenure. The recently sanctioned funds towards the ambitious Frontier Highway (NH 913) as stated by Union Minister of Road & Transport Nitin Gadkari entails a total of Rs 6362.23 Cr, covering a total of 295.84 km of the NH-913.

In Lohit district, the tender for the construction project connecting Brahma Kund to Chowkham has already opened, and construction work will be started soon.

He also informed that so far, a total of Rs 37 cr has been utilized towards the development of the Parshuram Kund under PRASAD scheme by GoI. He also stated that the DoNER Ministry has agreed to grant another Rs. 50 Cr towards the cause. And the Govt of Arunachal Pradesh will invest an additional Rs. 50 Cr for the development, taking the total budget to a staggering Rs. 137 Cr. Plans including riverfront development,

guest houses, dharamshalas, etc.

In terms of harnessing the hydropower potential of the State, the recently inked MoAs with Central PSUs worth 12500 MW is poised to increase the purchasing power of the locals. He said that after the completion of these hydropower projects, Arunachal Pradesh will have the highest per capita income.

The festival was also graced by MLAs Mutchu Mithi and Jumum Ete Deori; along with ZPCs Dasula Krishikro and Urmila Mancheykhun, former Minister, Nakul Chai, former MLA, Sokio Dellang, Govt Officers, PRI Leaders and GBs, among others.

Training programme on vermicompost

YINGKIONG, February 14:

As a part of skill development one day free all women training programme on vermicompost was organized by the Sikiing Koje Charitable Society Yingkiong in collaboration with ArSLM, Yingkiong for economic empowerment and self-employment at vermicompost centre of Totok Libang at Simong village.

Training was imparted by progressive farmer Sotok Libang who himself is a well-recognized organic farmer from Simong village, Upper Siang. He explained on how he had begun the vermicomposting with the support of Department of Agriculture and Horticulture five years ago and now earning good income from it by selling per kg at Rs.30, in addition he is also imparting training to fellow farmers across the district on vermicomposting and importance of organic cultivation.

Informing the participants about prospects of vermicompost-

ing culture, he explained about importance of vermicompost in soil fertility and nutrients and illustrated step by step procedure to cultivate vermicompost at home.

Sri Totok is also the first to practice integrated rice fish poultry farming system, green tea processing etc in Upper Siang. He was awarded Gold Medal by GoAP in the year 2020 and numerous other awards in recognition of his works.

Altogether 22 women from Yingkiong participated including chairperson and members of Sikiing Charitable Society.

Libang launches Integrated Health Campaign for Upper Siang

YINGKIONG, February 14:

Health Minister Alo Libang on February 14 said that Arunachal Pradesh is witnessing a steep rise in HIV positive cases, which he said is a matter of grave concern.

Launching the Integrated Health Campaign for Upper Siang here on Wednesday, Libang urged the people to get tested for HIV.

Stating that the number of people living with HIV has drastically increased over the time in the state, he said that immediate intervention through such hybrid outreach approaches will help in detecting cases.

The minister said that Arunachal Pradesh was the first state to introduce the Integrated Health Campaign and the same has been replicated across the country.

Informing that three persons with HIV positive have officially been identified in Upper Siang district, Libang urged the

people to come forward without any hesitation and get tested for the disease for the sake of the society and humanity.

He urged the administration, police, NGOs, CBOs to educate the people about HIV/AIDS and its preventive measures.

The minister also said that the government is emphasizing on improving the health sector to provide better healthcare facilities to the people. He said that public cooperation is very important to improve the healthcare system.

Arunachal Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) project director Dr. Marbom Basar said that the beneficiaries will receive a wide range of services, including screening, testing and linkages to treatment HIV, TB, hepatitis B & C and counseling sessions etc, during the Integrated Health Camps.

Dr. Basar elucidated how the HIV/AIDS cases are growing in the country despite extensive outreach activities.

He informed that the number of people living with HIV in Arunachal Pradesh is 1899. Of them, 90 percent are in the age group of 20-44 years.

"It can be only prevented when people come forward voluntarily to get tested for the disease," Dr. Basar said. He also informed that the test is conducted free of cost in all ICTC centres.

Disclosing that 99 percent of the cases are from intravenous drug users, he appealed to the youth to stay away from drugs and other substance abuse which may ruin their life forever.

DMO Dr. Gepeng Litin and DTO-cum-DACO Dr. Ahik Miyu also spoke.

The campaign will continue till 27 February.

Deputy Commissioner in-charge Oli Perme, senior officers from the health department and APSACS, HoDs, public leaders, members of APWWS, Sikiing Koje Charitable Society, AB-KYW, medical staff and students attended the programme.

The programme was organized by APSACS in association with the district health society.

CM inaugurates multiple projects

NAMSAI, February 14:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated multiple projects during the 40th Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi celebration in Namgo village in Namsai district on 14 February.

The chief minister inaugurated a total of 18 projects worth Rs 163.48 crore in various sectors, including road and bridge, and health and education.

The projects inaugurated were 'system strengthening & distribution system' in Chowkham, 'system strengthening & distribution system' in Namsai, the Socio-Cultural Heritage Museum in Tezu, the district hospital in Tezu, the RCC bridge in Mannow, quarters for the MO and staff in Lathao, the Nong Saya-Mengkeng Miri road, the Chowkham-Memey road, the steel composite bridge in Eraloni, a birth waiting hall in Namsai, additional classrooms at VKV Namsai, the New Jengthudadumjona road, the district hospital in Namsai, the Joidam community hall in Mahadevpur, the multipurpose hall in Wakro, augmentation of water supply in Wakro, a material recovery facility in Namsai, and an FM radio station in Namsai.

He also laid the foundation stones of six projects worth

Rs 49.35 crore in Namsai constituency.

The projects include an RCC bridge at Emphum, additional infrastructure in the district hospital in Namsai, a road from Chowkham to Maan Ting Hoilung, an RCC bridge over the Tiayang river on the Chongkham-Memey road, a government-run 'Vatsalya Sadan' in Namsai, and multi storey parking lots in Namsai.

All the projects, other than the multistorey parking lots, will be executed by the PWD, while the parking lots will be executed by the UD department.

In addition, the chief minister, along with his deputy Chowna Mein released the festival souvenir and a calendar of the Singpho community.

Furthermore, the unsung heroes and martyrs of the Singpho community were honoured during the festival.

A mass dance of the Singphos was performed in honour of Shapawng Yawng, the forefather of the Singphos.

Legislative Assembly Speaker Pasang Dorjee Sona, Deputy Speaker Tesam Pongte, MP Tapir Gao, ministers Honchun Ngandam and Wangki Lowang, the MLAs of Namsai, Nampong, Anini, Bordumsa, Lekang, and Rumgong, the DCs of Namsai and Lohit, and the Namsai SP also attended the festival

IPR department conducts ARC at Oyan

PASIGHAT, February 14:

East Siang IPR department conducted "Arunachal Rising Campaign" (ARC) in the Oyan Circle Office auditorium under Ruksin subdivision on, February 14.

Oyan CO Dubom Apang

formally inaugurated the campaign and DTO (Tourism) Leena Perme, ASHA Nodal Officer Dr. Nung Ratan representing DMO and Veterinary Surgeon Dr. Yangki Tayeng representing DVO participated as resource persons who sensitized the GBs, Panchayat leaders and local populace about benefits of their departmental welfare schemes.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, CO Dubom Apang said that aiming at bridging the gap between the public and the government, ARC is conducted every year by the Information and Public Relations (IPR) department, place to place in the district with a mission to sensitize the people about major state and central flagship programs at the grass root level by involving various stakeholders of the society including youths, NGOs panchayat leaders etc among others.

With the commencement of this campaign one can witness how the government sowing seeds of development for the citizens of the state by felicitating enhanced awareness and better accessibility of various schemes and flagship programmes. This significant campaign has roped in a very strong and dedicated communication framework for garnering maximum public awareness, accessibility and participation, asserted Apang. He appealed the gathering to spread widely their knowledge, gained during ARC about welfare measures of the government.

All the resource persons delivered lectures and presented details on their respective departments' welfare schemes stating that all schemes are formulated to benefit the citizens of Arunachal Pradesh in long run. All government schemes will help in poverty reduction and lead the people to have better lives ahead, the trio stated. East Siang DIPRO D.

Dodum and APRO HK Roy also spoke on the occasion.

DC inaugurates AWC

GUMTO, February 15:

DC Papum Pare Jiken Bomjen inaugurated the Anganwadi Centre of Gumto -III in the presence of Deputy Director ICDS, Aroty Tayengon February 15.

This AWC has been constructed on self help basis by the staffs of Doimukh ICDS project and the public of Gumto.

Expressing his happiness on the yeoman service of the staffs of the ICDS project Doimukh, DC Bomjen said that "This is an example all the govt.employees across the state should emulate. One should not restrict oneself just to the routine office works, but as the privileged sections of the society should contribute our bit for the society."

He further assured to look into issuing LPCs to the AWCs on priority and asked the CDPO Doimukh Maya Murtem to expedite the paper works for the LPCs.

DD ICDS Aroty Tayeng and CDPO Maya Murtem also spoke. They dwelt on the importance of including fruits in our daily diets and advised the women folk; specially pregnant and lactating mother's to include fruits in the diets.

On the occasion fruit baskets were distributed to ten lactating and pregnant women under the "fhal se poshantak" Abhiyaan.

Land donor Techhi Nisam and Chukhu Lali, who constructed the AWC were also felicitated on the occasion.

Supervisors, Anganwadi workers and PRI members attended the program.

World Anthropology Day celebrated at DNGC

ITANAGAR, February 15:

The anthropology department of Dera Natung Govt College (DNGC) celebrated the World Anthropology Day on February 15.

During the programme, Anthropology HoD Dr Ratna Tayeng spoke on the background of the World Anthropology Day, which was started in 2015 by the American Anthropological Association.

DNGC Principal Dr MQ Khan commended the department for organising “such a fantastic programme,” and advised the students to be “tolerating, accepting and accommodating individuals, and at the same time critical of everything we learn,” the college informed in a release. Sixty-eight BA anthropology final semester students informed the gathering about their findings during their fieldwork in Lapnan village in Tirap district.

“The topics included birth, marriage and death ceremony, customary law, folklore, political institution, economic institution, family and kinship system, indigenous knowledge, fairs and festivals, belief and practices, conservation of natural resources, health and folk medicine, etc,” the release said.

Anthropology Assistant Professor Dr Mibi Riba also spoke.

As many as 212 students participated in the celebration, which was hosted by Anthropology Department Assistant Professors Gopi Riba and T Miti Boko, it said.

