

A Voyage to Keping La (Down the Memory Lane)

Shri. Tayi Taggu

It's like revisiting the incredible stories of courage and valour of Major R. K Hranga Indian Frontier Administrative Service Officer [IFAS] who discovered and single-handedly established Tuting outpost almost seven decades ago when there was no road except peril narrow footpath which is why it took him 15 days to reach Tuting from Pasighat.

For most tourists, the word Keping La sounds so unfamiliar it means nothing to them and they don't care much about it at all, some others try to dig out its meaning. The Keping La is called POLO YORBE (Yorbe = Ridge) by the Adi people is a mountainous passage trade route between Tibet (China) and India. And the POLO YORBE is a name well known to us and the name itself brings back nostalgia, strikes right into our umbilical cord, and evokes memories of our history.

Adi Bane Kebang (ABK) community base organization Executive Members' decision to conduct ABK Conference of 2014 at Tuting, one of the most remote and strategic towns located just 36 km away from the international border with Tibet China was an exciting and pleasant piece of news for us. We were too enthusiastic to re-discover the passage which had been a major migratory and trade route of our forefathers in ancient times. Come winter, it is the best time to visit and see historical places, mountains,

the bend of the Siang River, etc. And there could be a no better chance to know our missing links with those historical places with an exciting opportunity at hand which we wouldn't like to miss.

The Polo Yorbe stands as the frontier between our people of India and the Tibetan people of China, but it was also an important barter trade route for rock salt, warm blazers (Nambi), iron, swords, bells, bowls, bracelets, brass bangles, dao, metal disc, beads, and turquoise come from mines of Tibet and China in ancient time. Our major exports item includes chillies, rice, pigs, goats, mithuns, and a variety of animal skins of civets, deer, bear, tar, leopard, tiger, etc.

The Gelling circle is named after Gelling village, which is now India's most forward circle, just about 5 to 6 Kms from the Keping La international border. And Membas are inhabitants of four villages viz: - Gelling, Kopu, Bona, and Bishing, and their population is about 1600 souls. They are followers of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism.

The nearest Chinese village to our border is Xirang on the right bank of Siang (Tsangpo) and by the way, our people called Xirang village as Bomong Hirang (In the last 4 to 5 years it seems the Government of China has made a large military garrison in and around Xirang village). Long ago, Adis was the inhabitant of the present Gelling

circle, which is why many names of the places in Adi still exist.

It is interesting that before the war of 1962; most of our people had little or no knowledge about the existence of China as a country and Chinese people because our neighbouring people were Tibetans. In more than one way, the war of 1962 was a blessing in disguise, a real game changer that brought our people closer to rest of the India.

The exciting Journey from Itanagar to Tuting via Pasighat road was no less than an adventurous trip that I cherished to remember in my life. For those of us, who travel for the first time from Itanagar to Tuting, the road never seemed to reach Tuting, and we wonder how far Tuting is (almost a decade ago). Our apprehension seemed reasonable as we were nearly completing three days of a gruelling bumpy ride on the road yet we were still to reach Tuting. Despite difficulties what made our journey buoyant and memorable is that it's a journey to unknown realms to explore the unexplored areas, rediscovering the pristine glory of the Siang valley. The Siang River is one of the most dynamic, turbulent, and awesome rivers and is a great source of lyrics, many immortal love stories, and songs.

An interesting petty incident occurred exactly two and half years after our journey to Tuting; my commissioner and I went down to IIT Guwahati as

they had been selected as consultants for the Rurban project at Tuting as per government of India norms. In our casual discussion, senior Professors and their juniors thought it might take them one day to reach Tuting from Guwahati almost shocked me beyond a word. And their discussion triggers my thought, on how ignorant and impractical learned professors' thinking can be and it is a great insult to their wisdom but not their knowledge. However, a little later, it was down to me, as learned men professors might have other things or priorities on their minds as they have to regularly set their own goals and challenges to deal with. In their busy life and schedule, Tuting didn't matter much to them which appeared like a tiny dot on the map that couldn't draw the attention of the professors to study the practical difficulties of the area. (Over the last nine years the state witnessed a huge jump of improvement in road infrastructural development, thereby reducing communication bottle necks, and rapidly increasing overall connectivity which seems impossible a few years ago.)

Our efforts to make Professors understand the topographical difficulties of Arunachal did not get instant acceptance rightly or wrongly human basic instinct everywhere is the same. It seems the law of resistance was operating herein without their knowing, instead of agreeing to our points of view, they wanted to know the distances in kilometres so on and so forth and that's how life is. It may appear quite reasonable, yet it is illogical, if we think there is one solution fit for all, then it could spell a

disaster. And if the distance in kilometres is taken as the basic standard to reach a place, and if this is the case, then every human being walking on earth can reach the peak point of Mt Everest which is just 8.848 Km away from mean sea level yet it takes men's herculean efforts, singleness of purpose to reach the top. We are told that some days are lost even to find a negotiable route because survival depends upon finding a route to climb as life hangs on the balance. And we can't gauge that one wrong step can take out life in a second due to extreme difficulties of the topography.

In the real drama of life, it is inevitable all of us had gone through a critical situation whereby we felt a little itched and irritated by our elders/seniors' irrational talk, yet hopelessly we are powerless in front of them. In such circumstances, our prayer pins on the hope that no one makes any argument or counter-argument which could foil our bonhomie and put us into an embarrassing situation. To break the ice, I made gentle remainder and politely deflected them to their proposed journey which would be torturous. One Professor was aghast, "A reality yet unbelievable another side of the story." He said, with anxiety writ large on his face. A fortnight later, when the truth when slammed them hard on their faces, after they had been to Tuting and back to Guwahati as they discovered the true meaning of a difficult journey without asking any questions, apparently, they understood that there is a world beyond IITian classroom. And they now know better that the real world is far too complicated to comprehend from a class-

room alone.

Major R.K.Hranga cupped his right hand to prevent sun rays from directly falling on his eyes looking across the Siang River and seeing lush green flat slope land on the right bank of the Siang river early in the morning from Jido village. "Eureka! I have found." He said to himself. He was walking across the longest hanging bridge (in those days) he conceived Tuting administrative centre in his mind even before reaching the other end of the bridge. A few minutes later, he felt a storm building up inside him as fell out of excitement and ecstasy for discovering a new administrative centre. And it was a fabulous experience that goes beyond a word and indeed good fortune for him. He felt marvellous and thrilled by the discovery of Tuting and the name Tuting comes from Tuting village which is a few kilometres away from the proposed administrative centre.

Destiny would have it; he was inducted into Indian Frontier Administrative Service (IFAS) from the Indian army. We all remember Major R.K. Hranga and whenever we discuss Tuting as his name comes first in our mind. He was a Mizo, an outstanding officer with an indomitable spirit who single-handedly established Tuting Administrative centre from 15th July 1953 to 1958 from the ground zero. And his ground-breaking achievement was he developed Tuting Airfield for the successful landing of Dakotas with the help of local people without taking a single pie from the government (This is a rare achievement). He was a workaholic officer, a real hero in real life who deserved many accolades from all of

us and we salute his soul from the core of our hearts. Major R.K.Hranga's life story was an incredible story of human struggle; grit and determination, unparalleled in the history of NEFA time now Arunachal Pradesh. In addition to his mounting difficulties was that it took him a 15th-day journey to reach Tuting from Pasighat is an unbelievable story today and another two more days to reach Gelling Kepang La. If he sends down a person from Tuting to Pasighat that person would take at least one month to return to Tuting if he takes two days rest after the 15th day's gruelling continuous journey. But Major R.K.Hranga was a man with a mission in his heart, all hurdles and insurmountable problems appeared like ripples amongst the waves of the Siang River that couldn't deter him to achieve his goal.

One fine morning, when he woke up, he found that he was sleeping with a snake, and on another occasion leeches gladly dipped into his body sucking blood from him while he slept on his bed and that's truly an amazing story of an undefeatable man.

Today it is unthinkable during R.K Hranga time Tuting which took a 15th-day journey from Pasighat and can be now reached within 40 to 45 minutes by chopper and less than 4 minutes by supersonic aircraft. With today's advanced technology, Tuting is no longer a distant place; real travel time has been reduced dramatically.

After a 15 to 20 minutes drive from Pasighat we come across a groove of the orange orchard, and paddy fields then the road coil up to the middle of Hill and where beautiful Rengging

village is perched on one of the major ridges of Bapii Adi or A-bor Hills (Rengging village now in danger zone according to the geologist as many deep cracks surface appeared in around the village which threatens its very existence. The Rengging village is sitting over on earth debris according to experts).

We had a freshwater drink from a fountain, at 20 miles Camp; thereafter we reached Rottung Camp where we saw large numbers of ruined and abandoned buildings of Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission (BFCC) built during the late 70s to construct a dam over the Siang River. The Rottung village is located on the most suitable land in the area just a kilometre away from the Rottung camp.

We reached Yembung Camp where British Regime built an Inspection Bungalow (IB) stands strong until the flash flood of the year 2000, which completely devastated and ruined the IB leaving no sign of its previous existence. The life cycle of the great flash flood (PUMU) is about four generations that are approximately a century as per mouth-to-mouth messages. And the Inspection Bungalow (IB) system was introduced into the frontier state by Britishers for the safety, security, and comfortable stays of their officers/staff whoever was on duty visited remote outpost areas. The British Raj also introduced a bizarre rule called 'Kursi Naschin' certificate holder was entitled to seat on a chair in the office and others have to stand even if chairs are empty the order was issued in July of 1887 to make Indian feel inferior to them in Delhi.

We were told how valiantly Kebang villagers fought a war with the British Army although the British Army was having overwhelming superiority with guns and large troops.

Yembung is a very turbulent tributary coming from the upper ridge of Yemsing village and it generated four hundred fifty Kilowatts of power. Pangin is the beautiful village after which Pangin administrative centre is named after. On the left side of Siang River is Komsing village where James Williamson Assistant Political Officer was killed on 31st March 1911. After crossing Pangin town on the downside is Koreng village perched on Kerang-Lampang slope. From the Koreng villages, we saw Yeksi village on the middle flat slope of the Hill then down from there, the breathtaking confluence of Siyom and Siang Rivers. The Siyom River is in dark grey colour while the Siang River in deep sky-blue colour can be seen from the Bailey bridge over the Siyom River. Thereafter, in another 20 to 25 minutes journey we reached Bolen and its township area lies in between Rabung stream and Simang River. Lileng is about half a km and Rengo village is one km from the Simang River, Dosing village is on the upside of the Hills of the main road. The road which cut across the ParongDeleng WRC field area and reached Dite-Dime (Two Rock Domes full of pandanus trees one is larger in height and size called Dite and one smaller in height and size called Dime) from the foot of the Dite-Dime the road branches into two roads, one goes to Tuting on the right of the Siang river and another road cross over the Siang river

by bailey bridge(now a beautiful RCC bridge) goes to Yingkiong on the left side of the Siang river. Sitang village is about 10km up from the Dite-Dime point; thereafter we reached Riga's upcoming town and circle headquarters (Now Upgrade to EAC Hq). The surrounding natural scenic beauty of Riga is simply mind-blowing, from there we saw a snow-capped mountain called Miri Pamdi yonder the distance beyond Peki Modi one of the remotest villages of upper Siang District and when looking down we saw the meandering Siang River in sky blue colour cut it way below Geku town. From the same spot we can see Riga and Sitang village to Diba Mountain which is the source of Bambang and Mabung tributaries its topography is uniquely made as it has two natural lakes namely Diyung and Dilap exist time immemorial and are revered by people. If proper infrastructure is created Riga Hq could be a good summer Hill station and Riga village is one of the oldest and the largest Adi villages.

We reached Pangkang Jorkong village travelling 30 plus km from Riga village and just after crossing the Lubung tributary nearby, there is heart-numbing precipice rock cliffs. God forbid if anything happened on precipice rocky cliffs road life would be gone in a second. In those moments you're forced to think about God and Life as there is no certainty of life and if we ever safely back home; we shall profusely thank the Almighty God for his kindness. Pangkang kumku village is about five km from Pangkang Jorkong village and from there another 6 km we reached Jeng-

ging town, and in between there is Nyubung River from where power is generated.

Our journey from Pasighat to Gosang was one of the most lively, memorable, and exciting owing to Mrs. Yalem Burang (My Aunt) a charismatic lady whose cheerful talk enthralled us beyond a word. Besides, she has unlimited collections of the wittiest jokes on her sleeve; I'm sure anyone who listens to her talk would be nudged to hilarious laughter. She has the splendid ability to recall numerous funny incidents, and childlike stupidities that happened to us in everyday life so absorbing; we lost count of time and forget the bumpy ride road altogether. Sometimes her jokes were so ridiculous we were lost in laughter, but gasping and trying to find a space for breathing.

At Jengging circuit, we were received by ABK unit of Upper Siang along with Mr. Ajin Apang former ABK President who requested us to stay at his residence, but due to paucity of time and previous engagement, we declined his request politely. Jengging is a lovely town that has the potential to become a small tourist Hill station if properly groomed in the future. Karko is one of the renowned and historic villages of Adi and the second biggest village after Riga village on the right bank of the Siang River.

We reached Gosang three hours late at 7.30 pm; Shri Ado Burang and his party were anxiously waiting for us to give us a warm reception. Their friendly reception made us feel at home; a home away from the home. They made a huge bonfire on the lawn to warm us on the cold winter night. We were supplied

with plentiful foods, meats, and drinks, or what else? We were in the most wonderful land-we were treated as if we were kings and queens. We have run of our good luck. They were such a great host; we didn't find the right word to express our thanks to them. Our night halts at Gosang were unforgettable experienced human hospitality and kindness and we cherished to remember in our lives.

On 15th January'2014, we left Gosang village for Tuting early in the morning. Moying Camp is Indian Army Military Garrison as well as Border Road Organization (BRO)Hq and it is a few kilometers away from the Gosang village. Ramsing village spread on amazingly beautiful slope flat land none of us expected any flat land amid high mountains. We have full of admiration for Ramsing village when we learned that Organic Tea produced from this tiny village sold @76000/-per kg in Gujarat in the tea auction market was the highest rate in the country during that year. That's truly a proud moment for all Arunachalee and especially organic tea growers' minds that could ignite and act as catalysts for a real game changer in the future.

The winding and precipice road with sharp turns and twists coils up like a great snake ultimately led us to historic Jaanbo village it crosses over at the height of 2000 metres above the mean sea level. The Jaanbo is a historical village known to all Adis because it was one of the most frequented historical migratory routes. People also remembered the village for Jaanbo Nyige, a natural or unnatural depression or land formed (Might be formed by watery erosion or

due to wild boar regular bath in a sludge on the mountain passage). And the depression or hollow canal in due course of time might become a pass and migratory route of the Adi to cross over the strategic mountain. Nyige Lihong, a stone pillar is another popular name, still standing but its head was broken by Janno warrior while tightening the loose sword. The broken-off stone pillar still lying nearby. In absence of written records, no one can tell us the time and date with certainty when and how that incident occurred. However, it is quite certain that time was a period of wartime in our history. Other famous names are Kirdung Lidung (Boguna neke kirdung lidung), is a big rock and Tarung Gitbung (Bogu Naneke tarung gitbung) is a natural or human-made canal used as a path by our ancestors. All Adi historians inevitably recalled (Yayi buluk dongkung gidakem, yayi bulu Jaanbo Nyige kingtuge lento)' (our fore father, had to cross over Jaanbo Nyige for migration).

Seeing is believing, somewhere deep down in my heart I felt that it was in a way staying connected with the great parent migration route of the past. And not least it brings back a sense of nostalgia, takes us to old memories, and stirs the unforgettable history of our people. They must have faced horrendous and insurmountable miseries, fought nature as well as animals' vagaries, and yet they survive old odds.

We saw Jaanbo village and Jaanbo Nugong (Siang River great bend near Jaanbo village) which is about 20 Km away from Bomdo village road junction. The landscape of the

area and its scenic beauty is awesome and mesmerizing that our heart rejoices with contentment while our mind wonders how thoughtful almighty god is. From its appearance, the mighty Siang River, the mightiest river of the Indian Sub-continent might have taken at least a hundred thousand years or more to cut into a rocky mountain to reach its present stage. And the Siang River in all probability might have witnessed the sacred history of our race, its evolution, migration, and wars, also the history of the earth, but we have no way to know it unless it can tell its own story to us or we find a method to know it. There are endless natural wonders, and it's continuing to amaze me and I wonder if one day Siang River could open her silent secret but only if we are capable to listen to his talk. (Siang is a male river)

We get down at Jaanbo village for a photo shoot at the road crossing point, and to our utter shock within a few minutes; we experienced an abrupt change of temperature, which was spine-chilling due to an icy cold wind wave sweeping over the village.

Mr. Akeng Nijo and his party host a gluttonous lunch party at the bank of Nyikgong River for ABK delegates. We were overwhelmed by their lavished treatment and hospitality in a far place, where we didn't find a man even in kilometre of kilometres road. Mr. Akeng and his team were exceptionally good hosts and we saluted them for their hard work on behalf of ABK.

After having had our lunch, our journey continues and we reached Migging, a circle headquarters perched on top of a mountain ridge, and there-

after our journey was mostly a downward ride.

Our serpentine journey was finally over; we reached Tuting rest on a beautiful valley of the unexpected vast expanse of open slope and flat land. At Tuting our hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Babo Medo, we are truly grateful to them for their hospitality and kindness. Mr. and Mrs. Gellong Medo prominent social leader of the area invited us for a sumptuous breakfast and Mr and Mrs. Tayi Pangu hosted a lovely and fingers-licking dinner for us.

We were less interested in the history of our migration when we were young but as we grow older, our inclination for research to find out our route of migration, history, beginning of our race, culture, and tradition grow beyond our domain. Perhaps, this is why, our culture, tradition, and belief live on and survives, despite the onslaught of an alien culture, the ups and downs of the society's history from time to time.

We have already chalked out our programme and started our journey from Itanagar to Tuting on 13th Jan'2014 and reached there on 15th Jan'2014 at around 3.30 pm we were received by the reception committee of ABK at Tuting general ground and registered ourselves as delegates.

Not wasting much time Mr. Hanggung and I rushed to ADC Tuting residence to obtain permission to visit the Kepang La on 16th Jan'2014. Mr. RD Thungon then ADC Tuting was so kind and helpful, he wired a message quickly to ITBP who were manning the border waiting for our visit the next day.

Hitum Bukrung is a deep

gorge on a small tributary it is a historically known name and is located between Tuting and Gelling.

On 16th Jan 2014 we left Tuting for Gelling to see the Kepang La at around 830am and reached ITBP camp around 1130hrs which is approximately 1400 metres above mean sea level. We were greeted by ITBP men with fresh cold water from their camp. The Officer-in-Charges informed us that our time to visit Kepang La is up and they can't be allowed us to go ahead despite our having permission. It seems that the Chinese patrolling party coming near the international border by afternoon is a regular feature. Therefore, any incident could occur, and to prevent any unwarranted incident, they take precautionary measures. We agreed, when it comes to life, security and safety are of paramount importance and there is no point in compromise. However, after thorough discussion and head counting, they agreed to take us to the nearest point of the border on the condition that we must not make too much noise and further insist on not moving beyond a point to prevent provoking Chinese border guards if they detect us moving in a large group. I was given the responsibility of the leader of my team of 22 members and we have initially five members.

From the present road point to the Kepang La, the distance is approximately 5 to 6 km walk and its steepness is about a 45-degree angle. It may take two to three hours or more depending on the person's ability to climb uphill and on the return journey it took just one and a half hours to back to the road point. (Now

our road almost reached the international boundary)

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) men were cheerful and ready to do their duties but frankly, I was distressed by the harsh and pitiable living conditions faced during their stay in the border area. Their problem was they didn't have a proper mobile connection, or good living quarters to stay in. The mobile signal from Tuting frequently comes and goes off often, therefore ITBP boys have invented a new technique they pitch two feet stick on the ground and cut plastic water or Pepsi bottle, put on a stick head, and kept their mobile on the bottle and watch whenever signal appears in the screen then they talk to their family and friends. They told us with very tough living conditions ITBP boys hang on to protect us and themselves from enemies. How can we expect good service from them when their living conditions are pathetic and miserable? In the last nine years or so lots of improvement has happened. The government of India must provide the best facilities to our Jawans to ward off any enemy misadventure.

In the aftermath of the conference, on the way back we were given grand welcome to Pubuk a small village with much fanfare and enthusiasm. I'm told that the moment Pubuk villagers learned that I was also attending ABK Tuting Conference they decided to invite me. There were lots of phone calls to visit their village but on my part, but I couldn't find a suitable time to visit their village. However, I made a promise to visit them on my way back from Tuting conference. The people of Pubuk village were eagerly waiting to

see me because I happened to clear their village file pending for more than one and half years by obtaining government approval to recognize their village. The villagers were highly excited and thrilled by my action. It all started at the request of Mr. Dunggoli Libang a prominent public leader of Upper Siang District. One day he come to the office and said, "Brother, my leader and I are unable to make Pubuk a government-recognized village and therefore the villagers are facing great hardship to get potable water, road, and other government facilities, etc." As per his version, the file couldn't be cleared by his leader due to some technical conditions attached to it. After the recognition of their village by the government, they were on the lookout for me, because I did help them without their request and, I never expected anything in return for my voluntary services even in the wildest of my dream. And it was my routine duty to help people wherever possible to let them overcome many conditions imposed on them in the aegis of office rules.

On reaching their village, the people of Pubuk gave us warm welcome, wore smiles on everybody's faces, and showered bountiful love on my friend Hangung, Yasum Yaying, Yamek Taggu, Yamum Tamuk Siram, and me. We were nearly crying out of excitement overwhelmed by their love with humility and grace. We shall never forget the kindness and love showered upon us so rare in life.

We are aghast by the sorry state of affairs of a very important strategic defence road that has been neglected over the years. It is disgusting, we were

told the road hasn't improved over time and it might have worsened over the past few years. It is ironic of our time, although the area was represented by the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state; the state of affairs more or less remains the same for the people. And our finding was not very encouraging too. Pasighat to Tuting road is supposed to be one of the most important adventurous tourist circuit routes for rafting, angling, and birds and animal watching in Mouling National Park. And not only this, it can be an important international trade route between India and China if the Government of India's LOOK EAST (Now ACT EAST) policy comes up with renewed vigour. And yet woefully in this part of the world development hasn't kept up with the expectation of the people for so long.

For us, it only makes sense to sow the seeds now to reap the benefit in the future. If, however, casual trends are adopted continuously by the leader and people in power, we do not expect the road to turn around it into a tourist dream circuit route in a few years, and perhaps it may take much longer time than necessary.

Tourism can boost and infuse life into the rural economy is a well-understood theory and good to listen to. However,

people are unable to sell their rich agriculture and horticulture produces in the market is also a reality that we cannot wish away. Also, what is worrisome is our rural economy is in the doldrums because they can't sell them products because of poor networks. Seriously, we need a market linkage and dot hasn't been yet connected. Alas! The luck of the people plummets to a new low when cash crops and fruits failed to bring smiles to them utterly and their efforts go in vain and become a white elephant. What can people do except let their agriculture and horticulture produce rotten in the field with helpless feelings about why on earth they slogged so hard for the worthless effort which brings no solace to their economic hardship? How does one react, except with feelings of helplessness and resentment? However, there is one ray of hope and people understand that the transformation of this tourist circuit route would begin to have ripple effects ultimately leading them to improve their economy and living standard, but when would that happen is a million-dollar question and is still a distant dream. A big country like India with a bigger population can generate atleast \$1(one) trillion dollars in internal tourism in the next decade. If Arunachal can harness at least 10% of inter-

nal India's tourism revenue then it can surely boost our economy and living standard. The ABK main mission was to reconnect its people and to renew this tourist circuit route, thereby setting the ball rolling. The aim was to purely pull our ideas together to awaken our leaders and people together and appeal to them not to put hurdles on any development project. People must understand that what we lack is the development and in terms of resources we have abundant natural resources to supplement our needs.

The ABK as an organization is a new instrument for the transformation of our people and binds them to face winds of changes together and it's coming whether we like it or not. And hopefully, the winds of changes activated by the ABK would begin to blow to lift the veil of darkness in the Adi belt and the rest of Arunachal Pradesh. The ABK being the torch-bearer and agent of transformation of the Adi is spearheading a new paradigm shift to welcome any tourists from any corner of the world; keeping in mind true Indian traditions of treating and welcoming guests as God-ATITHI DEVO BHABA. (The writer is the present Deputy Commissioner of East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh).



Nidhi Aapke Nikat programme launched

NAMSAI, February 1:

The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Organisation's Tinsukia (Assam)-based regional office, through the Namsai DRDA project director, e-launched the Nidhi Aapke Nikat outreach programme in Namsai district headquarters recently.

The programme is aimed at delivering service and redressing the grievances of pensioners and employees.

Several EPF issues of employees were settled on the spot, and the organisation's regional PF commissioner, Uttam Prakash, highlighted the importance of covering workers under the EPF for social security.

Bilat gets Block Development Office

PASIGHAT, February 2:

Pasighat West MLA Ninong Ering inaugurated the block development office for Bilat Community Development (CD) block here in Ruksin subdivision in presence of DC Tayi Taggu, Ruksin ADC Tajing Jonnom, PD (DRDA) Tajing Padung, former MLA Tatung Jamoh and others.

Congratulating the people, Ering on the occasion stated that

massive exercises were there behind the curtain and finally we could realize it today. Conveying his gratitude to the Chief Minister Pema Khandu, the MLA opined that Khundu's leadership in the state must be appreciated by one and all as we have witnessed visible developments in all fronts in the state. "Even I being a leader from opposition political party have never faced any difficulty for developmental activities of my constituency. Making this office fully functional, required infra-structural resource, manpower and financial resource were granted by the state government", he added. Most of the welfare schemes implemented by the government for the poorer section of the society including MGNREGA would be implemented here through the block office and therefore officials should be sincere, dedicated and people friendly. He expressed hope that the new block office would definitely bridge the gap between officials and public minimizing the burden of Ruksin block office and miseries of common masses of Bilat and adjoining areas. Robust road network, modern transportation was the key to economic growth, prosperity and transformation in every sphere of life, the MLA said adding that he has been doing his best in this regard.

