

# NEWSLETTER



**QUARTERLY ENVIS NEWSLETTER**

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# RIVERS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE ENVIS  
STATUS OF ENVIRONMENT & ITS RELATED ISSUES**

Supported by  
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# RIVERS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

**A**runachal Pradesh is located in the enchanting north-eastern part of India and is one of the seven sister states. Relatively unexplored and serene on account of the lack of commercial tourism, Arunachal Pradesh is a delight for all nature lovers as well as adventurers. Arunachal is home to some stunning valleys and breathtaking monasteries. The **Tawang monastery** is a 17th century structure that houses over 500 monks and is surrounded by breathtaking beauty of mountains. The 100 m high Nuaranang Falls are extremely picturesque and so is the lovely **Sela Pass** which connects **Tawang** to Tezpur and Guwahati. However, what is most alluring about Arunachal Pradesh is its breathtaking rivers. The north-eastern state is home to some amazing rivers that form picturesque landscapes with the lush green mountain backdrop. Here are 5 spectacular rivers of Arunachal Pradesh that are worth checking out.

## KAMENG RIVER

The Kameng River (previously named Bharali River, now called Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh and Jiabharali (Jia Bharali) in Assam) in the eastern Himalayan mountains, originates in Tawang district from the glacial lake below snow-capped Gori Chen mountain **27°48'36"N 92°26'38"E** elevation 6,300 metres (20,669 ft), on the India-Tibet border in South Tibet and flows through Bhalukpong circle of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh and Sonitpur District of Assam, India. It becomes a braided river in its lower reaches and is one of the major tributaries of the Brahmaputra River, joining it at Tezpur, just east of the Kolia-Bhomora Bridge (Setu).

