

The APU Post

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Snippet

Creative Talent Shines at APUFEST

PASIGHAT, JAN 28: The Literary Committee of Arunachal Pradesh University Festival 2026 (APUFEST-26) conducted a series of competitions showcasing student creativity, analysis, and oratory skills. Participants from different houses engaged in poem and essay writing, cartooning, extempore speech, debate, and poetry recitation, making the contests lively and competitive.

Winners included Geni Gao (Poem Writing), Ome Oja Talom (Essay Writing), Taba Ragio (Cartooning), Pemo Riba (Extempore Speech), Anong Tamut (Debate), and Ayang Lego (Poetry Recitation). The events added intellectual depth to the festival, encouraging expression and critical thinking, while faculty-supervised committees ensured smooth and fair conduct.

About The APU Post

The APU Post is a daily tabloid published by the Department of Mass Communication. Beyond covering the highlights of the APUFEST, it provides a professional training ground for students and offers the university community a space for critical expression, social debate, and vibrant academic commentary.



PASIGHAT, JAN 29: Chief Minister Pema Khandu will inaugurate the third edition of the Arunachal Pradesh University Festival (APUFEST) here today at the varsity campus. The festival, a major highlight of the university's calendar, will showcase the energy and talent of students through sports, cultural performances, and creative competitions. Joining the CM at the inaugural ceremony will be Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Minister Kento Jimi (Law, Legislative Justice; Social Justice Empowerment & Tribal Affairs; Sports & Youth Affairs), Vice Chancellor Prof. Tomo Riba, Secretary Sonal Swarup (Rural Development and Panchayati

Raj), and a distinguished gathering of legislators including Tapi Darang (MLA, 38-Pasighat East), Ninong Ering (MLA, 37-Pasighat West), Puinyo Apum (MLA, 42-Dambuk), Oken Tayeng (MLA, 39-Mebo), Tojir Kadu (MLA, 36-Nari Koyu), Oni Panyang (MLA, 40-Mariyang Geku), and Kaling Moyong, State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The programme will also feature the opening of Academic Block 'A'. In addition, the Chief Minister will release *Viksit Bharat @ 2047*, authored by Prof. P.C. Jena, Prof. Tomo Riba, and Prof. R.R. Biswal, and launch The APU Post, a student-run daily tabloid published by the Department of Mass Communication as part of the fest.

Over the coming days, students from Siang, Kameng, Lohit, and Subansiri Houses will compete for the championship trophy through athletics, indoor sports, and cultural performances. The festival will culminate in the Mr. and Miss APU pageant, a popular highlight of the event.

Jointly organized by the Arunachal Pradesh University Students' Union and the university administration, APUFEST 2026 is expected to showcase the vibrancy, unity, and talent of the student community while reinforcing the university's growing role in academic and cultural life across the state.

APU's Outreach Programme: Extending Care Beyond the Campus

By Domong Mibang

PASIGHAT, JAN 28: Arunachal Pradesh University (APU) has been extending its role beyond academics through its Outreach Cell under the Department of Social Work. In an interview with The APU Post, Dr. Menuka Kadu, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work, spoke about the university's involvement in supporting Tuberculosis (TB) patients under the government's Nikshay Mitra scheme.

Dr. Kadu explained that the programme was conceived to provide not only physical and financial assistance but also psychosocial support to patients at the TB Hospital in High Region, Pasighat. "Tuberculosis is not just a medical



condition. It brings with it stigma, fear, and isolation. Our role was to listen, to counsel, and to help patients regain confidence in themselves and their treatment," she said. The Outreach Cell team engaged directly with patients and families, addressing misconceptions about TB and encouraging adherence to treatment. Dr. Kadu noted that the initiative revealed the wide range of people affected by the

disease. "We met patients as young as 11 and as old as 66. One case that stayed with us was of a Nepali girl married at 17, who faced multiple social challenges alongside her illness.

These stories remind us that TB cuts across age and community, and that interventions must be culturally sensitive." She emphasized that the outreach was a collective effort,... (Cont. on P-3)

The AAPSU Paradox

As registration for the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) begins this February 1–2, a familiar fever is rising across the state. But as the political atmosphere heats up, a cold unease settles over the student fraternity. What should be a democratic exercise to empower the youth of Arunachal Pradesh feels increasingly like a descent into a marketplace.

AAPSU is the apex guardian of our rights. In the absence of a robust political opposition in the state, it has historically functioned as the de facto watchdog of governance and public accountability. Yet, every election season, this immense responsibility is tested by a predictable cycle of drama, manipulation, and controversy. The current "outreach" programs by aspiring candidates look

less like leadership and more like a hunt; they are crisscrossing the state not to listen to student grievances, but to secure heads for the final tally. We are being fed "selective truths" and "exaggerated claims" carefully crafted for convenience rather than conviction.

