REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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The Election Commission has directed Chief Secretaries and Director General of Police of all States and Union Territories to keep a strict vigil along interstate and international borders to plug the inflow of illicit liquor, cash, drugs, arms and freebies. The Commission has also directed them to ensure peaceful and inducement-free General Elections 2024. The in Election Commission today held a meeting with all States and Union Territories in New Delhi to review and assess the law and order situation. In a statement, the Commission said, the purpose of the combined review meeting was to bring all concerned stakeholders together for seamless coordination and cooperation amongst officials along with central agencies guarding the borders. The meeting was chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday emphatically said that the northeastern most state in India's North East is "an inalienable, integral part of India". Khandu's statement came after the Chinese government has given some 'standardised' geographical names to some places in Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as the southern part of Tibet. In a social media post, Khandu wrote: "Another gimmick from China. Being a proud citizen of Bharat and a native of Arunachal Pradesh, I strongly condemn this act of naming of places within Arunachal Pradesh which has been an inalienable integral part of India.

The Government has said that media reports claiming significant hike in prices of medicines are false and misleading. The Union Health Ministry said, these reports further claim that more than 500 medicines will be affected by the increase in price. The Ministry said, such reports are false, misleading and malicious. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals annually revises the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines on the basis of Wholesale Price Index. The Ministry said, there will be no change in prevailing ceiling prices for 782 medicines while 54 medicines will have a minuscule increase of one paisa.

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Rajnath Singh has said that India has become one of the top five economies in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is poised to become third largest economy by 2027. Addressing an election rally in Ghaziabad today, Singh said, India has the potential to become the world's biggest economy by 2047. He added that BJP is committed to take India in that direction. He also said that 25 crore people have emerged out of poverty in the last nine years.

Upper Siang District Election Officer Hage Lailang today felicitated the district election icon, Everester Kishon Tekseng, and constituency icons, winner of Upper Siang Idol - Season 3 Lovely Patuk and runner up Ogul Langkam for Tuting-Yingkiong and Geku-Mariyang assembly constituencies, respectively. They were selected for carrying out SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation programme) activities in the district. DEO Lailang briefly highlighted the role and responsibilities of selected icons in volunteering promotion of voters' participation for information and ethical voting. He advised them to play their role responsibly in spreading voters' awareness and encouraging greater participation of new voters in the election process, and disseminate the right messages to the masses to participate in the festival of democracy.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has said that it is making every effort to provide school books on time. In a social media post, it said, about 33 lakh books of classes 1, 2, 7, 8, 10 and 12 have been printed and delivered to bookshops. NCERT said, the new syllabus books for classes 3 and 6 will be published this month and in May. It said books for classes 4, 5, 9 and 11 will be available in the market this month. NCERT requested all students and parents to be patient and not get worried. The response of NCERT came amid reports of non-availability of school books in many states.

The Hindi Cell of Rajiv Gandhi University organised an online workshop on 'Administration & official language Hindi' for the university's section officers and office assistants on Tuesday. The workshop aimed to highlight the relationship of official language Hindi and administration, new inventions of technology for language and the promotion of the official language through technology. Attending the workshop as the resource person, Senior Hindi Officer, IIT Kharghpur, Dr Rajiv Kumar Rawat drew the participants' attention towards administrative responsibilities for implementation of official language, and described the tools used for transcription, transliteration, translation, etc.