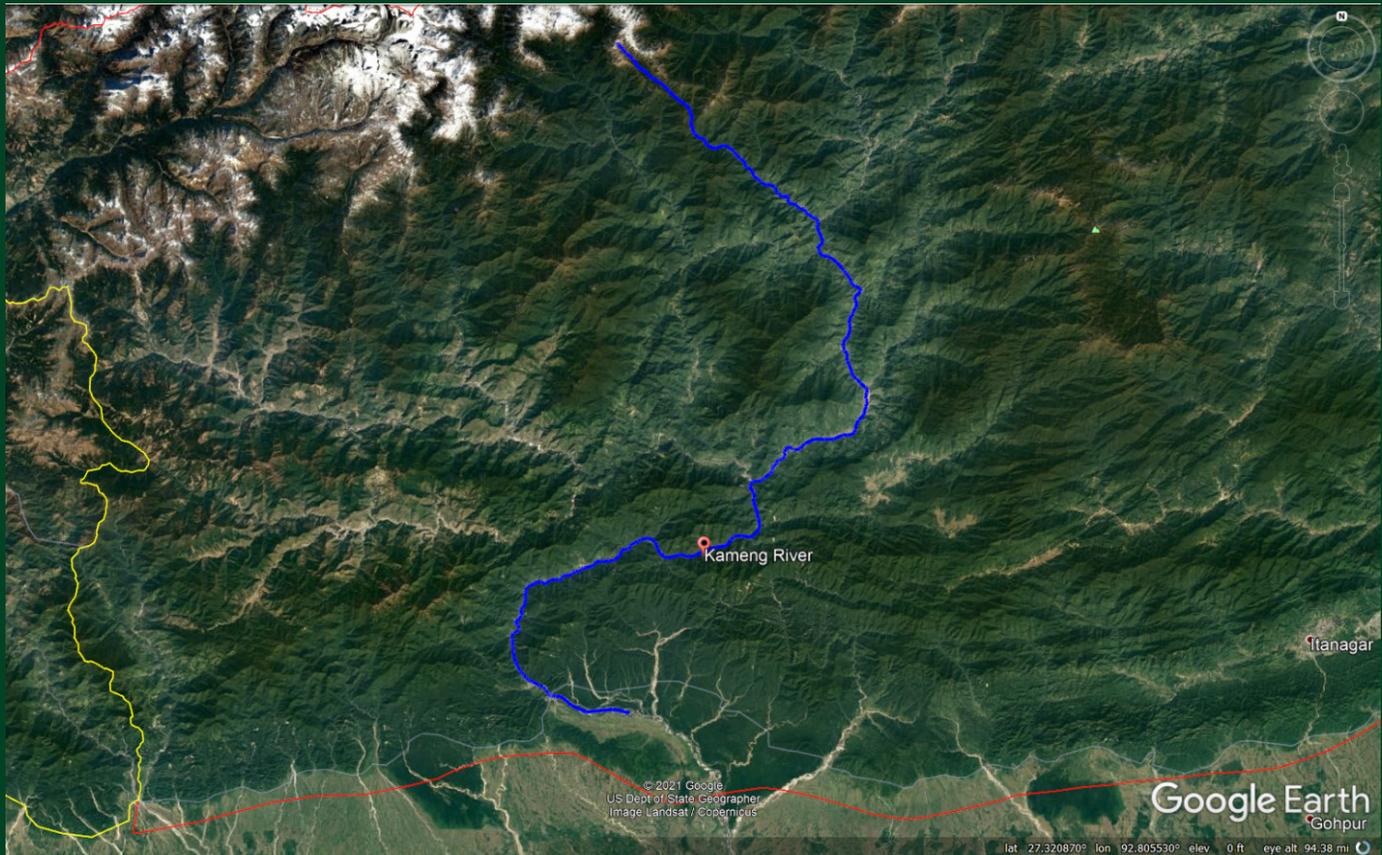
The Kameng River is about 264 kilometres (164 mi) long. Its drainage basin is about 11,843 square kilometres (4,573 sq mi) large. It forms the boundary between East Kameng District and West Kameng Districts and is also the boundary between the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary to its west and the Pakke Tiger Reserve to the east. The Dafla Hills are east and the Aka Hills (home of Aka tribe) are west of the Kameng River. The entire stretch of forest along the Bhalukpong–Bomdila highway on the west bank of the river in West Kameng has vanished in the last few years though the forest across the river continues to be in a healthy state.

## HISTORY

The Kameng river had an important historical significance. During the medieval period i.e. between 13th to early 16th century, it marked the borders between the Chutiya kingdom and the Kamata kingdom. Later, in the 16th century, after the annexation of the Chutiya kingdom by the Ahoms and the downfall of Kamata kingdom, it acted as the border between the Ahom kingdom and Baro-Bhuyan rule.

## TRIBUTARIES

The eastern half of Eaglenest-Sessa Wildlife sanctuaries is drained by the Tippi Naala (Tippi River) which joins Kameng River at the village of Tippi on the Bhalukpong-Bomdila Highway. The other major rivers flowing through West Kameng District, the Tenga, Bichom and Dirang Chu, are tributaries of the Kameng.



## SUBANSIRI RIVER

The Subansiri River is a trans-Himalayan river and a tributary of the Brahmaputra River that flows through Tibet's Lhünzê County, Shannan Prefecture and the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The Subansiri is 442 kilometres (275 mi) long, with a drainage basin 32,640 square kilometres (12,600 sq mi). It is the largest tributary of the Brahmaputra contributing 7.92% of the Brahmaputra's total flow.

### NAME

The name is derived from a Sanskrit word 'swarn' meaning gold.

Originally the name applied to the river only after the confluence of the Chayul Chu and Tsari Chu rivers at Gelensiniak. In early maps of independent India, Tsari Chu was marked as the main Subansiri river. However, over time, the name has been transferred to Chayul Chu. Within Tibet, the rivers are named after the locations they flow from such as Loro Chu, Nye Chu, Char Chu and Chayul Chu, all of which apply to the Subansiri or its tributaries.