Deputy Commissioner Tayi Taggu in his brief address said the new block office at Bilat was essential for community based development of Mirem, Bilat and Ledum villages. Taking privilege, Taggu urged the people to refrain from illegal hunting-fishing saying that it could lead to significant ecological impacts and poses serious long-term implication. The DC instructed the government officials to deliver their services to the people with 'Seva Motive'.

Meeting cum briefing sessions held for the appointed Sector Officers

TAWANG, February 2:

A Meeting cum briefing to the appointed sector officers by Returning Officer for 1-Lungla ST Assembly Constituency RD Thungon, Dy. DEO Rinchin Leta, and Master Trainer Tashi Dhondup was held in the conference hall of DC office Tawang.

Addressing the SOs, RD Thungon said that, the SOs must immediately visit their respective sectors and inspect polling stations to assure minimum facilities in every polling station and intimate election office of any short comings so that timely rectification in any polling station can be done before the polls.

ADC lungla cum master trainer Tashi Dhondup, said that SOs are link between the RO, polling team, police, and poll stations of their respective jurisdiction. The duties of

SOs will be pre poll, during the poll and post poll, report on vulnerable section are to be intimated, Visit polling station before poll is must to know the actual requirements of every polling station, the SOs should be well informed of communication and security planning. Ensure all EVM, BU and other election equipments are functional, in case of any doubts clarify it from RO and keep in constant touch with RO he said.

Speaking about communication system SP Bomge Kamduk informed that every vehicle attached with SOs will be provided with VHF sets and walkie talkies, and Communication plans will be shared with all the SOs.

Tayeng inaugurates SAD 2.0 at Borguli

PASIGHAT, February 2:

Mebo MLA Lombo Tayeng on Feb 2 inaugurated the 7th Seva Aapke Dwar (SAD 2.0) modified from the erstwhile Sarkar Aapke Dwar at Borguli Secondary School, under Mebo subdivision in presence of Deputy Commissioner Tayi Taggu, Mebo ADC Ainstein Koyu, host admin officers, PRI leaders, GBs and villagers. Altogether twenty-seven government departments provided doorstep services to the villagers of Borguli and adjoining areas on the day. The MLA and DC visited all the stalls, interacted with the beneficiaries and urged them to avail optimum benefits of the services being provided by various departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said it was a unique way to serve the people effectively. The district administration should have good inputs about the villagers' needs, eligibilities and feasibilities for particular village before conducting SAD camps so that people get what they actually want and no one was left behind in the queue. The aim of SAD was to deliver information and services to citizens ensuring ease of living for a self-reliant Arunachal Pradesh, he added. Tayeng commended the district administration for successfully bridging the gap between the government and the people by bringing SAD camps to the remote locations in the district.

DC Tayi Taggu instructed the officers to brief the villagers about the various beneficial government schemes and programmes available under their departments and the ways and means to avail of the same practically.

DA U/Siang Conducts the last SAD program of financial Year 2022-23

MARIYANG, February 2:

The District Administration Upper Siang conducted its 12th and last Seva Apke Dwar for the financial year 2022-2023 here at School Auditorium of Govt Higher Secondary School, Mariyang on February 2.

Mariyang Zilla Parishad Member Smti Bojing Bitin inaugurated the camp in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Hage Lailang, ADC (Hq) Dochora Lama, ADC Mariyang Akan Regon, DPO Talut Tatak, Principal A. Megu, CO Jyoti Borang, various head of departments, GBs, PRI leaders, Govt officials and general public.

During the camp DC Hage Lailang and ZPM Bojing Bitin distributed ST, PRCs, Social Health Cards and a PM Swanidhi scheme certificate of vending to various beneficiaries.

As many as 605 people benefited from the services provided by the 24 different departments.

Altogether 5,234 people have been benefitted from 12 SAD camps conducted by the District Administration in various circles of the district in the fiscal year 2022-23.

DLMC review meeting held

YINGKIONG, February 2:

The District Administration Upper Siang conducted its 6th Monthly District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) to review and discuss the physical and financial achievement of all ongoing Central and State Sponsored Schemes implemented in Upper Siang Dis-

trict here at DC's conference hall, Yingkiong.

Chairing the meeting Deputy Commissioner Hage Lailang called upon the all head of departments to work with team spirit for the welfare and better development of the district. While reviewing and discussing the reports presented in the meeting, DC asked work departments to never compromise with quality and technical features of infrastructures and to always ensure proper monitoring and timely completion of projects. He also asked the officers to feel free to share issues and problems if any they face in smooth execution of developmental works during DLMC meetings so that it can be brought to the knowledge of higher authorities.

During the meeting, various departments presented status of ongoing projects both central and state sponsored schemes through power point presentations.

Mama Natung graces 30th Dadamja Hoju Kuhwa

DADAM, February 2:

The popular lean season festival of Dadam area in Tirap district, Hoju Kuhwa, was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Dadam circle headquarters at Kamlesh Joshi Mini Outdoor Stadium. The program was graced by Mama Natung, minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Environment & Forest, WRD as Chief guest, Gabriel Denwang Wangsu, HMLA-58-Kanubari constituency as Guest of honour and Wanglam Sawin, HMLA-55-Khonsa East as special guest.

Addressing the mammoth gathering of Dadam area, Minister Youth Affairs & Sports, Environment & Forest, WRD Mama Na-

tung on behalf of the all community and government of Arunachal Pradesh wished happy hojukuhwa to the people of Dadam area and he conveyed the Hoju greetings from HCM Pema Khandu. He lauded the Dadamja HojuKuhwa organizing committee members and Chief Patron & local MLA Chakat Aboh for inviting him to grace the celebration as Chief Guest.

The program started with welcome address by the Secretary DHK Jewang Sumnyan in which he enlightened about the HojuKuhwa mythological significance. He made learned that the hojukuhwa of dadam area is unlike any other harvesting festivals - Hoju is a lean season festival that forefathers of Dadam area practiced and celebrated since time immemorial with great challenges.

While praising the people of Dadam Area for preserving and protecting the aged old culture and tradition of forefathers, he said that we are fortunate enough to have god gifted beauty of nature in our state Arunachal Pradesh which may not be in other parts of the country and abroad, as such we must equally preserve and protect our nature, wildlife, environment by avoiding hunting of innocent wildlife. He said that in our state we have nature, culture, agriculture, horticulture, Pisciculture and tourism are our state potential, in which we have 83,473 sqkms nature, out of which 80% are still under forest cooperation, as such we will have to protect our nature which is our future state resources. Team Arunachal irrespective all creed, caste, region and religion under the leadership Pema Khandu right from Tawang to Longding is one "Pan Arunachal" and discharging our best services to develop in the interest of common masses. Natung added.

The minister informed that the department of Environment & Forest have introduced Airgun surrender policy in the state of Arunachal Pradesh in which several Airguns were surrendered in Tirap district for which he appreciated them. He said most of the youth of Arunachal Pradesh are indulging in Drugs ruining their lives, families and society for which he appealed the youths to shun kaani and drugs and adopt physical fitness with a mantra "Aap Drugs Chhodiye aur Khel Mei Jodiye".

Chief Patron of 30th DHK & 56-Khonsa West MLA Chakat Aboh highlighted about significance of Hoju Kuhwa in which she informed that the first Dadam Ja Hoju Kuhwa comprising of 9 villages was celebrated centrally at Huakan village in the 1993 and today we are celebrating 30th Dadam ja Hoju Kuhwa at Dadam circle HQs. She urged the people of Dadam to "stay united and continue the spirit of doing good works for well-being of Dadam area."

Guest of honour & HMLA 58-Kanubari Shri Gabriel Denwang Wangsu while attending the programme as guest of honour vehemently appealed the youths of Dadam area in particular and people of Tirap district as a whole for "protection of mother language for the preservation of the indigenous culture for posterity." Wangsu further said that the culture of any society is it's language, it's dresses and ornaments, the kinship pattern, it's culinary and food habits, the folk songs, folk dances and the music of log drum beating, customary belief system, the rituals and ceremonies, spirits of the community need to be kept intact and inculcate the same to the younger generation for posterity.

The festivities featured of-

fering of Rangtam (local wine) at the chaam by the oldest man of Dadam village, a mega dance presentation by women of Dadam area, traditional Hoju Kuhwa dance by villagers of Muktowa and Dadam, war dance by villagers of Huakan, Chhathutsii (Rice winnowing song) by women of Dadam, Thamthut (Logdrum beating).

Among others, DC Tirap Hento Karga, Shri Togum Gongo, Dy.SP, Miss Chathong Lowang, ZPC, Tirap, Shri R. Pathania, Second-in-Command 6 Assam Rifles, Shri Subhash Chandra Jha, Asstt. Commandant, Shri Wanghong Panka, ZPM Khonsa Block, Shri Tumwang Lowang, ZPM Khela-Bunding Block, Shri Jamwang Lowang, ZPM Dadam Block, HoDs, Chiefs, GBs, PRIs, Government employees and public from various parts of the district attended the program

CM launches 5G services in Itanagar

ITANAGAR, February 4:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Feb 4 launched the 5G services of Airtel for the state capital Itanagar in presence of state minister for Information Technology Wangki Lowang.

The customers in the capital city with 5G enabled devices can enjoy high speed 5G network at no extra cost. Currently operational at H Sector, Chandan Nagar, Senki Park, Donyi Polo Vidya Bhavan, BB Plaza, P Sector, Zero Point, Jully village, Bank Tinali, Gohpur Tinali, Secretariat and few other locations in Itanagar, Airtel has assured that it will augment its network making its services available across the city in due course of time.

Lauding Airtel for roll out of its 5G services in the state, the Chief Minister said that it is important to synergize the state's efforts in building digital infrastructure across the state as the society and economy are heavily reliant on digital services across all walks of life in modern day.

"The vision for socio-economic development of the state and country as a whole will majorly depend on delivery of services (G2C, G2B, B2B and B2C) through digital platforms which will require considerable presence of reliable digital infrastructure across the country. The impact of deployment of 5G networks will go far beyond current wireless access networks and will touch all verticals of the economy," he observed.

Khandu expressed hope that sectors like healthcare, agriculture, Smart City project, Oil & Gas, etc will immensely benefit from 5G connectivity.

Referring to his recent visit to Dibang Valley district, he informed that digital connectivity is still lacking in the district and urged Airtel to take it up on priority.

The launch ceremony was also attended by representatives of Airtel India headed by CEO Rajneesh Verma, CTO Ashish Bansal and Marketing Head Ajitabh Singh.

Ruksin police seized contraband substance and arrested five drug peddlers

PASIGHAT, February 4:

According to East Siang SP Sumit Kr. Jha the district police continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, arrested five drug peddlers identi-

fied as Maco Koyu, Taken Koyu, Raju Pegu, Biju Pegu and Putul Doley and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

SP Jha informed that police team comprising ASP Tasi Tonong Darang, OC Chako Joseph and SI Nyato Sora along with other police personnel on duty apprehended two suspected drug peddlers during routine Naka/ILP Checking drive near Poba Forest Reserve on NH 515 on February 2. During the search operation in presence of the Magistrate Oyam Saring 1.27 gm of contraband suspected to be Heroin was recovered from their possession and FIR was registered accordingly under section 21(A) NDPS Act. On the very next day on Feb-3, two more peddlers were arrested near Rayang Millitary Station after disclosure statement of the arrested accused.

The SP added that follow up action yielded fruitful result. Trap was laid at Murkong-Selek Railway Station, Jonai (Assam) and one more peddler who had come with large quantity of contraband for transaction was nabbed by the same police team of Ruksin where 63.9 gm of contraband suspected to be Heroin was recovered from his possession, in presence of Magistrate Jacob Tabing.

SP Jha appreciated all three officers and their associates including HC T. Tapak, HC P Kakki, Ct John Tate, Ct. Tagin Paleng, Ct M karbak, Ct T Tali, Ct T Potom, HC AK Singh, HC T Jamoh and HC SK Shukla for their swift action and brilliant display of professionalism. At the same time he urged the general public to join hands with the police in fight against drug abuse in East Siang in particular. Instead of hesitating, people should reach out to police as their support and cooperation could make a difference, he said and assured that

utmost confidentiality and secrecy of informers.

Tirap Police organizes 'Dinner pe Charcha' to celebrate Glorious 50 years of APP Tirap

KHONSA, February 4:

Arunachal Pradesh police have accomplished its 50 years of service towards its motto - "Satya, Seva and Suraksha" on 08/09/2022. To commemorate the glorious 50 years of APP, Tirap Police have organised a program "Dinner peCharcha".

The entire Team of District administration Tirap and HOD's Tirap led by Shri Hento Karga, DC Tirap, Panchayat leaders led by Miss Chatong Lowang, ZPC khonsa Tirap, 6th Assam Rifles, 36th Bn Crpf along with Public leaders and Youth leaders of Khonsa joined in the celebration on belated 50th anniversary of Arunachal Pradesh police at the official residence of SP Tirap.

Shri Hento Karga (DC Tirap) while congratulating the entire Team of APP especially Tirap Police for its glorious 50 years, further called upon them to take the challenge of making Arunachal Pradesh especially Tirap district a peaceful place and create a conducive atmosphere for development to take place in rapid phase. I have seen the journey, the struggle of APP from close quarter working with them as a young CO, EAC and ADC said the DC.

ZPC Tirap while congratulating APP called upon them to work tirelessly to make the society crime free and also advise Police to maintain good public relations.

Hangliam Sumnyan, a Renowned Public figure of Tirap district while Congratulating the Tirap police on its Golden Jubilee and for their relentless effort in keep-

ing peace in the district said in first of its kind, he and others in the program have seen the Administration, Police and public coming together for a celebration, discussion and interaction through unique "Dinner pe Charcha". He also said that such interaction program will go a long way for bringing peace in the region, create goodwill of public towards the police and Kindle strong Police- Public relations.

SP Tirap, Kardak Riba on behalf of APP under the dynamic leadership of Ld DGP, AP appreciates the kind gestures from the District administration, Panchayat leaders, CAPF's, SF's and Public leaders of Khonsa town (Tirap) for being part of the joyous celebration and for the common recurrent efforts of all towards making Tirap district a better place. Lastly the SP assured that APP will strive hard to bring peace in the region with the active help of SF's/CAPF's and seek the cooperation of the Public.

Govt. Hr. Sec. School Khonsa Alumni Batch 1990-1991 pays back to its Alma Mater

KHONSA, February 4:

In what is being appreciated as an immense morale booster for the school fraternity of Govt. Higher Secondary School, Khonsa, the 1990-1991 batch of its proud alumni paid back to its Alma mater by way of a generous donation including 50 pairs of desks & benches, 1 set of HP computer & UPS, 1 set of Epson WI-FI printer and 2 numbers of 1000 liter water tanks. The 1990-1991 batch consists of 27 alumni who are proud and successful products of the school and serving or settled across the length and breadth of the country

and even abroad. The invaluable donations were handed over to the School Principal, Smti K.C. Khunya Lowangcha, Vice Principal Nokdon Chimyang and staff in a simple ceremony today. The Principal on behalf of the entire school fraternity acknowledged receipt of the generous contributions and expressed her sincere gratitude and indebtedness to the noble donors. While acknowledging the receipt of generous contributions with deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness - Principal, Govt. Higher Secondary School, Khonsa Smti K.C. Lowangcha said that it is beyond words can describe. The Principal GHSS, Khonsa extent thanked for taking steps for renovation of the deteriorated school gate which was also the need of the hours.

She added that their golden names shall be engraved at the alter of the school and in the hearts of all.

It is pertinent to reiterate that GHSS, Khonsa which was established 58 years back in 1965 is one of the oldest temples of learning in the entire state which has immensely contributed towards human resource building, producing innumerable batches of alumni who had or have been assets to the society in various capacities.

However, blame the paucity of fund or dearth of comprehensive development policy, the school has been languishing, abandoned and unattended like an ill-fated, old-sick mother. And its infrastructure is deplorable and pathetic to say the least, with its basic structure crumbling with each passing day. Nonetheless, the school boasts of catering to almost 1500 learners every academic session, she being the

lone higher secondary school in the Khonsa Hqs. Hence, there is no denying the bitter fact that the school is badly in need of the attention of the concerned authorities in terms of major revamping of infrastructural and corresponding resources in order to make it capable of meeting the ever growing burden.

However, the silver lining is that finally a truly noble sense has dawned upon some good Samaritans in the form of such alumni who are committed to pay back, exemplifying that true education does ennoble man's character. Thanks to the long awaited initiative taken by the 1990-1991 batch in collaboration with the visionary and sensitive school administration, the School Alumni Forum has at long last been given birth with the motto of adopting the school and its developmental needs for the welfare of the school and its fraternity.

2-Day sensitization program on Social Audit under MGNREGA, PMAY & other RD programs held

LONGDING, February 4:

A two-day District level sensitization training programme on Social Audit under MGNREGA, PMAY and other RD programs was successfully conducted at the Longding District headquarters for PRI's CO cum Member Secretary, BDOs, Block Resource person (Social Audit unit cell), Village resource person and other functionaries.

State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj

(SIRD&PR), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar had conducted Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) GoI, Sponsored 02 (Two) Days District Level Sensitisation on Social Audit for Longding District, from 03th -04th Feb'2023.

The training aimed to educate and create awareness among the attendees about the significance of social audits, social audit process, jansunwai, role and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the proper conduct of Social Audit in ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of rural development programs. The program was conducted with the objective of empowering the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct effective social audits in their respective areas.

During the training, Tamar Baki, Core faculty (Asst. Director) cum Course coordinator, SIRD&PR, shared their insights on the procedures, guidelines and best practices for conducting social audits and emphasized the importance of involving communities and stakeholders in the process. Participants were also trained on the use of various tools and technologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting.

The training received an overwhelming response from the attendees and received positive feedback for its impactful content and effective delivery. The participants appreciated the opportunity to enhance their understanding of social audits and expressed their commitment to incorporating the learnings in their future work. Total 76 nos of participants had been attended comprise of ZPMs, GPCs, Circle officers, BDO, Block Resource Persons (Social Audit unit), VRP, BFT, GRS and PRIs Functionaries etc.

Dakli Gara, PD cum DPDO, Longding District, has expressed its gratitude to all the attendees and the trainers for their active participation and support in making the program a success. Shri. Lohpong Wangham, ZPC, Longding District spokes committed to ensuring the effective implementation of rural development programs in the district and encourages the participants to take the lead in promoting transparency and accountability under Social Audit and take the benefit of this training programme.

In conclusion, the two-day training programme on Social Audit was a vital step towards strengthening the implementation of rural development programs in the district and ensuring their inclusive and effective implementation. The SIRD & PR, with Social Audit unit will continue to conduct such training programs in the future to further educate and empower the stakeholders.

RGU Celebrates 40th Foundation Day

RONO HILLS, February 4:

Rajiv Gandhi University, the lone Central University of the state celebrated its 40th Foundation on 4th February 2023. Established in 1984, the university has completed 40 glorious years of serving the state. It has notably produced many intellectuals' minds in all spheres of the society. As the most sought-after place of higher learning, the university has graciously dedicated during the last many years to the various expectation of its students and their parents in the state in particular and the nation in general.

Prof. SaritK. Chaudhuri, Chairperson, Organizing Com-

mittee for the Foundation Day Celebration welcomed the dignitaries comprising of special invitees, local goanburhas, members from the district administration and friends from the media on the day. Prof Saket Kushwaha, Honourable Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University spoke on the overall development of the university in the last 40 years of its existence. Honourable Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Brig. (Dr.) B.D Mishra (Retd.) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his address, the Governor is repeatedly has noted that, the university is moving ahead in right directions in all aspects especially in academics and asked all to maintain the same spirit. Dr.Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKA-IAS), Kolkata was the keynote speaker on the day. He spoke on the Ethics and Philosophy of Education, on Nation and Nationalism and stated that, Swami Vivekananda's ideals on the core principles of education still holds true in today's context. Prof K. K. Aggarwal, Former Vice-Chancellor, Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi delivered the Foundation Day lecture. He opined that today's education system is compartmentalised and telescopic and, therefore, there is an urgent necessity of adopting multi-disciplinarity in education in the country in every spheres be it every, Climate change, management etc. The National Education Policy is a step in the right direction. Dr. N. T.Rikam, Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University proposed the vote of thanks during the occasion.

During the function, two retired employees namely, Loknath Chutia and Dilip Kumar Ram were felicitated for their valuable services to the university. The university

fraternity comprising of the faculty members, non-teaching staff, research scholars and students of the university attended the function which was held in the convention Hall of the University. In run up to the grand celebrations on 4th February, many other programmes were also organised. An open air Film Screening Show on "I Killed My Son" by Bengia Morto and "Stranded" by Nancing Lahzeey was screened for an enthralling audience comprising of students, faculty and staff members in the university playground. In sports, volleyball matches, football matches, tug of wares were also organised by the university where all members actively participated. In literary competitions, essay writing, poems compositions and rangoli making and shooting competition in air rifle and air pistol are being conducted in the university campus as part of the Foundation Day celebration. A colourful cultural night was also organised in the convention hall of the university as part of the celebration. Prizes were awarded to all the winners in different events during the foundation celebrations. A total of 17 (seventeen) sports persons of the university who acquired medals in national level competitions were also felicitated with cash prize.

State Cabinet approves amendments in Rule 3 of APCS & Civil Posts rules

ITANAGAR, February 4:

The State Cabinet that met here this afternoon under the chairmanship of Chief Minister PemaKhandu has approved amendments in Rule 3 of Arunachal Civil Services and Civil Posts (Upper Age Limit for Direct Recruitment) Rules.

Henceforth, the upper age limit for state civil service examination will be 35 years in general and 40 years for APST candidates.

The proposed upper age limit shall also be applicable, as a onetime relaxation, to all those candidates who have applied for direct recruitment examinations but the examinations have been cancelled or postponed/deferred by the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) during 2022 due to administrative reasons. This benefit will be given to the aspirants with effect from the closing date for receipt of applications against advertisements made by the APPSC for respective examinations.

The Chief Minister had on 22nd November, 2022 announced that the upper age limit for APPSC exams will be enhanced by three years. The current age limit for direct recruitment for Civil Services and Civil Posts in the state government is 32 years, with 5 years age relaxation to APST candidates.

However, the Cabinet maintained that there will be no change in upper age limit for direct recruitment to the post of Assistant Professor, currently 37 years (42 years for APST).

With a vision to make Arunachal Pradesh a sporting power house, the Cabinet approved the creation of 30 new posts in the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs. The created posts include 20 posts of District Sports Officers (DSO). This move will strengthen the sports department and enable it to work for sports and sports persons more efficiently.

It may be noted that since Khandu donned the chief minister's mantle, 123 Cabinet Meetings have been held, including today's, and 951 decisions taken.

DIPR Longding conducts Open District Level Quiz Competition

LONGDING, February 4:

The 1st edition of Open District Level Quiz Competition with the theme "Know your Govt and Your rights" was conducted today at Longding by DIPR office Longding under Arunachal Rising Campaign. Participants included students of schools, collegian, job holders etc. The quiz master of the program was Gami Bogo.

The Program was attended by Pankhu Wangsu the BJP District President as Chief Guest. While speaking at the occasion Mr Pankhu encouraged the participants and told them to have a goal and pursue it diligently. He said that everyone should use this kind of platform to enhance their knowledge and confidence.

Speaking at the occasion the Nyatum Doke DIPRO told that the main idea behind Organizing the Quiz competition was to generate awareness about the state, the district, government schemes, programs and their constitutional and legal rights etc. The idea is to make this quiz competition an annual event, Doke added.

The program was attended by Mitek Tarang, VO, Dang Tatin FO and Jyoti Pankha PGT as the Judges. The winners were provided with cash prize trophy and certificates.

Governor graces RGU's 40th Foundation Day

ITANAGAR, February 4:

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra, (Retd.), who is also the Chief Rector of RGU, graced the 40th Founda-

tion Day function of the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), the lone Central University of the State organised at its University Campus at Rono Hills, near Doimukh with a series of programmes on February 4, 2023.

Addressing the occasion, the Governor congratulated the university on its foundation day and lauded it for its achievements especially with opening up of many new departments and other infrastructure developments, besides contributing immensely in the field of education. He also praised the RGU Vice Chancellor for his contributions for the development of the institution.

Emphasising on the need to have good education for betterment of the society as enshrined in the Constitution of India as fundamental right, the Governor called upon one and all to reassess, review, reform and retrospect themselves on the occasion of the foundation day and resolve to work on modalities to take the premier institution forward in all spheres of life. "This would serve the purpose of the day", he stated.

Speaking eloquently on the tremendous progress made by the university since its inception, the Governor advised to conduct more academic activities from time to time. Stressing on the strong need to have better coordination among teachers and students, he urged upon the faculties to take the responsibilities to work for over all personality growth of the students, besides being a coach, friend, philosopher and guide to them.

The Governor said that a conducive atmosphere is prerequisite to facilitate academic excellence and laid emphasis on

discipline, good teaching, full learning attendance and good management to take the University ahead. Transparency, accountability and honesty are some of the parameters for good administration and a collective responsibility of all stakeholders needed for an effective administration in the institution, he stated on the occasion.

Earlier, the Governor offered floral tribute at the Wall of Heroes and inaugurated the XL Foundation Day Exhibition organised to mark the occasion.

Prof. K.K. Agarwal, Former Vice Chancellor of GGSIU (Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University), New Delhi, while delivering the foundation day address called upon all to work towards making RGU a better sustainable institution in the days to come.

Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata in his key note address highlighted on the National Education Policy 2020.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor of RGU Prof. Saket Kushwaha in his opening remark spoke on the achievements and progress of the university since it was established on 4th February 1984 and later converted into a Central University in 9 April, 2007.

Prof. Sarit K. Chaudhuri, Chair person, XL Foundation Day celebration committee and Dr. N. T. Rikam, Registrar, RGU also spoke on the occasion.

Felicitation of retired employees of RGU by the Governor, rendition of university song by students of Department of Fine Arts & Music were other highlights of the programme.

Department of Skill Development organizes Annual Skill Mela cum Sensitization Rally 2023

ROING, February 5:

An Annual Skill Mela cum Sensitisation and Awareness Rally 2023 was organised at ITI, Roing on Feb 5 by the Department of Skill Development, in collaboration with District Administration, Lower Dibang Valley and Govt. ITI, Roing.

R. P. Maurya (GDGM, Dibang Multipurpose Project, NHPC) spoke about the need for development of skill training in order to improve the adaptability and acceptability of quality of the trainees. He also motivated the unemployed educated youth to focus on skilling themselves for self-sustenance.

Passang Norbu (MGNF, Lower Dibang Valley) briefed the gathering on different skill training programmes conducted by the state and central government. Somnath Paul (representative from Model Career Centre, Roing) also attended the programme and addressed the gathering.

Subash Pertin (Principal, ITI Roing) briefed the aspiring candidates about the programme and motivated them to avail the opportunity at its maximum and get themselves registered for different skill trainings. Registration for apprenticeship training through NAPS portal was also explained.

About 135 aspiring candidates participated in the programme and got themselves registered to undergo skill training in different sector. A campus placement drive was also conducted by INDUS TOWER LTD, Guwahati where 70 candidates from differ-

ent parts of the state participated. The Rally was attended by Training Providers INFOWAY IT SOLUTION, Miao and VELLURE FEBTEX, Guahati.

CM attend the 11th Raising Day of the 11 Para Unit of the Indian Army

TEZPUR, February 5:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Feb 5 attended the 11th raising Day of the 11 Para (Special Forces) unit of the Indian Army at Missamari Army Station.

Speaking on the occasion, Khandu hailed the expertise, professionalism and bravery of the Para units, which he said, have become an integral part of the Army for special operations.

“Relationship of 11 Para with Arunachal Pradesh is very strong... We have the feeling that it is our own unit due to its operational area,” he said.

Khandu praised the Indian Army posted along the international border with China that extends from one end of Arunachal Pradesh to the other, where the weather and geographic conditions are extremely harsh.

“As my assembly constituency consists of one of the most hard stretch of the border, I make it a point that at least once a year I visit all the border outposts. I salute the Army for successfully defending our borders despite extreme conditions with a smile. Every time I meet the jawans in the outposts, I always find their ‘josh’ high,” Khandu informed.

He further informed that road connectivity has improved drastically in recent years courtesy the central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Referring to Yangtse sector, which was recently in news, he said that road connectivity has been completed from two axis enabling immediate reinforcements in case of need.

“With the coming up of the Frontier Highway, sanctioned recently by MoRTH, connectivity along the border will become seamless and help movement of both our forces and civilians,” he said.

Khandu reiterated that people of Arunachal Pradesh, especially those living in border districts, have a very cordial relationship with the Indian Army.

“We are known as the land of ‘Jai Hind’. Our people are hard core patriots and have immense respect for the Indian Army,” he said.

The Chief Minister assured that the state government is always ready to assist and cooperate with the 11 Para and if requested will provide infrastructural or any other kind of assistance.

On the occasion, Khandu felicitated the ‘Veernaris’ – families of two soldiers who lost their lives on duty.

The Chief Minister also inspected sophisticated equipment used by the Para unit and interacted with the soldiers and their families. He later joined the sumptuous ‘Bada Khana’ to mark the occasion.

The 11 Para (Special Forces) was raised at Agra on 1st February 2011 as Army Hq Res deployment in the Eastern theatre. The battalion was inducted into Eastern Command at Umroi Military Station on 1st April 2012. Later it came under 4 Corps Hq on 1st March 2016 and relocated to Lama Camp, Missamari. The Battalion then moved to its permanent location at Missamari Military Station in January 2021.

The Battalion received regimental colours on 23 Feb 2022.

It has so far conducted successful operations like Op Hifazat (Manipur), Op Rhino (Assam), Op Falcon (Arunachal Pradesh), Op Snow Leopard (Arunachal Pradesh) and Op Orchid (Arunachal Pradesh).

The 11 Para SF is nicknamed ‘Vipers’ and specializes in Jungle Warfare and Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism operations.

2nd Edition of KJMPPL ended in a Beautiful Notch

PASIGHAT, February 6:

In the grand finale of KJMPPL played in between Sika Football Club (SFC) and Bogong Soccer Club (BSC) where Sika Football (SFC) won the match in tie breaker against Bogong Soccer Club (BSC).

In an individual prizes, Best Goalkeeper of the league received by Shri. Riten Bori of Sanggo Football Club (SFC), Highest Scorer Shri. Debong Kayin Mengu of Bogong Soccer Club (BSC), Emerging Player of the league Shri. Hanu Tari of Sika Football Club (SFC) and Player of the league received by Shri. Omin Pangging of Sika Football Club (SFC). The individual prizes received a Cheque, Certificate, Medal, Trophy and Cash prize of Rs. 6,000/- each.

The Runners Up team bagged the Bogong Soccer Club (BSC) by receiving a cash prize of Rs. 80,000/- with Cheque, Certificate, Medal and Trophy while Sika Football Club (SFC) written a history by winning first ever professional league in East Siang District with cash prize of Rs. 1,50,000/- with Cheque, Certificate, Medal and Trophy.

Attended as Chief Guest on closing match Shri Bishen

Mepo, Vice President, Idu Mishmi Cultural and Literary Society appreciated the organiser for making Jamoh's Memorial football league a grand success. He said that any sporting event meant to keep our spiritual awake and body alive and he also advises youngster to avoid drugs.

Guest of honour Gumpe Rime, Former Indian football player and also Coach of Indian Football team also graced the occasion. Standing his gratitude to Adi Bane Kebang and Abor youth foundation for making this event successful, he also stated that Kangir Jamoh sporting event though it's a kind of small step but in coming days this small step will create big platform for sports enthusiastic sport person.

The committee presented a token of appreciation to the sponsored team specially Jamoh Family for believing and trusting the committee, Medical team, Police team, Official for always supporting and yeoman service in any tournament and expected to same in the coming days as well.

The official of the match was Shri. Ashok Saring as Centre Referee, Shri. Kaling Perme as Assistant Referee, Miss. Renu Padung as Assistant Referee, Shri. Mirem Tayeng as fourth Official and Shri Rahul Tamuk as Match Commissioner.

A weeklong free computer course in Longding

LONGDING, February 6:

A weeklong free computer course by the DIPR office Longding started today at District Library cum Reading Room Longding. It was informed that the weeklong Course would include Basic skills on MS

office for the beginners. The course will include two days basic workshop on basics of Photoshop.

On enquiring it was told that the idea behind the program is to make interested individuals who could not afford computer courses to learn the basics of the computer for free. Also, another aim is to hone the skills of some officials and officers who wish to learn basic of computer. Initially plan was for 10 seats due to logistic issues; but owing to the requests it has been increased to 25 DIPR office added.

Governor felicitates NCC Cadets and Officers who represented Arunachal Pradesh at Republic Day NCC Contingents-2023

ITANAGAR, February 6:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.) on February 6, felicitated 3 NCC Cadets and Associate NCC Officers who represented the state of Arunachal Pradesh at Republic Day NCC Contingents-2023 in presence of State Education & Cultural Affairs Minister Taba Tedir at a brief but impressive function held here at Raj Bhawan.

The felicitation programme was organized in recognition of the merits of the concerned NCC Cadets.

Congratulating the cadets and the officers, the Governor said that NCC activities will help the youth in imbibing discipline, scientific temperament and spirit for inquiry and reform.

On the occasion, the Governor called upon the cadets to have a mission to be a hard working good citizen and have a helpful approach in life. Motivating them

to move on the path of progress, the Governor asked them to be a catalyst and a guide for others.

Recalling that he was a NCC Cadet way back in 1959, the Governor informed that Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi was also an NCC cadet and has done proud to NCC. "The State Government will provide all necessary assistance and logistic support through the department of Education for the expansion of the NCC in the State", he assured.

He strongly advocated for promoting more NCC activities in the state as it instills the commitment to the 'Nation First spirit'. "NCC Cadets must prepare to excel in every undertaking by virtue of disciplined approach", he said, and exhorted them to join Army to serve the society and the nation. He also encouraged the parents to send their children to serve the nation and urged upon the instructors to support the cadets through proper coaching to prepare them for military service.

"Well done, Keep it up", the Governor said, and wished the Cadets new heights of accomplishment in academics and NCC activities.

Minister Taba Tedir also spoke on the occasion and congratulated the cadets and their officers for the achievement. He said that the NCC inculcates discipline in life and called upon them to serve the state and nation with full dedication.

The three Cadets namely-SUO Deep Limbu, RGGP, Sgt Yaader Talom, DNGC and Cadet Aniya Bagang were felicitated with a laptop each, mementos and other presentations, while F/O Tobi Riba and other associate NCC officers, parents of the Cadets were also felicitated on the occasion.

2-Day District level sensitization training on social audit under MGNREGA, PMAY etc, under way in Tirap District

KHONSA, February 6:

A two-day District level sensitization training programme on Social Audit under MGNREGA, PMAY and other RD programs was successfully conducted at DC conference Hall, Khonsa for PRI's CO cum Member Secretary, BDOs, Block Resource person (Social Audit unit cell), Village resource person and other functionaries.

State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar had started Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) GoI, Sponsored 02 (Two) Days District Level Sensitisation on Social Audit for Tirap District, from 06th -08th Feb'2023.

The training aimed to educate and create awareness among the attendees about the significance of social audits, social audit process, jansunwai, role and responsibilities of different stakeholders for the proper conduct of Social Audit in ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of rural development programs. The program was conducted with the objective of empowering the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct effective social audits in their respective areas.

During the training, Tamar Baki, Core faculty (Asst. Director) cum Course coordinator, SIRD&PR, shared their insights on the procedures, guidelines and best practices for conducting social audits and emphasized the importance of involving communities

and stakeholders in the process. Participants were also trained on the use of various tools and technologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting.

The training received an overwhelming response from the attendees and received positive feedback for its impactful content and effective delivery. The participants appreciated the opportunity to enhance their understanding of social audits and expressed their commitment to incorporating the learnings in their future work. Total 78 nos of participants had been attended comprise of ZPMs, GPCs, Circle officers, BDO, Block Resource Persons (Social Audit unit), VRP, BFT, GRS and PRIs Functionaries etc.

Nekong Perme, Circle Officer, District, has expressed its gratitude to all the attendees and the trainers for their active participation and support in making the program a success. She had also emphasis to the participant to make a comprehensive economic development plan under Gram Panchayat Development (GPDP). She stress the the Social audit is one of the important tools for the improve and transform he villages under SDG Them on Good Governance. Telem Kitnya, APO(RE) DRDA, Khonsa also spokes on ensuring the effective implementation of rural development programs in the district and encourages the participants to take the lead in promoting transparency and accountability under Social Audit and take the benefit of this training programme.

02(Two) day District Level training programme on Social Audit was a vital step towards strengthening the implementation of rural development programs in the district and ensuring their inclusive and effective implementation.

The SIRD & PR, with Social Audit unit will continue to conduct such training programs in the future to further educate and empower the stakeholders.

DPDO Tirap district had distributed to all the PRI's and its functionaries the SoP (Handbook) under 10% State Own Revenues during the training programme of Social audit.

Assam Rifles organises Ex-Servicemen rally

JORHAT, February 6:

A mega Ex-Servicemen Rally was organised by Longding Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR North for the Veterans and Veer Naris of the force at Assam Rifles Garrison, Jorhat on February 6. The Rally was aimed at reaching out to the Veterans and their Next of Kin, from Jorhat, Shivsagar, Charaideo and Dibrugarh districts of Assam. The iconic rally, based on the theme "We care, We Share" was attended by over 360 veterans, Veer Nari's and Widows of these districts.

Maj Gen Vikas Lakhera, SM, Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) on behalf of the Lt Gen Pradeep Chandran Nair, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, PhD, Director General Assam Rifles graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He was accompanied by, Brig Swarn Singh, VSM, Deputy Inspector General, HQ 25 Sector Assam Rifles and other senior officers.

Addressing the gathering, the Inspector General Assam Rifles acknowledged the presence of the Veteran's, Veer Nari's and Widows in large numbers who travelled long distances to attend the rally. While interacting with the Veteran community, he reaffirmed the commitment of HQ Director General

Assam Rifles to ensure their welfare and dignity.

The elderly and needy Veterans were presented with Wheel Chairs, Hearing Aids and Walking Sticks by the Chief Guest which were sponsored by SBI Jorhat and Prahiri Life Insurance. In addition, the Veer Nari's, one decorated Ex Serviceman, President Assam Rifles Ex Servicemen Association, Jorhat were felicitated by the Chief Guest, Inspector General Assam Rifles (North). A large number of informative stalls were also established for the benefit of the Veterans. A special highlight of the event was free Dental Check up by 6 Dental Unit Assam Rifles and Eye Check up by Apeksha Hospital, Dibrugarh.

The exuberant performances by Assam Rifles Pipe Band, Jazz Band and traditional Bihu Dance by Assamese Cultural Dance troupe mesmerized the audience. The event concluded with a sumptuous lunch organized for the attendees. The Veteran community expressed their heartfelt thanks to Inspector General Assam Rifles for organizing the event.

Assam Rifles is the oldest and the most decorated Para Military Force of the Nation. With a rich history of valour and sacrifice spanning more than 187 years, the Assam Rifles has carved a niche for itself in operations and has contributed for the overall development of the Nation. It has been the Force that has contributed towards security of North Eastern states over the years of turmoil; thereby, rightly being known as the Force that Binds the North East. The rich legacy of the Force is primarily due to the spirit and enthusiasm of the men and women of Assam Rifles and the Force would forever be indebted for the selfless service to the nation. DIPRO

Moyong formally hands over State Share for PRIs in East Siang

PASIGHAT, February 6:

38th East Pasighat MLA, Kal-ing Moyong on Feb 6 formally handed over the 10% State Resources (SOR) Grants to the Gram Panchayats and Zilla Parishad of East Siang in a formal function organised by the department of Panchayat Raj, GoAP, at DC Conference hall, under the GoAP initiative for devolution of 10% share under State Own Revenue (SOR) to PRIs of the state and the subsequent fund release to the districts by the Panchayat department, in the presence of ZPC Olen Rome, DC Tayi Taggu, PD cum District Panchayat Development Officer (DPDO), Member Secretaries and all Zilla Parishad members (ZPMs) and Gram Panchayat Chairpersons (GPCs) of East Siang district..

Moyong, while addressing the PRI members called for prioritising schemes as per the sustainable, participatory, inclusive, comprehensive and empowering (SPICE) goal in their respective areas. The MLA stressed on health, education, organic farming and creating various other community assets as per the theme of localisation of sustainable development goals through Gram Panchayat Institutions.

The MLA also took the opportunity to highlight the various ongoing developmental projects and sought their cooperation.

DC Tayi Taggu also stressed on timely implementation of grass-root projects by chalking out their Action Plans in proper manner and for timely utilisation of SOR funds, so that performance grants could be availed.

ZPC Olen Rome extending

his gratitude to the leadership of CM Pema Khandu for the initiative of the state government said that it was a beginning in the process for empowering the grass-root through the 10% State share grant to PRIs. Rome also urged the PRIs members to work in coordination with their respective member Secretaries in formulating action Plans.

Earlier, District Panchayat Development Officer (DPDO), T. Padung also asked for timely submission of UCs for SOR funds and urged the sectoral working committee comprising of Gram Panchayat and Zilla Parishad members to identify critical gaps in grass root planning.

Annual Skill Development Mela held

KHONSA, February 6:

The department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with District Industries Centre, Tirap conducted Annual Skill Mela cum Skill Development and Awareness Rally, 2022-23 at District Industries Centre, Khonsa.

Earlier, C. Lowang, ADTH have mobilized the prospective unemployed youths for the skill development training.

Joint Director of Industries DIC, Khonsa Pongrem Arangham informed that the purpose of conducting Annual Skill Dev. Mela was to sensitize the unemployed youth, school drop-outs and unskilled youth pertinent to various skill development training scheme.

Before enrolment of the unemployed youth, Shri. Sankalp Bhatia, MGNF has categorically counselled the participating youths.

Altogether 94 unemployed youths participated and enrolled themselves under various trades as shown in here, Automotive-27, Banking-4, Power-6, Food Processing-2, Electronics & Hardware-6, Aerospace-5, Information Technology-11, Healthcare-3, Beauty Care-3, Tourism & Hospitality-11, Handicraft-2, Plumber-4, Infrastructure Equipment-1, Mason-1, Carpentry-2, Apparel-2, Stenographer-3, Logistics-1. Total -94.

L/Subansiri DC bats for empowerment of youth

ZIRO, February 6:

Calling for empowerment of youth, Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner Bamin Nime said that acquiring correct matching skills which would help in finding suitable employment coupled with dignity of labour were the mantras for empowerment of the youth.

Speaking at the Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship organized one-day workshop in collaboration with District Industries Centre Ziro under SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) here at Abotani Hall, the DC called for convergence of the various training programmes available with the line departments to make them fruitful and meaningful.

Appealing the youth to supplement the effort of the District Administration in better waste management at the valley, DC emphasized on the need for innovation and the pivotal role of Information, Education and Communication in shaping the innovative mindsets of the youth.

The main objective of the workshop was to empower the

youth by creating awareness on the various ongoing schemes of the line departments and its respective benefits and to provide a common platform to all other Development Departments to talk, create awareness and sensitize their ongoing schemes to the public.

Assistant Director DIC Ziro Mudang Tago welcomed the participants while Assistant Director SDE Bullo Apa briefed the objectives of the workshop. Apa made a comprehensive presentation on various ongoing schemes under the Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship including provisions for fresh skilling and upskilling available under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the high-end skill development training programme available under the Chief Minister Yuva Kaushal Yojana which provided high salaried jobs. He also informed that vocational trainings to youth were imparted by the seven Industrial Training Institutes of the state. Besides the Department also promotes apprenticeship schemes and specified skilled workers.

While informing the various ongoing training programmes taken up by Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in the state, IIE state coordinator Jisuel Dongri informed about Eri Silk Khadi Cluster training programme at Oyan in East Siang District and the community-based cluster training programme at Diyun among others.

Sub-Divisional Horticulture Officer Hibu Dante, Agricultural Development Officer Joram Robi, senior veterinary officer Dr. Kime Gyati, fishery officer K. Prakashto, Lead Bank Manager Ajay Kumar Choudhury and Principal Govt. ITI Manipolyang Lobsang Tenzin also attended as resource persons and spoke about

various schemes and training programmes available under their departments at the workshop attended by 260 youth from various parts of the District.

One Day Seminar organized by KVIC and RGU

RONO HILLS, February 7:

A one day seminar was organized jointly by Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Rajiv Gandhi University on the 7th of February 2023. The seminar was held at the conference hall of Institute of Distance Education, Rajiv Gandhi University. Prof. Saket Kushwaha, VC, RGU was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Mr. Chetan Singh, Executive Director, KVIC, Mr. Amandeep, Regional Director, KVIC and Prof. Sumpam Tangjang, Organizing Chairman of the program also shared the dais with the chief guest. The program started with the University song followed by the felicitation of the Guests. Prof. Tangjang gave the opening remarks and explained the motive of the program. This has been done to sensitize the youth about the various initiatives that the government is taking in order to fulfill the vision of a self-sufficient nation, he remarked.

Shri. Chetan Singh listed all the developmental works that are being taken up by KVIC across India. He highlighted the loans that have been given to Medium and Small Scale Industries (MSME's) in India. The government is steadfast in its focus on developing the rural economy of this country. KVIC has been playing a pivotal role in the realization of this dream, he said. Shri. Amardeep said that KVIC has expanded in the various villages and

propagated the use of handicrafts. Most of the items prepared by the organizations related to KVIC are hand crafted. This has helped in the distribution of wealth among the people in the village. He concluded his speech by saying that although there is a lot to be done; programs such as these will bring awareness among the mainstream masses about the work done by KVIC. This will further enhance the development of the village industry as the youth will participate in this process.

This program also included the prize distribution ceremony for the essay and debate competition that were held earlier under the PEP. Moge Karga, Department of Commerce, RGU secured the first position in the essay competition. Andy Tasing, Department of Education, RGU, RGU and Soffai Tajang, Department of Social Work, RGU, secured the second and third positions respectively. The first prize in debate competition was bagged by Kabit Siram, Department of English, RGU. Joram Tekhi, Department of English, Institute of Distance Education, RGU and Yagyaj, Department of English, RGU were adjudged the joint second in the debate competition. The third prize was won by Priyanka Sengupta, Department of English, Institute of Distance Education, RGU.

“The country needs people who are both job seekers and job givers”, said the VC, RGU. He said that it is important for people to become entrepreneurs. According to him it is a historical fact that nations with majority of job creators has always prospered. In order to increase the individual living standards it is important for people to update their skills frequently. He said that recruiters look for people who are eager

to learn. He also talked about various individuals who have improved the standard of living of poor people in villages by targeted intervention. With the support of KVIC these people have not only helped improve ease of living but also generated many employment opportunities for the unemployed. He took the example of many such innovative ideas which have benefited the society. One of them was that of and distempers developed from cow dung. Apart from being cost effective they also help in waste management. He concludes his speech by saying that there is no dearth of problems in this world, we need more and more individuals who are innovative enough to take the challenge to solve them. In doing so, they generate opportunities not only from themselves, but also for the society as a whole. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Moyir Riba, Assistant Prof. Department of Education, RGU.

DC Itanagar provide smart interactive display for smart class rooms to GHSS Itanagar & Arunodaya

ITANAGAR, February 7: GHSS Itanagar and GHSS Arunodaya were provided with smart interactive display/ panel/ board for smart class rooms by the Deputy Commissioner Capital Itanagar Talo Potom.

He donated 10 nos each of SIDB to both the schools.

EAC (Education) Dr Dana Unna informed that training on use of SIDB has been imparted to all the teachers of GHSS Arunodaya today and the same will be organised for teachers of GHSS Itanagar too.

The DC said that this is a great achievement in the field of modern education which will empower children/ students to learn, to interact and to participate through audio visual content from around the web which also will provide value education, life skill education and experimental learning to the students.

Governor awards the meritorious soldiers of Assam Rifles

ITANAGAR, February 8:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd) presented Governor's Gold and Silver Medals to Assam Rifles Personnel at Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. The ceremony was organized for the investiture of the medals to the awardees. The highlight of the function was the paying of complements to the meritorious soldiers of Assam Rifles for their selfless duty, professionalism and gallant action in service of the nation.

While, complimenting the award winners the Governor said that the Assam Rifles personnel because of their exemplary sense of duty have made the Assam Rifles the object of praise for every citizen of the North East India.

The dedication and contribution that the Assam Rifles have given to the North Eastern region in everything are highly commendable and appreciated, the Government added.

Brig. Swan Sing, VSM Sector Commander, 25 Assam Rifles while thanking the Governor and the congratulating the Award winners, said the Assam Rifles is the oldest Para Mili-

tary Force, dating back to 1835, raised under the name Cachar Levy.

In the Northeastern states, the Assam Rifles is the specialized force that carries out Counter Insurgency Operations and border guarding along the Indo-Myanmar border in the most inhospitable and treacherous terrain and adverse weather conditions. The Force with its rich history extending over 187 yrs, speaks volumes of its glorious achievements, unflinching loyalty and supreme sacrifice in the true tradition of Indian Army.

In all 17 (Seventeen) Personnel were conferred medals – 7 Gold and 10 Silvers.

The First Lady Neelam Mishra, Air Commodore, RD Mosabi (Retd), Brig, Anirudh Konwar, Chief Engineer Project Arunank BRO, Officers, JCOs and other Ranks were present amongst other in the award function.

Mega Credit camp organized at Gumin Kinn

AALO, February 8:

The “Mega Credit Camp” was organized by Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission, District Mission Management Unit Basar at Gumin Kinn, Aalo on 08th February 2023.

Penga Tato, Deputy Commissioner, West Siang District, graced the program as Chief Guest, while addressing the gathering he suggested all members of SHGs to register in social security scheme. Also urge SHGs to use the loan sanction amount judiciously in livelihoods and economic activities.

During the camp a total loan amount of Rs. 9,778,475/- sanction to 92 SHGs of Aalo West facili-

tated by Block Mission Management Unit Aalo West. An amount of Rs. 6,634,475/- to 68 SHGs sanction by APRB, amount of Rs. 2,071,000/- to 20 SHGs sanctioned by Apex Bank and an amount of Rs. 1,073,00/- to 4 SHGs sanctioned by SBI. At present BMMU Aalo West has facilitated 121 SHGs covering 1080 household, formed 19 Primary level federation and one Model Cluster Level Federation of women SHGs.

Manoj Kumar, Chief Manager SBI Aalo, has ensured to provide all possible support to SHGs in term of account opening and credit linkage.

Jarbom Taipodia, District Mission Manager, ArSRLM brief the gathering about the achievement of ArSRLM is the Aalo CD Block.

Onyang Pali, Block Mission Manager, Aalo West and Dugam Ete, DTC FI also spoke the the occasion.

HoD's, SHGs and public's were attended the camp.

DLTF meeting on illegal mining and illegal transportation of minerals held

YUPIA, February 9:

“Any discussion on the extraction of natural resources for development is a seesaw battle between demand and its impact. However our demands should be regulated to slow the impact on the nature and to ensure a sustainable development,” Papum Pare Deputy Commissioner Sachin Rana said while chairing the meeting of the District Level Task Force on illegal mining and illegal transportation of minerals, convened in the DC Conference Hall, Yupia on Thursday, February 9.