NEIAFMR Signs MoU with the Siang Trust

PASIGHAT, February 15:

Pasighat based North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda & Folk Medicine

Research (NEIAFMR), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Siang Trust, a registered Society of Pasighat, for extensive collaboration in a wide range of activities related to yoga education and medicinal plant research on February 15.

Dr. Robindra Teron, Director, NEIAFMR, and Dr. Onik Moyong, President of Siang Trust signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

Dr Robindra Teron spoke on the need to cultivate a few select medicinal plants for commercial purposes to sensitize the public on the economic value of farming of medicinal plant species, which will boost the livelihood options. Shri Kingman Komut, Secretary, Siang Trust also spoke and said that the agreement will focus on promoting Yoga Education and the Ayush system of medicine among the public.

Mini Marathon Race organised

YINGKIONG, February 15:

To commemorate the celebrations of 38th Statehood Day, Arunachal Pradesh Women Welfare Society Yingkiong Branch in coordination with Dept of Health and Family Welfare and District Police, Yingkiong organized 10 Km Mini Marathon Race on theme- Run for Drug Free Society ‘Save Family, Save Nation’ from Simong Welcome Gate upto General Ground, Yingkiong on February 15.

The Mini Marathon was sponsored by District Administration under Arunachal Rising Campaign, District Police and Medical.

Deputy Commissioner Upper Siang Hage Lailang flagged off the race in the presence of ADC

(Hq) Oli Perme, DMO Dr.Gepeng Litin, GS APWWS and its members, Police personnel and participants from Simong Welcome Gate.

While addressing the participants on the occasion at general ground Yingkiong Deputy Commissioner Hage Lailang appreciated Medical, Police and APWWS Yingkiong for successfully conducting the Mini Marathon race and said that APWWS have been given the responsibility to conduct the marathon because women play pivotal role in bring about positive change in society, be it effort for drug free society or changing the mindset of people. He called upon one and all to support in making Upper Siang district drug free and a better place to live for all.

Applauding the participants for taking part in large numbers, Lailang said that marathon race symbolizes determination and endurance and triumph over adversities. He exhorted the young participants to imbibe the spirit to remain mentally and physically strong to overcome obstacles and challenges to reach any goal in life.

In order to sensitize the participants Damini Tali, Clinical Psychologist, District De-addiction Centre, Yingkiong cum member APWWS gave orientation on drug abuse prevention and she requested the youths to refrain from using the drugs out curiosity as it is the main cause of drug addiction among youths. General Secretary APWWS Kosiang Pangkam also spoke on objective of the marathon race and says it is an effort to raise awareness among the youths to help stay away from drugs and choose healthy life through sports and creative activities.

More than 100 enthusiastic youths including police personnel

participated in the run. Race was kept open for all both men and women with cash prizes. In Men category Karik Siboh stood first, Kiram Tekseng and Kason Taku came 2nd and 3rd and in women category Ajok Libang came first, Ms. Appun Peyang and Ms Oyinam Samnam came 2nd and 3rd respectively. Five consolation prizes were also kept in both categories. All winners will felicitate on statehood day celebration on 20th February' 2024 next at general ground Yingkiong.

Zonal Level Workshop on Panchayat Development Index

ITANAGAGAR, February 16:

A series of zonal-level workshop on the Panchayat Development Index (PDI), "with alignment of localisation of sustainable development goals," was organised by the panchayati raj (PR) department and the State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR) at DK Convention Centre from 5-16 February.

Addressing the participants, including DCs, ZPCs, DPOs, DSOs, PR member secretaries, ZPMs, GPCs, and other stakeholders on the inaugural day, Panchayati Raj Minister Bamang Felix said that "PDI is a scientific and data-driven exercises and entry point activities for analysing the real scenario of gram panchayats," the PR directorate informed in a release.

"Difficulties of panchayat in Arunachal Pradesh are completely different from the other parts of the country. The geographical area is vast; however, the coverage of population is less. Rural connectivity is another hurdle for rural communities," he said, adding that

"appropriate devolution of fund, function and functionaries are well taken in the form of SPICE (Sustainable, Participatory, Inclusive, comprehensive, Empowerment) model, which took place during 2022," the release quoted the minister as saying.

"Chief Minister Pema Khandu has allocated the 10 percent of the state's own revenue fund of Rs 123 crore for the 2022-'23 financial year (FY) and Rs 143.11 crore for the 2023-'24 FY, which is itself a major boost for strengthening the panchayati raj institutions," Felix said, and appealed to every stakeholder to "complete the exercises PDI for quality LSDG-based gram panchayat development plan preparation for 2024-'25."

PR Secretary Opak Gao said that "accurate data are essential for gap finding and strategy for the development in the village areas," and added that "this PDI exercise will help improve the rural economy, and the deserving beneficiaries shall avail of the benefits of the government."

Gao informed that "a state steering committee on PDI has been constituted, in which all commissioners and secretaries are the members."

He suggested to the committee members to "draw a calendar of activities for the current year, review the activities, and share the departmental data, as these exercises will be beneficial for obtaining the award from the panchayati raj ministry."

"I expect that the data collection and the data validation process should be completed by the end of February this year, so that gram panchayats shall be able to draw quality LSDG-based GDPDP for the respective areas," he said.

The workshops were coordinated by PR Director Tamune

Miso, SIRD&PR Director Habung Lampung, PR Joint Director Likha Sampu, SIRD&PR Deputy Director Dr Narayan Sahoo, SOR nodal officer Obang Minki, and others.

Resource persons from the union panchayati raj ministry, Hyderabad (Telangana)-based National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Guwahati (Assam)-based National Fishery Development Board, Agartala-based Tripura University, Pune (Maharashtra)-based YASHADA, Guwahati-based National Research Institute on Pig, Itanagar-based GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, the Arunachal State Livelihoods Mission, the Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Development & Financial Corporation Limited, line department officers, and faculty members of the SIRD&PR conducted the workshops.

Participants from 25 districts attended the workshop.

Child rights awareness campaign held

ROING, February 16:

The child rights awareness campaign on Child Marriage, Trafficking, Safe Touch and Unsafe Touch, Child Helpline 1098, and Child Labour was conducted at Govt. Secondary School, Bizari, Govt. Upper Primary School, Tapat, Govt. Upper Primary School Anpum, Govt. Upper Primary School, Sirang (Poblung) and Little Lily School, Dambuk, with the aim of educating students about their rights and responsibilities as children.

The campaign took place on 15th and 16th February 2024 and involved various sessions focused on raising awareness and promoting child rights. LPO Dr. Tilu Linggi highlighted the Dis-

strict Child Protection Unit's roles and responsibilities.

The objective was to educate students about their rights as outlined in the convention on the Rights of the child and to empower students to recognize and advocate for their rights in various contexts.

The programmes were attended by 244 teachers, hostel wardens and students.

Cancer Screening Camp begins at BPGH

PASIGHAT, February 16:

A three day Cancer Screening Camp being organised by Indian Medical Association, Arunachal Pradesh (IMA - AP) in collaboration with State Cancer Society, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati (Assam) began at the Bakin Pertin General Hospital (BPGH), Pasighat on February 16.

The Camp was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner Tayi Taggu.

Awareness cum educative program about cancer was also organised simultaneously wherein Cancer experts from Tertiary care Centre TRIHMS & BBCI Guwahati imparted knowledge about the preventive and therapeutic aspects of cancer. Specialists from various hospitals of the state including TRIHMS, Heema Hospital, RK Mission Hospital, BPGH Pasighat and DH Roing are participating in the said camp.

The first day of the camp saw a huge rush of patients from all over East Siang and neighbouring districts. The Camp is being organised basically to screen five common cancers namely Oral, Breast, Stomach, Liver and Cervical cancers wherein advanced and invasive procedures like Upper GI

Endoscopy, Ultra-sonography and Pap smear are being carried out.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr Talung Tali Jt DHS (T&R), DMO Dr Dilip Dutta, Dr Kesang Wangdi Thongdok President IMA-AP, Dr Minggam Pertin Honorary Secretary IMA- (AP), Dr Kaling Jerang Principal Investigator PBCR and other IMA executive members.

Free assessment camp for children with special needs held at Diking

PASIGHAT, February 16:

A free assessment camp for children with special needs (CwSN) was conducted at the Spring School in Diking village here in East Siang district on February 16.

The camp, conducted by a group of parents of children with special needs, benefitted children and parents of East Siang and near-by districts.

After the assessment camp, occupational therapist Joji Varghese will guide the parents regarding appropriate and needful actions for their children.

The school is dedicated to children with different types of disabilities, and currently provides occupational therapy, behavioral therapy, and speech therapy, besides special education and counseling to parents and children.

Indian Army Organizes 'Dao Cycling Expedition'

NAMSAI, February 16:

Namsai DC CR Khampa flagged off a 'Dao cycling expedition' from the Golden Pagoda in Namsai district on February 16.

Cyclists from different backgrounds are participating in the expedition, which will culminate at Namti on 20 February.

The expedition is organised by the Indian Army, in the run-up to Arunachal's statehood day, and in order to promote fitness, boost tourism, and honour the sacrifices of "our fallen heroes at Namti."

The cyclists will traverse through the picturesque landscapes of Arunachal, showcasing the state's natural beauty and cultural richness.

It will provide an opportunity for the participants to pay homage to the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation, particularly at Namti, a site of historical significance, the Namsai DIPRO informed in a release.

PHED celebrates achievement of 100% saturation of Har Ghar Jal under Jal Jeevan Mission

YINGKIONG, February 17:

PHED and Water Supply, Upper Siang District Water and Sanitation Mission celebrated achievement of 100% saturation of Har Ghar Jal under Jal Jeevan Mission in a befitting manner here at Multipurpose hall, Yingkiong on February 17.

Zilla Parishad Member, Mariyang Bojing Bitin graced the function as chief guest. Congratulating the department for the milestone iBitin said that it is remarkable achievement for the district and appreciated the department for making it happened. She also shared "in past it was quite difficult for women in villages, they used to walk long distances to fetch water in bamboo pipes but now with various life changing public welfares

schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission lives of people especially women have improved a lot in rural areas, it has made their living easier.”

She further added that ‘Department has completed its task and now onus is on us to take proper care of water bodies and sources by keeping its surroundings clean and prohibiting the public from felling trees to maintain the healthy water resources and sanitation’.

Guest of Honour of the event Nanno Moyong also spoke and appreciated PHE & WS Yingkiong for achievement.

Addressing the gatherings the Deputy Commissioner cum Chairperson DWSM Hage lailang commended the entire team of DWSM, all field workers at village level and all stakeholders for the achieving 100% saturation of providing individual household tap connections in the district.

Speaking on importance of Jal Jeevan Mission, Lailang added ‘I hope that it was a dream come true situation for thousands women in our district to have safe drinking water and said ‘literally I can see happy and smiling faces of our women in villages as it has almost transformed their lives now women are no longer have to not worry about fetching water from distances and at the same time I also highly appreciated their role in successful implementation of the scheme’.