The most corrosive element in this process is the unchecked, almost celebrated, flow of money. Sponsored feasts, logistics funding, and indirect incentives have become so normalized that they are no longer even hidden. We must stop to ask the uncomfortable questions that many choose to ignore: where does this enormous funding come from, and how do individuals carrying the "student" tag afford campaigns that rival professional political elections? We must wonder who the invisible hands financing these campaigns are and, more

importantly, what the ultimate price of that patronage will be for the future of our state.

When an election of ideas turns into a contest of resources, the student loses. This disconnect is deepened by the presence of leaders far beyond conventional student age- some reportedly well into their 40s. It begs the question of whether a leader who has not sat in a classroom for decades can truly represent the pulse of a modern research scholar or an undergraduate. If we allow student politics to be purchased by the highest bidder, we are not electing a representative; we are participating in an auction. As we register this week, we must reflect on whether we are choosing a voice or simply becoming part of a transaction that compromises the very legitimacy of our institution.

"We must build APU together"

On the occasion of the 3rd Arunachal Pradesh University Fest, slated to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, The APU Post (TAP) spoke with Prof. Tomo Riba, the first Vice Chancellor of Arunachal Pradesh University. In this conversation, he shared his views on government support, student responsibility, infrastructure, research, and the university's outreach. The following is an excerpt.

TAP: With the CM inaugurating the 3rd APU Fest, what message does this send to the student community regarding the state's support for the university?

Prof. Riba: The Chief Minister's presence reflects the state's commitment. When I joined in 2023, I requested ₹100 crore for development, and the government responded generously. Students must remain aware of such support and also remind the government of their needs- stipends, scholarships, and facilities. As the primary users of the campus, they should observe construction quality and participate in social service activities that strengthen the university.

TAP: Beyond celebrations and cultural displays, what do you hope students take away from this year's festival in terms of unity and leadership?

Prof. Riba: Festivals are opportunities to cultivate social responsibility. University students must go beyond textbooks. Through outreach, we have adopted villages, supported TB patients, and partnered with Anganwadi centres. These activities allow students to serve society and develop leadership grounded in service.

TAP: Students are eager to see the completion of new hostel facilities and faculty quarters. Could you provide an update on the infrastructure roadmap?

Prof. Riba: Construction of hostels and faculty quarters is progressing steadily. Quality cannot be compromised by rushing the process. The pace is satisfactory, and students are encouraged to visit the sites to observe the standards being maintained.

TAP: How is the university encouraging research scholars?

Prof. Riba: Research is the backbone of any university. This year, 15 scholars have completed coursework and are beginning their research. My emphasis is on genuine, meaningful research that contributes to knowledge. APU is not only a teaching institution; it must establish itself as a research hub. We want our scholars to engage in "real research," not superficial work. Research should address local issues, indigenous knowledge, and practical challenges. That is how APU can contribute to both academia and society.

TAP: The university has taken a lead with the Innovation Hub for Mushroom cultivation. How do you see this project empowering local entrepreneurs and providing practical skills?

Prof. Riba: Skill development and employability are key goals of NEP 2020. In the absence of industries in the region, we have initiated projects like mushroom cultivation, vermicomposting, sericulture, and domestication of wild vegetables. These efforts provide practical training and create opportunities for entrepreneurship.



TAP: The university has expanded with new departments. How do these fit into your vision of a holistic institution?

Prof. Riba: Six new departments have been established, including Mass Communication, Mathematics, Sociology, Hindi, and English. Growth depends on adequate faculty positions, which we continue to request from the state government. Despite challenges, the departments are progressing, and we hope to strengthen them further. The vision is to create a multidisciplinary institution that reflects the spirit of NEP 2020.

TAP: What is your final message to the students and faculty as they carry the torch of APU forward into 2029 and beyond?

Prof. Riba: Hard work, honesty, and a sense of belonging are the keys to progress. Students must attend classes regularly, while teachers should remain punctual and committed. Research should be prioritized, with faculty involving students in projects. Ultimately, the university belongs to its community. If students and teachers treat it as their own, Arunachal Pradesh University will grow into a strong institution that serves both the state and society.

Athletic and Indoor Events Mark Early Stages of APU Fest



PASIGHAT, JAN 28: The Arunachal Pradesh University (APU) Fest commenced here on Monday with a series of sports and athletic competitions, featuring participants from Siang, Kameng, Subansiri, and Lohit houses. The first two days of the event saw a mix of track and field events, endurance races, and indoor games.

The first day focused on athletics and strength. In the 100-metre sprints, Yainang Taloh of Kameng House won the girls' race, while Kangkeng Modi of Subansiri House took first place in the boys' category. Field events saw Gegul Pertin (Lohit House) and Gumken Goyi (Subansiri House) win the girls' and boys' Shot Put, with Bone Mize and Mitu Dangchik finishing as runners-up in their respective categories. Bone Mize later secured first in the girls' Javelin Throw, followed by Gegul Pertin, while Mitu Dangchik and Gumken Goyi took the top two spots in the boys' Javelin.