On learning about many quarries operating without proper license, DC Rana asked the quarry and the crusher owners to apply for the for legal permits within 15 days by producing all the prerequisite documents as notified by the Government for obtaining the quarrying license. He further directed that “no quarrying activity shall be held within 50 meters of the Electric transmission towers and the railway bridge at Dikrong River in Doimukh.”

While directing the Police, Transport and the Geology and Mining officials to carry out joint surprise raids and checks on the illegal mining activities DC Rana added that, “The check on rampant mining and quarrying activities is a comprehensive task and needs absolute cooperation from all the stakeholders.”

Superintendent of Police Dr. Nyelam Nega while addressing the gathering called for “generating a continuous sense of awareness among the people thriving in the mining bearing region and involving the participation of common people in protection, development and harnessing minerals”.

Expressing his anguish on the present condition of the rivers Dikrong, Pachin, Pare etc. from that of 10 years ago he added that “The present condition of these rivers is a resultant of the rampant quarrying activities and there is a need to adopt a balance approach to these activities,”

He suggested for devising a “planto restrict and limit stone crusher installations within a certain stretch of the river and also based on the replenishment of the rivers during the monsoon.

Assistant Director, Dept. of Mining and Geology Tassar-Talo highlighted the roles and re-

sponsibilities of the members of the District Level Task Force. He also spoke about the procedure to obtain quarrying and stone crusher license; emphasizing on the need for a District mining survey report and mining plan which has been newly included as a prerequisite for obtaining quarrying license.

Highlighting the provisions under Arunachal Pradesh Minor Mineral Concession Rule 2020 he further informed that “illegal extraction of minerals can lead to an imprisonment of one year or with fine which may extend to 2 lakh rupees or with both.

Members of the Quarry and stone crusher associations also spoke. They unanimously called for creating awareness on the procedure to obtain legal permits and dos and donts of quarrying and mining activities and suggested for installing signage at prominent locations.

Among others ADC, T Bodung, admin officers, officials from Department of Geology and Mining and the members of the DLTF and the quarry and stone crusher associations of Papum Pare attended the meeting.

Interstate boundary issues resolved

PASIGHAT, February 9:

The 3rd meeting of Regional Committees for interstate boundary of East Siang (AP) and Dhemaji district (Assam) was held recently at Hotel Ratnamouli Palace, Guwahati (Assam). With successful culmination of the Regional Committee meeting, the longstanding interstate boundary issues within East Siang District have been resolved, informed East Siang Deputy Commissioner Tayi Taggu on February 9.

The MLA-cum-Chairman of the Regional Committee, East Siang District (Arunachal Pradesh) Ninong Ering and Cabinet Minister (Assam)-cum-Chairman of Regional Committee, Dhemaji District (Assam) Jayanta Malla Baruah, DC East Siang Tayi Taggu, DC Dhemaji AK Bhattacharya and the members of both the committees after threadbare discussion on the reports of East Siang and Dhemaji administrations, and on examination of the existing settlements along the interstate boundary, arrived at a resolution and adopted the mutually agreed upon boundary line with geo-coordinates as the interstate boundary line, acceptable by both the committees.

From East Siang (AP), the historic meeting was also attended by ADC Mebo-cum-Nodal Officer (Border Affairs) Ainstein Koyu, CO Namsing Radhe Tatung, AMBK GS and VP Okom Yosung and Mojit Pao respectively and Mondal John Panyang.

Minister (Assam) Dr. Ronuj Pegu, Jonai MLA Bhupon Pegu, Principal Secretary G.D. Tripathi, Commissioner and Secretary Assam Akash Deep, Secretary Prabhati Thaosen, CEM (MAC) and EM Parmananda Chayengia and Raju Medok respectively represented Assam.

Expressing his extreme happiness over the development, DC Taggu asserted that the long pending boundary issues between Dhemaji district of Assam and East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh was successfully resolved.

Agreement signed in Guwahati wouldn't have been possible without hard-work of Health Minister (AP) Alo Libang, MLAs Ninong Ering and Lombo Tayeng, ADCs Ainstein Koyu and Tajing Jonnom, COs Tadhe Tatung and Oyam Saring and their associates,

AMBK executives Okom Yosung, Raju Medok and Mojit Pao, said Taggu.

It was friction point to ignite more problems and miseries, he stated adding that efforts of all will always be remembered by the people of both the districts, ushering a new era of cordial relationship with the neighboring state.

CS apprises the status of aspirational dist programme during a review meeting

NAMSAI, February 9:

Chief Secretary Dharmendra was apprised of the status of the aspirational district programme (ADP) during a review meeting attended by all HoDs and officers of the Namsai district administration here on Thursday, February 9.

Stating that “the education sector is yet to improve post Covid,” the CS urged the DC to “curate plans to improve the education scenario and learning outcome.”

“Education sector needs intervention. The quality of education being imparted needs to be assessed, for which expert opinion may be sought from specialised organisations,” he suggested.

Dharmendra also took stock of the progress of the ‘amritsarovar’ sites and other developmental projects in the district.

Acknowledging the scope for improving the veterinary sector, he urged the DVO to “organise the sector.”

Responding to information regarding shortage of human resource in the district, the CS assured to “discuss and endorse the matter for proper solution.”

Namsai DC CR Khampa highlighted the shortcomings and

problems being faced in the district. The CS was apprised also of the infrastructure and human resource gap in the medical, veterinary, and other sectors.

DPO Dr K Sharma presented a brief on the NITI Aayog's ADP, and informed that "the district has consistently performed well across all basic parameters of ADP."

Speaking about the education sector, he said that, "to build competitiveness among students, regular Olympiads are being organised in schools."

He gave assurance that "a letter will be written to Piramal Foundation to assess the progress of learning outcome in schools."

DC inspects remaining Utilities inside Right of Way of NH -13

AALO, February 9:

The West Siang District Deputy Commissioner Shri Penga Tato accompanied by ADC cum Estate Officer Shri Henkir Lollen, Circle Officer Miss Tage Moonya, Officers of Highway, PHED, Power Department, former Minister Shri Doi Ado, Shri Kento Ete and other senior members of ATPWDS and representatives of TTC Infra India Ltd. inspected the remaining Electric poles and Water supply lines inside acquired ROW of NH-13 obstructing the widening work of highway at Aalo town stretch to 4-lane. The team identified all the remaining utilities to be shifted from the Right of Way.

The DC also instructed the concerned Department to shift all the remaining utilities at the earliest in coordination with the contractor and all stakeholders to facilitate completion of the work within this March as targeted by Contractor.

The inspected team also inspected the approach road of Old Market, Puak Gumin and Yomgo River to be restored which was breached due to construction of retaining wall for widening of the Highway.

Tsering Lhamu officially declared winner

TAWANG, February 10:

The returning officer for the by-election to the Lungla assembly constituency in Tawang district, RD Thungon, handed over the certificate of election to BJP candidate Tsering Lhamu on February 10 after she won the election uncontested.

Lhamu, the first woman legislator from Tawang, conveyed her gratitude to the other political parties for supporting her candidature for the Lungla assembly seat, which had fallen vacant after her husband Jambey Tashi – who was the Lungla MLA – passed away recently.

Also thanking the people of the constituency, she said that she would give her best to complete the unfinished projects initiated by her late husband.

Lhamu also conveyed her gratitude to Chief Minister Pema Khandu and all other legislators of the state assembly.

Annual Skill Mela held

AALO, February 10:

A total of 120 male and female youths registered for skill development training during a 'skill mela' organised here in West Siang district by the skill development department on February 10.

Industry Deputy Director Tayi Rakshap, who along with

West Siang DC Penga Tato attended the event, highlighted the importance of skill development, and informed the youths that "hundreds of unemployment youths become self-employed or entrepreneurs."

CDPO (i/c) Bahi Koyu advised the participating students and youths about dignity of labour, while the DC advised them to "avail the opportunities provided by the state and central governments."

He added that "the government alone cannot provide white-collar jobs," and said that, "instead of running from pillar to post for jobs, the youths should try to become self-reliant and self-employed."

Representatives of Nirjuli-based Dadi Humgo Charitable Society informed the participants about job placement opportunities that they may avail of "after completion of the course."

The labour & employment ministry urged the job seekers to "register their details" at the labour office here, and assured that they would be provided assistance "for further skill-related job matching services" under the National Career Service.

HoDs, students of the government higher secondary school here, and unemployed youths attended the programme.

Security Coordination meeting held at Battalion Hq, Khonsa

KHONSA, February 10:

The Assam Rifles' Khonsa Battalion Commandant, Col Aman Ahluwalia, has asked the business owners of the district not to support militant groups or their illegal activities, especially by giving into their extortion demands.

Col Ahluwalia was addressing a 'security coordination meeting' with shopkeepers, business owners, taxi owners and local residents, in the presence of police officials here in Tirap district on Friday, February 10.

Commending the business owners for their wholesome support to the security forces and government officials,

The commandant highlighted "the importance of a successful and progressive community in providing employment opportunities to locals to wean them away from the vices plaguing the society."

The commandant also appreciated the gathering of the general situation in Tirap district.

The concerns of the business community with regard to unlawful activities of insurgents, including extortion, kidnapping, recruitment of insurgents and other nefarious activities were addressed during the meeting.

The attendees were also made to understand the apparatus in place to provide them holistic security by the security forces.

All the attendees expressed their unity against insurgency, extortion and abduction, and reiterated their allegiance to security forces in the district.

Workshop on TRI project held at RGU

RONO HILLS, February 10:

A workshop on the Tribal Research Institute's (TRI) project titled 'Sanitation among the scheduled tribes of Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh' was organised at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) on February 10.

"The project is funded by the social justice, empowerment &

tribal affairs department, and the project work is executed by TRI nodal officer Dr Bikash Bage, and Dr Ashi Lama of the economics department," the university informed in a release.

The workshop was aimed at imparting knowledge about sanitation and its importance among the students, scholars, research staffers and faculty members, it said.

Addressing the participants, Prof Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri said that "there is a need to conduct quality research to understand the issues pertaining to the tribal society."

"The tribal society has its own unique indigenous knowledge system for sanitary practices. This needs to be understood and explored for better hygienic practices and good health and wellbeing of the people," he said.

DC inspects block points

YINGKIONG, February 10:

Upper Siang DC Hage Lailang on February 10 inspected the 'block points' between Bomdo and Janbo villages to take stock of the situation.

During his interaction with officials of construction agency KRC Infra Projects Pvt Ltd and the BRO, the DC enquired about the status of the road construction work. He directed the construction agencies to "open the road for traffic movement from 14 February."

Earlier, the DC issued a traffic advisory for closure of the road from Bomdo to Janbo for 10 days from 5 February onwards, at the request of the BRO and KRC Infra Projects Pvt Ltd.

The road serves as a lifeline for the residents of Janbo village, Tuting subdivision, and the armed forces.

DIC organizes Skill Mela cum Awareness Rally

PASIGHAT, February 10:

Annual Skill Mela cum Awareness Rally, 2022-23 was organized by the District Industries Center (DIC), Pasighat at the DIC conference hall on Friday, February 10 where over 30 unemployed and unskilled youths participated.

The annual programme is aimed at creating awareness among the unemployed and unskilled youths and school and college dropouts about various trades and sectors.

Addressing the participants, Industries Deputy Director Matsam Jamoh said that "the mela has been brought up with the objective to provide skill development training to the unskilled unemployed youths as a great source of empowerment."

"It will not only provide them skills to make a living but also give them a sense of confidence and self-esteem," he said, and added that "the DIC will provide training and resources to the youths in order to secure their future." Pasighat SBI LDM P Basumatari apprised the participants of the benefits of skill development. "Skilled and talented human resource is needed to thrive in today's world," he said.

Vocational training provider from Assam-based Valeur Fobex Pvt Ltd, Prince Chiring, spoke about "the trades and sectors" offered by his institute, and urged the participants to submit their basic data for enrollment.

Among others, ADTH Li-bang Perme, AEO (Labour & Employment) Omey Taggu, EI Hunti Koyu, and EO U Prasad attended the programme.

Governor presents Citations to Vice-Chancellor of RGU, professors and Silver Salver to ITBP, BRO and Principal PTC Banderdewa

ITANAGAR, February 11:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.) presented Governor's Citation to Prof. Saket Kushwala, Vice-Chancellor Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) for his literary acumen, administrative competence and outstanding contribution in the transformative up-gradation of RGU, the lone Central University in Arunachal Pradesh. The other faculty members of RGU, whose good work and distinguished contributions to the students were also cited by the Governor, in a solemn function on February 11, 2023 at Raj Bhavan.

The RGU faculty members who were cited by the Governor are Prof. SK Nayak Department of Economics, Prof. B Nayak Department of English, Prof. P K Acharya Department of English, Dr. K P Sing Department of Social Studies, Dr. Miazi Hazam, Department of English, Ashok Barman Department of Music and Subendu Mannan Department of Music for their hard work and excellence in the field of education.

The Governor also presented Silver Salver to Shyam Mehrotra IG, North Eastern Frontier Hq, ITBP, Brig. Anirudh Singh Kanwar, Chief Engineer Project Arunank, BRO and Neha Yadav, IPS Principal PTC, Banderdewa for their commendable performance and professional competence.

The Governor while congratulating the award recipients for their professionalism and good managerial skills implored the

awardees to continue their good performance and elan.

The First Lady, Neelam Mishra, SN Mosobi DIG (Admin), ITBP, Dy Comdt. Sanjay Kumar, Asst Comdt Janardan Pagar, Monita Kanwar, Udai Singh Kanwar, Inspector Uday Bahadur Chetty, Instructor PTC and H/C Habum Lalia Instructor PTC were present in the event.

Training programme on ANBY, APY organised

KHONSA, February 11:

A training programme for the beneficiaries of the Aatma nirbhar Bagwani Yojana (ANBY) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was conducted in phases in Deomali and here in Tirap district on 11 and 13 February, respectively, by the horticulture department.

"During the programmes, officials of the department gave a detailed presentation on ANBY and APY," District Horticulture Officer P Dev said in a release.

Informing about the components of the schemes, Dev informed that "there is 45 percent government subsidy, 45 percent bank loan, and only 10 percent will have to be borne by the beneficiary."

The training programme in Deomali was chaired by Deomali ZPM Wangphoon Lowang, while in Khonsa, it was chaired by Khela ZPM Tumwang Lowang.

Ering takes stock of developmental activities

PASIGHAT, February 11:

Pasighat West MLA Ninong Ering accompanied by the DC Tayi Taggu, Bilat CO TD Bapu, PRI leaders

and GB inspected the under construction MMJ (Mirem-Mikong-Jonai) road and PLT (Pasighat-Ledum-Tene) road and bridges on February 11.

He instructed the construction agencies to strictly maintain the quality as per DPR and complete the project in time and ensure durability.

Later, addressing a public meeting at Mirem, Ering stated that the governance reforms undertaken in recent time by the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Pema Khandu has been unprecedented in economic growth and prosperity of the state and therefore politics should not be used as hindrance to the development.

"Long pending border issues of East Siang with neighboring Assam was resolved amicably and that would usher in a new era of development", he expressed hope. Listing out ongoing projects and achievements of his jurisdiction, the MLA opined that people should shun politics and come together for bumper development of their own areas. Quoting that "Development does not happen overnight; it needs cooperation of the people and continuous efforts by the elected leaders and other stakeholders", the veteran leader stated adding that he was committed to bring all-round development of the entire constituency.

"Priorities would be given to education, health, drinking water supply, electricity, irrigation and road connectivity, besides taking up other pending issues. Most of the projects have high degree of readiness and few were already under implementation", he informed.

Ering advised the people to take good care of education of their children and be vigilant against drug abuse among the school going children.

After patient hearing public priorities and grievances, the MLA held open discussion with the DC and local officers and instructed them to ensure smooth delivery of all people oriented services.

Ering also laid stress on hike of wages/salaries of Anganwadi workers and vocational teachers and assured to raise the issue at appropriate level.

Earlier in the day, the MLA and the DC inaugurated a Seva Aapke Dwar camp in Mirem, where 26 government departments provided doorstep services to the people.

Goats distributed to beneficiaries

LONGDING, February 11:

The animal husbandry, veterinary & dairy development department distributed six goats each – comprising five females and one male – to 20 beneficiaries on February 11 under the National Livestock Mission.

A total of 117 beneficiaries in the district are expected to benefit from the scheme.

DC Bani Lego urged the beneficiaries to “avail the scheme provided by the government in a responsible manner, in order to generate sustainable income.”

District Veterinary Officer Dr TS Miji informed that “this is a 100 percent subsidy scheme to assist and encourage poor and marginalised farmers to take part in animal husbandry and for uplift of livelihood,” and advised the beneficiaries to take proper care of the goats provided to them.

Kanubari-based Senior Veterinary Officer Dr CA Tingkhatra highlighted “the feeding and management of goaterly rearing” to the beneficiaries, while Longding

Veterinary Officer Dr Mitek Tarang spoke about medication, vaccination and prevention of diseases in the animals.

All Female Pasighat Cyclothon conducted Bicycle Rally

PASIGHAT, February 11:

Over 20 women of Pasighat Cyclothon participated in a kick starting event in a “freedom to walk cycle run and cycle to work campaign.” The event was organised by Pasighat Smart City Development Corporation (PSDCL) in collaboration with East Siang District Administration, Woman Against Social Evil (WASE) and Adi Bane Ane Kebang (ABAK) on February 11.

The theme of the event is to bring long term behavioral change in general public to embrace walking cycling and running and making street safer for pedestrians and cyclists alike while emphasizing youth to adopt walking cycling and running as a form of recreational activities and means to remained fit and healthy while staying away from abusive substances.

The event was led by Dr. Manjuli Komut, Chief Executive Officer (PSDCL) and Jaya Tasing Moyong, General Secretary, WASE Ane, in the presence of Taye Taggu, East Siang Deputy Commissioner, Aishwarya Sharma, Commandant 5th IRBN, East Saing, Pasighat Chief Municipal Councillor Okiam Moyong Borang, Tani Taloh, Member Secretary, PMC, District Disaster Management Officer and others.

In the interview, both Borang and Sharma appreciated Dr. M. Komut and her PSDCL team for organizing such important event and they also appreciated

both WASE Ane and ABAK for giving their selfless service in need and also their commendable job in eradicating social stigma and use of abusive substances. Both emphasized on walking and cycling to all gender with the prime purpose to keep environment clean and to stay healthy.

Skill Mela-cum-sensitization programme conducted at Yingkiong.

YINGKIONG, February 12:

Fifty-two educated unemployed youths participated in the annual ‘skill mela-cum-sensitization programme’ of the Upper Siang District Industries Centre (DIC) on February 12 conducted in collaboration with the district administration and the skill development & entrepreneurship department. ADC (HQ) Dochora Lama, who attended the programme, urged the youths to “get skilled up instead of sitting idle at home,” and advised them to avail of the benefits of the government schemes.

DIC ADI Mukkin Megu also motivated the youths to learn new skills, and apprised them of “skill training programmes such as Japanese language learning training, cabin crew training, etc, which have good potential of earning in future.”

Mahbub Alam Mazumder of the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship urged the candidates to “enrol in training provided under government schemes like PM-KVY, CMYKVY, NAPS, etc, and get skilled.”

Three vocational training providers – Valeur Fabtex, Nurture Employability & Economic Development Society, and the Netaji Seva Sansthan – participated in the

mela and enrolled the candidates in various trades.

Worang Festival Celebrated at Lazu

LAZU, February 12:

The Worang Juku (festival) of the Olo community was celebrated with much enthusiasm and traditional gaiety here in Tirap district on February 12.

Attending the festival, Namsai MLA Chow Jingnu Namchoom said that “culture and religion are two different entities and the two must not be allowed to clash with each other.”

Stating that festivals like Worang provide the people an opportunity to share their joy and happiness, besides fostering peace and harmony, he appealed to the community members to preserve their rich culture and traditions. The MLA also stressed on women empowerment for all-round development of the society.

Responding to a public request, he assured to have a ‘pang’ (male dormitory) constructed for Laju.

Tirap DC Hento Karga urged the villagers to “shun opium cultivation and addiction,” and advised them to “go in for cash crops under central and state government sponsored flagship programmes, instead of illegal opium cultivation.”

He further advised them to “engage in agriculture, horticulture and veterinary activities” to improve their livelihood.

Festival organising committee president Rangmo Ranto highlighted the significance and mythology of Worang festival.

Colourful folkdances performed by troupes from various Olo villages were some of the main attractions of the festival.

Public leader Nabam Kojum, chief patron Phawang Lowang, Tirap ZPC Chathong Lowang, district and state BJP leaders, the ZPMs of Dadam, Soha, Deomali, Bari Basip, Khela and Khonsa, chiefs and GBs attended the festival.

Annual skill mela held

TEZU, February 12:

The annual skill mela of the Lohit DIC was organised in headquarters Tezu on Sunday, February 12.

SDO Lui spoke on the need to “build the capacity of unemployed youths by providing them quality skill training, leading to meaningful employment, thus improving the local economy.”

The DIC enrolled more than 90 candidates under the skill development initiative, the CMYKY, and the PMKVY.

Industries Deputy Director Pem Chom Lama apprised the participants of the importance of such schemes.

Representatives of vocational training providers like Valeur Fabtex Pvt Ltd (Sadiya) and Infoway IT Solutions (Miao), besides NIELIT teams from Itanagar and Pasighat, and the Art of Living training centre in Tezu participated in the mela.

Governor presents Governor's Silver Salver to 5 battalions of 5 MADRAS Regiment

ITANAGAR, February 13:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.) presented the Governor's Silver Salver to the 5 (Five) Battalions of the 5 MADRAS Regiment at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on February 13, 2023.

Felicitating the Personnel of 5 MADRAS, the Governor praised the Regiment for their dedicated operational duty, alertness in dealing with emergency situations and advised them to shoulder the responsibility to uphold the Battalion and Regiment's name, fame and elan.

Recalling his early days of joining the 18 MADRAS (Mysore) Regiment on his commissioning from Indian Military Academy (IMA) way back in 1961, the Governor praised the Regiment for its professional competence and devotion to duty. He said that each and every one, right from the junior most sepoy up to the commanding officer in the Battalion is the stakeholders in the Battalion and have collective responsibility to raise the ‘Name and Fame’ of the Regiment and serve the nation with dedication and commitment.

Col RP Singh, Captain Akash Yadaav, Sub Major B Gunni Raju, Sepoy B Ramesh Naidu and Sepoy Basavaraj M received the Governor's Trophy on the occasion.

Among others, State's First Lady Neelam Mishra also attended the function.

Siang Trust organizes free Medical camp at Namsing

PASIGHAT, February 13:

“Siang Trust” in collaboration with National Medicos Organization and Seva Bharti Purvanchal conducted one-day free medical camp at Namsing village under Mebo subdivision as part of 20th Dhanvantari Seva Yatra on February 13.

The camp was inaugurated by local ZPM Gumin Tayeng and Medicine Specialist Dr. Rakesh Mahla along with three doctors

from Rajasthan and Assam and medical staffers from PHC Nam-sing extended free services to more than seventy patients from Namsing and adjoining villages in the said camp.

Various clinical tests including blood sugar, blood pressures etc were also conducted and free medicines were distributed to the patients. The President and Secretary of Siang Trust Dr. Onik Moyong and Mohonto Pangging respectively informed that the team will conduct more such free medical camps at Adi Pasi, Rottung, Rengging and Ledum villages in the coming days.

Workshop on Sankalp, skill mela organised

NAMSAI, February 13:

The skill development & entrepreneurship department, in collaboration with the Namsai district administration and the Arunachal University of Studies (AUS) organised a workshop on 'Skill acquisition and knowledge awareness for livelihood promotion (Sankalp)', along with a 'skill mela-cum-sensitisation and awareness rally' at the AUS here on Monday, February 13.

The workshop was aimed at creating awareness among the youths about various ongoing schemes being implemented by the state government.

It was attended by more than 150 youths from different backgrounds, besides the resource persons and other invitees.

'Major Bob Khating Day' celebrated

TAWANG, February 14:

Tawang celebrated 'Major Bob Khating Day' at the war memorial

on February 14.

Deputy Commissioner Kesang Ngurup Damo unfurled the national flag and paid tribute to Maj Ralengnou Bob Khating, who consolidated the Shimla pact of 1914 and made Tawang an integral part of India on 6 February, 1951.

This was the first celebration of its kind, organised by the Indian Army's Tawang Brigade. The brigade's commander, Brig NM Bendigeri and all other ranks also paid tributes to Maj Khating.

GBs from various villages, along with Monpa Mimang Tsogpa secretary-general Namgey Tsering, public leaders, ex-servicemen, officers and jawans of the paramilitary forces stationed in Tawang, students, and others participated in the event.

The DC in his address conveyed gratitude to the Indian Army, especially the 5 Mountain Division GOC and Brig Bendigeri "for initiating such an important day," and added that, "in the coming years, this day can be celebrated as Tawang Day, since on 14 February, 1951, Maj Khating for the first time hoisted the Indian national flag in Tawang, making it an integral part of the great nation."

He informed that, at the initiative of the state government, "a state-of-the-art museum in memory of Major Bob Khating will be coming up soon," and expressed hope that "from next year on, this day could be dedicated to the public."

Damo also urged the ex-servicemen to "set example to their respective villagers in matter of discipline and sincerity."

The DC and the brigadier felicitated the GBs and a family member of an employee who had served under Maj Khating.

Governor felicitates Raj Bhawan employees

ITANAGAR, February 14:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.) has felicitated some of the Raj Bhawan employees who worked closely with the Governor for the last many years at a small function held at Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on February 14.

The Governor Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.) who entered upon the office of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh on 3rd October 2017 has been appointed as the Lt Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh and is leaving the state shortly for his new assignment.

