

Evening News Script

1920 hrs of

2nd October, 2024.

:: THE HEADLINES ::

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urges people to pledge to make cleanliness an integral part of their lives

Nagaland joins rest of the country to mark Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024

Wales to be a Country Partner for 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival

Tourism Department holds coordination meet with tribal bodies in preparation for Hornbill Festival

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today urged everyone to take a pledge to make cleanliness an integral part of their lives, stating that the commitment to Swachhta is a lifelong vow, not a one-time promise. Addressing the Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 programme to mark the 10 years of Swachh Bharat Mission in New Delhi, Mr. Modi emphasised that continuous efforts are essential for achieving a clean India.

The Prime Minister said that in just 15 days of Seva Pakhwada, more than 27 lakh events were organised in the country, in which more than 28 crore people participated. He expressed that this day inspires us to fulfill the dream of India envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and other great personalities of the country. Mr. Modi appreciated the contributions of all countrymen, cleanliness workers, religious leaders, athletes, celebrities, NGOs, and media personnel in the success of the Swachh Bharat Mission. Mr. Modi highlighted that cleanliness projects worth 10 thousand crore rupees have been inaugurated today.

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Joining the rest of the country, Nagaland celebrated the Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 across the districts today. A state-level programme jointly organised by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Urban Development Department, Swachh Bharat (Rural) PHED, and Kohima Municipal Council was held in Kohima. Speaking at the event, Minister for PHED & Cooperation, Jacob Zhimomi called upon the people of the state to embrace cleanliness as one's own business, lifestyle and culture.

(JACOB BYTE : He said Nagas are simple people yet careless and emphasised that Nagas need to change its mindset and embrace cleanliness as part of our broader and vibrant Naga culture. Mr Zhimomi said, cleanliness should be the subject of clean and safe environment, adding that the mindset should be transformed and it should start from within oneself. He also thanked all the citizens and community leaders for their participation in the Swachhta Hi Seva campaign, including the PHED, the Urban Development Department, all the ULBs and Swachhata Warriors for their

selfless dedication and contribution towards the success of the campaign. He also expressed his desires that the state Nagaland achieve the status of ODF plus state in the country.)

On the occasion, awards were given to Swachhata Champion, Best Swachhagrahi, Best Performing focus district, Best Performing district, Best enhanced CTU/ black spots among others. Earlier, Mr Zhimomi along with Advisors Sethrongkyu Sangtam, A Pangjung Jamir and Kropol Vitsu took part in Swachhata activities to mark the event.

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On Gandhi Jayanti today, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has recalled the timeless values of righteousness, non-violence, and peace. In a social media post, Mr. Rio urged everyone to honour Mahatma Gandhi's legacy by striving for justice, unity and compassion. The Chief Minister said, Bapu's teachings continue to inspire change across the world.

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Nagaland government has signed Wales as one of the Country Partners for the upcoming 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, who is on an official visit to Wales, announced the signing of the agreement with the Welsh Government, the British Council, and Wales Arts International representatives in Cardiff today. Mr. Rio said, the partnership will mark the grand conclusion of the year-long Wales in India 2024 celebration. He expressed hope that the partnership will strengthen bilateral ties, enhance people-to-people contact and open opportunities for the youth. During the visit, Mr. Rio is being accompanied by a delegation comprising Advisor Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu; Advisor to the Chief Minister, Abu Metha; Commissioner & Secretary to Chief Minister, Kesonyu Yhome; and Press Relations Officer to Chief Minister, Rusemtong Longkumer. The team also visited the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and the School of Sport and Health Sciences at the Cardiff Metropolitan University, where they discussed avenues for students from Nagaland to embark on courses at these universities as well as for artists to perform in Wales. Meanwhile, Director India, British Council, Ms. Alison Barrett, conveyed delight at the partnership and the opportunity to exchange ideas and inspirations.

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In preparation for the upcoming 25th edition of the Hornbill Festival, the Department of Tourism today held a coordination meeting with representatives of various tribal bodies in the state. Addressing the meeting, Commissioner and Secretary of Tourism, Dr. G. Hukugha Sema, emphasized the historical significance of the 25th edition and urged citizens to take pride in this milestone.

(SEMA BYTE : In a special gesture for the silver jubilee celebrations, Dr. Sema announced that all tourists attending this edition will be treated as "Honored Guests," and emphasized on the need for locals to extend the best hospitality. He also shared plans on revamping the Naga Heritage Village in Kisama, with major works expected to be completed by November 15.)

As part of the preparations, a mass social work will be conducted in the last week of October along the Dimapur-Kisama route, followed by another in mid-November. In line with sustainability goals, Dr. Sema called for the festival to be plastic-free and encouraged the use of eco-friendly products. He also stressed the importance of preserving the authenticity of the tribal morungs, urging hohos to display traditional artifacts and serve indigenous food and beverages. Dr. Sema also emphasized the importance of bio-segregation, bio-waste management, and food safety during the festival. Representatives from Chakhesang, Rengma, Phom, Ao, Angami, Kachari, Kuki, Lotha, Sumi,

Khamniungan, Sangtam, Chang, Zeliang, Pochury, Tikhir, Eastern Sumi, Konyak and Yimkhiung tribes attended the meeting.

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Konyak Union will appeal again to the Supreme Court of India regarding the recent decision to quash the Oting massacre case. Union President, Tingthok Konyak said this on the sidelines of a program today.

(KONYAK BYTE : He said, the Konyak Union, Oting Village Council and the victim families will go in accordance with the directives of the Eastern Nagaland People's Organization. Mr. Konyak added that the Union has made an appeal to the State Government on the matter. The Union has also submitted to the Chief Minister a copy of its earlier statement.)

Expressing shock at the top court's judgment through a press statement on 25th September, the Union also urged the State Government to file a fresh appeal with the Supreme Court for prosecution of the involved personnel, and called upon the Home Affairs Ministry to grant 'Prosecution Sanction' without delay. The Union noted that sufficient evidences, as documented in the SIT report, have been made available to substantiate the wrongful killings. Further, the Union reiterated its demand for immediate withdrawal of AFSPA.

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