Further, he requested SHGs (Implementing Support Agency (ISA), PRI members, GBs and all stakeholders to take proper care of water resources and create awareness in respective gram sabhas on protection of govt property and its upkeep for betterment of society.

DC also called upon the department to ensure equitable distribution of water in all household and colonies and like situation for empowering the women and also to

put proper check on illegal tapping. He also cautioned the public to refrain from illegal tapping of water and advised them get connection through proper channel and technical support of concerned department. DC also administered pledge for protecting “Har Ghar Jal”.

Executive Engineer Er. Rajen Taying highlighted objective of the celebration and informed that 5606 households in the district have successfully connected through Har Ghar Jal under Jal Jeevan Mission before timeline on 21st Nov’2023. Upper Siang District has ranked 2nd in state level JJM implementation and 73rd at national level. AE PHED, Tuting also presented power point presentation on implementation of JJM schemes in Upper Siang.

During the programme best performing village water and Sanitation committees, field staffs and Field Test Kits Trained women were felicitated in appreciation of their performances.

To mark the celebration cultural items were presented by Implementing Support Agency, Yingkiong and Komkar Block, audio visuals short video of success stories on implementation of JJM, VWSC water tariff collection and catchment area protection were showcased. Among others, SP, all DWSM members, Head of departments, officers and officials of PHED, Public leaders, PRI members, SHGs, and all stakeholders attended the programme.

Awareness on PM Vishwakarma scheme held at Pasighat

PASIGHAT, February 17:

One day seminar-cum- awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma scheme was organized by the

MSME Development & Facilitation Centre (Itanagar) in collaboration with the District Administration and District Industries Centre, Pasighat at the JNC auditorium, Pasighat.

Attending the programme, East Siang Deputy Commissioner Tayi Taggu informed the participants that PM Vishwakarma Scheme is good scheme launched by the Govt. of India for traditional artisans and craftsman. Scheme is designed for traditional artisans & craftsman and they should avail the benefit. He advised to the gram panchayat leaders to create awareness about the schemes at the grassroots level.

Itanagar Branch MSME-DFO Assistant Director PK Das said that the objective of the programme was to create awareness on scheme to the Gram Panchayat Chairpersons, artisans, craftsman and other stakeholders. He while briefing about the guidelines of the PM Vishwakarma scheme, informed that only Namsai & East Siang districts in state have received maximum applications.

Earlier, PD-cum- DPDO, East Siang Taging Padung in his speech informed that out of 118 GPCs only 9 GPCs have on boarded on the portal. He advised all the GPCs to onboard on the portal at earliest. He also advised to recommend genuine artisans and craftsman of their respective Gram Panchayat. He also advised Common Service Centres operating in the district to take active participation as their role are inevitable in implementation of the scheme.

A brief power point presentation on the guidelines of PM Vishwakarma scheme was presented and the programme was attended by DDI M. Jamoh, EO (DIC) U Prasad, LDM P. Basumatary and others.

Indian Army organizes mega Veteran's Rally

PASIGHAT, February 18:

Organized by Indian Army, a mega veteran rally in coordination with the Assam and Arunachal Pradesh State administration was held at Likabali Military Station on February 18.

The rally was formally inaugurated by the Major General Akaash Johar, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Likabali based 56 Infantry Division in presence of East Siang DC Tayi Taggu, representatives of PCDA (P) Allahabad, ECHS, District Sainik Welfare Board, State Bank of India, Ex-Servicemen Cell, District Collector Office, Rajya Sainik Board, Record Offices and officers from Civil Administration.

Addressing the gathering, GOC Johar informed that the motive of the rally was to connect the Veterans, Veer Naris and Veer Matas to address their grievances related to anomalies in disbursement of pension, legal cases and other issues being faced by veterans. He also threw light on the second employment avenues and assistance for re-employment, provided by Army Welfare Placement Organization. The GOC along with the dignitaries inspected the medical and Dental camp organized to mitigate health related issues of Veterans on the occasion.

The GOC felicitated the Veterans, Veer Naris and Veer Matas and recalled invaluable services rendered by the veterans and the supreme sacrifices made by the fallen soldiers in service of the nation. He thanked the Veterans for their presence and lauded civil administration for extending whole hearted support for successful conduct of the event. Success of

the event could be gauged through overwhelming participation by Veterans fraternity and smiles on the faces of Veer Naris and Veer Matas, added Johar in his address.

A cultural program was showcased by Children from NCC, Dibrugarh.

DCM unveils the logo for Bharat Lok Sangeet - Arunachal Utsav 2024

ITANAGAR, February 19:

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein unveiled the logo for Bharat Lok Sangeet - Arunachal Utsav 2024 during a meeting held at his Secretariat office in Itanagar on February 19.

The logo comprises traditional Arunachal folk musical instruments, including long trumpets, bossed gong, bronze clapper bell, and Tham log drum. Additionally, it showcases traditional folk dances like the lion dance and peacock dance. The vibrant colors convey the emotions of festivity, celebration, and entertainment, seamlessly integrated with the State logo. This logo serves as an amalgamation of local art, representing the rich cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh.

The logo launch marked the commencement of the preparations for the first edition of State Level Folk Music Festival scheduled to take place in Namsai from February 28th to March 3rd, 2024.

The festival, aimed at celebrating indigenous folk music and dances, will be divided into two segments. On February 28th and 29th, 19 Indigenous Folk Music dance groups and 5 folk music bands from Arunachal Pradesh will enchant the audi-

ence with their performances. Following this, on March 1st and 2nd, folk dancers from 15 States across India will take the stage.

This cultural extravaganza not only seeks to preserve and showcase the rich heritage of indigenous folk arts but also serves as a platform for cultural integration in line with the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative.

The launch program was also attended by Secretary GA/DA, Sadhana Deori, Director of Tourism, Kesang Ngurup Damo and Special Secretary to Speaker, APLA, Pema Norbu Thongchi, among other officials.

Khelo India University Games 2024 Weightlifting begins

RONO HILL, February 19:

The Khelo India University Games 2024 Weightlifting event was officially inaugurated on February 19 at Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh where over 80 athletes, 32 support staff, and 50 technical officials attended the event, which was a significant moment for the state as it hosted only the Weightlifting game.

The inaugural session was graced by the Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University, Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Dr. Nabam Tadar Rikam, Registrar of the University, along with various important personalities from the field. These included Sahdev Yadav, President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), S. Tana Tara, Vice Chairman of the Sports Authority of Arunachal (SAA), and Anandi Gowda, Competition Manager and General Secretary.

In his wellcome address, Director of Sports, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Tadar Appa

welcomed all the Athletes, support staff, technical officials and invitees to the auspicious event with enthusiasm. While Vice chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha motivated the athletes in his speech.

The event was a grand celebration of sportsmanship and athletic excellence, as participants and officials gathered to showcase their skills and passion for weightlifting. The presence of such esteemed guests highlighted the importance of this event in promoting fitness, sports, and camaraderie among university students across India.

Harshada Sharad Garud of SPPU won the first gold medal of the Khelo India University Games Weight-lifting, which began at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) here on Monday.

Garud won the medal in the women's 45 kg category with a total lift of 143 kgs. She lifted 67 kgs in snatch and 76 kgs in clean & jerk.

The silver medal in this category was won by Apeksha Dattaray Dhone of SU-MHR. She lifted a total of 140 kgs (snatch 59 kgs + clean & jerk 81 kgs). Rani Nayak of CU won the bronze medal with a total lift of 139 kgs (snatch 63 kgs + clean & jerk 76 kgs).

In women's 49 kg category, Soumya Sunil Dalvi of UOM and Arati Raghavendra Tatgunti won the gold and the silver medal, respectively.

While Dalvi lifted 73 kgs in snatch and 90 kgs in clean & jerk, Tatgunti lifted 71 kgs in snatch and 91 kgs in clean & jerk.

The bronze medal in this category was won by Vani Puri of PU (PB) with a total lift of 144 kgs (snatch 63 kgs + clean & jerk 81 kgs).

In the men's 55 kg category, Vijay Kumar Maheswari of PRSU won the gold medal. He lifted 96

kgs in snatch and 128 kgs in clean & jerk.

The silver and the bronze medals in this category were won by Balaji P of TU (TN) and Donigolla Veeresh of CU, respectively.

Balaji lifted 97 kgs in snatch and 120 kgs in clean & jerk, while Veeresh lifted 98 kgs in snatch and 115 kgs in clean & jerk.

The day's last event was held in the men's 61 kg category.

Ruthreshwar A of TU (TN) won the gold medal in this category with a total lift of 250 kgs. He lifted 109 kgs in snatch and 141 kgs in clean & jerk.

S Muthumaniya of JPU and Shaik Abdullah of RSU (AP) won the silver and the bronze medal, respectively.

While Muthumaniya lifted 108 kgs in snatch and 140 kgs in clean & jerk, Abdullah lifted 90 kgs in snatch and 110 kgs in clean & jerk.

Athletes from universities across the country are participating in the weeklong event.

DC reviews preparedness for 77th Santosh Trophy

YUPIA, February 19:

Arunachal Pradesh is all set to host the final rounds of the 77th Santosh Trophy. The tournament will be held at the Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium, Yupia. 12 teams will play a total of 37 matches spanning across three weeks from 21st February to 9th March, 2024.

To ensure a smooth conduct of the event, DC Papum Pare Jiken Bomjen on Monday, February 19 reviewed the preparedness of all the stakeholder departments and the Arunachal

Pradesh Football Association during a meeting convened in DC Conference hall, Yupia.

While welcoming the members Jiken Bomjen, DC Papum Pare said that "this historical event requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders to make it historical in true sense."

"I appeal to the public to be set an exemplary display of our choices that reflect positive values and respect for others." DC Bomjen added.

Preparatory works pertaining to security, traffic, parking, sanitation management, medical coverage, water connectivity, uninterrupted power supply, internet connectivity, road maintenance etc were minutely discussed during the meeting.

Kipa Ajay, Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Football Association outlined the preparatory works carried out by the Association.

He informed that "80 per cent of the players have already reached the Capital Complex and they have been accorded traditional welcome."

Pertaining to the security of the players, Shri Ajay informed that "DIGP has assured to provide security at the Hotels where the players are being accommodated."

He also added that "PRI leaders of nearby areas have been briefed about the event and their cooperation sought to maintain harmony during the event."

DySP (Hq) Radhe Obing informed that two companies of force have been deployed for the event at Yupia to maintain law and order in the Stadium.

He further requested the organisers to issue vehicle passes categorically for easy management of traffic and proper park-

ing of vehicle.