President of India, Droupadi Murmu on Sunday, February 12, 2023 has appointed Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (retired) as the new Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

Mein inaugurates Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko in the Lower Subansiri district

MWYA, February 14:

Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein inaugurated the newly established Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko, an indigenous tribal tradition and cultural school in Mwya village, Lower Subansiri district in presence of the Minister of Education, Culture and Indigenous Affairs, GoAP, Taba Tedir, and MLA-cum-Advisor to Home, Tax & Excise, Nyamar Karbak, among others on February 14.

The Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko will play a major role in preservation and promotion of Arunachal Pradesh's indigenous tribal culture and traditions. "The school

is aimed at providing quality education to the tribal children in an environment that respects and promotes their culture, language and traditions," said Mein while addressing the event.

Deputy Chief Minister also lauded the efforts of the local community in setting up the school and highlighted the importance of preserving the indigenous cultures & traditions of Arunachal Pradesh. He also urged the local community to take full advantage of the school to ensure that the rich heritage of the State is preserved for future generations.

In his speech, Mein emphasized that every child should learn about their cultural heritage from a young age and that every Gurukul in the state should be a center of learning where traditional values and ethos are taught. In the same line, he advised the school's faculty to also provide modern education in addition to knowledge of indigenous cultures and heritages. Such learning centers should adopt efficient mechanisms which incorporate both the NCERT syllabus and rich cultural heritages and literature so that their students not only grow up to become doctors and engineers but are also well equipped with traditional knowledge for becoming Nyubu (priests) or take up any other indigenous role in society if they choose the path.

Mein further asserted that the teaching of third language Govt. school should be monitored and mooted that it needs to be introduced in private schools as well, so that future generations can speak fluently in their pure dialect, without mixing up with any other languages.

During his speech, Mein also assured to provide Rs 1 Crore as grants-in-aid for support of Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko, Mywa and

also gave assurance to facilitate grants-in-aid to all the indigenous teaching schools of the State and to enhance grants-in-aid to Donyi Polo Charitable Society.

Mein also further said that cultural development should go in parallel with the with other infrastructural development taking place in the State. He reiterated the support of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the protection and promotion of the indigenous traditions and cultures of the State.

On the occasion, Minister Taba Tedir, Advisor Nyamar Karbak, President NES, Prof Tana Showren, President IFCSAP, Kaltung Wahge and Chairman Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko, Mywa Likha Tongum also spoke among others.

Students of the school presented indigenous prayers, songs & dances and also chanting of Nyishi proverbs during the programme. The dignitaries also offered prayer at the indigenous prayer hall, Nyubu Namlo at Mwya.

Secretary asks departments not to compromise work quality

AALO, February 14:

A district level monitoring committee meeting was held here on February 14 where Home Secretary and mentor secretary of West Siang district, CN Longphai asked the implementing agencies, "especially the engineering departments," to not compromise the quality of work, and to complete the projects concerned on time.

Longphai said, "If any hindrance erupts during the work, the implementing agency concerned should inform the DC for early solutions", while chairing the meeting

"All the ongoing projects in West Siang are equally important, but the work on upgrading the district hospital and the maternity and child healthcare retrofitting of DC office must be completed in due given period by maintaining the quality," he said, and directed the site engineer of the project to "engage more workforce for early completion."

Deputy Commissioner Penga Tato informed the secretary that "maximum work shall be completed in due period."

During the meeting, which was attended by, among others, Kamba ADC Rujjum Raksap, HoDs, and administrative officers, officials of the departments concerned presented updates on the status of the projects being implemented by their departments.

The secretary, along with the DC, the DPO, and the PWD EE later inspected the ongoing projects in Aalo Township, such as the construction of the general hospital building; construction of the sports stadium; construction of an arch bridge in Paya village; and the completed arch bridge in Bene village.

Longphai also visited the district jail and interacted with Jail Superintendent Maryom Karlo, and assured to have a videoconference hall constructed for the prisoners, besides looking into other grievances.

Shapawng Yawng Manau Poi celebrated

BORDUMSA, February 14:

The third day of the 39th Shapawng Yawng Manau festival of the Singpho community was celebrated with traditional fervour at the Singpho Heritage Centre here in Changlang district on February 14.

The festival began on 12 February and will culminate on 15 February.

Namsai MLA Chou Zingnu Namchoom and Changlang DC Sunny K Singh, along with former Changlang DC Dr Devansh Yadav and Changlang SP Mihin Gombo attended the celebration.

Responding to a memorandum submitted by the Singpho Development Society, the MLA gave assurance that he would make every effort to ensure all-round development of the Singpho community.

SAD camp organised

LADA, February 14:

Over 800 people of Lada headquarters and nearby villages benefitted from services provided by government departments during a Seva Aapke Dwar (SAD) camp organised here by the East Kameng district administration on Tuesday, February 14. The camp was inaugurated by HGB Kaman Miji.

Secretary home inspects major projects

AALO, February 15:

Secretary home-cum-mentor secretary of West Siang CN Longphai inspected the sites of various major projects of the district on February 15.

Accompanied by West Siang DC Penga Tato, DPO-cum-member secretary Marjum Karga, PHED SE Tuba Angu and RWD EE Jumnya Angu, the secretary inspected the construction of two lane road from Nigmoi to Aalo (RIDF) which is near completion and executed by RWD department.

The team later inspected the PMGSY road from Ngomdir

village to Beye village which is almost complete, road from Tadin to Ngomdir (RIDF) and augmentation of water supply for Aalo township.

During the inspection, contractors and departments shared their grievances to the mentor secretary of the district. The team later inspected the water treatment project (WTP) at Bili near Kombo.

Biofuelled vehicle inaugurated at NERIST

NIRJULI, February 15:

A Biofuelled vehicle developed by Unnat Bharat Abhiyan cell of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) at the institute's biodiesel laboratory of the mechanical engineering department here was inaugurated on February 15.

NERIST director prof. HS Yadav along with the institute's registrar MK Camder inaugurated the vehicle.

"The programme's main objective was to promote rural employment & employment generation through harnessing of biofuel energy and reduce the harmful environmental impact as well as to cut down import of petroleum fuels," prof. Pradip Lingfa, regional coordinator, UBA NERIST, said in a release.

Prof. Lingfa also briefed on UBA, its aim, objectives and biodiesel production process.

State 'Eri Silk Logo and branding of Kaushya Eri Silk launched

ITANAGAR, February 15:

First Lady of the State, Neelam Mishra in presence of Minister Industries, Textile & Handicraft

Tumke Bagra on February 15 officially launched the State 'Eri Silk Logo and branding of Kaushya Eri Silk of Arunachal Pradesh at a function organised by the Department of Sericulture at General Bipin Rawat hall, Raj Bhawan, Itanagar.

The launch is to give thrust to the concerted efforts towards women empowerment of Arunachal and to promote Eri Silk of Arunachal Pradesh.

"Kaushya" branding for Arunachal Eri Silk and a logo for branding of the magnificent, natural and exquisite pure silk of AP has been developed under the initiative and guidance of the First Lady of the State. The logo has been translated into drawing by Kushwaha, Wife of Vice Chancellor, RGU. The name Kaushya is derived from Sanskrit word meaning Silk.

Addressing the occasion, the First lady of the State stressed on the need of branding local textiles and handloom for marketing of its products, adding that branding of Eri Silk has been initiated to make the State's presence felt in outside markets in this sector.

An ardent promoter of traditional weaves, Mishra has been actively promoting the loom weaving in Arunachal Pradesh and has spearheaded many initiatives to encourage the local weavers to take forward the traditions for posterity.

Highlighting on her journey of loom movement since January 2018, the First Lady spoke in details on the concept of the Logo and the efforts taken to translate it into a reality, adding that the launch of the State Eri Silk logo marked the culmination of her movement as she is proceeding to Ladakh.

Thanking the people for their support to make the pro-

gramme a success, she exhorted the people to promote and popularize loom and contribute towards creating world class textile products for sustainable development.

Arunachal Pradesh has an age-old rich legacy of handloom and handicrafts and this generally practiced by women at large has been the foundation of economic growth of the state, besides being an important source of socio-economic empowerment of women, Mishra said and emphasised on the need to promote Eri Silk to generate various economic activities, besides bringing about economic empowerment to women folk and developing green environment.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Industries, Textile & Handicraft Tumke Bagra appreciated the effort of the First Lady towards promoting silk of the state, besides many initiatives in promoting the textile & handloom sector. Informing that the Department of Sericulture has been created in 2019 on advice of the then Union Minister of Textile Smriti Irani in regards to state's potentials and scope to be a prominent sericulture hub in the country, Bagra termed the occasion to be a very significant moment, adding that it is necessary to have one's own brand for better promotion and marketing.

Earlier, Secretary Textile and Handicraft, Swapnil Naik in his welcome address highlighted on the textile and sericulture sector. He said that the sector is getting prominence due to the 'Local for Vocal' and 'Aatmar Nirvar Bharat' programmes of the government. Stating that although the people of the state have expertise in traditional textile and weavings, the local products are not getting proper market due to lack of brandings, certifications and registrations. He said that branding

of Kaushya brand Eri Silk is one of the efforts of the department to make Arunachal Pradesh a major producer and supplier in Eri Silk.

Vaishali Kushwaha, wife of RGU Vice Chancellor, who has been associating with the mission of the department in this regard, gave an insight of the Kaushya Eri Silk logo journey to till its launch today. Expressing her happiness on the launch of the logo, she also termed the moment as historic for textile sector.

On the occasion, both the First Lady of the State and the Minister Bagra distributed handloom accessories and spinning machine to some beneficiaries under the NERTPS/ Silk Samagra -2 of the Ministry of Textile, GoI programme. The distribution was made to encourage the local SHGs to promote Eri Silk products.

Director (Sericulture) Barnali Sur while speaking on the occasion said that promotion of Silk industry is one of the milestones in promotion of local products in the national and international market.

Ali Aye Ligang celebrated with great pomp and show

PASIGHAT, February 15:

The Mising community on February 15 celebrated Ali Aye Ligang with great pomp and show here at the Pasighat Gidii Notko, organized by the Ali Aye Ligang Celebration Committee-2023. Traditional dance form Gumrang was performed besides Taku Kubat (a ritual) by the chief guest, cultural presentations by various troupes, traditional games and sports and grand feast were major highlights of the day.

Joining the celebration, Pasighat East MLA Kaling Moyong,

DC Tayi Taggu, SP Sumit Kr Jha and Adi-Mising Baane Kebang (AMBK) General Secretary Okom Yosung greeted the people and spoke on the occasion. People from all walks of life participated enthusiastically.

In their addresses, the MLA and DC asserted that unity between the Mising and Adi communities would always help in maintaining good relationship between Assam and Arunachal. Both the communities were maintaining strong bond of brotherhood laced with colorful culture and harmony, the duo added and further appealed the people to preserve the age-old culture in its truest form, preventing its dilution from the onslaught of modernity.

Stating Arunachal Pradesh is a land of fairs and festivals, the AMBK Secretary General Okom Yosung said Mising and Adi communities celebrate all joyous moment together and Ali Aye Ligang is the most vibrant festival of the Mising tribe, related to cultivation. Among others, organizing President and General Secretary Devaram Doley and Mulai Pegu also spoke on the occasion.

Walkathon organised on the launched of 'Khilkhilata Bachpan Abhiyaan'

NAMSAI, February 15:

'Khilkhilata Bachpan Abhiyaan' campaign was launched here on February 15 by the Piramal Foundation in convergence with District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and Mahila Shakti Kendra (women and child development department) to create awareness and capacity building of teachers and members of NGOs on child sexual abuse and child trafficking.

A Walkathon themed 'Say No To Abuse' was also jointly flagged off by EAC S. Wangmu Mosobi and Namsai DySP on the occasion as part of the campaign.

The walkathon began from Kendriya Vidyalaya and culminated at APIL ground where CDPO W. Khimum and Shankar Gawas of Piramal Foundation interacted with students and shared the motive of the campaign.

The event was supported by district administration; Namsai police, ArSRLM, the birds and bees talk and Mumbai based NGO Arpan.

Over a 100 students of Kendriya Vidyalaya and government schools, teachers, members from voluntary organizations, anganwadi workers, SHG members took part in the event.

Seva Aapke Dwar camp held at Angu

AALO, February 15:

The Final round of Seva Aapke Dwar (SAD) 2.0 camp was conducted at Government Upper Primary School Angu village under Bagra circle which was inaugurated by CN Longphai, Secretary Home cum Mentor Secretary of West Siang District under the guidance of DPO Marjum Karga and CO Tage Manyo on February 15.

A total of 1759 beneficiaries from Pushi Doke, Angu, Doyor, Higi Bagra and Doji villages under West Siang district, availed various government services during the final round of Seva Aapke Dwar 2.0 (SAD)

Speaking on the occasion, West Siang deputy commissioner Penga Tato briefed the beneficiaries about ways to avail the govt. schemes and elaborated the schemes of each department.

Mentor secretary CN Longphai urged the HoDs to render valuable services to the people. He also requested the mothers to maintain their health by getting the benefits of Poshan Abhiyan sponsored by the women & child development department.

He further requested the HoDs to be proactive in their services for the people.

The Arunachal Rising camp was also conducted on the same day.

Sharma shines bright at national level

PASIGHAT, February 16:

Sanwar Mal Sharma, TOT (Life Mitra) from Mebo, East Siang district adjudged as the best Life Mitra of India defeating one lakh ninety-nine thousand six-hundred thirty-four LMs in the country. He has been awarded by SBI Life in its recent annual function held at Marina Bays Hotel, Singapore.

Sharma achieved this feat for rendering outstanding services securing future financial needs of the people. He has been working in the field since 24th February, 2014 and for improvement he underwent training to USA, Dubai, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Australia during last nine years.

Sharma along with SBI Life Sr. Branch Manager, Pasighat, Girish Bhorali and Sr. Territory Manager Bhaskar Baruah met the DC Tayi Taggu and ADC Tatdo Borang and briefed about the achievement.

DC Tayi Taggu appreciated Sharma for his hard work and brilliant success and extended warm wishes for future. He asked him to work for betterment of the poor section of the society. "While everyone wants success, it only fol-

lows those who make a true approach to get it. Your success will inspire our unemployed youths in career building", he stated.

Sr. BM Girish Bhorali informed that Shara is dedicated professional and constantly creating awareness on financial planning and security. SBI life utilize his service as a motivational speaker in club conventions.

5th Foundation Training course for horticulture field staffers begins

PASIGHAT, February 16:

Organized by the District Horticulture department, the "5th state level foundation training course" for horticulture field staffers begun at GTC Horticulture training hall, Pasighat on February 16.

Altogether twenty five in-service staffers from various districts of Arunachal Pradesh have been selected by the Horticulture Directorate, GoAP for this six months long training program. Faculties from of College of Horticulture and Forestry (CHF), Pasighat and departmental experts will impart the training.

Gracing the inaugural function as Chief Guest, CHF Dean Dr. BN Hazarika exhorted the field staffers to work with love and sincerity towards their profession.

"Arunachal is blessed with its vast naturally gifted resources but is a sleeping giant in the field of horticulture", said the Dean Hazarika.

He asserted that such training will provide lot of opportunities to develop skills and knowledge of horticulturists adding that they will be exposed to hands on training by experts and after the training will be able to rededicate their service to-

wards progress and prosperity of the society and the state as whole.

Guest of Honor Taging Padung, PD (DRDA) encouraged the trainees to avail optimum benefits of the training, widening scopes to discharge their duties in the field in a proper and better manner.

SDHO Oter Gao, HDOs Oyin Tayeng and Dr. Aido Taloh highlighted objectives of the training and expressed hope that after completion the trainees will achieve a sense of perfect behaviour in the working strategies.

Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting held

ROING, February 16:

KVK Lower Dibang Valley organized its 10th Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting on February 16 which was attended by officers and officials from line departments and progressive farmers of the district.

B.Mengu (DAO) appealed to KVK to recommend successful technologies to the line department for better lab to land implementation for the benefits of the farmers. He suggested that farmers should adopt composite fish culture and promote prawn cultivation. He also emphasised the importance of disease management in pea and the economics of vegetable cultivation.

Dr B.Mimi(DVO) suggested that Goat farming may be tried both in hilly and plain areas. He also stressed on the importance of Gungroo breed of Pig as it is more prolific and resistant to diseases.

Dr Deepanjai Deori (Senior Scientist and Head KVK, Balek) briefed about the purpose of the meeting.

Progressive farmer Oling Modi suggested that good quality

of poultry breed may be tried in the district.

Ledum Self Help Group member Oimang Lego shared her experience about the huge revenue generation from maize and okra cultivation and suggested that KVK should try for High Yielding Variety of Maize and Okra. Progressive farmer Okili Lingi from Rukmo village suggested that proper guidance and monitoring may be done from the department after providing the critical inputs. He also suggested establishing a model Integrated farming unit.

Oriah Festival Celebrated in Longding

LONGDING, February 16:

Oriah festival was celebrated in Longding district headquarters and other administrative headquarters on February 16.

At the celebration here, Nampong MLA Laisam Simai, who along with Longding-Pumao MLA Tanpho Wangnaw and others attended the festivity, lauded "the rich, beautiful and vibrant culture of the Wancho tribe," and said that "it is important to preserve our tradition and culture while enjoying the fruits of development."

"Tirap, Changlang and Longding (TCL) districts remained underdeveloped for long and could not grow at the desirable pace, owing to various reasons. However, the time has come to take TCL forward instead of blaming one another, rising above political affiliations, and think for the common good," he added.

He said also that "Chief Minister Pema Kandu has agreed to provide additional funds from

the state funds to address the issue in Longding district."

"Longding is a beautiful district, with rich flora and fauna, and we need to work on the preservation of wildlife and ecology. Also, it is important to fight against the drug menace which has given a bad name to the region," he said, and stated that the youths could play a crucial role in the fight against drug abuse and peddling.

Simai said also that the people of the TCL region "need to be hospitable, and for that, necessary awareness needs to be created," adding that "for addressing the accommodation issues, homestays need to be encouraged."

"Special emphasis will be given on the new tourist circuit in the region through a separate TCL tourism plan which the government is working on," he informed.

DoTCL Director Ranphoa Ngowa also highlighted the importance of tourism promotion.

AAPSU president Dozi Tana Tara spoke about the importance of tradition and culture and learning one's mother tongue.

Wangnaw recited the Oriah mythology.

The festival was celebrated also in Wakka, Pongchau, Kanubari, Chubam, and Pumao.

Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik sworn - in as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh

ITANAGAR, February 16:

Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd) was sworn-in as the new Governor of Arunachal Pradesh at an impressive function held at Darbar hall of Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on February 16.

Justice Nani Tagia, Gauhati High Court administered the oath to the Governor amidst presence of State Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Speaker Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly PD Sona, Council of Ministers, Legislators, Senior Government Officers and Officials led by State Chief Secretary Dharmendra and other who's who of the State.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary read out the Warrant of Appointment of the Governor and requested the Justice to administer the Oath to the Governor Designate.

Born on 28 June 1953, Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Par-naik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd) is an alumnus of Sainik School Rewaand NDA. He was commissioned in 2 Rajputana Rifles (of TOLOLING fame) on 31 March 1972, which he later commanded in Rajasthan Sector and Jammu& Kashmir.

He held the reign of an Infantry Brigade in challenging environments of Kupwara Sector during 'Operation Parakram' on the Line of Control. Later, he commanded 17 Mountain Division in Sikkim, Indian Military Training Team in Bhutan and 4 Corps in North East.

Governor Lt General Par-naik held number of prestigious staff appointments at the Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defense. He was assigned on UN Mission in Angola and as Director General of Perspective Planning Directorate dealing with modernization and Transformation of Indian Army.

For his exemplary conduct of operations, he was awarded with Yudh Sewa Medal in Operation Parakram in 2003 and Uttam Yudh Seva Medal in Operation Rhino in 2010.

At the peak of his career, he commanded the northern Army in J&k initiating a strategy of perception management for ushering peak in J & K. For his outstanding vision and strategic initiative he was decorated with Param Vishist Seva Medal in 2012 in J & K.

Before taking over as Commander in Chief of Northern Army, he was assigned to perspective planning Directorate responsible for modernization & transformation of the Indian Army.

After the swearing – in, the Governor expressed his commitment to work for the welfare of the people of the state, and said that infrastructure development and securing our borders would be his top priorities for the state.

Youths benefit from workshop on Sankalp

BOMDILA, February 17:

More than 223 youths from different backgrounds participated in a workshop on Sankalp (Skill acquisition and knowledge awareness for livelihood promotion), organised here in West Kameng district on February 17 by the skill development & entrepreneurship (SDE) department, in collaboration with the District Industries Centre (DIC).

The workshop was aimed at creating awareness among the youths regarding various ongoing skill schemes being implemented by the state government.

Addressing the participants, SDE Assistant Director Jumbom Riba sensitised them to his department's initiatives, like the Chief Minister's Yuva Kaushal Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the apprenticeship promotions scheme, and such.

MC Yadav of the fisheries department highlighted his department's schemes and the importance of skill acquisition for increasing employability, while bank representative Rohit Agarwal did the same about his bank.

West Kameng DC Karma Leki, who also attended the programme, encouraged the youths to "take benefits from various schemes implemented by the government."

Among others, SDE Joint Director N Lailang, DIC ADI Pas-sang Tsering, Government College Principal Dr Tashi Phuntso, Dirang ITI Principal RC Dutta, and representatives of banks and departments attended the meeting.

VDVKC micro-food processing unit set up at Ziro

ZIRO, February 17:

A Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Centre (VDVKC) under Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana for promoting tribal micro enterprise through processing, value addition, branding and marketing of local produce was inaugurated on February 17 at Biiri model village by Lower Sub-sansiri Deputy Commissioner Bam-in Nime.

The VDVKC is sponsored by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and implemented by Arunachal State Rural Livelihood Mission (ArSRLM) of Ziro Block Mission Management unit in association with 300 selected mother producers of various Self-Help Groups from the valley. There are 85 VDKVC's in the state.

The Ziro VDVKC comprises nine producer groups with 35 members each. The producer groups are farmers who grow the

same product and will manage the VDVKC. They will be responsible for collection, procurement of machines, raw materials after which the product would be sorted, graded, packed and labeled prior to launching in the open market.

Inaugurating the unit, Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner congratulated the ArSRLM and the mother producers for conceptualizing the innovative micro-food processing unit at the valley which he said would serve the interests of both the farmers and consumers. He urged them to be innovative and produce refined local food products which would not only meet their commercial aspirations while also suit the tastes of the consumers.

Underscoring the importance of vocal for local, the DC also urged them to emphasize on bringing out value added food products whose raw materials are easily available at the valley. He also asked them to maintain transparency and credibility in running the unit. The DC further appealed the women present on the occasion to help and cooperate with District Administration in curbing the drug menace and smooth garbage management at the valley.

While informing that Govt. gives more emphasis to SGH's and FPO's rather than individuals for being more organized, District Agriculture Officer Tasso Butung said agriculture department was also willing to provide tools and equipment to producer mothers for successful running of the unit. The DAO also said that Govt's objective of successful venture had been fulfilled through setting of this value addition micro-food processing unit.

Arunachal Rural State Livelihood Mission programme manager Tatar Mosi informed that

SRLM would provide the hand holding support and the requisite training for successful and smooth running of the unit.

Krishi Vighyan Kendra scientist Dr. Tasso Tabin and AP Rural Bank Manager Amit Kumar also spoke on the occasion.

Besides 300 women producers from various SHG groups of the valley, officers from several line departments and public also attended the function.

Indian Army organised army adventure challenge cup

YINGKIONG, February 17:

Indian Army conducted four days Army Adventure Challenge Cup at Yingkiong, Upper Siang district from 14th to 17th February 2023.

A quadrathlon event of Cycling, Rock Climbing, Running and Rafting got flagged off in pristine Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh with 12 teams competing for the coveted trophy on 14 February 2023. The events were conducted and participated passionately by teams of all commands of Army and Para Military Forces. Commander 5 Infantry Brigade flagged off the event which spanned four adventure packed days. The event also preceded a friendly football tournament along with a mini marathon for civilians of Yingkiong, to further the initiative and promote sportsman spirit among all locals.

The competition was conceptualised to promote the zeal and fitness of the Armed forces and the Para military forces.

Further, the District administration also immensely appreciated the initiative of Army.

An officer stated that keeping the aim of a podium finish of Team Indian Army, this event

proved to be a facilitator to select the most promising individuals for national and international championships scheduled in the coming months within this year.

Jumsi Siram receives Vishwa Hindi Samman

AALO, February 17:

Jumsi Siram of Arunachal Pradesh was honoured with the Vishwa Hindi Samman during the 12th World Hindi Conference held in Fiji from 15-17 February.

Son of Mojum Siram of Tadin village in West Siang district, Jumsi is the first Hindi writer from Arunachal Pradesh recognised by the Arunachal Hindi Samiti in 2003.

Jumsi's literary works are: Shila Ka Rahashya, Jayi Bone, Meri Awaaz Suno, Galo Lok Jevan Evom Sanskrit, a book on freedom fighter Matmur Jamoh, and Mehnat Se Mukham Tak.

He has also compiled letters, titled Ethihask Patra, of former minister late Todak Basar. Jumsi also received the Tadar Tang Rashtra Bhasa Puruskar in 2003. He was felicitated by the Galo Welfare Society, and has attended several literary events in Arunachal.

A farmer by profession, Jumsi continues to write books and poems. He has studied up to Class 9.

On 21 February, Jumsi was welcomed by MLBB Tadin Ome, the Kombo Youth Rodin Association, the All Tadin Students' Union, public leaders and others here.

Festival is the mirror of the society: Moyong

PASIGHAT, February 17:

Ali Aye Ligang, one of the vibrant

festivals of the Mising community was celebrated on February 17 at Oiram Bori Memorial Festival Ground, Oyan in East Siang district with pomp and grandeur.

