

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi considers North Eastern states as the gateway of India's progress and the Union Government is working to transform the vision of the Prime Minister into reality. This was stated by Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is on a two-day visit to Meghalaya and Assam. Talking to media persons at LGBI Airport in Guwahati today, Scindia informed that the Centre has increased the budgetary allocation for the DoNER Ministry from 24 thousand crores to around 82 thousand crores. He said that North East is the repository of our age-old culture and the Central Government is focusing on infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, startups, entrepreneurship, and tourism development aligns with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Viksit Purvottar'.

In view of the severe road connectivity disruptions caused by recent floods and landslides, Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday convened a high-level meeting, attended by Chief Secretary Dharmendra and other senior officials, to assess the overall damages, and to strategize immediate restoration efforts across the state. Emphasizing the urgency of the situation, the Chief Minister underscored the importance of swiftly restoring road connectivity, particularly in the flood-affected districts. "Early restoration of roads snapped due to floods and landslides is crucial to ensuring access to essential services and aid," he said. He allocated special funds for urgent restoration of a critical road link from Parsi-Parlo to Koloriang, including the bridge over the Kumey River.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu has sent his heartfelt congratulations to senior advocate of Gauhati High Court, Indraneel Chowdhury, on his reappointment as the Advocate General of Arunachal Pradesh. Taking to his social media handle X, Khandu on Thursday wrote: "I am confident that under his continued leadership, our state's legal affairs will reach new heights of excellence and integrity."

AMYAA NGO jointly with DDSE Lohit conducted a training program for teachers of Tezu township at Bamboosa Library. The event aimed to sensitize the teachers and guide them to mould their students as eco-activists. 14 teachers from higher secondary,

secondary and middle schools participated. Introducing the Wipro Earthian Program, Bethem Marai, Sustainability Educator, elaborated how Wipro Foundation has been championing environmental education among schools since 2011. Introducing the history of environment education in India, Lohit Youth Library Network coordinator S Mundayoor pointed to the pioneering work done by the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) Ahmedabad, from early 80s.

Amid debate over the Agnipath scheme, the central forces have announced that they will implement a 10 per cent reservation for ex-Agniveers. The chiefs of central forces such as Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, and Sashastra Seema Bal said that former Agniveers will get relaxation in age and there will also be no Physical Efficiency Test for them.

In a major drug bust, the Tawang Police has arrested 10 persons, including three habitual peddlers, during multiple raids conducted across Tawang township and seized 33 plastic vials containing suspected heroin weighing 48.4 grams worth about one lakh twenty thousand rupees. Police also recovered 12 empty vials, 10 syringes, 9 mobile phones and some cash suspected to be sale proceeds from the arrestees. Official sources said that it is the largest ever seizure made by the District Police till date.

Chief Secretary Dharmendra has chaired the 3rd State level meeting of Narco Coordination Center (NCORD) at the Civil Secretariat in Itanagar on Thursday and took stock of actions that are being taken to combat drug menace in Arunachal Pradesh. To effectively achieve the goal of Nasha Mukta Arunachal, the Chief Secretary said, the meeting discussed strategies and measures to address the growing drug abuse crisis in the State. He added, cooperation from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) was sought and establishment of a zonal office of NCB at Itanagar was discussed.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall spell over southwest peninsular part of the country and over Northeast and adjoining East region during the next five days. According to the weather agency, heavy rainfall is likely at some places over Konkan, Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat Region, Telangana till 16th of this month. Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya, Odisha till 16th of this

month. While, Sub Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh will witness heavy rainfall till 14th of this month.