Er Sawant Rieng, EE (PHED & Water Supply) informed that 1.00 Lakhs Ltr. capacity overhead water tank is ready at the ground and a water tanker will be available 24x7 to meet up any exigencies.

Teri Taniya, EE, Urban Development informed that 26 nos of dustbins have been installed in the Stadium and a garbage truck with four labourers will be stationed at the Stadium till the completion of the event.

After the discussions that followed, it was decided to use the Horticulture garden opposite the stadium to park 2 (two) wheelers; to direct ADC, Balijan and CO Gumto to open temporary ILP counters at their respective check gates to issue entry pass for the spectators coming from outside the state and to maintain utmost cleanliness in and around the stadium.

It was also decided to display in prominent locations the list of prohibitory items inside the stadium.

The prohibitory items list consists of pan/ghutkas, Alcoholic beverages, water bottles, cans or glass, animals, ball toys, chips or any edible items, containers, laser pointers, selfie sticks, weapons, sticks, poles, fire crackers or inflammable toxics.

Liza Kamsa wins silver, Balo Yalam bronze in 4th Khelo India University Games Weightlifting

RONO HILLS, February 20:

Liza Kamsa of Arunachal Pradesh, representing Yugi Vemana University, Andhra Pradesh

won a silver medal in the ongoing 4th Khelo India University Games Weightlifting event at Rajiv Gandhi University on February 20.

Kamsa won the medal in the women's 59 kg category. She lifted 77 kgs in the snatch and 104 in the snatch for a total of 181 kgs.

She is currently undergoing training at the National Centre of Excellence, SAI, Itanagar. She had won a bronze medal at the Khelo India Youth Games in 2022.

Compatriot Balo Yalam also won a bronze medal in the same weight category.

Yalam, a product of Sangay Lhaden Sports Academy, lifted a total of 179 kgs (snatch 79 kgs+ clean & jerk 100 kgs). She represented Guru Kashi University Punjab.

The gold medal in this category was won by Usha of CU with a total lift of 185 kgs (snatch 82 kgs + clean & jerk 103 kgs).

Other results of Tuesday:

Women's 55 kg category:
Gold: Sneha (KIIT) – 172 kgs,
Sil: Ramandeep (PU-PAT) – 165 kgs, Br: Shalu (KU-HR) – 159 kgs.

Women's 64 kg category:
Gold: Pooja Rajesh (GKU) – 176 kgs, Sil: Sanapathi Pallavi (AU) – 175 kgs, Br: Sukarna Adak (CU) – 172 kgs.

Men's 67 kg category:
Gold: Tharun T (PU-TN) – 255 kgs, Sil: Dinesh Chellamariappan (UOC) – 254 kgs, Br: Tippanna Lakkannavar (MU-KR) – 205 kgs.

Men's 73 kg category:
Gold: Jaskaran Ram (SBBSU) – 271 kgs, Sil: Bellamkonda Krishna (CU) – 265 kgs, Br: Logeswaran Sankar (TU-TN) – 263 kgs.

State celebrates 38th Statehood Day

ITANAGAR, February 20:

The 38th Statehood Day was celebrated in all the districts with enthusiasm by organizing various activities on February 20.

In Itanagar, addressing the state on his maiden visit, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar praised the organic produce of the state for its credibility and authenticity. Acknowledging the large national and international markets that exist for such produce, Dhankhar expressed his conviction that enabling government schemes would further expand the reach of such resources.

Highlighting the “phenomenal and exponential rise” in infrastructure and in road, rail and air connectivity in the region, Dhankhar said that these outcomes reflected the “changing face of Bharat” as well as the spirit of co-operative federalism.

He urged the youths to embrace their role as foot soldiers on the march towards taking India to the status of “Viksit Bharat@2047.”

Governor Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Rajya Sabha MP from Nagaland, S. Phangnon Konyak, Speaker of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Pasang Dorjee Sona were also present on the occasion.

At Aalo (West Siang), former minister Kento Ete appealed to the people to keep their township neat and clean. He said that “every citizen must have a civic sense.”

Deputy Commissioner Mamu Hage and ZPC Tumpe Ete

attended the celebration, among others.

At Daporijo (Upper Suhbansiri), the education department felicitated the class 10 and class 12 toppers of the district with cash prizes and certificates under the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao scheme.

Commendation certificates were also awarded to few 'sincere' government employees. Former home minister Daklo Nidak attended the programme.

Cultural activities and archery competitions were also organized as part of the celebration.

At Likabali (Lower Siang), the district unit of Arunachal Pradesh Women's Welfare Society advisor Nyater Taipodia unfurled the tri-color in presence of DC Rujum Rakshap and others.

Taipodia appealed to the people to cooperate with all the government machinery for all-round development of the district.

Highlighting the role of women in the society, she said that women are the backbone of the families and are crucial to the growth and development of communities.

On the occasion, 10 meritorious girl students of the district were felicitated under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

At Longding, ZPM Jehai Wangsu, MLA Tanpho Wangnaw, DC Bekir Nyorak and SP Dekio Gumja attended the celebration. Sports and cultural competitions were organized to mark the occasion.

At Kanubari, MLA Gabriel Denwang Wangsu attended the celebration.

At Tezu (Lohit), DC Shashvat Saurabh highlighted the district's potential in the field of textile & handicrafts, agriculture, horticulture and tourism.

He informed about the PM

Vishwakarma scheme and urged the local artisans to avail the benefits of the scheme. He cautioned the people against illicit opium cultivation and said that the district administration will take stringent action, if anyone is found indulging in such illegal activities. The DC appealed to the youths to stay away from drugs.

At Tawang, Deputy Commissioner Kanki Darang unfurled the national flag amid a large gathering of people.

Darang highlighted the progress made by the state in the last 38 years. He also highlighted the mineral resources and potentials of the district in cash crops and the hydro power sector.

The DC along with DAO Toli Bam flagged off a vehicle under Mission Organic Value Chain Development NER (Phase-III) for the Lungla Farmers Producer Company Limited.

At Yupia (Papum Pare), DC Jiken Bomjen unfurled the national flag.

Addressing the gathering, Bomjen called for remembering the first generation leaders and their contribution to the state in its early stages.

Highlighting the state's rich culture, flora and fauna, Bomjen said, "The amazing array of flora and fauna, in a unique habitat with glaciers, high altitude meadows and sub-tropical forests makes our state a favored tourist destination." He urged the youths to explore avenues in this direction and not wait for government jobs alone.

Millet Mela organized by the agriculture department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, free legal services by the Arunachal Pradesh Legal Services Authority, cultural programmes by the students and SHGs members were some of the main highlights of the day-long

programme.

Few government officials were also awarded commendation certificates for their meritorious services.

At Koloriang (Kurung Kumey), Lower Koloriang ZPM Bengia Tashi unfurled the national flag in presence of DC Ibom Tao, SP Bomken Basar and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the ZPM lamented that Kurung Kumey is lagging far behind other districts in the state in the development front. He appealed to the DC to disseminate the information on government schemes and policies among the people, while strictly monitoring the workings of office in the district.

In Tirap, the Statehood Day was celebrated at district headquarters Khonsa and all other ADC and circle administrative headquarters.

At Khonsa, ZPC Chathong Lowang hoisted the national flag amidst a massive gathering.

The ZPC appealed to the people of the district to cooperate with the district administration and police in their efforts towards all-round development. She vehemently urged the educated unemployed youth, members of women self-help groups and the farming community to avail the flagship schemes launched by the government for self-reliance.

The ZPC awarded commendation certificates to few government employees

The celebration was attended, among others, by DC in-charge Tana Bapu, SP Rahul Gupta, CO 44 Assam Rifles Col. Rahul Singh, 36Bn CRPF Second-in-Command Pintu Yadav.

At Deomali, PHE&WS minister Wangki Lowang hoisted the tricolour. The day was also celebrated at Lazu, Dadam, Borduria and Bari-Basip.

The statehood day was also celebrated at Arunachal University, Pasighat, VKV (NEEPCO) Kimi (West Kameng).

In Anini, Anini-II ZPM Siyo Miwu emphasized the importance of unity, peace and development for the state's growth trajectory and in particular, Anini.

Awards and citations were also presented to the winners of various competitions organized earlier in schools of the district to mark the statehood day. Also, the award for best performing sanitary workers of Anini for the year of 2023-24 conducted by UD & housing department were given to Chindu Linggi, Athupa Mepo and Piro Milli.

The Day was also celebrated by Arunachali students studying at Bihar. They were invited to attend the celebrations at Raj Bhavan in Bihar under "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat" scheme that aims at creating awareness about the NE states and unity in diversity.

At Ziro (Lower Subansiri district), the Statehood Day was celebrated in Padi Yubbe Outdoor Stadium.

Speaking on the occasion, deputy commissioner Vivek H.P highlighted the achievement of various line departments under their flagship programmes. The DC also administered an oath to make Ziro 'plastic free' and said that concerted action would be taken to materialize the oath.

In Upper Siang district, Statehood Day was celebrated at district headquarters Yingkiong and all other administrative circles of the district.

While unfurling the national flag on the occasion at Yingkiong general ground, Tuting Zilla Parishad member Tachik Duggong highlighted various developmental activities in the district.

UD & housing assistant engineer Nanong Nangkar, sanitation workers, police officials from fire & emergency services were felicitated with commendation certificates on the occasion.

The Day was also celebrated at Mariyang ADC headquarters and Tuting.

At Yingkiong, Upper Siang, Zilla Parishad Member Tachik Duggong unfurled the national flag at general ground in the presence of the DC, SP, ZPC and others.

Addressing the gathering, Duggong highlighted the importance of the day and various developmental activities in Upper Siang district.

He also spoke on the importance of education and appealed to the younger generation to focus on their studies for a better future. He advised them to stay away from drugs and other substance abuse, which may ruin their life.

Few government employees were felicitated with commendation certificates for their meritorious services.

Arunachal Livelihood Mission (ArSLM), Yingkiong disbursed credit amount of Rs.61,05206 to 48 SHGs.

The winners of a mini marathon race on theme "Run for drug free society," which was organized by Yingkiong branch of the APWS on 15 February were also felicitated. The day was also celebrated at Mariyang and Tuting.

In Pasighat (East Siang district) deputy commissioner Tayi Taggu hoisted the national flag at the outdoor stadium on the occasion of Statehood Day.

In his address, Taggu highlighted various development activities in the district. He appealed to the citizens to extend cooperation to the administration in mak-

ing East Siang a smart district in all fronts.

DC Tayi Taggu and MLA Kaling Moyong released an Adi poetry book on the occasion.

The poetry book 'Sipar' meaning wave penned by Obat Boko Jamoh, has been dedicated to the mother of the author.

The DC also felicitated the achievers of the district.