### COURSE

The Subansiri River originates in the Himalayas near Mount Porom in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

It enters India near the town of Taksing and flows east and southeast through Miri Hills, then south to the Assam Valley at Dulangmukh in Dhemaji district, where it joins the Brahmaputra River at Jamurighat in Lakhimpur district. Small tributaries of the Subansiri include Rangandi, Dikrong and Kamala.

The Subansiri lends its name to two districts in Arunachal Pradesh: Upper Subansiri and Lower Subansiri.

The observed discharge of Subansiri is a maximum of 18,799 cubic metres per second (663,900 cu ft/s), and minimum of 131 m<sup>3</sup>/s (4,600 cu ft/s). It contributes 7.92% of the Brahmaputra's total flow.

## TSARI CHU (SUBANSIRI)

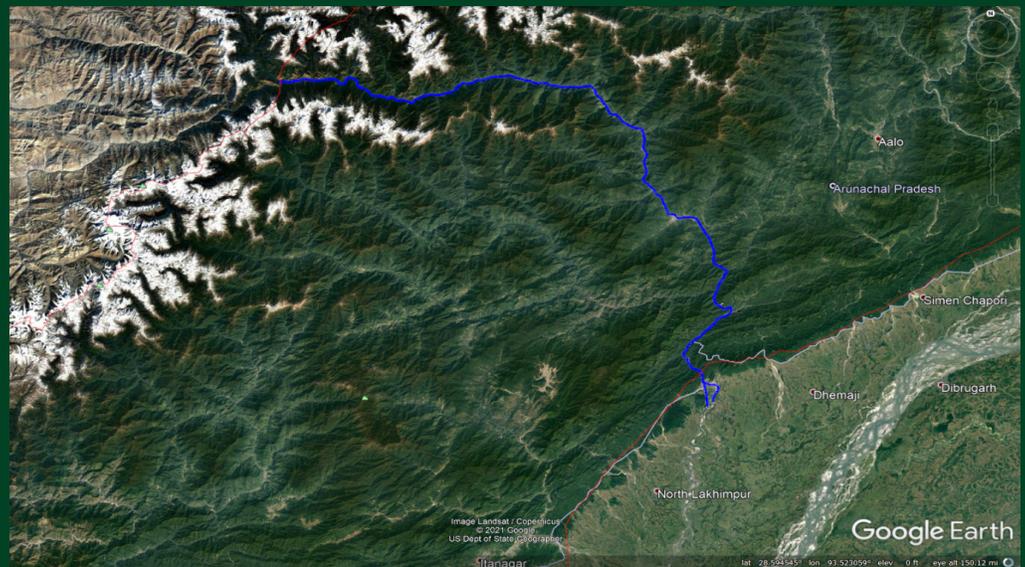
Tsari Chu (called Gelen Bung by the Assam Himalayan tribes) rises near the village of Chosam in Tibet and flows east for about 25 miles till the town of Migyitrun, where it turns south. It merges with the Subansiri at Gelensiniak. The district of Tsari, consisting of the Tsari Chu valley and its vicinity, is considered holy ground by the Tibetans. No animals are killed and no food is grown in these areas, with the exception of Migyitun. The holiness comes from the Dakpa Sheri mountain peak at the centre of the Tsari district, considered the home of the Buddhist Tantric deity Demchok (Chakrasamvara) and his consort Dorje Phagmo (Vajravārahī). The pious Tibetans used to carry out a wide circumambulation (called rongkor or "ravine circuit") around the mountain once every 12 years, during the monkey year. They traversed the valley of the Tsari Chu River until its junction with Subansiri, and returned via the Subansiri and Yume Chu valleys. The last such circumambulation took place in 1956, after which the Sino-Indian border conflict has put an end to the practice.

## HISTORY

The 1950 Assam–Tibet earthquake caused landslides blocking the flow of Subansiri at Gerukamukh. After three days the blockade broke causing a massive flash flood. Over the years flooding of the river has caused loss to livelihood and life.