Pasighat East MLA Kaling Moyong and Sadia (Assam) MLA Bolin Chetia graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. East Arunachal Lok Sabha MP Tapir Gao, Pasighat West MLA Ninong Ering, DC Tayi Taggu, AMBK Secretary General Okom Yosung, Ex MP Nyodek Yonggam, Ex MLA Tatung Jamoh and many prominent personalities joined the celebration and indulged in symbolic sowing paddy as a ceremony. Dignitaries present on the occasion released two books, authored by Nydek Yonggam, former Member of Parliament and former Chief Information Commissioner.

Attending the festival, MLA Moyong festivals were the mirror of the society and spread the message of brotherhood, unity and peace and happiness with another and good lesson for the upcoming generation.

Appreciating the “Mega Ali Aye Ligang Gidi-2023 Committee” President and General Secretary Kantong Panggam and Mojit Pao for organizing the celebration in a grand and befitting manner, Moyong called upon the people to keep their rich culture, language and literature alive.

He also spoke on the common origin, age-old cultural linkage and similarities between the Adis and the Misings communities.

The MLA informed that the government was making every effort to help the indigenous people in preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the state.

Taking privilege, he threw lights on negative impacts of drugs and appealed the younger generation not to indulge in it.

Sadia MLA Bolin Chetia said Ali Aye Ligang is a spring festivity associated with agriculture and observed across Assam with traditional fervor the festival marks the onset of sowing seeds and young people in particular participate in Gumraag Soman and dance to the tune of folk songs and melodies.

Chetia informed that during last few years, Narendra Modi's leadership at the center brought massive infrastructural development in all fronts. He expressed hope that developed road connectivity would promote tourism sector in Assam and Arunachal and advised the people to be more hospitable to attract the tourists.

Other highlights of the day were traditional mega dance, cultural program and fashion show etc.

Collage Day celebrated

GEKU, February 18:

The 9th College Week celebration of the government model college (GMC) here in Upper Siang district began on February 18.

Geku-Mariyang MLA Kanggong Taku, who unfurled the ceremonial flag in the presence of DC Hage Lailang, Mariyang ADC Akan Reagon, GMC Principal Dr Kuku Panyang, public leaders, students, faculty members, and others, stressed on the importance of extra- and co-curricular activities for holistic development of the students, while Taku advised the students to not indulge in any antisocial activities but focus on their studies.

He requested the faculty members to “always work in the best interests of the college by imparting quality teachings to students,” and said that he is “working to improve the infra-

structure in the college campus.” He requested the principal to “monitor the ongoing works, so as to ensure that quality of work is maintained.”

The DC in his address dwelt on the importance of time management, and advised the students to “make best use of time in constructive and creative things which will be beneficial for oneself and the society as well.”

The ADC also spoke.

Earlier, the principal presented an overview of the college, and GMC students' union general secretary Jakaria Taku submitted a memorandum seeking construction of a boys' hostel, a library, an auditorium, permanent fencing, Group C staffers, etc.

Statehood Day celebrated across Arunachal

ITANAGAR, February 20:

The 37th Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh was celebrated in all the districts with great enthusiasm and fanfare on February 20.

In Upper Subansiri HQ Daporijo, DC (i/c) C Chukhu hoisted the national flag and unveiled the state map of Arunachal. He briefly highlighted the achievements and initiatives of the state government.

In West Siang, former minister Doi Ado unfurled the national flag and narrated how Arunachal attained statehood. Later, Ado, along with DC Penga Tato, flagged off six vehicles under the ArSR-LM.

In Siang district, ZPC Osi Mibang unfurled the national flag in HQ Boleng, and advised the public to “take full benefits of the schemes provided by the government,” while DC Atul Tayeng in-

augurated an 'awareness camp-cum-training on millets' under the theme 'Grow, eat millets for health and prosperity'.

In Tawang district headquarters, ZPC Leki Gombu unfurled the national flag and informed the public about the welfare schemes for farmers, unemployed youths, and the general public.

In Bomdila, West Kameng ZPC Rinchin Zomba Merapka unfurled the national flag, and highlighted the progress made by the state over the course of 37 years. Besides apprising the public of the steps taken by the government for the people's welfare, she urged the youths to "say no to drugs and yes to life."

Among others, DC Karma Leki, HoDs, and panchayat leaders participated in the event.

In Lower Subansiri district, DC Bamin Nime unfurled the national flag in headquarters Ziro, and highlighted the achievements of the state government led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

The DC appealed to the citizens to cooperate with the district administration in its efforts to curb the drug menace, and to ensure proper garbage management in the district.

In Namsai HQ, ZPC Nang Urmila Mancheykhun unfurled the national flag. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the state level Olympiad, speech competition, and baby show. The ZPM also flagged off vehicles procured under the Arunachal Grameen Yojana.

In Longding HQ, local MLA Tanpho Wangnaw unfurled the national flag, and highlighted the development schemes being implemented by the government. He urged the youths to not indulge in drug abuse, and advocated millet cultivation.

In Upper Siang, Geku

ZPM Nyong Panyang unfurled the national flag in HQ Yingkiong, in the presence of DC Hage Lailang, HoDs, public leaders, GBs, and others.

The ZPM and the DC distributed certificates of appreciation, mementoes, and Rs 5,000 each to All Geku-Katan Anti-Drugs Youth Association president Aku Tarang, anganwadi workers Honey Nokar and Yater Taron, ASHAs Pepeng Paron and Obi Mitkong, and self-employed handloom weaver Atikon Tayeng, "for the selfless services rendered by them at the grassroots level under the aegis of the Arunachal Rising campaign of the IPR department.

In East Siang HQ Pasighat, ADC Tatdo Borang hoisted the national flag, in the presence of Pasighat East MLA Kaling Moyong, PMC Chief Councillor Okiam Moyong Borang, PRI leaders, municipal councillors, and others, and distributed certificates of appreciation to Ruksin CO Oyam Saring, Namsing CO Radhe Tatung, and Mondal John Panyang "for their hard work in the process of interstate boundary settlement."

Borang also released a book titled Ngilman Kilaju, authored by Tashiram Pertin.

The day was also celebrated in Changlang, Papum Pare, Tirap, Anjaw, and all other districts of the state.

President of India given rousing welcome on her arrival to the State Capital

ITANAGAR, February 20:

The President of India Droupadi Murmu was accorded a rousing welcome at Donyi Polo Airport, Hollongi, and Raj Bhawan Helipad and at Raj Bhawan on her arrival to

the State's Capital city of Itanagar on February 20.

The President of India is on her two days maiden visit to Arunachal Pradesh to grace the 37th Statehood Day as chief guest. She would also address a special session of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on February 21, 2023.

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), State Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Union Law & Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju led the delegation in receiving the President at Airport. She was accorded an impressive guard of honour at the Airport.

Legislative Assembly Speaker Pasang Dorjee Sona, Lok Sabha MP Tapir Gao, Rajya Sabha MP Nabam Rebia, Doimukh Legislator Tana Heli Tara, Chief Secretary Dharmendra, DGP Satish Golcha, Papum Pare DC and Papum Pare SP were present on the occasion. A traditional welcome with cultural troupes was organized at the Raj Bhawan Helipad where besides the Governor and Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Council Of Ministers were present.

At Raj Bhawan she was welcomed by the Raj Bhawan officers and officials led by Commissioner to Governor. She will be staying at Raj Bhawan for two days.

Civic reception and felicitation of the President was held at Indira Gandhi Park where the statehood day function was held. The President is scheduled to meet eminent personalities of the state at Raj Bhawan, attend state banquet hosted by the Governor and plant sapling at Raj Bhawan before leaving for the State Legislative Assembly to address a special session on Feb 21, 2023.

President Murmu is the

second woman to hold the highest position in the country after Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

President of India Graces the 37th Statehood Day celebration

NAHARLAGUN, February 20:

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu graced the 37 Statehood Day celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh and attended the civic reception hosted in her honor by the State Government at Itanagar on February 20 along with Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), State Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Law & Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein.

Speaking on the occasion of the state's 37th Statehood Day the President, stressed on the need to build better infrastructure in the strategically located Arunachal Pradesh, given that it shares borders with three countries.

The President said she was happy to note that several ambitious infrastructure projects are being taken up in Arunachal, which is also geographically the largest state in the Northeast.

Both India and China have been building a network of roads, bridges, tunnels, dams and airports to connect the border areas of Arunachal and eastern Tibet, respectively. Troops from the two Asian giants have also had face-offs with each other in border areas in the recent past.

"For economic development and from security point of view, the state needs to have better infrastructure. I am happy to know that the Centre has sanctioned the Rs 40,000 crore ambitious Fron-

tier Highway project for the state. Moreover, for development of national highways, projects worth over Rs 44,000 crore have been proposed in the state," the president pointed out.

She added that the 600 mw Kameng hydro project in West Siang district, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra in November last year, would make Arunachal a power surplus state in the country.

"With the inauguration of the state's first Greenfield airport, Donyi Polo Airport, air connectivity and trade potential will receive a major boost," Murmu said.

The president, who also laid the foundation stone of a 40-km-long double-lane road from the airport to the Naharlagun railway station on the occasion, said that the new road would ease travel for people.

Murmu also spoke on the need to empower women, and said that the "society cannot develop without their being given a leading role."

"Woman is a force multiplier for development of a society. Without their development, no society can progress," Murmu, clad in a colourful traditional tribal attire, said in her address.

Referring to Everester Anshu Jamsenpa, the first woman in the world to scale the summit of Mount Everest twice in a season, and the fastest double summiter to do so within five days, the president said that women from Arunachal have excelled in various fields.

Jamsenpa, who hails from Bomdila in West Kameng district, received the Padmashree in 2021.

Murmu also mentioned Nari Shakti Purashkar awardee Tage Rita Takhe from Ziro in Lower Subansiri district, who is the first

kiwi wine brewer in the country.

"I am of the firm belief that such women will inspire many women in the country in the days to come," she added.

Describing Arunachal, with its many tribes and diverse cultures, as an example of unity in diversity, Murmu appealed to the people of the state to preserve its uniqueness and traditions.

The president also laid the foundation stone of a common directorate for the state's human rights commission, the lokayukta, and the State Food Commission here.

Lt General Governor Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd) urged the people of the state to "walk the talk to make Arunachal Pradesh a peaceful and progressive state."

Addressing the 37th Statehood Day function at IG Park, in the presence of President of India Droupadi Murmu, the governor said that the state government is focused on creating job opportunities for the youths, improving the standard of living, maintaining law and order, protecting the environment, and ensuring security in the state's border areas.

"Arunachal Pradesh has come a long way from being the remote NEFA at the time of independence to becoming a full-fledged state in 1987, and since then the state has progressed in leaps and bounds," he said, adding that the state is receiving "unflinching support of the union government for development and prosperity."

Stating that connectivity in the border areas has been "ramped up," he said that "the airstrips in Mechukha, Tuting and Vijaynagar will become operational, while the proposal for three more ALGs, in Dirang, Anini and Upper Subansiri districts, will improve the commu-

nication and logistics of far-flung border areas and largely benefit the livelihood of the population in the border areas, as well as sustenance of our defence forces deployed ahead.”

“With the increasing importance towards development of border areas in the last seven to eight years, around 1,200 kms of roads have been built, along with ancillary facilities like repair and maintenance of foot suspension bridges, resultantly uplifting the socioeconomic life of the people and ensuring reverse migration from border villages like Huri and Taksing,” Parnaik said.

He added that, “in resonance with the Centre’s vibrant villages programme, we have identified five vibrant villages along the border areas, which are being developed with a view to attract and inspire locals to inhabit border areas by organizing fairs, local festivals, tourist activities, and development of livelihood.”

The governor released an animation film of indigenous folk stories and a coffee table book titled *Unsung Heroes of Arunachal Pradesh*. He presented the book’s first copy to the president.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu said that his government will introduce chapters on the unsung heroes of the state in the school syllabus.

The chief minister said that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, conceptualized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is providing a platform to honour the unsung heroes of the state who sacrificed their lives for the country’s freedom movement while addressing the Statehood Day.

“We have prepared a report on all unsung heroes of the state after extensive research and field-work, which was released today.

Based on the history of the freedom fighters, we will soon introduce chapters in the school syllabus on their contribution to the country’s freedom fight,” Khandu said.

Terming Arunachal “the Northeast of NE states,” the chief minister asserted that the state is developing, “for which the region is also developing.”

“Earlier, the Northeast was a neglected region. But in the past eight and half years, the Modi government at the Centre brought a lot of developments in terms of connectivity and other social sectors,” he said.

Asserting that there will be no dearth of funds for development work in Arunachal Pradesh, union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, urged the people of the Northeastern state to be a part of the growth story.

“Nobody can develop the state single-handedly. Every stakeholder will have to make concerted efforts,” Rijiju, who represents the Arunachal East constituency in the Lok Sabha, said.

The minister, addressing people on the 37th Statehood Day celebration said, “Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always prioritised the development of Arunachal Pradesh, and I, being the state’s representative at the Centre, will see to it that there is no dearth of funds for the state.”

He recalled that officers and ministers from the state had to go to Delhi in the past for sanctioning projects, and that, too, by “offering commission.”

“Things have changed after PM Modi came to power in 2014. Now, nobody needs to go to Delhi for projects, which are being sanctioned by the Centre without any requests,” he pointed out.

Rijiju noted that Arunachal, before attaining statehood, barely

had any road.

“I had seen aircraft first and then vehicles as we didn’t have road connectivity during childhood. The scenario has now changed with the state witnessing rapid development in the last few years,” the minister added.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said that “war memorials will be built to commemorate the wars and the brave sons of Arunachal in 12 places where battles between the locals and the British took place.”

Delivering his welcome address on the occasion of the 37th Statehood Day celebration here on Monday, Mein informed that the names of 220 unsung heroes, “including 18 heroes, 76 martyrs and 126 freedom fighters from various communities, have been recorded and documented.”

Mein informed that the state government has constituted “a core committee on unsung heroes” and entrusted the history department of Rajiv Gandhi University with the task of carrying out the research and documentation.

“They have carried out in-depth research work by carrying out field works, interacting with community leaders, academicians and intellectuals of the community, touring all the districts and visiting the historical incident places, researching and collecting the published books and articles and official gazette notification of those times that referred the incidences carrying out research works at various institutions across India, like the National Archives of India, New Delhi; the West Bengal State Archives, Kolkata; the Assam State Archives, Dispur; the Arunachal Pradesh State Archives, Itanagar; the Asiatic Society, Kolkata; and the Cellular Jail, Port Blair,” he said.

Mein further informed that “scholars have also visited the United Kingdom and collected records of archival documents and photos from the British Library, the British Museum, the British Archives, the Royal Geographical Society, the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Pitts Rivers Museum, Oxford.”

“As a result of the intense research work, the scholars have recorded and documented the various wars and freedom movements against the British,” he said.

Mein said that the research scholars have also recorded three major wars fought by the tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh. “One of the wars, popularly known as the Khamti Rebellion of 1839, took place much before the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857,” Mein said.

Other major field wars were the four Anglo-Abor wars of 1858, 1859, 1894 and 1911-12, fought by the Adis, and the ‘Ninu Massacre of 1875’ by the Wanchos, the DCM said. He said also that “many other incidences of resistance against the British invasion have also been recorded.”

Mein added: “After the completion of the research work, our research scholars will be writing our own history in our own perspective and will publish it in book form which will be introduced in the school curriculum, so that our children are able to read and learn about our own history.”

Murmu inaugurates exhibition on state’s unsung heroes

ITANAGAR, February 21:

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated an exhibition on the unsung heroes of Arunachal Pradesh, set up by Rajiv Gandhi University

(RGU), at the legislative assembly premises here on February 21.

“The exhibition was curated as part of the findings of the research project on unsung heroes of Arunachal Pradesh by RGU,” the university informed in a release.

The president was accompanied by a host of dignitaries, including union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, MPs Tapir Gao and Nabam Rebia, former CM Nabam Tuki, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, his cabinet colleagues, legislators, officers, and others.

The Core Committee on Unsung Heroes of Arunachal Pradesh, led by its chairman, Deputy CM Chowna Mein, also attended the exhibition which showcased the timelines of various resistance movements, photos of the unsung heroes, artifacts used during the resistance movements, and important archival documents and photos, it said.

The photographs were sourced from the British Museum Library, London.

An interactive mobile app on the unsung heroes was also launched during the programme.

The exhibits will be displayed till 22 February.

The research team from RGU, led by Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha and Registrar Dr NT Rikam, also attended the event.

President addresses special session of the assembly in the State

ITANAGAR, February 21:

President Droupadi Murmu on February 21 said that the participation of women must increase in all state assemblies, including that of Arunachal Pradesh, for in-

clusive development of the country.

Addressing a special session of the assembly here, she asserted that Arunachal plays an important role in the social and economic development of the country, and that the “sun of development” is shining over the state.

“For overall and inclusive development of our country, there should be more participation of women in every field of work. Participation of women must increase in all the state assemblies, including that of Arunachal Pradesh, as well as in other institutions of people’s representation,” she said.

The declaration envisages a multi-sectoral approach for low emission and climate resilient development in the state.

Murmu expressed hope that other states would also adopt the model to tackle the climate change issue.

Recalling the contributions of former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in creating the DoNER ministry for the development of the Northeastern states, the president said that “his dream for a developed Northeast has been made a reality with the sanction of various projects by the present government at the Centre.”

Referring to the state assembly’s decision to go paperless through the e-vidhan initiative, the president said that “such an innovation should be a role model for other states to emulate.”

She also commended the assembly secretariat for opening a library which would help the younger generation in research.

Lauding the ‘Know Your Assembly’ initiative, under which students are invited to the state assembly to acquaint them with the functioning of the legislature, she said that the young generation

must take advantage of such facilities and contribute to the progress of the country.

Noting that a vibrant system of self-governance and grassroots democracy existed in Arunachal Pradesh for centuries, she said that the people of the state have actively participated in modern democratic process, as well, which reflects their political consciousness and faith in democracy.

Cooking competition held

ITANAGAR, February 21:

Takam Diming and her team stood first in a cooking competition organised by the Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) district administration on the second day of the Statehood Day celebration at IG Park here on February 21.

The team was awarded a cash prize of Rs 50,000.

Radhe Ampa and her team, and Bath Yading and Likha Tara stood second and third, respectively, and were awarded cash prizes of Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000, respectively.

MP Nabam Rebia, MLA Techhi Kaso and ICR DC (i/c) Sachin Rana handed over the prizes to the winners.

Consolation prizes of Rs 5,000 each will be awarded to Luisa Ngomdir, Yapa Timba, Teri Yajo, Modang Happy, Nyater Siram, Likha Cherie and Rinjin D Phillely.

Mishmi Kaman language displayed at Language Carnival

ITANAGAR, February 21:

A two-member team from Lohit Youth Library Network displayed the Mishmi Kaman language of

Arunachal Pradesh at the Language Carnival hosted by IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat to mark the International Mother Language Day on February 21.

The team led by Bahailu Rangmang exhibited introductory posters on Arunachal Pradesh, Mishmi society, children's biography of Mahatma Gandhi in five languages of Arunachal Pradesh, 'Hambreelmai Sai'-the first children's book in Kaman language and the Mishmi Kaman grammar booklet prepared by linguists Roger Blench and Sokhep Kri, Lohit Libraries coordinator S Mundayoor informed in a release.

Many visitors were also curious to know more about the teaching of Arunachalee languages in schools, after seeing "Kaman Pit -1," a text book published by the Arunachal State Education department, the release said.

"Several students, research scholars and faculty of IIT visited the Kaman stall, seeking details about Arunachal, its people and its languages.

Prof. Jooyoung Kim, linguist and prof. Ambika Aiyadurai, social anthropologist, congratulated the Lohit Youth Library team for their elegant presentation," the release said.

Apart from the Mishmi Kaman language, 11 scheduled languages of India were on display during the carnival, which was organized by the Leadership Development Initiative of IIT Gandhinagar.

Governor addresses Special Assembly session

ITANAGAR, February 21:

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt General Kaiwalya Tri-

vikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd) addressed the Special Assembly session of the Arunachal Pradesh State Legislative Assembly in presence of the President of India Droupadi Murmu on February 21.

Addressing the august house, the Governor said "I am happy to note that the political leadership of the State is fully seized of the challenges and opportunities and is working sincerely to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for its people. There is nothing which can stand in the way of Arunachal Pradesh provided there is will and determination on the part of its people and leaders".

Stating that the State has crossed a long journey in a comparatively short period of time, he said, "Today's Arunachal Pradesh stands between the legacy of an ancient civilization and the promising horizons of a boundless future. May Arunachal Pradesh emerge as a land of grace and beauty, a shining jewel amongst the beautiful states that make up our great and glorious country".

He said that one of the basic objectives of a representative democracy is to see that governance is carried out keeping in mind the mantra – people first. In a parliamentary democracy, the legislature represents the sovereign will of the people and hence we have to be sensitive and responsive to the problems of the people and give voice to their grievances by raising them on the floor of the house, adding that while doing so, we must rise above narrow sectarian differences and instead build on our dream of shared prosperity.

On the occasion, he called upon the members to diligently carry on with their duties towards the land and fellow citizens, adding that, "as we speak about progress and achievements, let us keep

in mind that being the world's largest democracy with the greatest of diversities comes with great responsibility. There will always be challenges, but we should not despair against adversity".

While quoting the saying - "Vox Populi, Vox Dei! The voice of the people is truly the voice of God", he urged upon the members to act as the link between the people and the government. Speaking on the journey of the State since conferment of Statehood, the Governor hoped that the Assembly as "abode of democracy" be a place for the members to work with responsibility, transparency and accountability, visible to our people.

Terming the essence of the democratic values in tribal societies in maintaining consultative decision making as the best and in its purest form, the Governor said that functioning of the house is an extension of that age old system that has withstood the test of changing times and shown the world, what our love for democratic traditions is all about. 'The assembly follow the established and effective democratic principles of the collective consciousness of the people, he added.

On the occasion, the Governor further lauded the members for playing a pivotal role by participating in democratic discussion, debate and decision making, to plan, preserve and promote the interest of the people of the state and called upon them to continue to maintain the highest standards of democratic practice and dedicate yourself completely to the welfare of the people.

Emphasising that safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the communities is an essential and necessary requirement for sustainable development, he said that government is taking steps to pre-

serve the rich cultural heritage in the form of folklore, folk stories, traditional knowledge and generational awareness. He urged upon the members to make every attempt to preserve the rich heritage of the state and stay committed to further bolstering the ethnic identities and showcase our distinguished culture to the world at large. "We have taken up the project of documenting the cultural heritage of many tribes. We have also published indigenous language books, a feat that will go a long way towards preserving our indigenous heritage", he informed.

Expressing his gratitude to the President of India for her presence in the state and Assembly as well, the Governor said, "Your Excellency, this visit will provide phenomenal motivation to the young girls and women of the State, conveying the message that sincerity, service and hard work can make them true leaders and role models for the society".

Legislative Assembly Speaker Pasang Dorjee Sona, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and all members of the Assembly were present in the special session held in honour of the President of India.

Awareness Programme on Primary Solid Waste Segregation & Management and Jal Jeevan Mission

ZIRO, February 21:

Seeking people's cooperation in smooth management of garbage disposal system at Ziro valley, Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner Bamin Nime called upon to take the programme on a mission mode and sought cooperation from

all the stakeholders to make it successful.

Addressing the participants at the Awareness Programme on Primary Solid Waste Segregation and Management and Jal Jeevan Mission at Hong village on February 21 the DC exhorted the people of the district to change their mindset on garbage disposal system and appealed them to strictly follow the rules laid down for segregation of primary solid wastes.

When we segregate the garbages according to their categories into solid, metals or glass and place them in their respective dustbins, it makes the job of the collecting UD & Housing officials easy to collect and dispose them off to the secondary garbage dumping site. However, problem lies when people mix up the garbage and place them under one dustbin which makes the job of the garbage collector difficult and tedious. Hence, people need to be sensible and cooperate with the garbage collection agency by segregating their garbage and placing them correctly at their designated dustbins, he appealed.

Organized by the Apatani Women Association Ziro (AWAZ) in collaboration with the District Administration and Farmer's Training Centre Ziro, similar awareness camps would also be conducted in villages of Hari, Bulla and Tajang, Hija and Diibo as well.

AWAZ President Hibu Lily informed that the programme was conducted to commemorate the upcoming International Women's Day on 8th March. The awareness camps would be held till 4th March and a mass tree plantation drive would be conducted at Biiri road on way to Seeh Lake during the International Women's Day, she informed.

President of Tani Supung Dukung (TSD), the apex body of

Apatani H.K Shalla, Hong village (Niichi Nitti) ZPM Tapi Habung, presidents of Apatani Youth Association and Apatani Student Union and villagers of Hong village attended the camp.

Technical sessions comprised deliberation on Jal Jeevan Mission by an official from UD & Housing Department, Primary Solid Waste Segregation and Management by a consultant from UD & Housing Department and Kitchen Waste Management and composting by Assistant Area Manager of Crisil Foundation Debia Nana.

President of India plants Red Sandalwood sapling in Raj Bhawan premises

ITANAGAR, February 21:

The President of India Droupadi Murmu on second day of her two-day maiden visit to Arunachal Pradesh planted a Red Sandalwood sapling in the premises of Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on February 21 morning, before leaving for Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly to address a Special Session.

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd) and officers and officials of Raj Bhawan were present on the occasion.

The plantation was organised in the front lawns of the main building of Raj Bhawan where the President planted a sapling of 'Pterocarpus Santalinus', commonly known as Red Sandalwood. This species of timber is one of the most valuable plant species found in Southern parts of India, and is generally used for medicinal

purposes as antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, tonic etc, besides furniture making.

The President of India thus carried on the exclusive tradition of planting saplings by the visiting dignitaries in Raj Bhawan premises.