At Ruksin, local MLA Ninong Ering hoisted the national tricolour, ZPM Oter Tayeng unfurled the national flag at Mebo.

Further, the 38th Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh was also celebrated in the Raj Bhavans of various other states throughout the country with spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat.'

Cultural programmes showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh by the people, mostly students, were organized by the Raj Bhavans of other states. The message of the Governor K.T Parnaik and song 'Hamara Arunachal' were screened on the occasion.

The Governor complimented the Governors of other states for the goodwill gestures and conveyed good wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh in other states.

The Arunachal Raj Bhavan has been celebrating the Foundation Days of other states with participation of large number of people, particularly students.

District Library conducts mass library awareness program

NAMSAI, February 21:

Mass library awareness program was initiated by the District Library, Namsai under the aegis of the Namsai District Administration aiming

to promote reading habit among the students and youth of the area.

To ensure that the benefit of library reach to the under privileged students residing in remote localities and for getting them familiarize with the service and activities of the library, a tour program to the District library, Namsai for the students and teachers from across the district was arranged from February 21 in the District library, Namsai which will continue for next 15 days.

As the part of the awareness program, various literary programmes like essay competition, debates, drawing competition, extempore speech etc was organised in different schools, colleges and University in the district.

Attending the inaugural program Namsai Deputy Commissioner C.R. Khampa in his address said that the District Library, Namsai is one of best public library in Arunachal Pradesh in terms of productivity and service delivery. The library is fully automated and provides reading friendly atmosphere.

He urged the students to avail maximum benefit from the modern library which will help them excel in their life.

While welcoming the gathering, Librarian S. Mukhopadhyay emphasized on the importance of library and role of the library in student's life.

218 students with teachers from four different schools attended library awareness program.

Governor confers State Awards, Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration

ITANAGAR, February 21:

The Governor of Arunachal

Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) conferred the State Awards and Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration in an impressive function in the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on February 21, 2024.

First Lady of the State Anagha Parnaik, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Speaker of Legislative Assembly Pasang Dorjee Sona, Cabinet Ministers, distinguished guests and invitees attended the State function, which was conducted by Chief Secretary Dharmendra.

Interacting over a High Tea on the special occasion, the Governor congratulated the awardees and conveyed his good wishes to them. He stated that the deeds of the awardees will inspire their peers and other citizens in the State.

The Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM), R. K. Mission, Arunachal Pradesh, Deepak Nabam Living Home, Itanagar, Shri Rajeev Takuk, APCS, Secretary (Border Affairs), GoAP, Itanagar, Dr. S. K. Singh, Senior Medical Officer cum Office on special Duty, Arunachal Bhawan, New Delhi, Ratan Anya, Chairperson, Oju Welfare Association (OWA), Naharlagun, Mission 'Har Shikhar Tiranga' led by National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), Dirang and Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya Arunachal Pradesh Trust received the State Gold Medal.

The Mahila Welfare Society, NGO, Chongkham, Namsai District, Dr. Maray Nanom Taloh, APCS, Extra Assistant Commissioner, office of the DC, Changlang, Er. Tumken Ete, Executive Engineer, Office of the Chief Engineer (SID & P), PWD, Itanagar, Dr. Dilip Dutta, SMO, Tasi

Panggeng Memorial Hospital (FRU), Ruksin, Sheychin Chena, SI, APP, Office -In-Charge, Police Station, Lazu, Tirap District, Malin Majumdar, Aviation Officer, Directorate of Civil Aviation Department, Naharlagun, Bape Gamlin, Leading Fireman, Fire Station, Naharlagun, Abi Tekseng, Constable, 3rd IRBn, Chimpu, Chatung Taffo Sonam Constable, 3rd IRBn, Chimpu, Oyam Saring, APCS, Circle Officer, O/o the ADC, Ruksin, East Siang, Ongsa Ronrang, APP, Inspector, Police Station, Itanagar, Lomman Kimsing, APP, Sub-Inspector, SP Office, Khonsa, Yachang Tacho, Public Interpreter (PI), Ziro, Shri Kennedy Bagra, Social Worker, Ziro, Manoj Bhat-tacharjee, I/c Photographic Officer, Directorate of IPR, Naharlagun, Karto Zirido, Leading Fireman, Fire Station, Naharlagun, Jonai Wangnow, APP, Constable, STF Coy, PTC, Banderdewa and Prakash Newar, APP, Constable, PTC, Banderdewa received the State Silver Medal.

The Department of Rural Development for 'ArSRLM' (Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission), the Department of Water Resource Department for 'Multipurpose Water Conservation Project', the Department Health & Family Welfare for 'Drone for Social impact, 'Medicine from the Sky', the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Lower Dibang Valley District for 'Improving Urban Space and improving maternal and child health', the Office of the Commissioner (Tax, Excise and Narcotics) for e-Abkari Project and the Department of IT and Communication for implementation of 22 e-Governance Projects under year of e-Governance 2022-23 received the Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2023.

Lohit District Celebrated the 100% FHTC saturation under JJM

TEZU, February 22:

Lohit District Celebrated the 100% FHTC saturation (Har Ghar Jal District) under JJM by District Water and Sanitation Mission of PHED department at Tezu on February 22. Assistant Commissioner Kamaleshwar Rao, IAS was the chief guest and Banlong Tindiya ZPM Tezu attended as the Guest of honour in the program.

Kamaleshwar Rao, Congratulated the PHED department for implementing the program successfully despite having difficult terrains in Arunachal in general and Lohit district in particular. He said that as the climate is changing, the problem of water scarcity will definitely increase which programs like JJM may not be able to meet, therefore it is important that we should start taking efforts to efficiently and sustainable use the water resources.

Balong Tindiya told the participant that only depending on the department will not make any scheme successful, there is a need that all stakeholders need to participate enthusiastically in order to make any govt scheme a successful one.

Er Hage Mobing EE, PHED presented a powerpoint on various activities, efforts and achievements of the department related to JJM, he highlighted the CAP catchment area protection act 2023 & Operation - maintenance of In Village policy of rural & urban water supply approved by the state govt etc..

Awards were also presented under various categories

like Best performing VWSC, Best performing FTK handling women group (field testing kit), Best performing field staffs, Best performing ISA Implementation support agency, for Drawing & essay competition conducted on 8th feb 24. Also a Signature Campaign on Protection of drinking water & catchment area was organised during the program.

All members of District water & Sanitation mission, ZPM of Tezu and Sunpura, Gram Chairpersons of Tezu, Sunpura and Wakro, Village water & sanitation chairpersons, ISAs of Tezu & Sunpura & other stakeholders attended the program.

DNGC organises cancer awareness workshop

DNGC, February 22:

An insightful Cancer Awareness Workshop under the banner of Cancer Mukta Jagarukta Abhiyan-Arunachal Pradesh, was organized by Dera Natung Govt. College (DNGC), Itanagar in collaboration with Mon Indigenous Cultural and Welfare Society (MICWS) and Chhabi Sahayog Foundation, on 22nd February 2024 at Conference Hall of DNGC. The workshop was sponsored by Sinchaji Foundation, Arunachal Pradesh.

The event which comprises of 2 (two) sessions, was graced by Mrs. Tsering Wangmu Sinchaji, the chairperson of Sinchaji Foundation, Dr. M.Q. Khan, the Principal DNGC, two resource persons namely- Dr. Vishal Vinay Jha, Wadia Hospital, Mumbai and Dr. Priyanka Semwal, AIIMS, Rishikesh, and many other dignitaries. More than 500 students in-

cluding NSS volunteers of DNGC have actively participated in the fruitful event.

Dr. M.Q. Khan, Principal DNGC, in his speech, exhorted the students to be health conscious and remain aware about the hazardous and deadly diseases like cancer, diabetes, etc. He added "cancer is preventable only through early detection". He strongly emphasized the students to imbibe good habits within them and to avoid taking cancer causing items/activities like smoking, gutka, betelnut, alcohol, etc. He urged the students to spread awareness about cancer among the people especially the people belonged to remote areas of the state.

The chief guest, Mrs. Tsering Wangmu Sinchaji, highlighted the origin of Sinchaji foundation, the govt. registered organization and its noble deeds. She added that the organization is committed to perform the task of helping hands to the needy people of the state especially to cancer patients.

Dr. Vishal Jha, the resource person, talked about cancer- its types, causes, symptoms, prevention and treatment via power point presentation. He interacted with the students and discussed various things related to cancer.

Dr. Priyanka Semwal, another resource person, kept a secret interaction session with the female students and discussed various health related problems faced by female.

The workshop also shown the conduct of 2 tests- Pre and Post test, respectively to the students/participants. The overall programme was skillfully coordinated by Mr. Botem Moyong, Assistant Professor Mathematics and Mr. Phuntso Gombu, Assistant Professor Chemistry of DNGC.

Arunachal Pradesh government officially handed over appointment letters to 1256 youths

ITANAGAR, February 22:

In an unprecedented event, Arunachal Pradesh government today officially handed over appointment letters to 1256 youths, who had successfully appeared the Combined Secondary Level Examination-2023 conducted by the Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board (APSSB) last year.

To mark the mass appointment of new employees in various state government departments, Chief Minister Pema Khandu symbolically handed over 'Offer Letters' to 30 new recruits in an event – Rozgar Mela – organized by the state Youth Affairs department here this morning, which was witnessed by rest of the successful candidates. Congratulating all the successful candidates, Khandu hailed them for earning a government job on their own merit.

"Earlier, most of the Group C and D posts were filled by concerned departments and done so on recommendations or insistence of political leaders and senior officers. Those who had no 'connections' with the affluent were left high and dry. To do away with the corrupt practice and to provide all eligible youths a level playing field, we created the APSSB and today it is bearing fruits," he said. Khandu informed that the staff selection board could have been established with a cabinet notification but he chose to do so through an Act so that it couldn't be tampered with in future to suit the whims and fancies of powers to be.

He expressed satisfaction with the Board and lauded it for

conducting recruitment examinations for various Group C and D posts in a fair and transparent manner despite an initial hiccup. "You all need to be proud of yourself. You didn't chose the easy way – bootlicking or seeking recommendations. You studied hard, prepared hard and secured a government job. Wherever you go, you will hold your head high!" Khandu said. Advising the new employees to work as hard as they had in preparing for the examination wherever they are posted, he said that they were now a part of the system and their sincerity towards their job only will ensure that the system runs successfully.

"The work force that we are getting through APSSB and the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (Group A and B) will ensure that in the next 5 to 10 years the state government will be run by people, who are in their respective posts on pure merit. Governance will change," Khandu expressed optimism. "In coming years, the infusion of these talented individuals into the govt workforce will significantly enhance our capacity to deliver services promptly, furthering the welfare of our beloved citizens," he added.