## LOWER SUBANSIRI DAM

The Lower Subansiri Dam or The Lower Subansiri Hydro-Electric Project is an under construction dam gravity dam on the river. The dam is seen as a problem and many organizations are protesting against it. The River is a fiction book based on the issue and displays the issue as viewed by common Assamese people through its imaginary dolphins, fishes, and human characters.



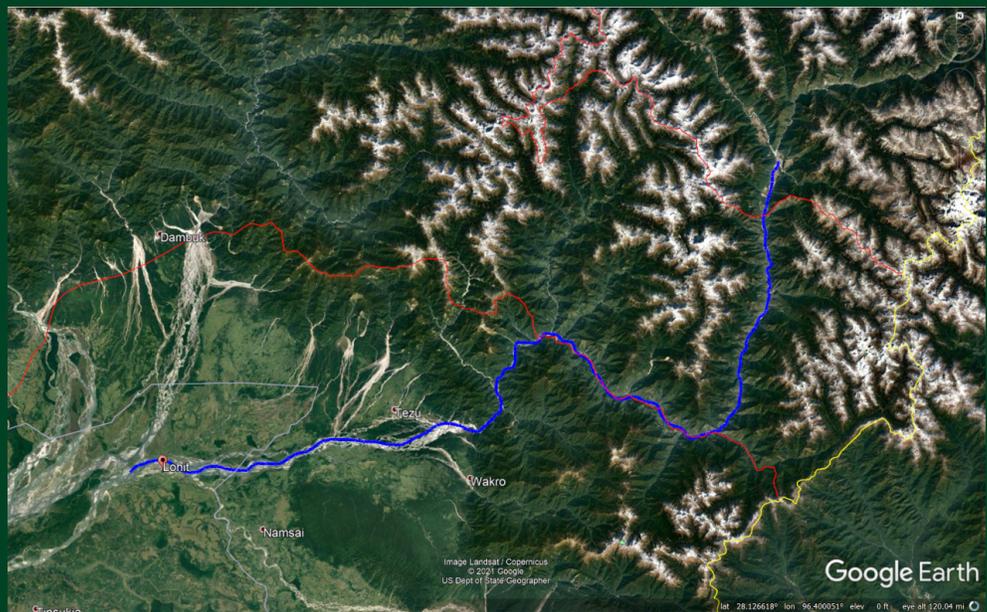
## SIANG RIVER

Siang River is a popular attraction to visit and it offers opportunities for travellers to partake in adventure sports like river rafting, angling, and trekking. Siang River is located close to Pagin and it gives an opportunity to the traveller to connect with the hilly local people. This must visit destination houses a hanging bridge on the Siang River and this is an interesting sight to see during your tour to this paradise. The bridge in Siang River is made of cane and bamboo and this interesting feature invites a lot of visitors to inspect and wonder in amazement about this raw natural beauty.



## LOHIT RIVER

The Lohit River is a river in India and China. It is a tributary to the Brahmaputra River. The river rises in Tibet Autonomous Region, in the Kangri Garpo range, where it is known as the Zayü River (Chinese: pinyin: Cháyú Hé). It descends through this mountainous region and surges through Arunachal Pradesh in India for 200 kilometres (120 mi) before entering the plains of Assam where it is known as the Lohit River for 200 km (120 mi). Tempestuous and turbulent, and known as the river of blood partly attributable to the lateritic soil, it flows through the Mishmi Hills, to meet the Siang (Brahmaputra) at the head of the Brahmaputra valley covering 400 km (250 mi) of distance.



Thickly forested for the most part, alpine vegetation gives way to subtropical forests, and then to some of the densest tropical jungles in all of India. Rhododendrons bloom in many hues in the upper reaches, orchids reveal themselves in the lower groves. This is indeed a treasure house of medicinal plant and herbs, and the home of Mishmi teeta, the coptis plant, prized the world over for its medicinal properties.

