

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing today held detailed talks on the entire gamut of bilateral issues, which covered trade and economic ties, defence and security related issues, border management, development assistance, cultural exchanges as well as regional situation. Briefing media in New Delhi after the talks between the leaders, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said both sides expressed an interest in forging closer cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade and investment, development cooperation, health, education, and energy. He said both sides underlined the importance of connectivity for people-to-people contacts and agreed to work as quickly as possible towards completion of Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport project. The Foreign Secretary said the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar and both sides underscored the importance of preventing the misuse of territory for activities inimical to their security interests.

Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme completed six years today. PM SVANidhi has enabled millions of street vendors to access easy credit and build sustainable livelihoods over the last six years. Since its launch in 2020, more than one crore 12 lakh loans have already been disbursed. Hailing the scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a social media post said, PM SVANidhi has transformed the lives of countless street vendors by ensuring access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth

Notification was issued today for biennial elections to 24 seats of the Rajya Sabha from ten States. Four seats each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, three seats each in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, two seats in Jharkhand, and one seat each in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram will go to poll on the 18th of this month. Notification was also issued today for Rajya Sabha bypoll for one seat each in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Odisha was issued. The polling will be held on the 18th of this month. Counting of votes will take place on the same day.

The Supreme Court today refused to entertain a plea seeking that the NEET-UG 2026 re-test be conducted in computer-based test mode instead of the existing pen-and-paper format. A bench of Justices P. S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar said there was no question of conducting the re-

examination in CBT mode, noting that the National Testing Agency, NTA, is already facing multiple challenges after the cancellation of the examination. The court posted the matter for hearing on the 27th of July.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu today interacted with students of Jarbom Gamlin Government Law College on infrastructure, manpower requirements and other issues concerning the institution. During the interaction, the students shared valuable suggestions and concerns, and had a constructive discussion on ways to further strengthen the college and improve facilities for the student community. Later in the day, the CM along with MLA Kalaktang, Tseten Chombay held a meeting with the Kalaktang Tsopa Council. Traditional institutions like the Tsopa Council remain the bedrock of community trust and heritage, Khandu added.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein attended the Felicitation Programme for Meritorious Students of Class X and XII (Session 2025–26) at the Multipurpose Cultural Hall, Namsai yesterday. Addressing the gathering, the DCM congratulated the meritorious students for their academic achievements and lauded their dedication, hard work and perseverance and highlighted the remarkable progress made in the field of education over the years in the State. He stated that today, improved educational infrastructure, better access to institutions and expanded opportunities for higher learning have created a more conducive environment for students. He urged the students to take advantage of such opportunities and pursue their higher education with dedication and remain focused, continue learning and strive towards their goals with perseverance and determination. On the occasion, the DCM announced to sponsor 5 students for free from Tai Ahom community in the UPSC coaching centre at Namsai.

Deputy Commissioner of Upper Siang, Talo Jerang today convened a condolence meeting at the DC Office Conference Hall, Yingkiong, to pay homage to Sub-Divisional Officer, Yingkiong, Late Toni Mitkong who passed away on Saturday. Expressing profound grief, the Deputy Commissioner said that the district administration was deeply saddened by the untimely demise of Toni Mitkong, a sincere, punctual and dedicated officer whose contributions to public service will always be remembered. Meanwhile, the DC extended his deepest sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed to Almighty God to grant them strength and courage to bear the irreparable loss.

In the 22nd Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships, India delivered a historic campaign in Hong Kong, finishing second in the standings with 19 medals – 10 gold, five silver and four bronze. The runner-up finish marked India's best-ever performance at the continental track and field championships outside home soil. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the Indian contingent. In a social media post, Mr Modi said this outstanding performance reflects the determination and excellence of India's young athletes.