Talking about APPSC, the Chief Minister informed that the new Chairman and Members have assumed office and after putting in place a stringent SoP, examinations will be conducted to various Group A and B posts. He informed that more than 1000 posts have been handed over to the Commission for conducting recruitment examinations but are lying vacant due to the paper leakage fiasco.

Hoping that the Commission conducts the examinations soon, Khandu advised the successful candidates of the Group C and D posts to appear for the examina-

tions conducted by the Commission if eligible.

"In my interaction with few of you, I got to know that many of you are well qualified. You will always have an advantage as you are already well prepared. If you work hard, I am sure many of you will qualify for Group A and B posts," he opined.

Khandu further informed that the state government has, in the last 7-8 years, created about 17500 government jobs.

The Combined Secondary Level Examination, 2023, was conducted for various posts (Group C and D) in the departments of Legal Metrology & Consumer Affairs, Woman & Child Development, Research, Agriculture, Hydropower Development, Tax, Excise & Narcotics, Economics & Statistics, Power, Higher & Technical Education, Secretariat Administration, PWD, Fire & Emergency Services, Home and TRIHMS.

One day training programme for Students Teachers SMC members and Parents of PM SHRI held

OMPULI, February 23:

One Day Training Programme for Students, Teachers, SMC members and Parents of PM SHRI (Pradhan Mantri's School For Rising India) Nabam Takey Govt. Residential School, Ompuli was held on February 23.

Circle Officer, Toru Smti. Fema Taku, while Attending the program advised the students to be disciplined and focused on studies.

Shri Tagu Tana Tara, DDSE Papum Pare, Yupia praised the school for maintaining a neat and clean campus. He further request-

ed the teachers to strive to be role model for the children.

“A good teacher will produce good students,” he added.

During the technical sessions that followed Dr. Tai Mac-hung, MO, Toru spoke about the importance of maintaining Health & Hygiene.

While Smti. Tang Moromi, DPC, Papum Pare, dwelt on the responsibilities of the School Management Committees (SMCs), Shri Horen Baruah, DMIS Cum PM SHRI Coordinator spoke on Citizenship Skills and also highlighted the values imbibed in our Constitution.

Smti. Aparna Sharma, DRG, Yupia spoke about the necessity of Career Guidance and Counselling of the Students early in their student life.

Earlier Shri Gollo Tajam, Head Teacher, PM SHRI NTGRS, Ompuli-cum- CRCC Toru & BRCC In-Charge Sagalee Block welcomed all the Guests, Trainers and participants to the programme led the house present for tree Plantation within the school compound.

The purpose of the PM SHRI school is to nurture students in a manner that transforms them into engaged, productive and contributing citizens. This aligns with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020, striving to build a society characterized by equity, inclusivity and pluralism.

Rajiv Gandhi University prepares for 3rd Cycle of NAAC Assessment

RONOHILL, February 25:

Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), the lone central university of Arunachal Pradesh is all geared up for

its 3rd Cycle of NAAC Assessment from the 27th to the 29th of February 2024. The 1st cycle of NAAC Assessment was held in 2002 and the 2nd Cycle of assessment was in 2015. Since its inception in 1984 as erstwhile Arunachal University and later through its conversion to the status of a Central University in 2007 by an Act of the Parliament, Rajiv Gandhi University has been devoted to its avowed task of disseminating higher education to the aspiring minds of the State and its neighbouring States, particularly Assam. RGU is recognized as a University with potential for excellence by a high-level expert committee of UGC from among universities in India. During the years, the number of enrolment of students in its different courses at various levels has increased steadily. New Departments have been opened up with teachers with the requisite qualifications to cater to the changing demands in academic fields and job market. In recent years, RGU has developed remarkably in infrastructure, and its academic and research activities have witnessed an unprecedented high.

National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) is an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC) that assesses and accredits Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in the country such as colleges, universities and other recognized institutions to derive an understanding of the quality status of the institution.

The NAAC Peer Team consisting of reputed academicians chosen from different parts of the country with expertise in various fields of study will assess RGU during these three days. The Peer Team will evaluate Rajiv Gandhi University for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its per-

formance in academic and research processes and outcomes. The Peer Team will also interact with different sections of stakeholders of the University to arrive at an understanding of the various prescribed parameters such as quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance.

Training cum demonstration conducted by KVK Tirap at different villages

KHONSA, February 25:

A series of five numbers of training cum demonstration on AGRICULTURALLY IMPORTANT MICRO-ORGANISMS supported by National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Micro-organisms (NBAIM), Mau- Uttar Pradesh on the topic ‘Importance of microbes in Agriculture’ was conducted at different villages viz. Naitong, Chomoithung, Turret, Khela and Natun Kheti on 18th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 25th February respectively. In the training Shri Arvind Pratap, SMS (Agronomy) elaborated in details about role of different micro-organism in soil fertility as well as ecology too. He added that microbes are an integral part of soil and contribute to soil and plant health. Microorganisms have the ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, solubilize and mobilize phosphorus, produce antibiotics and disease suppressing molecules. Different microbes plays role as biofertilizers like- Blue green algae, azolla, rhizobium etc. He told that farmers can enhance 20-30 % crop’s productivity by using biofertilizers.

Training co-coordinator Dr Abhimanyu Chaturvedi, SMS (Horticulture) elaborated in detail on use of biopesticides in horticultural crops. He demonstrated

about soil application of Tricoderma; a biopesticide to control soil borne diseases of crops because it helps for bioremediation of soil; by which maximum soil borne diseases can be control easily. Further he also suggested growing pulse crops in between orchards because pulse crops are fixes nitrogen in soil.

The total five hundred farmers (hundred participants per programme) were trained through training. The kit containing seasonal seeds of Okra, bitter guard, Pumpkin, Long bean, bottle guard and small farm tools like- spade etc were also distributed to each participants in each training.

First Annual Festival APUFEST 2024 of Arunachal Pradesh University begins

*DCM Mein attends
as the Chief Guest*

PASIGHAT, February 25:

Deputy Chief Minister, Chowna Mein attended the inaugural program of the first Annual Festival APUFEST 2024 of lone State-owned Arunachal Pradesh University (APU), Pasighat as Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Chief Minister Mein said that the citizens of Arunachal Pradesh have high expectations from the lone state-owned University, towards advancing the scope of higher education for their children. Mein assured priority support of the Govt to the University for the creation and expansion of novel areas of study and research.

Acknowledging that the initial five years to be the most crucial tenure for the development of any institution, Mein informed that State Govt has made an initial funding of Rs 17.45 Cr in the year 2018-

19 for infrastructure development of the University and Rs 279 Lakhs for construction of Academic Block during the financial year 2023-24 and also provided Grants-in Aids of Rs. 10 Cr to the University from the State Government. He called for judicious implementation of the fund for the development of the University Campus.

Addressing the students, Mein stressed upon the importance of inculcating discipline and promoting ethical work culture in the university. He stated that discipline, regularity, honesty and sincerity must be imbibed in the working culture of a university, lending it an ambient academic atmosphere conducive for personal and professional growth. Such an atmosphere can go on to become a model for all other institutions to emulate, he added.

APU started off with its first academic batch in the year 2023 with a vision to elevate the standards of higher education in the State. At present, the University is offering post-graduation courses (Masters degree) in five subjects namely, Commerce and Arts (Economics, Education, Social work & Tribal Studies) since last year and is steadily continuing its journey towards expanding the horizon of academics, research and entrepreneurship in the State, and emerging as a beacon of excellence, nurturing future leaders and fostering innovation in the realm of higher education.

The event was also attended by Arunachal East MP (Lok Sabha) Tapir Gao, MLAs, Kaling Moyong & Kento Rina, Chief Councilor of Pasighat Municipal Council, Okiam Moyong Borang, DC East Siang Tayi Taggu, SP East Siang Sumit Kr. Jha, Vice Chancellor of Arunachal Pradesh University, Prof Tomo Riba, among others.

Relief camp held at Dasi Nigi.

AALO, February 26 :

The Rama Krishna Mission Aalo conducted a Relief Camp at Dasi Nigi Village on 25th February last. During the camp, The Mission gave 83 pcs Blanket to the villagers including male and female.

This a part of humanitarian service taken up by RK Mission from time to time to the needy villagers of West Siang District.

Deputy CM Mein attends the Nyokum Yullo Celebrations in New Pitapool Yachuli Circle

PITAPOOL, February 26:

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein attended the vibrant Nyokum Yullo celebration at the festival ground in New Pitapool under Yachuli Circle, as the Chief Guest on February 26. The main agricultural based festival of Nyishi community showcase the rich traditions and heritage of the community through various cultural performances and rituals.

In his address, Mein commended the Nyishi Community for preserving and promoting their ancestral traditions and age old cultural practices. He emphasized the importance of embracing modernization while safeguarding the indigenous heritage, urging everyone to cherish and celebrate traditional festivals with enthusiasm.

On the occasion, DCM highlighted notable economic achievements of Arunachal Pradesh. In the past eight years from 2016-17 to 2023-24, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed a significant rise of 136% along with a surge of 104% in the per capita income. He

relayed Prime Minister Modi's vision of a Developed India by 2047 and reiterated the State Govt commitment to achieving this vision through active participation.

Mein further elaborated on the remarkable progress made in various sectors, including connectivity and border security. He reiterated the State Govt commitment to bring development in the border region at par with the foothill areas. He informed that various projects such as Frontier Highway, Vibrant Village Program, Border Village Illumination Program, etc are being implemented which will bring rapid development in the border areas.

He also mentioned that the much-awaited Sela Tunnel will be inaugurated by PM Modi on 9th of March. This project includes two tunnels and 8.780 km of approach road. Once fully constructed, the tunnel, stretching through the Sela-Charbela ridge, will be the world's longest bilane tunnel at 13,000 feet elevation.

He also congratulated the people of Yazali and Yachuli Circles on getting a new district, Keyi-Panyor and said that the new District will bring speedy development in the area and generate employment opportunities.

He also said that a 300 megawatt hydropower project will be developed in the upper stream of Panyor River and asked the officials of NEEPCO to carry out the preliminary survey at the earliest.

The festival was also attended by Minister of Education, Cultural & Indigenous Affairs, Taba Tedir, Director of State Council of Education, Research & Training (SCERT), Toko Babu, Chief Engineer (PHE&WS), Toko Jyoti, SP Lower Subansiri, ADC, PRI leaders, Govt Officers, guests from America (NRI) and Mumbai.

Basic life saving skills training at NHU

NIRJULI, February 26:

A one day Basic Life Saving Skills Training was conducted by EMRI Green Health Services at Nerist Health Unit (NHU). The training included Basic life saving skills like Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Oropharyngeal Airway (OPA) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.