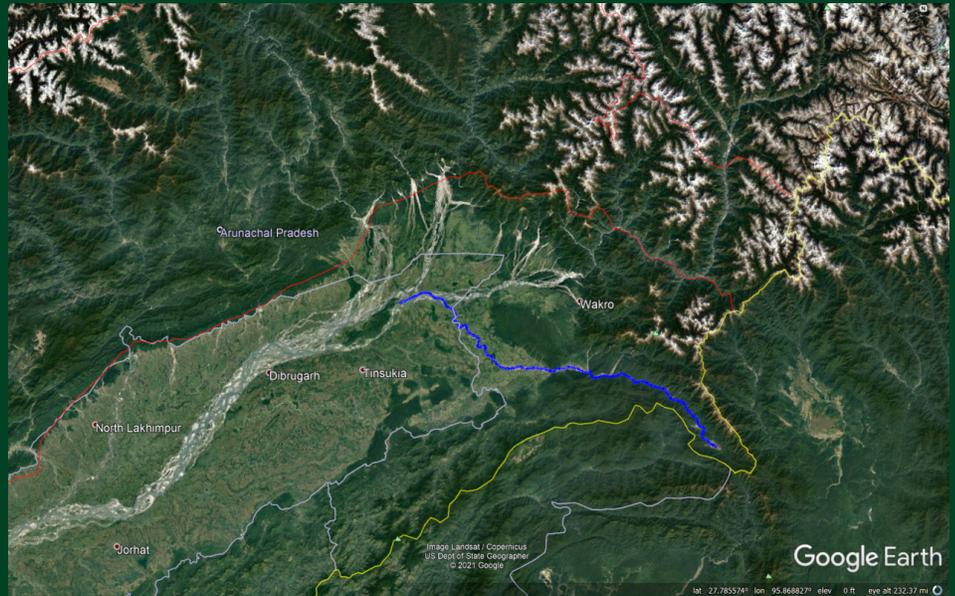
The Mishmis hold sway in the hills. In the plains are the Khamptis and the Singphos, fervent Buddhists and migrants from across the Patkai hills from Burma. As the Lohit journeys through, Tibetan theology gives way to animist belief, in turn replaced by Theravada Buddhism and then by Hindu temples. This region experiences a mix of many cultures near the tripoint between Tibet, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

The Lohit river comes into India from China and flows near India's easternmost inhabited tip, at a place called Kibithu. The Indian Army uses this river for various expeditions and training.

The Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, also referred to as the Bhupen Hazarika Setu, is a beam bridge and longest in India, connecting the northeast states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The bridge spans the Lohit River, from the village of Dhola in the south to Sadiya to the north

## TIRAP RIVER

Known for its abundant supply of a variety of fresh fish, the Tirap River falls in the Tirap district which gets its name from the river. Standing by the riverside, you can witness majestic sunrises for a great start to the day.



## NEWS BULLETIN LOCAL ON ENVIRONMENTAL (OCT-DEC' 2020)

### 1. CSIR-NEIST signs MoU with farmers' org to expand floriculture activities October 30, 2020

ITANAGAR, Oct 29: Jorhat (Assam)-based CSIR-NEIST on 28 October signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bosing Bango Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd in East Siang HQ Pasighat to promote cooperation in scientific research and dissemination of technology related to aromatic and medicinal plants and floriculture.

