

REGIONAL ENGLISH NEWS BULLETIN

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Voting for the fifth phase of Lok Sabha elections concluded this evening. Overall, 57.35 percent voter turnout was recorded. Forty-nine Parliamentary Constituencies spread over six States and two Union Territories were covered in this phase. These include 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh, 13 in Maharashtra, seven in West Bengal, five each in Odisha and Bihar, three in Jharkhand and one each in Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Six hundred and ninety-five candidates were in the fray in this phase. The prominent candidates whose fate was decided in this phase include BJP leaders and Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Piyush Goyal and Smriti Irani, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and KL Sharma, Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, and Chirag Paswan of LJP (Ram Vilas). Polling also took place in Odisha for the second phase of assembly elections for 35 seats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that his government's biggest focus has been on governance. In an interview with a TV channel, Modi said that the government has modernized railways and created infrastructure. He also emphasised the mantra of 'pro people, good governance'. The Prime Minister said India is on a take-off stage in the industrial revolution. He also stressed that a decentralised industrialisation network is important to make agriculture viable. Modi said, that when scope, scale, speed and skill meet, the country can achieve a lot. In a query on Centre-State relations, Modi said he believes in competitive and cooperative federalism. He said that India will lead the world in Artificial Intelligence.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu appreciated local lad Omang Dodum on clinching the Golden Boot Award for Punjab FC with a massive 14 goals scored in the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL). Extending his hearty congratulations to Omang Dodum, Khandu said in a social media post, "You are a towering inspiration for aspiring soccer players. Keep excelling, and best wishes for your continued success." Dodum's team Punjab FC lifted the RFDL title with a 3-2 win over giant East Bengal FC in the national championship final at Mumbai on Saturday night.

The Arunachal Indigenous Tribes Forum (AITF), a conglomeration of all apex community-based organizations of indigenous tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, on Sunday expressed its resentment over the alleged rampant distribution of cash and other inducements to voters during the recently held general elections in the State. AITF president Dr Bengia Tolum lamented that, this happened in spite of the 'Clean Election Campaign-2024' run by the AITF for the "better development of the State". The AITF expressed displeasure on such move by all the contesting candidates, which is an unhealthy trend pushing the people of the state to corrupt practice, and added that it has apprehensions regarding how the leaders would devote themselves to the development of the state.

The Arunachali feature film "Sangi Gai" was screened on Sunday at 77 Rue Félix Faure at Cannes, as part of the Cannes Festival's Marché du Film. Produced by Alison Welly Bakha and directed by Nyago Ete, with creative production by Hali Welly, "Sangi Gai" has captivated the hearts and minds of the audience, highlighting the unique and vibrant culture of Northeast India. "We are overjoyed with the response 'Sangi Gai' received at Cannes. It's an honour to share the rich cultural tapestry of Northeast India on such a prestigious platform," said Alison Welly, the producer of the film.

Music lovers in Arunachal had the first ever exposure to the magic of Carnatic Music during last 10 days, thanks to a series of Carnatic music recitals by the Wakro sisters - Ashapmai Dellang and Behelti Ama, volunteers of Lohit Youth Library Network and final year students at Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai. The Wakro sisters conducted 7 recitals in the state from May 12 to 20 at Tezu, Namsai, Rajiv Gandhi University and the RK Mission Hospital auditorium, with recordings at Akashvani Tezu & Itanagar and the Doordarshan Kendra, Itanagar. The recitals had the active participation of two young instrumental prodigies from Kerala - Devanarayan with violin and Sreehari Bhattathiripad with mridangam. The boys, with their brilliant rhythmic support on violin and mridangam, elevated the recitals of the Wakro sisters to great levels of enjoyment for the listeners.

Veteran rally racer from Arunachal Pradesh, Lhakpa Tsering made a stunning maiden foray into the international rally scene, partnering with experienced navigator Musa Sherif from Kerala. The team showcased remarkable skill and endurance and secured 6th place in the Extreme T1 category among 19 entries from Thailand, Japan, Australia and India, and overall 12th place at the Thailand Rally Raid Championship 2024, Round 2, held in Lobpuri province in Thailand on May 18 & 19.

India has announced one day's state mourning tomorrow as a mark of respect for the death of Iran's President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a helicopter crash. The national flag will be flown at half-mast throughout the country tomorrow in all buildings where the national flag is flown regularly. There will be no official entertainment on the day. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and a group of officials accompanying them have died in a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran. The helicopter made a hard landing yesterday afternoon after it got into difficulties in heavy fog in the north of the country. President Raisi was travelling back to Iran following a visit to Azerbaijan when his helicopter came down. He had been in office since 2021.

That's all, in this news bulletin, Namaskar.