Medical Staff, Faculties, Employees, Students and Security staff were among the participants of the training. After the training the trainers were satisfied with the response & eagerness to participate and learn these basic life saving skills amongst the participants. The participants also responded positively.

Deputy Commissioner inaugurated a cutting and tailoring training program

TAWANG, February 26:-

Deputy Commissioner, Tawang, Kanki Darang today inaugurated a cutting and tailoring training program at Monyul Sports Club in Tawang. The event also marked the unveiling of the new logo for Tawang Green Farmer Producer Company Limited. Notable attendees included DAO Tawang Toli Bam, DHO Saifur Rehman, DDI Tsering Drema, Nawang Chozom (President of Tawang Green Farmer Producer Company), and other officials.

Sponsored by North Eastern Development Finance (NED-Fi) as part of their CSR initiative, the training is organized by North East Society for Handicraft Incu-

bation and Livelihood Promotion (NE-SHILP) in collaboration with Pinky Thokchom, BDO-CBBO TCRMS, and a Master Trainer from Longding District. The program, spanning from February 26th to March 6th, 2024, aims to benefit 10 trainees in Tawang.

Deputy Commissioner Kanki Darang shared his personal tailoring experience with the trainees, emphasizing the importance of teaching precise cutting techniques before stitching. He urged organizers to monitor beneficiaries' progress post-training, envisioning additional income for farmers through evening tailoring activities.

On the launch of Tawang Green Farmer Producer Company logo, DC Darang stressed the significance of a company's logo as its identity. He encouraged farmers to work diligently to establish the brand logo's popularity and reliability.

Additional remarks were made by DAO Tawang Toli Bam, DHO Saifur Rehman, and DDI Tsering Drema. DDI Tsering Drema invited farmers and youths to register for an upcoming training program on solar light fittings and repairing, to be conducted by her department.

This flagship initiative reflects a collaborative effort to empower individuals in Tawang with valuable skills, fostering economic opportunities and community development.

Moyong distributes free yarn to weavers

PASIGHAT, February 26:

Pasighat East MLA Kaling Moyong distributed free yarn to about 200 (two hundred) weavers/beneficiaries under the Chief Min-

ister's Indigenous Textiles Promotion Scheme (CMITPS) at Mirku village in presence of his better half Kenrik Ete Moyong, Bogong-I ZPM Tamut Tasung, ADTH Libang Perme, Mondal President Asar Padun and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA Moyong informed that as part of government's welfare schemes for weavers, free yarn have been provided to them under CMITPS, being implemented by the Department of Textiles and Handicrafts, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. He further informed that about 5000 (five thousand) weavers would be benefitted as a whole under the scheme in East Siang district. CMITPS is a state flagship program and the motive of the scheme was to promote and preserve the indigenous textile designs and products of the various tribes of Arunachal Pradesh indirectly helping in preservation of one's own culture and tradition, asserted the MLA adding that the said scheme would improve the economic conditions of the local weavers giving a boost to "vocal for local" handloom products.

Mass library awareness program initiated by the District Library Namsai

NAMSAI, February 27:

In an innovative steps under taken by the District Library, Namsai, 129 Anganwadi workers from Chowkham and Lekang CD-Block took part in the mass library awareness program here in the District library, Namsai today. The purpose to involve the Anganwadi workers in the awareness program was to aware them about the proper teaching methodology, child psychology, child health and

hygiene and how to inculcate reading habit among the children from early childhood. Welcoming the gathering librarian S. Mukherjee explained the role of a library and importance to grow reading habits among the children. Taking part in the program Vice Principal G.H.S.S., Mahadevpur spoke on significance of library in civil society. Rashtriya Bal swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Dr Inty Siram has enlighten the house in detail on the role of AWC workers to monitor health and hygiene of small children especially living in villages. Namsai CDPO W. Khimhum elaborated all the ICDS schemes with a focus on Beti Bachao Beti Pado Abhiyan. To ensure the benefits of library reach to the under privileged students residing in remote localities and to get themselves familiar with the service and activities of the library, a tour program to the district library, Namsai for the students and teachers from various Educational Institutions across the district had been arranged with effect from on 21st February, 2024 which will promote reading habits and to spread Joy of reading. The mass library awareness program will continue till 4th of March, 2024. As a part of the awareness program various literary program like essay competition, debates, drawing competition, extempore speech etc have been organised in the district library, Namsai and in different schools, colleges and University of Namsai district.

Demonstration Programme on Mushroom Cultivation Technique

NAHARLAGUN, February 27:

A One Day Training Program on Mushroom Cultivation Technique for Farmers was conducted by

the Department of Horticulture at Mushroom Development Centre on 27th February .

Director (Horticulture) Nawang Lobsang Highlighted the importance of Mushroom Cultivation and emphasized the participants on the same." Mushrooms are very nutritious products that can be generated from lignocellulosic waste materials, and are in crude fibre and protein "he said.

In fact, mushroom also contain low fat, low calories and good vitamin. In addition, many mushroom possess multi-functional medical properties, he added.

Stressing on sanitation during mushroom cultivation, Lobsang said it is necessary to maintain sanitation while making mushroom.

Lowang also spoke about the cultivation technology In his speech Lowang of White Mushroom, Oyster Mushroom, Paddy straw and Milky mushroom, Shi-take etc. also covered during the training and emphasis on practical. Besides the cultivation Technology he also point out aspects in details-like nutritional/Medicinal value of mushroom and its relevance in healthy food.

Earlier, in his welcome address Shri Rumro Sorum MDO urged the trainees to avail such training programmed and take full advantage of the Training. He highlights the different types of Mushrooms-

Temperate Mushroom and Subtropical Mushroom. Oyster, Button and Shitake Mushroom comes under Temperate Mushroom and Summer White Button, Oyster, Shitake and Black Ear Mushroom comes under Subtropical Mushroom. While highlighting the mushroom making, he said, collection of good quality, well dried paddy straw and store in moisture and rain free houses.

T.T Dagium, SDHO, resource person of the programme delivered the importance of mushroom cultivation. This is the first batch training conducted by the Department he said.

Amonmg others, Director Horticulture, Nawaang Lobsang, MDO Rumro Sorum, T.T Dagium SDHO, Yag Pari JM, Yapang Tali, HFA were present.

NAAC Assessment Continues at RGU

RGU, February 27:

The 3rd Cycle of NAAC Assessment that began on the 27th of February continued through the second day at Rajiv Gandhi University. This is the third occasion on which the University is being assessed by the NAAC for its conformance to the standards of quality in terms of its performance in academic and research processes and outcomes. The 1st cycle of NAAC Assessment was in 2002 and the 2nd cycle was in 2015.

A 7-member NAAC Peer Team comprising of renowned experts from various fields of academic and administrative excellence and hailing from different parts of the country will assess RGU for three days (27-29 February 2024). The three days are ear-marked for different activities of the NAAC Peer Team including physical inspection of existing infrastructure, assessing academic and research related activities, and interacting with different sections of the stakeholders of the University.

On the first day of the visit, members of the NAAC Peer Team held discussions with Prof. Saket Kushwaha, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University. Later they had interactive

sessions with other statutory officers, Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments, faculty members and research scholars. Teaching-Learning Process, Research, Innovation and Extension services remained the focus of assessment on the first day. A detailed meeting at the Internal Quality Assessment Cell (IQAC) of RGU was also held. The schedule of the first day saw its conclusion with a spectacular cultural programme presented by the students of the University that showcased the varied socio-cultural context of Arunachal Pradesh that makes the state unique.

On the second day, the NAAC Peer Team visited the Atal Incubation Centre, Research Units, Library, major laboratories, Computer Centre, Central Instrumentation Centre, Media laboratory and studio, and other facilities. Onsite interaction was held with Office of the Dean, Students' Welfare and in-charges of different Cells and facilities. Visits to hostels were also carried out. In the afternoon, the NAAC Peer Team held interaction sessions with students, alumni, guardians and faculty members. The activities of the second day were mainly centered around student support and progression as well as assessment of infrastructure and learning resources.

Tripartite MoU on earth science studies

ITANAGAR, February 27:

The MoU puts in place a formal framework for fostering collaboration in the field of applied seismogeophysical & geological research, in the field of exploration and exploitation of Geothermal Energy and other aspects of earth sciences studies for driving innovation and excellence.

Oil India Limited (OIL), National Center for Seismology (NCS) under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CES & HS), Government of Arunachal Pradesh inked a tripartite MoU on February 25, 2024 at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh to pursue applied earth science related studies in India with a focus on Arunachal Pradesh and the Northeast Region.

On the occasion, A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, based at Goa under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI and Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies, an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology, GoAP to take up Glaciers Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF studies and monitoring the melting glaciers as per of Cryosphere studies in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Hon'ble Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Daporijo Permanent Seismological Observatory, Heliport Aviation Weather Observing System for NE region. He also laid foundation Stone for 2 Doppler Weather Radars for Western and Eastern Arunachal Pradesh that enable to predict precise weather phenomenon of this hilly state.

Terming the day as "Historic Day for Arunachal Pradesh", the Hon'ble Union Minister said that the development of scientific infrastructures in this remote area signifying the India's commitment towards advancement of science and technology in the country.

It is worth mentioning that the Daporijo Permanent Seismic Station is the 9th Station after Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh, and is the 160th Station in India. This station will detect and moni-

tor earthquake activities since Arunachal Pradesh falls under active seismic Zone V.

Weather plays very vital role for flight operation particularly helicopter services in highly unpredictable weather. The Helipport Observing Weather Station for North East Region has been installed for eleven stations, out of which eight systems are located at Naharlagun, Namsai, Daporijo, Bhalukpong, Roing, Koloriang, Anini and Miao in Arunachal Pradesh, while installed one each at Kohima in Nagaland, Shillong in Meghalaya, Aizawl in Mizoram. These observing system are designed, developed by India Meteorological Department indigenously under make in India programme. These stations captured data and convert text weather data to voice and communicates to airborne pilots up to 50 to 100 km range for deciding to land at a particular heliport / airport in every 15 minutes interval.

The signing ceremony was attended by Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministers of Legislative Assembly, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, senior officials of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, and C&MD of Oil India Ltd. among other esteemed dignitaries and senior officials from MoES, GoAP, and OIL.

Kamle District Task force Immunization meeting on IPPI

RAGA, February 28:

District Task force Immunization meeting on Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization(IPPI) programme under the Chairmanship of Shri Shashank Mani Tripathi ,IAS Deputy Commissioner Kamle District was held on 28th Feb/2024 at

DC's Chamber, to ensure effective implementation of the programme with the objective to vaccinate all the children.

The meeting started with aim and objectives highlighted by Dr Tage Kanno DMO followed by Orientation on IPPI by Dr Torun Sharma ,WHO RRT and Microplan on IPPI presented by Dr Kapu Sopin DRCHO Kamle District. The programe will be launched on 3rd March/2024 through booth vaccination at 65(sixty five) assigned location in the district, followed by House to House vaccination on 4th & 5th March/2024.

