

Evening News Script

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:::THE HEADLINES:::

1. Nagaland Government holds roundtable conference with partner countries and states of 25th Hornbill Festival.
2. India Head of Welsh Government Mitchell Theaker urges for preservation and strengthening of bond between Nagas and Welsh people.
3. Commissioner & Secretary Anoop Khinchi says every possible effort to be provided for development of medicinal plants in Nagaland.
4. And, Assam State Foundation Day celebrated at Raj Bhavan Kohima under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.

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Nagaland Government today held a roundtable conference with partner countries and partner states of the 25th edition of Hornbill Festival was held at Bamboo Hall in Kisama. Chairing the programme, Chairman of Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland and Advisor to Chief Minister, Abu Metha called upon the visiting dignitaries to look beyond the traditional and cultural aspects and delve into the economic prospects and opportunities that Nagaland has to offer. Advisor for Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan emphasized on the importance of marketing networks and building of infrastructure for post harvest produces. Advisor for Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu said the strength of Nagaland lies in the

young and talented people whose creativity and hard work is no lesser than others. Ambassador of Peru to India, Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde spoke on the importance of people to people connection between the Republic of Peru and the Nagas due to its shared similarities in culture and traditions. Joint Secretary of Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland, Reny Wilfred gave a presentation on areas where the State can build collaboration and partnership with the visiting Country and State partners. He also mentioned that Nagaland is a tri-junction and gateway to South East Asia. During the meeting, two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed between the Department of Higher Education, Government of Nagaland and Salesforce.com India Privet Limited and another MoU between the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland and Omsheel Foods.

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The World War-II Peace Rally commemorating the historic Battle of Kohima was held at the World War-II Museum Complex at Naga Heritage Village in Kisama today. The rally, envisioned by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, highlighted the importance of using history to promote peace. Speaking at the rally as the Chief Guest, India Head of the Welsh Government and Partner Country Representative, Mitchell Theaker, lauded the shared bond between the Nagas and the Welsh people, urging for the preservation and strengthening of this connection. He expressed hope that the event would serve as a bridge of peace and goodwill between the two communities, showcasing unity as a message to the world. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio described the Battle of Kohima as a pivotal moment in Naga history, underscoring the devastating impact of war and the transformative power of peace. Mr. Rio stressed the need for Nagaland to advocate peace within the state, neighboring regions, and the global community. The event saw participation from global and local dignitaries. Later Chief Minister Rio gave away the prizes to the winners.

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Commissioner & Secretary for Health & Family Welfare, Nagaland, Anoop Khinchi has asserted that every possible effort will be provided from the government for development and progress of medicinal plants sector in the state. Mr. Khinchi was speaking after inaugurating the exhibition stall for State Medicinal Plants Board and National Ayush Mission, under the initiative of Ayush Wing, Directorate of Health & Family Welfare was inaugurated at Medicinal Herbal Garden in Kisama yesterday. Mr. Khinchi encouraged the Ayush staff to make every effort to uplift people's health and livelihood stating that medicinal plants available naturally have immense potential to be a source of sustenance for the Nagas.



Assam State Foundation Day was celebrated at Raj Bhavan, Kohima today, under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative. Speaking at the celebration, Nagaland Governor, La Ganesan said beyond economics, Assam's contribution to India's cultural richness is incomparable. On the relation between Assam and Nagaland, he said that the gathering signifies the strong connection between Assam and Nagaland and highlights the Assamese community's invaluable contribution to our shared heritage. Stating that the bond of friendship between the Nagas and the Assamese is rooted in cultural, historical and geographical proximities, the Governor said both communities have interacted over centuries, fostering mutual respect and understanding. La Ganesan emphasized that despite occasional differences, like any neighboring states, the focus should remain on harmonious relations and shared prosperity.



On the second day of the 25th Hornbill Festival, Department of Art & Culture showcased cultural extravaganza from the 18 tribes of Nagaland under the theme "Cultural Connect". A cultural troupe from Mizoram also performed the Cheraw Dance on the occasion.

The cultural performances are a key highlight of the Hornbill Festival, with all the troupes showcasing various traditional dances and songs

that celebrate the rich heritage of Nagaland. Additionally, each tribe is presenting one commemorative performance on different days throughout the festival, highlighting the uniqueness of their traditions. The winner will be announced at the culmination of the festival.

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Reckitt's impactful life skills program, Durex's The Birds and Bees Talk (TBBT), has returned as the official Health Partner of Northeast India's renowned Hornbill Festival for the third consecutive year. As the festival celebrates its milestone 25th edition, TBBT has launched Asia's first Consent Café, a pioneering initiative designed to spark meaningful conversations around consent, equity and healthy relationships. The TBBT Consent Café aims to provide an immersive space combining light, music and art to help attendees reflect on the meaning of consent and its role in fostering healthy connections. The café features five sensory installations, each symbolizing one of the core pillars of The Birds and Bees Talk: Protection, Awareness, Consent, Equity, and Inclusion. Visitors can place their fingers on the sensors and observe the lights pulse in rhythm with their heartbeat. Speaking to media persons today, Director for External Affairs and Partnerships, Reckitt - South Asia, Ravi Bhatnagar, highlighted the importance of the project, noting that it is crucial for young people to understand the difference between good touch and bad touch and to stay informed about their surroundings. He said, they have started the project in Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal and taking it further to others state, with Chandigarh this year. The director revealed that they are currently working on extending consent-focused gatherings to a total of 10 states across India.

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Day Two of the 25th Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama witnessed a thrilling display of strength and skill as Kelhoudelie from the Angami tribe emerged victorious in the Traditional Shotput competition on. Organized by the Nagaland State Department of Youth Resources and Sports, the competition tested participants' prowess

from each Naga Tribes with a 10 kg stone. Kelhoudelie secured the top position with an impressive throw of 15.8 feet, earning a cash prize of 7,000 rupees. In a closely contested event, defending champion Likho Sangma from the Garo community narrowly missed retaining his title, settling for second place with a 15.7-foot throw and a prize of 5,000 rupees. Kaiser from the Chang tribe claimed third place with a throw of 14.9 feet, taking home 3,000 rupees. The Hornbill Festival would continue to celebrate traditional sports, with the much-anticipated Stilt Bamboo Race set to take place tomorrow. Open to tribal participants and tourists, the winners of this unique event in both the categories will be awarded cash prizes.

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