

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is on an official visit to Arunachal Pradesh, participated in two Credit Outreach Programs in Itanagar and Namsai today. In both the programmes, sanction letters totalling Rs. 21.4 crore were distributed to 355 beneficiaries under various schemes, including Retail, MSME, and Agricultural financing. In the morning, addressing beneficiaries in Itanagar, the Finance Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought 17 schemes including PM Svanidhi, Mudra Yojana, etc. through which people can avail credit for their businesses. She said, the Prime Minister has also ensured that people avail these schemes without any mortgage or lengthy documentation from the banks. The Union Minister said, Credit Outreach Programme enables the government to review if welfare schemes are actually benefitting the common people. Later in the day, the Union Minister inaugurated the SBI Regional Business Office in Namsai and virtually launched six additional SBI branches in the region. In a symbolic initiative for environmental conservation, she participated in a tree plantation activity at the RBO Namsai under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that Arunachal Pradesh has lots of potentials to contribute immensely towards attaining the Prime Minister's goal of Viksit Bharat in coming days. For this, the government of India has to extend full support to the state, particularly towards enhancing the state economy, Khandu said while speaking at the Credit Outreach Programme at Itanagar today. He also underscored that to improve the state economy, government has to focus on rural economy. He added that more than one lakh women in Arunachal Pradesh are currently involved in self-help groups and they have succeeded, to some extent, in enhancing the rural economy. The Chief Minister also revealed that as directed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the state government is going to form at least three FPOs (farmer producer organizations) clusters by December next, covering agri-horti, textiles sectors.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has reaffirmed the Central Government's commitment to the development of Arunachal Pradesh and the entire Northeast region, pledging continued financial and administrative support for future projects. Sitharaman

gave this assurance while chairing a review meeting with Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and senior State Government officials at the Civil Secretariat in Itanagar on Monday. During the meeting, the Union Minister inaugurated five key infrastructure projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in Arunachal Pradesh. The projects include Pasighat-Ledum-Tene road, flood protection work at Upper Deobil, General Hospital at Khonsa, cluster MIPs (micro irrigation projects) at Gensi, and District Hospital at Changlang.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein on Monday urged the Centre for more funds for development projects in the absence of assistance from agencies such as the World Bank. Speaking at a meeting chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at Itanagar, Mein said the state has been deprived of externally aided projects from organisations such as World Bank, ADB and JICA due to protests by China. "This not only deprives us of financial benefits but also of the technical knowledge that comes along with externally aided projects which is a big deterrent in our developmental activities. The ministry may kindly make suitable alternative arrangements to meet the gap," he said. Mein urged Sitharaman for a special one-time assistance of Rs 2,000 crore for the replacement of about 5,500 dilapidated semi-permanent type (SPT) residential quarters for government officials.

A mega health camp was organised at Unying Ground, Boleng in Siang district today, providing free healthcare services to the people. The camp was organised by district Health and Family Welfare Department and Arunachal Pradesh Doctors' Association (APDA), Siang district branch. The camp offered various healthcare services including free medicines, etc. In addition, the camp has facilitated registration for various welfare schemes such as ABHA ID card generation, enrollment of beneficiaries under Chief Minister Argoya Arunachal Yojana (CMAAY) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry today. The weather agency predicted similar conditions for Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura during the week. According to the IMD, no significant rainfall is expected over the northwest, west, and central parts of the country.