(Details report: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/30/csir-neist-signs-mou-with-farmers-org-to-expand-floriculture-activities>)

### 2. Focus on protection, preservation and sustainable mgmt of faunal and floral diversity: Natung

ITANAGAR, Oct 27: Environment & Forests Minister Mama Natung said that the department should continue its focus on protection, preservation and sustainable management of the state's faunal and floral diversity. He also laid emphasis on research prospects in the state and asked all the divisional forest officers to be more vigilant, proactive and exemplary public servants.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/28/focus-on-protection-preservation-and-sustainable-mgmt-of-faunal-and-floral-diversity-natung/>)



### 3. Rescued turtle released in Siang River

PASIGHAT, Oct 27: One peacock soft-shelled turtle rescued from near APP Colony in East Siang district by a group of children was released into the Siang River. Paktu Diyum (17), Messia Panggeng (17), Ribom Diyum (12) and Pakdi Diyum (6) were passing through APP Colony on an evening walk when they encountered the turtle on the road. The teens decided to hand it over to the forest/wildlife department.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/28/rescued-turtle-released-in-siang-river/> )

### 4. Rebia exhorts people to protect environment on attending the awareness cum sensitization programme

October 14, 2020



POMA, Oct 13: A community awareness and sensitization programme organized for conservation and protection of the environment and the flora and fauna. Rajya Sabha member Nabam Rebia attended the programme and exhorted the people of the state to take the responsibility of protecting and conserving forests, spring water, and all sources of water. The programme was organized by the environment & climate change directorate, in association with the directorate of soil & water conservation and the NABARD.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/14/rebia-exhorts-people-to-protect-environment/> )

### 5. Young environmentalists stage first climate strike in Arunachal

October 10, 2020



ITANAGAR, Oct 9: Holding placards, young environmental activists staged the first climate strike in Arunachal, outside the civil secretariat here on Friday. The strike was organized by the 'Fridays For Future Arunachal Pradesh (FFFAP)'. "The strike was a call for the citizens and leaders to take action for climate justice and to make people more aware about the rising environmental crisis.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/10/young-environmentalists-stage-first-climate-strike-in-arunachal/> )

## 6. Endangered Bhutan Glory butterfly released by Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner Swetika Sachan



ZIRO, Oct 8: Lower Subansiri Deputy Commissioner Swetika Sachan on Wednesday released a full-grown Bhutan Glory butterfly into its natural habitat.

Rare and endangered, the Bhutan Glory is a species of the swallowtail butterfly of the Papilionidae family and was discovered in 1868 by Dr R Lidderdale of the Bengal Army. It is protected in India under Schedule II of the WPA, 1972.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/09/endangered-bhutan-glory-butterfly-released/> )

## 7. Burmese python rescued

DEOMALI, Oct 19: An eight feet long Burmese python was rescued by a group of youths, including All Tirap District Students' Union secretary Priyang Pumoh along with Butwang Lowang and Teilon Matey, and handed over to the Deomali Range Officer (in-charge) HD Banik in Tirap district. The python, weighing was of six kilograms.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/20/burmese-python-rescued/> )



## 8. Adopted she-bear handed over to forest dept



AALO, Oct 23: A nine-month-old she-bear named Luba, reared by one Terde Yomcha of Lipu Yomcha village, was handed over to the forest division here in West Siang district, which in turn handed it over to the state zoo in Itanagar.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/10/24/adopted-she-bear-handed-over-to-forest-dept/>)

## 9. NGT directs states, UTs to designate nodal agency for protection of water bodies

New DELHI, Nov 22: Noting that adequate steps for protection of water bodies have not been taken, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed all states and union territories (UT) to designate a nodal agency for the exercise.

The NGT directed that, under the oversight of chief secretaries of states/UTs, the designated nodal agency may hold its meeting not later than 31 January, 2021, to take stock of the situation and plan further steps, including directions to district authorities for further course of action.

( Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/11/23/ngt-directs-states-uts-to-designate-nodal-agency-for-protection-of-water-bodies/> )

## 10. Centre confers swachhata award on Siang dist of Arunachal Pradesh.

BOLENG, Nov 19: Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat conferred the Swachhata Award-2020 on Siang district for being one of the 20 best-performing districts of the country in terms of making significant contributions towards ODF sustainability and ODF Plus goals, on the occasion of the World Toilet Day 19th November 2020.

( Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/11/20/centre-confers-swachhata-award-on-siang-dist/> )



## 11. Pair of Asiatic Black Bear cubs rescued

TAWANG, Nov 18: Villagers rescued a pair of abandoned male and female Asiatic black bear cubs from near Thingbu village under Jang Sub-Division of Tawang district. Later, the villagers handed over the bear cubs to the Tawang forest division.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/11/19/pair-of-asiatic-black-bear-cubs-rescued/>)

## 12. PCCF (HoFF) & Prl. Secy (E&F) launches website of the Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve.

MIAO, 17 Dec: The official website of the Namdapha National Park & Tiger Reserve (<https://namdaphatigerreserve.org>) was launched by PCCF & Head of Forest Force, Shri RK Singh during his visit to the national park here in Changlang district on 14 December in the office of the CF & Field Director.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/12/18/pccf-launches-website-of-the-namdapha-national-park-tiger-reserve/>)



### 13. Wildlife carcasses seized at Hapoli, case lodged

ZIRO, 17 Dec: The forest officials seized carcasses of red giant flying squirrels, khali pheasants and mountain imperial pigeons from the market area of Hapoli town in Lower Subansiri district.

The red giant flying squirrel and khali pheasants are listed in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife Protection Act.

Rescued barking deer handed over to forest dept

(Details:<https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/12/18/wildlife-carcasses-seized-at-hapoli-case-lodged/>)



### 14. Itanagar zoo reopens for public

ITANAGAR, 22 Dec: The Itanagar Biological Park or Itanagar zoo, which remained closed since 21 March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will reopen for visitors from 23 December

Accordingly, the zoo authority has come with some measures to ensure the safety of the visitors, animals and the zoo employees.

### 15. DC seizes timber-laden truck

[ Pisi Zauing ]



MIAO, 28 Dec: Changlang DC Dr Devansh Yadav seized two trucks loaded with round timber and one truck with sawn timber during a surprise visit to Namdapha and the peripheries of Miao area.

( Details : <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/12/29/dc-seizes-timber-laden-trucks/> )

### 16. “Forest officials seize wildlife carcasses

DAPORIJO, 29 Dec: A patrolling team of the Daporijo forest division in Upper Subansiri district conducted an operation against hunting and selling of wildlife meat in Daporijo town market, and seized a number of wild animals’ carcasses. .

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/12/30/forest-officials-seize-wildlife-carcasses/> )



## 17. Biological Park gets spotted, sangai deer under animal exchange prog

ITANAGAR, 10 Dec: The biological park here received two pairs of spotted deer and two pairs of sangai deer from Guwahati-based Assam State Zoological Garden on Wednesday under the animal exchange programme, after obtaining permission from the Central Zoo Authority of India.

(Details: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2020/12/11/biological-park-gets-spotted-sangai-deer-under-animal-exchange-prog/>)



## 18. 240 Hrs GSDP training on propagation and management of bamboo started

*NAMSAI, 5 Dec:*

A 240-hour ‘green skill development programme (GSDP) on bamboo propagation and management’ commenced at the Arunachal University of Studies (AUS) here on Saturday.

The programme is funded by the union environment, forest & climate change ministry, and fund for it has been placed with the Arunachal Envis Hub of the environment & forests department.

The Envis Hub has identified AUS as a partner to carry out different projects together. The total 18 students were selected for the training programme.

## 19. World Soil Day celebrated

ITANAGAR, 5 Dec: World Soil Day was celebrated in several districts of the state with the theme ‘Keep soil alive, protect soil diversity’. In Papum Pare district, the soil & water conservation (SWC) directorate of the RWD celebrated the day at Moin village in Sangdupota circle in the presence of a large number of villagers.

SWC Director Joram Puppa highlighted the importance of the World Soil Day. He urged the villagers to use the land in a sustainable manner, “following scientific method of soil management to minimize soil erosion and loss of soil fertility.”





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