REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Medical services are likely to be affected in Arunachal Pradesh along with rest of the country as Indian Medical Association (IMA) has announced a 24-hour nationwide withdrawal of non-emergency services from 6 am on Saturday to protest against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata and subsequent vandalism at the facility. The medical body in a statement said that essential services will be maintained and casualty wards will remain operational. The IMA said that out-patient departments (OPD) will not function and elective surgeries will not be conducted. Meanwhile, the IMA Arunachal Pradesh branch confirmed that it will join the nationwide protest on Saturday by shutdown of all routine services including OPD, elective OT cases and non-essential services in all Govt, private and NGO-run hospitals across the state.

Union Health Ministry has directed that the Head of Institution will be responsible for filing an Institutional FIR within a maximum of six hours in case of violence against doctors. Director General of Health Services Atul Goel has written a letter to the head of the central government hospitals and medical colleges in this regard. The direction came in the wake of the recent incident of murder of a doctor in Kolkata and protest by the resident doctors over the issue. In his letter he said that recently it has been observed that violence has become common against doctors and other healthcare staff in Government Hospitals. A number of health workers suffer physical violence during the course of their duty. Many are threatened or exposed to verbal aggression.

The Nation paid homage to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary today. A prayer meeting was organised at the Samadhi of Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Sadaiv Atal in New Delhi. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Sadaiv Atal this morning. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla among other prominent leaders also paid their tributes.

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan inaugurated the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) in New Delhi on Thursday. Chauhan highlighted that through NPPS, the farmers will be able to know different types of insecticides and pesticides and save their crops from their harmful effect. On the occasion, Chauhan also interacted with many farmers who are the beneficiaries of the various schemes being implemented by the Central Government. Recently, the Central Government released One Hundred Nine high-yielding, climate-resilient, and bio-fortified crop varieties.

On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, the Arunachal Pradesh Government on Thursday felicitated the "Lakhpati Didis" and provided seed money for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in a 'special' function held at the Chief Minister's office. During the event, Chief Minister Pema Khandu handed over a cheque of Rs 42.5 lakhs as startup capital for five community-managed training centers. Additionally, Rs 24 lakhs in seed capital was given for fisheries development to 100 SHG beneficiaries, and another cheque of Rs 30 lakhs was allocated for beekeeping initiatives to 120 SHGs. A "Lakhpati Didi" is an SHG member who earns an annual income of Rs one lakh or more.

Two police officers from Arunachal Pradesh have been awarded President's Police Medal on the occasion of 78th Independence Day. Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy SP) Make Bui was awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, while Inspector Moti Chand Prasad was named for Police Medal for Meritorious Service. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pema Khandu has extended congratulations to Dy SP Make Bui on being awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. Bui began his career as a Sub-Inspector, joining Arunachal Police in 1986. Through dedication, hard work, and skills, he rose to the rank of Dy SP. "Truly proud of him," Khandu said.

In Assam, security forces carried out searches at several places across the state yesterday after the banned outfit ULFA claimed to have planted bombs in 24 places. DGP G P Singh said that suspicious articles have been found in some places including Guwahati. He said that the materials had been sent for forensic examination. The banned outfit released a statement to the media, stating that the bombs had been planted at several places across the state. Following this, police swung into action and spotted those materials. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma urged the outfit to resolve issues through dialogue.

The 70th National Film Awards for the year 2022 were announced in New Delhi today. In the non-feature film category, Aaina won the best non-feature film award. In the feature film category, the best Hindi film award was bagged by Gulmohar. Rishabh Shetty won the best actor award for his Kannada film, Kantara. Haryanvi film Fouja won the Best Lyrics award in the nonfeature film category. The best singer award male was given to Arijit Singh.