Deputy Commissioner Kamle Shri Shashank Mani Tripathi(IAS) enquired about the preparedness of the programme including team management, vehicle, vaccine & cold chain planning etc. He further assured that all the necessary logistic support including Vehicle & manpower will be facilitate for the successful implementation of IPPI in Kamle district. He also announced that the best team conducting the immunization will be awarded by the District Administration as per the recommendation of the DMO office.

Line department i.e ICDS, Education Dept., administrative officer and PRIs were also directed to extend their co-operation and co-ordinate with Health dept. during IPPI Prog in the district.

Various other issues of the Dept. of Health were also discussed. The DMO along with his team will have to report to the DC on 6th March,2024 for debriefing and report on success of the implementation.

Among others,the meeting was attended by Dr Tage Kanno DMO Kamle, Dr Kapu Sopin DRCHO, Shri Chamrak Tatem ZPM Raga ,Shri Giogi Kaha DDSE

Kamle District, Shri Mentu Gyadi, DPO cum in charge CDPO Raga, Smti Duyir DTO cum Incharge DI-PRO ,MO incharge of all health facilities.

RGU VC Releases Book dedicated to Prof. Bhagabat Nayak

RGU, February 28:

Prof. Saket Kushwaha, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University today released a 'festschrift' titled 'EVOLVING NARRATIVES: LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN NORTHEAST INDIA' dedicated to Prof. Bhagabat Nayak, who is superannuating on the 29th of February 2024 after years of inspiring service in the Dept. of English, RGU. Prof. Nayak has been instrumental in imbibing among his students a passion for literature and critical enquiry. He is the author of several reputed research publications, books and has successfully several research scholars.

This 'festschrift' is a collection of papers from various scholars. The papers in this collection delve into a nuanced exploration of the complex interplay between language, literature, and cultural practices within the distinctive context of Northeast India. Representing a treasure trove of knowledge, the book will be a valuable resource for those keenly interested in understanding the intricate interconnections that shape the linguistic, literary, and cultural landscape of the Northeast. The diverse perspectives presented in the essays contribute to a deeper appreciation of the region's unique narrative evolution. The book release was also attended by members of the Department of English.

Training in mushroom production technology imparted

PASIGHAT, February 28:

Twenty farmers from various villages of East Siang district completed a three-day training programme on 'Mushroom Production Technology' for NEH (North East Hill-region) farmers at the ICAR-Directorate of Mushroom Research, Chambaghat, Solan (Himachal Pradesh) on Feb 26-28.

East Siang District Horticulture Officer (DHO) AR Ering informed that the training was conducted in co-ordination with the East Siang Horticulture department, Pasighat. The participants were trained in spawn production technology, cultivation of oyster, milky, button and shiitake mushroom production and its post-harvest handling and value addition technologies. Certificates and free spawns were awarded to the trainees from the institution, informed DHO Ering.

1st Edition of Folk Music and Dance Festival of Arunachal Pradesh held

NAMSAI, February 28:

The inaugural function of 1st Edition of Folk Music and Dance Festival of Arunachal Pradesh was held on Feb 28 at Poi Pee Mau Ground, Namsai. Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Chowna Mein graced the event as Chief Guest and Member of Parliament East Arunachal, Tapir Gao as Guest of Honour accompanied by HMLAs of Lekang, Jairampur, Dambuk, Anjaw, and other dignitaries.

The 1st Edition of Folk Music and Dance Festival of Arunachal Pradesh is being organised by Government of Arunachal Pradesh under the aegis of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat. The festival is a two-day event wherein cultural troupes from different districts of Arunachal Pradesh will compete and showcase their folk music and dance with the aim of celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the state.

DCM in his address stated that the folk music and dance festival will serve as a forum for showcasing and preserving the rich heritage of indigenous folk arts and fostering the cultural integration in line with the principles of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.

He said that the registration of 18 Arunachal Pradesh products with GI tags is a noteworthy achievement for the state. He expressed his gratitude to Padmashree Dr. Rajanikanth, GS Human Welfare Association and the team of NABARD for their contributions in the successful GI registration of 18 indigenous products of the state. He further said, "in the coming days, more indigenous products of the state will be GI tagged registered, and efforts will be made to register the commodities from the state's border and interior communities".

Tapir Gao in his speech stated that our state's identity is rooted in its culture and traditions. Identity and culture must be preserved as society develops. He emphasized that the state's traditions and culture be preserved and that cultural tourism should be prioritized. Making the state Nasha Mukt Samaj was another point he made. He called for a robust cooperation between the government, and CBOs,

NGOs, and youth in order for it to be achieved.

General Manager NABARD, D. Mishra assured to extend NABARD's support to the state govt. in bringing several indigenous items to the GI board and help in the post-GI registration space. He said NABARD will prioritize revenue generation, livelihood creation, promotion and branding of the GI tag items that are now certified.

During the inaugural event, Obom Tangu Top 7 finalist of Indian Idol Season 14 was felicitated with a letter of appreciation for bringing laurel to the state. Certificates were distributed to the 18 Geographical Indication (GI) tag registered proprietors of Arunachal Pradesh.

GI Certificates handed over to State's 18 Indigenous Products at the Inaugural Session of State Folk Music and Dance Festival of Arunachal Pradesh

NAMSAI, February.28:

The inauguration session of the much-anticipated State Folk Music and Dance Festival of Arunachal Pradesh witnessed a momentous occasion as Geographical Indication (GI) certificates were conferred upon 18 distinctive products hailing from the picturesque landscapes of Arunachal Pradesh. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Chowna Mein, graced the event as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Shri Tapir Gao, MP, East, among other dignitaries.

These GI-certified products stand as proud representatives of the rich cultural heritage and traditional craftsmanship

embedded within the heart of Arunachal Pradesh. Supported by the NABARD-Arunachal Pradesh Regional Office, these products epitomize the dedication and talent of the local communities.

The 18 products bestowed with GI certificates include: Khaw Tai (Khamti Rice), Apatani Textile, Yak Churpi, Tangsa Textile, Monpa Textile, Adi Kekir (Ginger), Handmade Carpet, Monpa Handmade Paper, Nyishi Textile Products, Wancho Wooden Craft, Adi Textile, Galo Textile, Singpho Phalap (Singpho Tea), Adi Apong, Arunachal Pradesh Dao (Sword), Annyat Millet, Marua Apo (Marua Millet Beverage) and Khamti Handloom Textile. These products encapsulate the unique traditions, skills, and natural resources of Arunachal Pradesh, each narrating a story of heritage and innovation passed down through generations.

During the event, Shri Damodar Mishra, General Manager, congratulated all the applicants and assured continued support for future GI initiatives. He emphasized NABARD's commitment towards undertaking post-GI activities, aiming for increased income generation and improved livelihoods.

Padmashree Dr. Rajni Kant, in his remarks, extended gratitude to the State Government and NABARD for their involvement in the GI journey. He highlighted the vast potential for GI certification among various indigenous products of Arunachal Pradesh, foreseeing immense opportunities for cultural preservation and economic growth.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Chowna Mein, expressed his appreciation for NABARD's initiative, emphasizing its integral role in rural development

activities within the state. He welcomed attendees to the festival, shedding light on the diverse cultural festivities of Arunachal Pradesh.

The State Folk Music and Dance Festival of Arunachal Pradesh will feature folk performances from 18 indigenous folk musical dance groups and 5 folk musical bands during the two-day programme, following which three selected teams will represent Arunachal Pradesh at the Bharat Lok Sangeet – Arunachal Utsav 2024 on March 2 and 3, 2024.

ATREE-Siang and West Siang District Administration to organize the first Aalo Bird Walk titled "Feathers and Footsteps"

AALO, February 28:

Siang District Administration, in collaboration with the Siang team of Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE-Siang), along with the Forest and Tourism Department, proudly announces the inaugural edition of the Aalo Bird Walk titled "Feathers and Footsteps," scheduled for March 2nd and 3rd, 2024.

The event packs an array of engaging activities, including educational talks on bird identification, the significance of bird conservation, and a fun quiz, complemented by exploratory walks in selected spots near Aalo to document diverse avian species led by experienced birders and conservation scientists from ATREE.

The Conference Hall at the DC's Office at Aalo will serve as the venue for the pre-walk orientation and educational talks, along

with the post-walk quiz and valedictory function.

"We are thrilled to join hands with ATREE-Siang to organize the first ever Aalo bird walk offering residents and nature enthusiasts a unique opportunity to connect with Aalo's avian diversity" said Ms. Mamu Hage, the District Commissioner of West Siang herself an avid birder. "Such activities will not only encourage the youth and our conservation efforts but also garner a passion for bird watching and research activities" she added.

"Given the ubiquitous presence of birds, they serve as an excellent entry point for individuals keen on observing and documenting biodiversity," noted Dr. Rajkamal Goswami, who leads the ATREE-Siang team based out of Pasighat. "One doesn't require elaborate equipment or specialized skills to begin observing birds— just a deep-rooted love for nature, keen observation skills, and a sense of wonder," he emphasized.

Registration for the bird walk is free, and interested individuals can secure their spot by contacting Ms. Seena Karimbukara at +919481722708 or simply scanning the provided QR code. Due to limited capacity, early registration is encouraged.

Both ATREE and District Administration of West Siang are committed to environmental stewardship and will ensure that the event will be plastic and waste-free. Participants are kindly requested to bring along non-disposable water bottles, suitable walking shoes, binoculars, and cameras (if available). We also encourage them to refrain from carrying disposable waste-generating items, including chips and biscuit packets.

NEWS IN PICTURE



Chief Minister Pema Khandu officially handing over appointment letters to 1256 youths, who have successfully appeared the Combined Secondary Level Examination-2023 conducted by the Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board (APSSB) at Itanagar on 22 February 2024.



Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) participating in the Shivaji Jayanti celebration, organised by Kreedha Bharati Arunachal Pradesh Unit at Golden Jubilee Banquet Hall, Itanagar on 19 February 2024.



Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju distributing appointment letters to 23 newly in a Rozgar Mela held at the North East Frontier Headquarters, Indo Tibetan Border Police Force, Itanagar on 12 February 2024.



Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. General KT Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd.) along with the First Lady of the State Anagha Parnaik participating in the celebration of Oriah Festival of Wancho Tribe at Itanagar on February 16, 2024.



Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurating multiple projects during the 40th Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi celebration in Namgo village in Namsai district on 14 February' 2024.



Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein inaugurating the infrastructural assets, including boundary walls, a stage with a dais, a sitting hall and a dining & kitchen building at the Tamla-Du Festival ground in Medo village on February 13' 2024.