Awareness programme held on inculcating reading habit

NAMSAI, February 22:

The second phase of a week-long library awareness program aimed at inculcating reading habit among students concluded at Govt. Nursing School here on February 22.

The first phase of library awareness programme was earlier conducted in 12 schools in Namsai during November, 2022.

As part of the second phase of the programme, the district library organized awareness programmes at Arunachal University of Studies, Namsai, Ven. Uktara Bethany College, Manmow, Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai, C.P. Namchom Govt. Polytechnic College, Jaipur and Govt. GNM School, Namsai.

A total of over five hundred students and 80 faculty members participated in the mass awareness programme wherein resource person and senior teacher Raju Dutta explained the role of the public library in the society with special focus on inculcating reading habits. He further informed about the services being provided by the fully automated Namsai district library with numerous facilities especially, designed for the needs of the students.

Later, principals of the concerned educational institutions submitted their feedback report to Namsai deputy commissioner and

requested to conduct such programme as frequent as possible.

Appreciating the efforts of the district library, Namsai deputy commissioner, C.R. Khampa suggested conducting more such programmes in a routine manner. He also requested the heads of educational institutions to encourage their teachers and students to avail maximum services of the library.

Government to provide unfailing partnership to entrepreneurs: DCM

ITANAGAR, February 22:

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein graced the Graduation and Seed money distribution ceremony of the Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Development Program (APEDP) as the Chief Guest on February 22.

The event was organized by Arunachal Pradesh Innovation & Investment Park to felicitate 31 startups who successfully completed incubation and pre-incubation in the APEDP - 1.0 (launched on August 15, 2020), and to distribute seed money to 35 selected startups under APEDP - 2.0 (launched on August 12, 2022).

Among the 35 selected startups under APEDP 2.0, the top ten winners will receive Rs. 5 lakhs each, whereas the remaining 25 startups will receive Rs. 4 lakhs each, on a milestone basis. They will also be receiving training, mentorship, incubation, and pre-incubation support from APIIP for the next 9 months.

Additionally, the graduating batch of Cohort 1.0 startups displayed their products and services at the ceremony. During the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister also launched the startup portal for the benefit of the startups in the region.

Addressing the entrepreneurs and officials present on the occasion, Mein expressed his pleasure over the progress made by APIIP in nurturing the aspiring startup ventures in Arunachal Pradesh through the implementation of APEDP. He mentioned that the Government of Arunachal Pradesh is committed to promoting innovative initiatives, and is hopeful that the Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Development program will bring economic development to the state.

Citing the overwhelming response received from over 800 applicants for the APEDP, the Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the enthusiasm among the young entrepreneurs and noted the vast scope of entrepreneurship development in Arunachal Pradesh.

Addressing the young entrepreneurs, Mein congratulated the newly selected startups under APEDP 2.0 and wished the best of success to the graduating batch of APEDP 1.0. He urged them to make use of the revamped startup portal and other facilities at APIIP towards scaling their respective business ventures.

Further motivating the spirit of entrepreneurship in the state, Mein applauded the active engagement of the youths of Arunachal Pradesh in building the startup ecosystem, generating increased job opportunities in the region, while empowering the youths to stand on their own feet.

The Deputy Chief Minister also assured the unfailing partnership of the state Govt. in facilitating the necessary resources and support to the young entrepreneurs in their journey to scale growth and bring greater development to the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Mein further urged all the Entrepreneurs to get themselves registered in the MSME of Govt. of India so that they can get more aid from the Ministry and instructed the officials to guide them and facilitate them through the Ease of Doing Business.

During the occasion, Chief Secretary Dharmendra, IAS and Principal Secretary, Planning & Investment Division Dr. Sarat Chauhan IAS also spoke to the audience and accorded their best regards to the newly selected startups of Cohort 2.0 and the graduating batch of startups of Cohort 1.0.

Annual Skill Mela/Skill Development Sensitization programme held

MECHUKHA, February 23:

Over 50 participants registered for different jobs under the PM-KVY, the CMYKY, the ITIs and the NAPS during the annual 'skill mela-cum-sensitisation and awareness rally' organised here by the Shi-Yomi District Industries Centre recently, in collaboration with the Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM). Addressing the participants, Mechukha CO Dr Honjon Perme delivered a motivational speech, emphasising on "the importance of skill development in today's competitive job market."

Shi-Yomi MGNF Bharat Jain presented a brief on the various skill development schemes and benefits available for interested individuals, while District Tourism Officer Rita Yorong emphasised on tourism and tourism-related activities.

The event was attended by, among others, ArSRLM Block Mission Manager Yapung Chiye and HoDs.

District Task Force Immunization meeting held at Khonsa

KHONSA, February 23:

Tirap DC Hento Karga urged the district's health workers to mobilise the eligible beneficiaries for immunisation at the grassroots level to ensure targeted achievement.

Addressing a meeting of the district task force on immunisation here on Friday to discuss the special vaccination drive, the DC also advised the medical officers of the GHKs, CHCs and PHCs, besides ASHAs and anganwadi workers, to "find out left-out beneficiaries of eligible aged groups, if any."

DMO (i/c) Dr Obang Taggu highlighted the importance of immunisation and the special vaccination campaign, while DRCHO Dr Tatok Gao presented the status of the special vaccination campaign, head count, IEC activities, awareness and mobilisation activities, and the district's immunisation status.

He informed that the special vaccination campaign will be held from 6 March, "focusing on RT." Among others, District Surveillance Officer Dr Palash Rakshit attended the meeting.

SFS College organizes Student's Cultural Exchange Programme

AALO, February 23:

A cultural exchange programme between the students of St Francis de Sales (SFS) College here in West Siang district and 30 students of social work department of Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU), Guwahati is underway at SFS College from 15 February. The programme is scheduled to conclude on February 23.

The programme gave the students a rare opportunity to come in contact with different cultures, people and food habits.

On 22 February, the students from Assam and their guides interacted with the faculty members and students of SFS College and performed dances of Galo, Khasi, Adi, Bihu, Adi-Bokar, Mizo and Tagin tribes.

Prof. Lukose PJ from ADBU gave presentation on career options for graduates, while Dr Marie M Nympha of the same university delivered lecture on 'skills for holistic life.'

MSFS Dr Fr James P, the principal and faculties of SFS College, among others, attended the programme.

DLRC meeting held

DAPORIJO, February 23:

Upper Subansiri DC (i/c) Tanam Kyali appealed to the banks "whose performance has been low in graph" to improve.

"They must improve their tasks to link the Indian banking system down to the rural level for the betterment of the public, as well as for a healthy banking system," the DC said, addressing a DCC/DLRC meeting on February 23.

The meeting, chaired by the DC, was attended by the Ziro SBI lead bank manager and all central and state bank managers in the district.

The DC also launched the banking sector's potential linked credit plan for 2023-'24 for the district.

The status of government flagship programmes being implemented by the respective banking sectors was also discussed.

Table top exercise on earthquake held

YINGKIONG, February 23:

A coordination meeting to discuss about mock exercise on earthquake scenario was conducted by the DDMA in collaboration with 12th Bn NDRF, Itanagar at DC Conference Hall, Yingkiong on February 23.

DC, Hage Lailang while chairing the meeting called upon the officers from NDRF to properly guide the public during mock exercise regarding preparedness during any eventualities and says that it will go a long way in benefiting the people of the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Commandant 12Bn NDRF P.N. Singh presented a power point presentation on Table Top on Earthquake Mock Exercise at DC conference hall, Yingkiong.

Later on the day, awareness and demonstration programme on school safety also conducted at multipurpose hall, Yingkiong.

Among others attended the meeting were ADC (hq) Dochora Lama, DDMO Beru Dulom, DMOi/c Dr. Ahik Miyu, DIPRO, Y.Jerang, DIO Rajneesh, APP Officers from Fire and Emergency Services, NDRF officers and staffs.

International Mother Language Day Concludes at RGU

RONO HILLS, February 23:

The three-day-long celebration of the International Mother Language Day, organised by the languages faculty of Rajiv Gandhi University, concluded on February 23.

The event, which was jointly organised by the university's English and Hindi departments, featured essay writing, folksong

and poetry recitation competitions for students, the university informed in a release, adding that certificates were awarded to the winners of the competitions.

Exposure Tour to Integrated Control & Command Centre (ICCC) of Pasighat Smart City organised for PRIs, HoDs, NGOs

PASIGHAT, February 23:

Under "Pasighat-Amrit Utsav: 100 Cities-100 Events" an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. of India under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign, Pasighat Smart City Development Corporation limited (PSCDCL) conducted one-day "ICCC Exposure Tour" for HoDs and Councillors/PRIs, CBOs & NGOs on February 23.

Chief Councillor PMC, Okiam Moyong Borang, ZPM Tamut Tasung, Jt.DHS (BPGH & T), Dr.T.Tali, District Transport Officer (MV), Marik Loyi were amongst the host of participants.

During the interactive session, CEO, PSCDCL, Dr. Manjuli Komut briefed that the ICCC is the nerve centre of the Pasighat Smart City Mission, covering not only City Surveillance, but various benefits which can be utilised by various departments in delivering public services ranging from health, sanitation, transport, traffic management, firesafety, IEC activities, city and other developmental planning and administration in an integrated manner. She hoped the exposure tour will create awareness on the functioning and benefits of the ICCC for the general people towards the goal of sustainable & future ready Smart City. She also responded to various queries

along with her team members.

Golden Kumar, Network Engineer PSCDCL in his PPT, highlighted on various features of ICCC and integration of Smart elements. Besides the CCTV Surveillance in 36 locations in the Smart City, he also highlighted on Emergency Call Box (ECB) System installed for Citizens to connect with Command Centre, Variable Message Display, Adaptive Traffic Control System etc.

Ajay Kumar, GIS Engineer PSCDCL demonstrated the benefits of GIS (Geographical Information System) and GIS applications in Smart City Planning, Natural Resource Management, Land use planning, sanitation, disaster management and various other developmental planning.

Demo on use of Emergency Call Box (ECB) was also shown. The participants in their feedback said that the exposure tour has helped them to understand the importance of the ICCC in a first hand manner.

Seminar on TDS and TCS awareness programme held

PASIGHAT, February 23:

A seminar on TDS and TCS awareness programme was organized for all DDOs (Drawing and Disbursing Officers), Accounts and Treasury Officers of East Siang district on February 23 in the DC's office conference hall.

Commissioner of Income Tax (TDS) Deepak Singh and Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax MS Bordoloi (TDS) from Guwahati, Assam and Income Tax Officer (TDS) from Dibrugarh, Assam imparted the training on TDS & TCS and highlighted the role of

DDOs and explained the workflow of deductions methodology.

ADC (HQ) Tatdo Borang presided over the seminar and all DDOs and officers and officials of various departments of East Siang dealing accounts related issues, took part in the seminar to enhance their knowledge on Tax Deduction at Source (TDS).

In their deliberation, the Income Tax officers emphasized on the need to maintain proper record of returns filed, challans in lieu of outstanding TDS demands and immediate remedial action to be taken to resolve the same.

The trio reiterated responsibilities of DDOs to deduct TDS and timely deposit the same and filing of returns and consequences in the form of penalties for non-compliance of provisions of income tax.

They also updated the audience regarding technical aspects of TDS matters, traces online features which comprise returns status, outstanding demand and other defaults and their rectification procedure. The participants were also made aware of the need to deduct TDS on salary every month on proportionate basis, instead of postponing tax liability to year end.

Dr Gagan Kundra, Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax (TDS), Ludhiana, and Dinesh Punj, inspector also attended the seminar. Land acquisition officers and staff from all wings of the Deputy Commissioner office attended the seminar.

RGU VC releases book on British 'medicine diplomacy'

RONO HILLS, February 23:

RGU Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha on February 23 released

a book titled *Medicine and Integration of Frontier Tribes: The British and after in Arunachal Pradesh*, written by Tajen Dabi.

Published by Delhi-based Primus Books, the book traces the use of medicine as an instrument of diplomacy in the British frontier policy, and as a medium of integration in the post-independent era in Arunachal Pradesh.

"A new domain of knowledge within the sphere

of British-tribal studies is the highlight of the book: the absence of medical missions; the 'political' role of doctors; the European-Indian divide over patronage to the tribes; the post-independent government policy on the integration of tribes; development of modern healthcare infrastructure, etc," the RGU informed in a release.

Congratulating the author, who is an associate professor in RGU's history department, Prof Kushwaha suggested sending copies of the book to the PMO and the union education ministry, "so that researches by Arunachali scholars get recognition at national and international policy circles, and that, through their writings, the national interest is served in the strategic state."

The VC also congratulated Prof Tana Showren, the research supervisor of the author.

MoS culture assures to set up a 'cultural center' at Ziro

ZIRO, February 23:

Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Leki has assured to sanction a 'cultural center' for Ziro valley.

The Minister made this announcement here on February 23 in

course of her 4-day tour to Lower Subansiri and Kurung Kumey Districts. She asked the Deputy Commissioner Lower Subansiri District to prepare the proposal and submit to Ministry through the Art and Culture Department.

A cultural center is an organization, building or complex that promotes culture and arts. Cultural centers can be neighborhood community arts organization, private facilities, government run or activist-run. Cultural centers enrich our society by promoting the arts, history, religion and heritage of diverse cultures.

The Minister, who reached the valley from Itanagar by road due to inclement weather was received by commissioner Agriculture Bidol Tayeng, Secretary Art and Culture Teye Kaye, Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner Bamin Nime, HoD's, members of Apatani Women Association Ziro, women NGO's and SHG's.

Commissioner Agriculture Bidol Tayeng made a power-point presentation on 'Review of Oil Palm Development in Arunachal Pradesh vis-à-vis NMEO-OP'. Remarking that oil palm plantations in Arunachal Pradesh would greatly help India from importing oil palms from countries of Malaysia and Indonesia, the MoS suggested the state Govt. to utilize the facility of 500 storage centres with cold storage facilities near the expressways and highways announced by the central Govt. for benefit of the farmers.

Earlier, the Minister was accorded a warm traditional welcome at the valley by local Apatani Daminda dance troop comprising members of various tribes, cultural presentations by students of St. Claret College, women SHG's and NGO's.

After visiting a few places

of tourist interest at the valley, the MoS left for Kurung Kumey District.

Indian Army celebrates AACC closing ceremony in a grand manner

PASIGHAT, February 23:

The Spearhead division of the Indian Army, under the aegis of the Spear Corps, celebrated the closing ceremony of the Army Adventure Challenge Cup (AACC) 2022-23 event at the Rayang military station auditorium in East Siang district on February 23.

The AACC had started on 14 February from Yingkiong (Upper Siang) and concluded here on 19 February.

Thirteen teams, including from the army, the ITBP and the coastguard, participated in the event, which involved 15 kms of cycling, 10 kms of running, and 19 kms of white water rafting down the Siang river.

For the first time, rock climbing was introduced, and the event thereby became a quadrathlon from a triathlon.

The eastern command emerged the champion, while the western command was adjudged the runner-up.

Addressing the closing ceremony on Thursday, Likabali-based 56 Infantry Division GOC, Maj Gen VK Purohit advised the gathering, which included school-children, to focus on fitness and sportsmanship.

Central team visits GPs in Namsai

NAMSAI, February 24:

A team of officials from the union panchayati raj ministry, comprising ASO Sonu Kumar and consultants

Suddhasattwa Barik and Vatsalya Malviya, visited the Mahaloni, Mokrun and Mimey-Empong gram panchayats (GP) in Namsai district on February 24 to observe and understand the panchayati raj institutions' funds, function and functionaries concept.

The team also sought to understand the capacities of panchayats for localisation of sustainable development goals, effective service delivery, implementation of the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, centrally-sponsored schemes, Swamitva, own source revenue generation initiative, SHG-PRI convergence, poverty alleviation, etc.

The team interacted with the gram panchayat chairpersons to understand how development – human, economic and social – is being implemented at the gram panchayat level.

The discussion also focused on the 29 panchayat subjects, emphasising on women and child development, water and sanitation, scheduled tribes' development, marginalised communities' social uplift, forest, environment and climate change, health and hygiene, agriculture and allied sectors, etc.

The team also met Deputy Commissioner CR Khampa to provide feedback on the observations made, as well as on possible aspects of gram panchayat development plan and the district panchayat development planning.

Officers and officials of the district, including RE Deputy Director Nabam Rajesh, District Panchayat Development Officer Wathai Mossang, PMFS (PR) district nodal officer Chow Arvind Jainow, PTA Gollo Taku, and other functionaries assured to collaborate with the central team in converging schemes and line departments for holistic, inclusive and

sustainable development through community participation at the grassroots level.

The Swamitva scheme was also discussed. Under the scheme, the inhabitants will be able to get 'property cards', which is expected to enable them to generate livelihood

CM meets AOA to review the preparations of Sansad Khel Spardha-2023

ITANAGAR, February 24:

Chief Minister Pema Khandu on February 24 held a meeting with the Arunachal Olympic Association (AOA) to review the preparations for the successful conduct of the first-ever Sansad Khel Spardha-2023 to be held in the State.

Assuring all support from the state government, the Chief Minister said the event is being organized as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to identify sports talent so that they may find place at the national and international sports platforms.

He stressed that 'Sansad Khel Spardha' be popularized as a mass sports programme so that the culture of sports is encouraged among the youths and their sporting talents are groomed and channeled.

The Chief Minister also emphasized for popularizing Para sports in the State, and appreciated the works of Paralympic Association of Arunachal Pradesh in this regard.

AOA Secretary General Bamang Tago, during the meeting, made a detail presentation on the ongoing preparatory works for the smooth conduct of the 'Sansad Khel Spardha'.

The review meeting was

also attended by Anirudh Saran Singh, IRS, Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs, GoAP, Tadar Apa, Director, Sports and state leading sports promoters including Abraham K. Tech, Sr. Vice President, AOA, Toko Teki, Vice President, AOA, Bulang Marik, Treasurer, AOA, Kipa Ajay, Secretary General, APFA and Tech Sonu, Secretary General Paralympic Association of Arunachal Pradesh.

DCM attends NEC Golden Jubilee celebration

ITANAGAR, February 24:

The North Eastern Council celebrated its 50 years Golden Jubilee at the Dorjee Khandu Conventional Hall in Itanagar, which was graced by Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein as the Chief Guest. The event marked the glorious achievements of the NEC and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the region of North East.

Appreciating the work done by the North Eastern Council, the Deputy Chief Minister acknowledged the significant contributions made by NEC to the Socio-Economic Development of the region in the past five decades. "Despite a 25-year gap in the beginning of development processes in the North East compared to other parts of the country, the NEC's Golden Jubilee, coinciding with the Azadi Ka Amrit-Mahotsav, is symbolic. As we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of NEC, we would also like to take firm steps to achieve our centenary goal and work on NER Vision 2047," said Mein in his speech.

The Deputy Chief Minister also noted that under the visionary leadership of Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi and with the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah who is also the Chairman of Council, the developmental gaps in the North Eastern Region have been reduced significantly in the past couple of years. He also emphasised that the Modi's commitment towards the development of the North Eastern Region has always been paramount, and also highlighted the announcement of the first budget in Amrit Kaal, which will be guided by seven priorities such as inclusive Development, Reaching the Last Mile, Unleashing the Potential and Green Growth which can steer the development of regions like the NER.

Adding on, Mein highlighted the significant enhancement in the budget outlay for the MDoNER during the financial year 2023-24, informing that the total budget estimate for 2023-2024 is Rs. 5892 crores, which will be utilised in the development of the North Eastern regions and to fulfill the dreams of the people of the region.

Speaking about NEC, Mein appreciated the council for significantly helping Arunachal Pradesh in its infrastructure development and sanctioning a total of 221 projects in the State, out of which 154 projects have been completed and a total of 33 projects are ongoing. He said that the NEC has contributed to developing critical infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh, such as the iconic Civil Secretariat building and the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

Mein also suggested that the need for strategic planning regarding the future pursuits of the council in the next 50 years, which should be taken up by NEC to connect the region with various knowl-

edge partners at regional, national and international platform. He also opined to ponder into the procedural delay in the implementation of the project under NEC as North East Region has short working season owing to heavy rainfall area.

Mein gave assurance to the NEC that the State government of Arunachal Pradesh will work together with the council to make Arunachal Pradesh one of the most sustainably developed regions of the nation.

C.H. Kharshing, Planning Advisor NEC and Dr. Sharat Chauhan (IAS), Principal Secretary GoAP also attended the function.

To mark the occasion, Marathon race with the theme 'Drugs Choro, Khel Mein Joro' was also organized by the Planning & Investment Department with the support of NEC and a symposium on 'Contribution of NEC in the sustainable Growth of Arunachal Pradesh' was also conducted during the technical session.

12THBn NDRF conducts mock exercise on earthquake scenario at Yingkiong

YINKIONG, February 24:

12th Bn National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted one day mock exercise on earthquake preparedness at general ground Yingkiong on February 24 in collaboration with District Administration Upper Siang District Disaster Management Authority, Arunachal Pradesh Police Fire and Emergency Services division and Health and Family Welfare, Yingkiong with a objective to create awareness for effective preparedness and response during time of actual disasters scenario.

During the mock exercise, NDRF team demonstrated search and rescue technique like rope rescue, scene assessment, First aid, CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) process etc followed by training session of personnel of Police and Fire Emergency Services at the venue.

In the debriefing session, ADC (Hq) Dochora Lama thanked the NDRF team for coming all the way from Itanagar to conduct such crucial mock exercise on earthquake preparedness and says that techniques demonstrated by the NDRF will definitely helpful for people during any eventualities and at the same time dispelling the rumours going around in social media in Upper Siang district too regarding occurrence of earthquake on 26th Feb'2023, he requested the people to not to panic and believe such rumours and says that occurrence of earthquake cannot be predicted as it is a natural phenomenon. But he added that people should remain prepared and kept in mind all techniques demonstrated during such exercise to minimise the loss of life and properties during any emergencies.

Assistant Commissioner Shri Himanshu Nigam, IAS also spoke and says Upper Siang District is geographically a hilly terrain which is likely to prone to natural disasters and so whenever DA conducts such exercises, it is very important on the part of public to participate and keep themselves well informed about the safety measures. NDRF team was supervised and lead by Dy. Commandant 12 Bn NDRF, Itanagar Shri P.N. Singh.

DDMO Beru Dulom, Officers from APP Fire and Emergency Services, Health and general public participated in the event.

Three- Day Book Fair & Literary Festival held at Deomali

DEOMALI, February 24:

A three-day 'national book fair & literary camp', organised by the Tirap district administration, in collaboration with the National Book Trust, Guwahati, and Wangcha Rajkumar Government College (WRGC), concluded here on February 24.

The camp had been inaugurated on 23 February by Deomali ADC Vishakha Yadav, in the presence of Soha ZPM Sam Korok, Deomali ZPM Wangphoon Lowang, WRGC Principal Dr Monshi Tayeng, and GHSS Deomali Principal Y Matey.

On the inaugural day, the ADC interacted with the college's students and encouraged them to work hard and excel in life.

Korok highlighted the importance of inculcating the reading habit among the youths, and Dr Tayeng stressed on "the importance of education in moulding the young minds in the right direction."

A career counselling session was conducted by Assistant Professor Taiwang Wangsa.

Longding RWD AE Khinwang Socia advised the students to "have determination and perseverance in order to achieve their goals in life," while the ADC offered suggestions on how to prepare for UPSC examination.

The three-day programme also included poem recitation and extempore speech events for the students.

Unying Aran festival celebration begins

BOLENG, February 25:

Celebration of Unying Aran, the new year festival of the Adi com-

munity, got underway here in Siang district on February 25 with traditional pomp and gaiety.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, union Ports, Shipping & Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who attended the inaugural festivity, commended the celebration committee “for initiating this kind of festival to revive the age-old tradition and its practices, which need to be passed on from generation to generation.”

“Fairs and festivals are the heart, soul and identity of any tribal society, and it is essential to be rooted to our culture and tradition,” he added.

Sonowal was accompanied by Assam Tourism Development Committee Chairman Rituparna Baruah, and Dibrugarh University Registrar Paramananda Sonowal.

Among others, MP Tapir Gao, MLAs Ninong Ering, Kal-ing Moyong and Talem Taboh, and former ministers

Tamiyo Taga and Tahung Tatak attended the inaugural day’s programme.

Earlier, the dignitaries were received by the host of the event, Pangin-Boleng MLA Ojing Tasing.

Workshop on drug abuse, women empowerment held

DIRANG, February 25:

The information & public relations department organised a workshop on ‘Drug abuse, health & hygiene, education, and women empowerment’ in West Kameng district on February 25 in collaboration with the Mother Kelsang Choiquey Welfare Society.

Addressing the participating GBs, GPMs, and members of

the WWA of Dirang and SHGs, besides elderly people and youth leaders, Dirang MMT unit president Tsering Tashi and advocate Gombu Tsering Gonpapa apprised them of the issues related to children, youths, and women.

Parents were advised to deal with youths abusing drugs by “supporting through understanding and tender care to bring them to the right path,” instead of abusing such youths.

“They must be referred to good drug rehabilitation facilities. If not tackled soon, the addiction of drugs will eventually ruin the path of progress of many individuals and our nation as a whole,” the speakers observed.

Matters related to health and hygiene and women empowerment were also discussed.

Students of Mother Kelsang Choiquey Free Education Centre presented a skit on drug abuse.

Legal literacy training for GBs of Tirap organized by APSLSA & DOJ

KHONSA, February 25:

The Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Service Authority in collaboration with the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice on February 25, held a Legal Literacy cum Training Programme for the Gaon Burahs & Burihs of Tirap District at Circuit House Conference Hall, Khonsa under the theme “Synergy between Customary Practices of the Traditional Village Council System & Formal Laws of India”.

The Training programme which was carried under Union Ministry’s DISHA Scheme – Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice, was

attended by close to 60 Gaon Burahs, who came from different corners of the region. Also in attendance were stakeholders of relevant Government departments including Yomge, Member Secretary of APSLSA – Judiciary, Kardak Riba, S.P – Police dept; & ADC (i/c) Hakrasha Kri, – from District Administration.