In jumping events, Topa Tamut of Siang House won the girls' Long Jump, followed by Odam Ngukir. Kangkeng Modi and Ojing Jopir secured the top spots in the boys' Long Jump. Modi also won the boys' High Jump, followed by

Abu Mize, while Toyng Perme and Topa Tamut led the girls' High Jump. Team events saw Lohit House win the girls' Tug of War over Kameng House, while Siang House defeated Subansiri House in the boys' division.

The second day featured the Marathon, where Goli Bam (Siang House) won the boys' race, followed by Pema Rigdzin Thongdok, Pemo Riba, Selek Doni, and Domine Chisi. Likha Renia (Kameng House) won the girls' race, with Ayang Mitkong, Pemsang Lopchan, and Nang Hiwanti Moungkang completing the top four.

Indoor events included Chess, where Yamem Siram (Lohit House) defeated Miching Tagia for the boys' title, and Pemsang Lopchan (Subansiri House) won the girls' title against Gora Yaku. In Carrom, Lohit House won the boys' event ahead of Subansiri House, while Subansiri House took the girls' title.

The day concluded with Arm Wrestling, where Toram Pertin (Siang House) and Nipa Taku took the top spots for the boys, and Odam Ngukir (Kameng House) won the girls' final. The fest continues this week with Cultural Programmes and further competitions.



APU's Outreach...

supported by colleagues from different branches of the university, including Anil Nangkar (Assistant Registrar), Hukto Bazar (UDC, Academic Cell), and Konga Yomgam (LDC, Establishment Branch). Their involvement, she said, ensured that the programme was carried out smoothly and with care. Looking ahead, Dr. Kadu highlighted the importance of continuity. The Outreach Cell has proposed regular follow-up visits to monitor patient progress and provide ongoing psychosocial support. "We want to make sure that patients feel supported not just once, but throughout their journey. It is about building a bridge between healthcare services and community support systems," she explained. Reflecting on the larger purpose of the initiative, Dr. Kadu shared her guiding principle: "Each one teach one. Each one reach one." For her, the outreach demonstrates how a university can extend its responsibility beyond classrooms and contribute directly to public health and social welfare.

Campus Perspectives

Lessons Outside the Lecture Hall

By Omem Tayeng
Department of Commerce

For a long time my idea of being a student was limited to classrooms, notes, and examinations. During my bachelor's days, I was academically present but personally confined. Interaction was limited, experiences were few, and learning rarely went beyond the syllabus.

That changed after I entered this university.

In a short span of time, campus life introduced me to experiences I had never allowed myself before. Learning no longer remained within lecture halls. It unfolded through conversations after class, group activities, shared responsibilities, and everyday campus moments. Slowly, hesitation gave way to confidence, and memories were created almost effortlessly.

University spaces play a crucial role in shaping students beyond academics. Exposure, interaction, and participation often become as important as lectures themselves. Events like APUfest turn the campus into a learning ground, where students step into new roles- organising, performing, coordinating and learn teamwork, responsibility, and adaptability.

What stands out most is how naturally this growth occurs. There is no sudden transformation, only steady progress shaped by opportunity and environment. A supportive campus encourages participation without fear, allowing students to evolve at their own pace.

Looking back, it becomes clear that some of the most meaningful lessons are learned outside the lecture hall. Not every lesson is graded, and not every achievement is measured. Some learning happens quietly- through experiences, friendships, challenges, and moments that leave a lasting impact.

I'm grateful not only for academic knowledge, but for the experiences that made learning meaningful. This university has taught me how to engage, explore, and grow – lessons that extend far beyond campus life.

Glimpses of APU Fest



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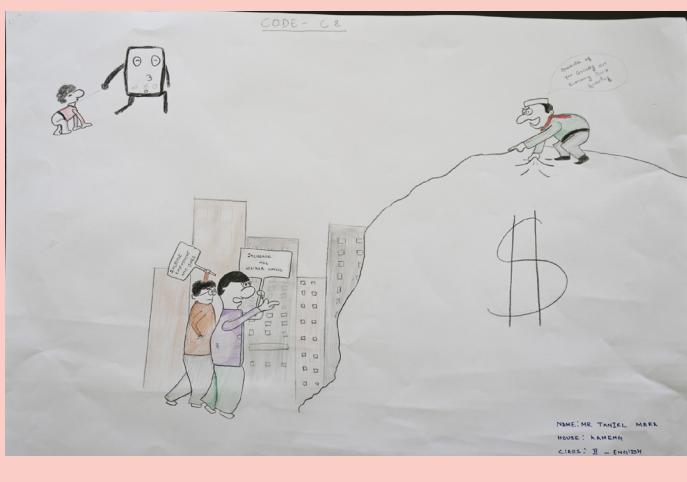
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