

REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, ITANAGAR

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India and Belgium today reaffirmed their commitment to deepening trade, investment and economic cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Belgium, Bart De Wever welcomed the growing diversification of sectors in bilateral trade in the India-Belgium Joint Statement released after the talks between the two leaders. India and Belgium have set an ambitious goal of doubling bilateral trade over the next five years. The two sides identified significant potential for cooperation in pharmaceuticals, life sciences, semiconductors, defence manufacturing, critical minerals, renewable energy, ports, logistics, space and advanced technologies. With Belgium as the 24th biggest economy in the world, and India's ambition to become a 10 trillion-dollar economy in the coming years, both leaders acknowledged abundant opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships. Both leaders also welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and called for its timely implementation. The two countries also signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen defence cooperation through regular exchanges, training, research and defence-industrial partnerships.

Minister for Education, PD Sona today attended the 7th sitting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Eighth Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Chaired by Speaker, APLA, Tesam Pongte, the meeting deliberated on the proposed business of the House and took up the finalisation of the List of Business for the forthcoming proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. In a social media post, Sona emphasised that such discussions are important for ensuring that the business of the House is conducted in a structured and effective manner, allowing adequate space for meaningful deliberation on matters concerning the State and its people.

In a significant move to strengthen market access for women farmers in Arunachal Pradesh, the Retusa Women Farmer Producer Company Ltd. (WFPCL), Namsai yesterday dispatched 17 metric tonnes of buckwheat to G.S. International, Kanpur, marking another step towards connecting locally produced agricultural commodities with larger markets outside the state. The dispatch was carried out in the presence of Chairperson Onjini Namchoom and under the leadership of Mimar Basar, CEO (In-charge), Retusa WFPCL. The buckwheat was procured from Mahila Kisans from Lower Dibang Valley, Lohit and Namsai districts, with facilitation and support from the Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM). The

bulk aggregation and direct market linkage are expected to help farmers secure better price realisation while strengthening collective marketing of agricultural produce.

An awareness programme on Women and Child Protection Laws and Schemes was organised by the Women and Child Development Department, Tawang, at the DC Conference Hall today, with participation from teachers of government and private schools and other stakeholders. Delivering the welcome address, CDPO Tawang Dondup Pema emphasised the importance of greater awareness about laws, schemes and institutional support mechanisms available for the protection, welfare, dignity and rights of women and children. She urged participants to carry the knowledge gained through the programme to the wider community and extend appropriate assistance whenever required. The programme aimed to strengthen awareness among key stakeholders and empower them to play an active role in creating a safer, more informed and supportive environment for women and children.

Gumin Panggeng of Rayang, East Siang has become the first Kathak dancer from Arunachal Pradesh to be graded by Doordarshan, New Delhi, earning the prestigious B-Grade Artist status. Apart from this milestone, Panggeng is also a recipient of the CCRT Scholarship awarded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He has completed Prabhakar in Kathak from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad and trained under renowned Kathak guru Gauri Diwakar.

In solidarity with the Indian Army, people from Taksing and nearby villages have voluntarily stepped forward to carry food and other essential supplies to Army personnel deployed in the remote border areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Braving the rugged and challenging mountain terrain, villagers are transporting the essential items by headload, as the area lacks motorable road connectivity. The villagers said they are ready to extend whatever support is within their capacity to the Indian Army. The initiative reflects the strong sense of patriotism and commitment of the local population towards the nation and the armed forces guarding the country's remote frontier.

The sixth edition of the Inter-Club Boxing Championship kicked off today at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) STC center in Naharlagun. Organized by the Capital Complex Amateur Boxing Association under the banner of the Arunachal Amateur Boxing Association—and themed "Celebrating the spirit of Skill, Focus, and Sportsmanship"—the

competition features athletes from across the region competing in Sub-Junior (boys and girls), Junior (boys), Youth, and Elite (men and women) categories.

Arunachal's Lipin Ete has been selected to represent India at the 24th Asian Cadet, Junior & Under-21 Karate Championship 2026, scheduled to be held from 6 to 10 September in Jordan. Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein has congratulated Ete on the selection and extended best wishes as she takes Arunachal's pride to the international stage.