

Evening News Script

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THE HEADLINES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Sonamarg Tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir
- Minister Women Resource Development & Horticulture Salhoutuonuo Kruse emphasizes Jubilee is a time of forgiveness and reconciliation
- Advisor Industries and Commerce Hekani Jakhalu Kense highlights importance of preserving cultural identity
- And, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio interacts with footballers ahead of 1st Nagaland Super League



Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated and dedicated the prestigious Sonamarg Tunnel to the nation, in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. In his address, Mr Modi said Viksit Bharat is only possible when all regions of the country are development.

Earlier, the Prime Minister inspected the tunnel and was briefed about the project. The opening of the tunnel is a major step towards making the Ladakh region accessible by road throughout the year.



Minister Women Resource Development & Horticulture Salhoutuonuo Kruse today said, Jubilee is a time of forgiveness and reconciliation. She called on the people to let go of past differences and work in unity to build a prosperous future for the community and state. Ms Kruse was

addressing the inaugural function of the Mima Youth Organization's 50th Games and Sports Meet cum Cultural Day. Noting that sports is a great unifier, she underscored the importance of sports in fostering discipline, promoting good health, and cultivating unity and peace. The Minister urged the athletes to compete with integrity, encouraging them to uphold the true spirit of sportsmanship. Further, Ms Kruse commended the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in improving sports infrastructure across the state. Emphasizing that our culture is our identity, she called for ensuring that our heritage is passed on to future generations. The minister also emphasized the need for the youth to understand and learn from the values of their ancestors, acknowledging that the arrival of Christianity transformed many aspects of society. On the first day of the meet, various cultural competitions were held, including on folk tune and dance, rice pounding and husking, among others. The 5-day event will witness other competitions such as athletics, races, and field games.



The three-day Aai-Sagi Mini Hornbill Tribal Festival kicked off today at Kushiabill-Darogajan Village. The festival is organized by the Mech Kachari Public Organisation in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and the Kachari Tribal Council. Speaking at the occasion, Advisor Industries and Commerce Hekani Jakhalu Kense highlighted the importance of preserving cultural identity. She emphasized that festivals play a crucial role in upholding traditions and cultural values. Lauding the Kachari community for dedication in passing on cultural practices to future generations, she stressed that communities should continue to celebrate their festivals and strengthen unity.

The Advisor also acknowledged the state government's focus on minority communities, and further informed about a new project aimed at supporting weavers by enhancing their skills and providing economic opportunities. Meanwhile, Advisor Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Zhaleo Rio, urged youth, both professionals and

unemployed, to participate actively in these celebrations to foster collective guidance, mentorship, and healthy competition for excellence. Highlights of the event included lighting of lamp and hoisting of flag, cultural dance performance and displays.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today visited the Football Stadium at Chümoukedima, and interacted with footballers training for the upcoming Nagaland Super League. The stadium is one of the venues for the League commencing from 28th of this month. The Chief Minister said he is looking forward to the state's first professional league under Nagaland Olympic Association, Nagaland Football Association and All India Football Federation. Mr Rio conveyed his best wishes to everyone.



Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey today visited Kiphire district. He is on a three-day tour to the state. Interacting with civil society and officers, he highlighted various schemes and programs implemented under the Central Government. The Union said, the purpose of his visit is to see the schemes being implemented on ground. During the program, United Sangtam Likhum Pumji on behalf of four tribal bodies submitted proposals for tribal hall enhancements, expedition of Eklavya school, and Road upgrade in the district, among others.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi today wished everyone on the commencement of Maha Kumbh 2025 at Prayagraj. In a social media post, he called it a special day for crores of people who cherish Bharatiya values and culture. He remarked that Maha Kumbh embodies the timeless spiritual heritage of the country and celebrates faith and harmony. Wishing all the pilgrims and tourists a wonderful stay, the prime minister showed optimism that this huge festival of Indian

spiritual tradition will bring new energy and enthusiasm to the lives of the pilgrims and tourists.

("An estimated 15 million devotees are expected to take a holy dip at the Sangam today. Besides the ritual bath, millions of devotees are observing the ancient tradition of Kalpvas at the Sangam. They will observe Kalpvas for one month till Magh Poornima, strictly adhering to the prescribed rituals. Special arrangements have been made to ensure a smooth and spiritual experience for devotees during this sacred observance. Government has left no stone unturned to ensure the event is safe, secure, and memorable. A seven layer security is in place for Mahakumbh. DGP of Uttar Pradesh Prashant Kumar said, Mahakumbh has started today and arrangements have been made for safety of people attending the grand event. Today, flowers petals will be showered on devotees from helicopters.")



A 34-member contingent from Nagaland, comprising 31 participants and three officials, represented the state at the National Youth Festival 2025. Organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the festival was held from January 10 to 12 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The team showcased Nagaland's rich cultural heritage in the Group Folk Song and Group Folk Dance competitions, and displayed creativity in categories such as Painting, Declamation, and Science Mela, while contributing to visionary discussions during the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue. The State Department of Youth Resources and Sports has commended the participants for their dedication, which has brought pride and recognition to the state.

