

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Union Cabinet has on Wednesday given its approval to the proposal of the Department of Rural Development for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) during financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29. The total outlay of the scheme will be 70 thousand 125 crore rupees. Addressing media in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that under this scheme, financial assistance will be given for the construction of 62 thousand 500 kms road for providing new connectivity to eligible 25 thousand unconnected habitations. Vaishnaw said, the all-weather roads will play the role of catalysts for the required socio-economic development and transformation of the remote rural areas.

The Union Cabinet has also given its nod to giving health coverage to all senior citizens who are above 70 years irrespective of income under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting in Delhi, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the senior citizens will get the facility of free treatment up to 5 lakh rupees. He highlighted that this will cover about 4.5 crore families in the country, and include about 6 crore senior citizens. The eligible senior citizens would be issued a new distinct card under AB PM-JAY. The senior citizens of the 70 years and above belonging to families already covered under AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover upto 5 lakh rupees per year for themselves.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu hailed the rapid development of border infrastructure in the state over the past decade, attributing it to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Highlighting the strides made in improving infrastructure across the state's 11 border districts and 29 border blocks, Khandu said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi over the past decade, the people of the border areas have witnessed significant development, and the impact is visible, and progress is tangible. He said this while attending the Border Area Development Conclave in New Delhi on Wednesday. Khandu also highlighted the success of the Vibrant Villages Programme, noting the transformative changes it has brought.

Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Kamlesh Paswan said that the socio-economic progress and upliftment of rural India with special focus on Northeastern states is one of the top priorities of the Central Government to attain the Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat. Paswan said this during a review meeting held at Pasighat in East Siang district on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Union Minister today said that the NDA government at the Centre is putting priority towards the infrastructure development of the Northeastern region. He claimed that infrastructure development of the region has increased three times during the last ten year-rule of the NDA government, which the UPA government could not achieve during a period of three decades. He was addressing at the inaugural programme of three-day Central Solung Celebration at Ruksin in East Siang.

Inspector General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), North East Frontier Headquarters, Dr Akun Sabharwal called on Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) KT Parnaik at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar today. They discussed various issues, including the development of vibrant border villages, enhancing security, and improving communication infrastructure in border areas. The Governor appreciated the efforts and role of ITBP in Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting their professionalism, commitment to their duties and responsibilities and their support in providing assistance to the local population. The Governor also urged the ITBP IG to advise his personnel to actively motivate local youth to join the Armed Forces. Dr Sabharwal, who assumed the charge of the NE Frontier Headquarters at Itanagar recently, assured the Governor that he would address the points raised during their discussion.

The voting for Dekho Apna Desh, People's Choice 2024, is open until the 15th of this month. The aim of this nationwide poll is to engage with citizens to identify the most preferred tourist attraction sites and understand tourist perceptions across five categories, which are spiritual, cultural heritage, nature, wildlife, and adventure. The "others" category will allow citizens to vote for their personal favourites, which will help in discovering unexplored tourist places in the country. Citizens can access the voting portal from the Ministry of Tourism's official website. This initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year in Srinagar. Prime Minister Modi has urged people to vote for their state's biggest attraction, which can help the government allocate the necessary budget and build infrastructure around it.

Iken Lollen, a dedicated ANM (auxiliary nurse midwife) at District Hospital, Seppa, East Kameng, has been honoured with the National Florence Nightingale Award, 2024 by President of India, Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. Lollen has been recognized for her outstanding contributions and exceptional dedication to the healthcare needs of individuals in remote and underserved areas. Her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment has made a profound impact on the delivery of medical services and the overall well-being of the communities she serves.

A police personnel and a young boy were killed while another law enforcer was seriously injured after the car they were travelling in fell into a gorge in Lohit district, police said. The accident took place near Dus Nallah in Demwe area when the trio was returning to Tezu after visiting a friend's house in Wakro on Tuesday, a police officer said. The Arunachal Armed Police Battalion (AAPBn) head constable T Arang, who was driving the car, and his 17-year-old relative Aboh Wangsu died on the spot, while constable Wanjan Lowang sustained grievous injuries who was then rushed to Tezu Zonal General Hospital, from where doctors referred him to Assam's Dibrugarh for better treatment.