The participating GBs were apprised on various important topics, relevant to their roles as Head of the Traditional Village Council such as the Assam Frontier Regulation of 1945, the Arunachal Pradesh Civil Courts Act of 2021 (which now officially recognizes the Traditional Courts as a Formal Civil Court of Law), fundamentals of Court Proceedings, as well as basic criminal and civil laws; all of which were taken by Subject Experts - Yomge Ado; District & Sessions Judge Ito Basar; and Adv. Nyajing Hallang respectively. The Training programme also featured a dedicated Legal Awareness Session, during which the several topics of public interest related to legal Aid, entitlements and schemes were covered by Narang Laji, JMFC and Adv. Gulley Sumnyan of the District Legal Services Authority, Khonsa.

The participants were also informed & instructed about the “Each One, Teach Ten” (E1T10) initiative by Project coordinator Gonum Pul. The E1T10 initiative is an offshoot of the incumbent Gaon Burah project under which every GB trained and sensitized by the APSLSA will impart awareness to 10 ordinary members of the community on the concept of Free Legal Aid and associated schemes that the public have at their disposal, and in doing so promote Legal Awareness & empowerment to even the most remote part of the State.

The event concluded with Affirmation Exercise during which all the Gaon Burah & Burihs of the Valley pledged to take on the challenge of spreading Legal Literacy under the Each One Teach Ten Campaign.

MoS visits Koloriang, Likabali

KOLORIANG, February 25: Union MoS for Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi, who was on a four-day visit to the state on February 25, reviewed the implementation of central government schemes in Kurung Kumey district.

She visited the district hospital in Koloriang and inspected the oxygen plant installed under the PM CARES scheme.

The minister also suggested installing a plastic crushing machine at the primary school in Koloriang.

She directed the district's officials to "chart out a method of waste disposal system, so that the beauty of the area is intact."

Lekhi later travelled to Likabali in Lower Siang district, where she visited the Malinithan site and Akashi Ganga.

NABARD-supported rural haat inaugurated

HUKANJIRI, February 25: Adviser to CM, Tai Tagak, inaugurated a rural haat, supported by the NABARD, in Tirap district on February 25.

The rural haat, constructed by NGO Seva Samithy with financial assistance from the NABARD, consists of a market shed and an 'office-cum-storage room', besides toilets with water supply and sanitation facilities for the customers, the NABARD

informed in a release.

The haat will be managed by the Rural Haat Management Committee.

Tagak encouraged the farmers of the area to "form an FPO to access the benefits of the development interventions and schemes being undertaken by the state government for the welfare of the people of the state."

NABARD GM Partho Saha said: "While the NABARD gave loans under RIDF for the creation of large infrastructure to the state government, smaller infrastructure like haats are a gift to the people of the state out of grant assistance."

NABARD DDM Kamal Roy informed that "the market shed will be used by the farmers and SHGs to sell their agri-horti, handloom, handicraft items and livestock produce, covering all the nearby villages of Hukanjiri." He informed that "the unique 'Falap tea' of Tirap has been taken up for GI registration and the certificate will give a big boost to the value of the product in the global market."

A brand named 'Make in Patkai' was also launched on the occasion. It is a social startup initiated by the Seva Samithy to enhance rural entrepreneurship and rural livelihood.

Meanwhile, KVIB Chairman Dominic Tadar inaugurated wayside amenities funded by the NERCRMS under the NEC.

Tadar spoke about the subsidy-linked schemes of the KVIB and urged the youths to "avail the benefits and become job creators instead of being distracted by negative elements of society."

Seva Samithy secretary Jaawang Lowangcha also spoke.

Tali gets road connectivity

*Pema Khandu becomes the first
Cm to reach Tali by road*

TALI, February 25:

The last unconnected administrative center and the only unconnected Assembly constituency of the state – Tali – have been connected by road at last. Chief Minister Pema Khandu became the first chief minister to reach Tali in Kra Daadi district travelling by road on February 25.

During his last visit to the area in 2017 by helicopter, Khandu had promised to the people that his next visit would be by road - a promise fulfilled on the auspicious occasion of Nyokum.

"I am proud to be part of the historic and momentous occasion, to finally witness Tali ADC headquarters get connected by road. Though established in 1957, Tali administrative headquarters never saw road connectivity. We worked on mission mode to complete 51 (approx) km Yangte - Tali road at the earliest," he said while joining the 45th Nyokum Yullo celebrations here on Sunday, February 26.

Khandu, who inspected the under-construction road from Tali to Pip Sorang, a circle headquarter of Tali ADC administrative centre early morning, assured that the 50 km PMGSY road will be completed by year end.

"By the time you all celebrate the 46th Nyokum Yullo at Tali, Pip Sorang will be connected," he announced.

He reiterated his appeal to the people 'not to expect or demand land compensation'. As overall development will follow road connectivity, Khandu said that if people will give land free of cost, government is duty bound to

construct roads wherever needed.

Expressing concern over the delay in completion of the Tamen (Kamle district) to Tali road, work on which began in the late 60s, Khandu assured that this road too will be completed by his government.

He also admitted that the stretch from the Kumey bridge point on the Yangte-Tali road requires attention as the current alignment is too much treacherous for driving. He directed the concerned officials to complete the stretch at the earliest and redo the alignment wherever necessary.

Further, Khandu said that the stretch of road from the Joram-Koloriang highway to Yangte is unfit for regular travel and assured that the 15 km stretch will be redone immediately.

He called upon the people of Tali area, who have migrated to other towns and cities like Ziro and Itanagar, to resettle in their own villages. He gave the example of local MLA Jikke Tako, who has constructed his residence at Tali though being settled at Itanagar.

“This is your birth place. Your roots grow from this area. Even if you are settled elsewhere, stay connected to your roots. Have your home and hearth at Tali,” he beckoned.

Meanwhile, Khandu on his way from Yangte to Tali on Saturday dedicated the reconstructed steel-arch bridge over Kumey River to the people. The bridge had given away after construction under the impact of a falling rock that had disrupted road connectivity to Tali for at least a year.

Khandu was accompanied by Home Minister Bamang Felix, Namsai legislator Chow Zignu Namchoom, Palin legislator Balo Raja and others.

Assam Rifles apprehends NSCN-K (Ya)

KHONSA, February 25:

In a successful Counter- Insurgency operation launched by Khonsa Battalion of Assam Rifles with Longding Police , one hardcore insurgent of NSCN-K (YA) was apprehended in the early afternoon of February 25.

As per our sources, Khonsa Battalion of Assam Rifles received an input of presence of a cadre in Chop village of Longding district. Based on the input, the Assam Rifles troops with Longding Police launched an operation in the border village.

During the search of the area, a hardcore militant with a weapon and other war like stores was apprehended by the joint team, when the militant was trying to flee.

The apprehended cadre of NSCN-K (YA) has been identified as Hongang Gangsa of Chop village of Longding district. It is being reported that the militant infiltrated from Myanmar with intent to carry out extortion and other subversive activities in the villages along the Indo-Myanmar Border.

He was also said to be involved in threatening locals and village leaders in Wakka and Pangchao circles of Longding district, creating an atmosphere of fear in the area.

District level sports meet underway

KHONSA, February 26:

A two-day district level sports meet, being organized by the Tirap district unit of the Nehru Yuva Kendra, got underway here on February 26.

District Sports Officer

Noah Mongku in his address urged the participants to “maintain sportsmanship spirit and stay away from unlawful activities,” and added that “sports and academic activities should go hand in hand.”

Meanwhile, MLA W Sawin donated Taekwondo mats to the sports & youth affairs department.

Nyokum festival celebrated across state

ITANAGAR, February 26:

Nyokum festival of the Nyishi community was celebrated across the state on February 26 with traditional fervour and gaiety.

In Papum Pare district, Toru circle celebrated its 50th Nyokum festival with great fanfare.

Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, who along with Rajya Sabha member Nabam Rebia and former chief minister and Sagalee MLA Nabam Tuki attended the festivity, emphasised on preserving the state’s traditional cultures and festivals.

He lauded the Nyishi community “for preserving the cultural values of Nyokum Yullo and upholding the love and respect for their culture,” and stressed on “the need for passing down this rich heritage to the younger generations.”

Mein urged the people of Toru to “prioritise environmental preservation while celebrating the festival, and promote tourism, showing love and hospitality to visitors while engaging them in various tourism activities.”

Encouraging all the communities to strive to make Arunachal Pradesh a model state, Mein gave assurance that “the government is committed to providing necessary infrastructure

and resources for the preservation of the cultures and traditions of the state.”

The DCM informed that, “as part of cultural preservation, the government is also committed to establish indigenous gurukuls in every district to ensure the passing down of traditional values to future generations, with three gurukuls already established so far.”

He appealed to the people to shun hunting and preserve the state’s rich flora and fauna.

He further said: “Arunachal University in Pasighat will be made functional soon, and the state government will also look into the construction of an engineering college in Toru.”

Rebia and Tuki also spoke.

The DCM also unveiled a monolith to commemorate the golden jubilee celebration of Nyokum in Toru.

Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) Mayor Tamme Phasang attended the celebration in Naharlagun, where he urged the Nyishi community to celebrate Nyokum “with full rituals,” and to maintain their age-old tradition.

IMC Commissioner Likha Tejji, who accompanied the mayor, said that “Nyokum is not a religious festival but a secular festival where everyone from every walk of life can participate, irrespective of their religion, caste, or creed.”

In Joram in Lower Subansiri district, DC Bamin Nime, who participated in the festival, said that “the spirit of unity among the Nyishis and the Apatanis living together in Lower Subansiri district is a testimony to the change of mindset and wholesome development.”

The DC suggested “erecting a ‘unity pillar’ between Joram and Bamin-Michi traditional forest boundary, like the Hari-Bulla

and Aye-Boa unity pillars erected by the Nyishis of Upper Yachuli circle and Apatanis of Hari-Bulla villages.”

The DC advocated “reviving the traditional ‘manyang system’ between the two tribes to pass on the spirit of unity, harmony and congenial living to the young generations.”

Prominent Nyishi doyen Dr Joram Begi seconded the DC’s suggestion to revive the manyang system between the Nyishis and the Apatanis, and urged the Nyishis to take part in the celebration, irrespective of their religions, to maintain their identity and culture.

“Joram is synonymous with Nyokum since the first Nyokum was celebrated in Joram in 1967, and the festival completed its golden jubilee in 2017 in Joram,” he added.

Local legislator Taba Tedir and Yazali ZPM Gem Taje also appealed to the Nyishis to participate in Nyokum celebration.

Volunteering to “contribute towards ‘genome conservation’ of our tribesmen,” Soil Conservation Director Joram Pufa said: “Earlier, only Nyishis were invited to Nyokum celebrations, but now people from other tribes are also invited to imbibe the spirit of unity and diversity among the people of the state.”

Prize distribution to the winners of various competitions, and a colourful cultural programme were the highlights of the celebration.

Among others, DMO Dr Taje Kanno and Diibo ZPM Bamin Gumbo participated in the celebration.

Nyokum was celebrated in Kamle district also with great pomp and show.

In Boasimla in Lower Sub-

ansiri district, Industry Minister Tumke Bagra, attending the celebration, assured to provide full support for the development of the Nyokum ground.

In Raga in Kamle district, APIC Commissioner Gumjum Haidar urged the people to preserve their customs and traditions with religious fervour, while in Daporijo, the people of upper Kamle and Upper Subansiri celebrated Nyokum with great enthusiasm.

IAS officers from LBSNAA Mussoorie visits Itanagar and Ziro

ITANAGAR, February 26:

Altogether 17 IAS officers from LBSNAA Mussoorie visited Itanagar and Ziro as part of their Bharat Darshan tour.

The team had a brief interaction with the i/c Chief Secretary Dr. Sharat Chauhan at Civil Secretariat today wherein the i/c CS briefed them about the various geographical, historical and cultural aspect of the State. He also briefed about how the state is progressing in various sectors like tourism, biodiversity, Agri-horti, hydropower, geology and mining etc.

Sadhana Deori, Secretary (GA/DA/SA/Tourism) & State Protocol Officer through a PPT briefed about the cultural diversity and various places of importance in the state.

The Deputy Commissioner Capital Itanagar Sachin Rana while welcoming the officers assured to provide all kind of cooperation from District Administration.

The team of officers was given a tour of the Civil Secretariat including the famous Zen garden.

Later, the team paid a visit to the Arunachal Pradesh State

Legislative Assembly wherein they had a brief meeting with the Deputy Soaker Tesam Pongte. The Deputy Speaker while welcoming and lauding the visiting IAS officers encouraged them to put their best effort through their expertise in various field towards betterment of the Nation. He also shared the vision Arunachal Pradesh as the state is working towards nation building in various sectors.

The team also had a tour of the Library, Museum, assembly hall, auditorium at the APLA building.

On Sunday, February 26, the team visited Ziro during which they had a visit to many prominent places of historical importance and also places of tourist attraction at ziro.

They also got a chance to attend one of the most celebrated festivals of the state Nyokum at Yazali. They also had brief interaction with DC Lower Subansiri Bamin Nime during their stay there.

The team also visited the Ranganadi Hydro Power project at Yazali during which the officials had an interaction with the Head of Project NEEPCO.

The IAS officers are from six different states in India including Maharashtra,

Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and currently on Bharat Darshan tour as part of their training at LBSNAA.

Advisor to CM visits Longchan Circle

LONGDING, February 27:

Tai Tagak, Advisor to Chief Minister, Tai Tagak visited Longchan Circle on February

27 where he visited the site of the Nginu massacre of 1875, and proposed erecting a war memorial there “under the aegis of ‘Unsung Hero of Arunachal Pradesh’.”

Later, Tagak attended a public reception organised “for the medallion and citation of honour of Khunjing Wangham and Wangchin Wangsapa posthumously on the occasion of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.” The martyrs were also conferred the title of ‘unsung heroes’ by the governor on 20 February.

In his address, Tagak spoke about the “valorous Wancho who resisted the colonial subjugation” and the “rich history which had been forgotten forever, which finally received its due recognition under the initiative of the present government.”

He commended the State Core Committee on Unsung Heroes of Arunachal Pradesh (headed by DCM Chowna Mein) and the history department of Rajiv Gandhi University “for their honest effort for the recognition of the indigenous people of Arunachal Pradesh.”

He also credited Nepha Wangsa “for his selfless effort in contributing for the research of the unsung Wancho warriors and being part of the research team of the university.”

Wangsa, who is a researcher and the author of The Nginu Massacre, and had been raising the matter of recognising the state’s

unsung heroes, thanked the government of India’s Azadi Ka Amrit campaign.

Wangsa travelled across India and also London, UK, with a research team in search of authentic documents to revis-

it the rich history of the indigenous people of Arunachal who resisted colonial subjugation.

The delegation also visited the site of the proposed school called ‘Nibang Vidhya Niketan Nginu’ in Longchan under Vidhya Bharati.

Nginu village chief Longwang Wangham also spoke.

The programme was attended by a host of dignitaries, including members of the Wancho Council, headed by its GS Somnai Wangpan, members of the Wancho Cultural Society, headed by its GS Sanwang Wangsa, Longchan ZPM Rajiv Wangsa, and the public.

Awareness programme on Nidhi Aapke Nikat held

TAWANG, February 27:

The Guwahati (Assam)-based employees provident fund (EPF) office conducted an awareness programme on Nidhi Aapke Nikat (NAN) 2.0 on February 27.

New Delhi-based EPF Commissioner Apurva Gautam, who attended the programme, informed that “the government of India aims to go to the public at their doorsteps to create awareness regarding EPF schemes under NAN 2.0.”

Tawang DC Kesang Ngurup Damo expressed confidence that the participants would “gain thorough knowledge of the EPF schemes from the officers concerned at their doorsteps,” and added that “all casual workers, irrespective of the organisation in which they are engaged, should be covered under the EPF scheme, and it is compulsory.”

“The registered contractors should get it done and open EPF accounts of all workers under them,” he said.

DRDA PD Tenzin Jambe said that the beneficiaries may contact the DRDA senior accountant for any clarification regarding EPF in the days to come.”

Earlier, Sujoy Bhat-tacharyya from the Guwahati EPFO informed that the Centre launched the NAN programme in January 2023, “and it has now been decided that, on the 27th of every month, this awareness programme will be conducted all over the country.

“Therefore, today, this kind of awareness programme is being conducted in 15 other districts of the state,” he said.

Department of IT and Communication held skill training programme

ITANAGAR, February 27:

Under the initiative of Department of IT and Communication, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, a flag-off event was held on February 27 at Conference hall of 3D Hotel, Itanagar for the third batch of the GoAP sponsored IT Skill training programme by Doni Nich, Chairman SCITeG in the presence of Anirudh S Singh, IRS, Secretary IT and other officers of the department.

Department of IT and Communication, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, in association with Training Partner - Valeur Fabtex Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati Assam is implementing a project viz. IT BPO(Business process outsourcing)where unemployed youth from different districts of

Arunachal Pradesh is undergoing a free 4-months residential training for getting employed in Domestic and International process in the BPO, Call Centre and various MNC's over Pan India.

Flag off ceremony was organized for those candidates who got the opportunity to join training program this time.

The IT Council Chairman thanked CM Pema Khandu for this initiative of 4-month residential learning programme at Guwahati training center funded under the IT Skill programme of GoAP which will focus on the development of IT-based skills with proper professional training in the BPO/Call center sector for the unemployed youths of the Arunachal Pradesh.

Secretary IT Anirudh S Singh, IRS in his speech have informed about the growing demands of BPO in the North East region and if more youths today are skilled and trained in this field then it can benefit the development process. Skill development is a vital tool to empower people, to safeguard their future and for the overall development of an individual. It is an important aspect that enhances employability in today's globalization. Skills are as essential as one's academic status. Education and skills should now go hand in hand.

The programme ended with the departure of the candidates to Guwahati Training Centre from Itanagar.

Workshop on special Vaccination campaign review meeting held

AALO, February 27:

West Siang District Immunisation Officer (DIO) Dr Tomar

Kamki expressed concern over the declining graph of routine immunisation (RI) in the district and urged the district's medical superintendent, all MOs, and healthcare workers to “improve the declining rate of RI performance of the district by taking the opportunity of the special vaccination campaign scheduled from 6-20 March, as per micro-plan.”

Addressing a meeting of the District Task Force for Immunisation on February 27 Dr Kamki also informed that the “WIFS programme shall meticulously be implemented in schools henceforth.”

RI nodal officer Dr Jumge Padu gave a presentation on the special vaccination campaign, and imparted training to the participants on how to prepare a micro-plan and implement the vaccination campaign in the coming month.

NHM District Programme Officer Yomto Lollen presented a brief on the district's performance vis-à-vis RI, HMIS, family planning activities, WIFS, and QAC, and urged the MOs to “track all the left-out and dropout children to achieve full immunisation target of the district as per RI micro-plan.”

WCD Deputy Director (i/c) Bahi Koyu suggested that IEC activities be “made top priority to sensitise at grassroots level,” and said that “all the MOs are to be in constant touch with their ASHAs and healthcare workers to guide and supervise the RI programme.”

Deputy Commissioner Penga Tato, who chaired the meeting, directed all the healthcare workers to “collect accurate data while conducting RI micro-plan household survey, and verify the data accordingly.”

He also appealed to the MOs to “perform their duties as per the prescribed government rule to accomplish the goal of all the national health programmes.”

Two days farmers training held at Aalo

AALO, February 27:

More than 560 farmers are participating in a two-day training programme being organised here in West Siang district by the animal husbandry, veterinary & dairy development (AHV&DD) department from February 27 under the guidance of AHV&DDO Dr Dagge Riba.

Attending the inaugural programme, West Siang DC Penga Tato urged the farmers to avail the benefits of government-sponsored schemes, and appealed to the uneducated unemployed youths to “enroll their details in the national career portal for job in labour office, Aalo.”

He also requested the district’s ZPMs to guide the farmers in the matter of sustainable development.

The DAHV&DDO presented a brief on the training programme on poultry farming, dairy development, piggery, etc, while SVOs Dr Yani Ngomdir, Dr Kejom Padu, Dr Yika Angu and Dr Dakto Basar imparted training in pig husbandry, poultry management, management of sheep and goats, dairy, and fodder.

DM bans illegal fishing and hunting

PASIGHAT, February 27:

District Magistrate Tayi Taggu through an executive order U/S

133 Cr.PC on February 27 has banned all kinds of hunting and fishing in order to save and protect the wildlife in the entire district. Violation of this prohibitory order shall attract penal action as per provisions of law.

The order mentioned that various social organizations, environment activists and ABK Youth Wing have brought to the notice of the district administration that many individuals were engaged themselves in hunting of wild birds and animals and fishing in the district with different types of weapons, harmful chemical and explosive etc in the name of celebration of local festival, traditions and otherwise.

The district administration urged the civil society including the elected leaders, GBs, PRI leaders, NGOs and the citizens at large to extend their cooperation in checking hunting and fishing by unscrupulous people. Wildlife Protection Act-1972 under various sections categorically prohibit hunting, trade or commerce and transportation of wild animals and birds among other provisions and Act but also attracts penal provisions under the Arms Act, 1959, the order read.

Borang inaugurates DDU-GKY awareness cum enrollment camp

PASIGHAT, February 28:

Pasighat ADC Tatdo Borang on February 28 inaugurated Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in the Mirbuk Musup, Pasighat.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC said that DDU-GKY being implanted by the

Ministry of Rural Development was a placement linked skill development program for rural youth under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) all over the country.

The objective of the scheme is to provide short term Training for fresh skilling of school drop outs and unemployed youth. It has been brought up with a mission to provide skill development training to the unskilled unemployed youths as a great source of empowerment. Every candidate undergoing training under DDU-GKY is given mandatory basic training on career progression enabling them to become employable in the open market besides strengthening a sense of confidence and self-esteem, stated Borang.

The ADC also threw light on role of Gram Panchayat and Women Self Help groups and appreciated the officials of Arunachal State Livelihood Mission (ArSLM) Block Mission Manager Rowcha Wangsu and Mission Executives Lappu Don and Koj Piya and their associates for organizing the awareness camp cum enrollment process in a befitting manner.

Other highlights of the day were presentations by Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs), penal discussion-open house and counseling session and enrollment etc.

Changlang DLIO passes away

CHANGLANG, February 28:

Changlang district library & information officer (DLIO), Linlop Lulin, passed away on February 28 at a private hospital in

Dibrugarh, Assam, after a prolonged illness.

Lulin was 47, and is survived by his wife and son. He had joined service on 20 June, 2007.

Officers and officials of the Changlang DC office observed a two-minute silence on Wednesday, February 1 as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

In a condolence message, Changlang ADC Marpe Riram, on behalf of the deputy commissioner, expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed to god to bestow courage on the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

DTFI meeting on special vaccination campaign

ZIRO, February 28:

The District Task Force for Immunization (DTFI) conducted a special vaccination campaign meeting at the conference hall of Gyati Takka General Hospital.

The vaccination campaign would be launched on 6th March next and end on 20th March. During the campaign, vaccinations would be given to children aged between

0 to 2 years who had missed or dropped out from vaccinations and to pregnant women. Also, vaccinations to children aged between 9 months to 5 years who had missed measles rubella vaccinations would also be given as part of measles rubella elimination goal by 2023. Routine vaccinations to children aged between 10 to 16 years would also be administered during the campaign.

During the meeting, it was decided to give wide publicity and awareness generation to the stakeholders, motivation of staffs by respective controlling officers for effective implementation of the programme and issue of instructions to Anganwadi workers by DD ICDS for community mobilization of the stakeholders.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chairman District Health Society Bamin Nime and DTFI members comprising DFWO Dr. Sinpor Rigia, DD, ICDS Dani Yami, DSP Ojing Lego, EAC (Dev) Tage Tatung, Station Director AIR Ziro Hage Tachang, MS GTGH Dr. Koj Jarbo, and DPMNHM Ziro Nani Nado. (DIPRO).

Ziro gears up to receive Nitin Gadkari

ZIRO, February 28:

A review meeting in connection with the proposed visit of Union Minister Highways and Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to Ziro was held at the District Secretariat on February 28.

The Union Minister is likely to visit Namsai and Ziro from 4 to 7th of March next where he will be inaugurating the Potin-Pangin Highway packages from 1 to 8 at Namsai after which he would be travelling to Ziro.

At Ziro, the Minister is likely to flag-off a 'bi-cycle rally' to be organized at the only bi-cycle track in the country sanctioned by the ministry of Highways and Road Transport. He is also scheduled to visit few places of tourist interest at the valley.

The meeting was presided over by Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner Bamin Nime and attended by SP Sachin Singal, EE Highways Er. Gyati Anda, HoD's, ZPM's, vice-president PHC and bi-cycle track construction in-charge Taru Tana.

NEWS IN PICTURE



Lt General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik, PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd) swearing-in as the new Governor of Arunachal Pradesh at Darbar hall of Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on February 16, 2023.



Chief Minister Pema Khandu launching the 5G services of Airtel for the state capital Itanagar in presence of state minister for Information Technology Wangki Lowang at Itanagar on February 4, 2023.



DCM Chowna Mein inaugurating Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko, an indigenous tribal tradition and cultural school in presence of the Minister of Education, Culture and Indigenous Affairs, GoAP, Taba Tedir, and MLA-cum-Advisor to Home, Tax & Excise, Nyamar Karbak, among others in Mwya village, Lower Subansiri district on February 14, 2023.



Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd) presenting Governor's Gold and Silver Medals to Assam Rifles Personnel at Raj Bhawan on February 8, 2023.



The President of India Droupadi Murmuon planting a Red Sandalwood sapling in the premises of Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on February 21, 2023.



Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra, (Retd.)gracing the 40th Foundation Day function of the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) at Rono Hills, Doimukh on February 4, 2023.