

## Evening News Script

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21<sup>st</sup> March, 2025.

### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- Governor La Ganesan emphasizes balancing progress with cultural identity
- BJP National Spokesperson Mmhonlumo Kikon stresses importance of debate and discussion in democracy
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscores need to develop villages as first step toward Viksit Bharat
- And, International Day of Forests being celebrated today; Tourism Minister Temjen Imna Along stresses on forest protection



Governor La Ganesan today underscored the importance of balancing progress with cultural identity. Speaking at the first annual conference of the Sociological Association of Northeast India at Japfu Christian College, he said the Northeast stands at the crossroads of rapid modernization and the preservation of indigenous knowledge systems. Highlighting the region's vibrant culture, history, and social evolution, he stressed the vital role of sociology in documenting the experiences of communities and shaping inclusive policies that promote social justice and sustainable development.

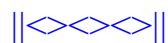
The Governor emphasized that voices of indigenous and marginalized groups are integral to academic and policy discussions. He called on sociologists, policymakers, and community leaders to collaborate on key issues such as gender equality, economic disparities, migration, and environmental sustainability. The conference, which marked the Golden Jubilee Year of the All India Sociological

Conference, was sponsored by the North Eastern Council Shillong and held in collaboration with the Indian Sociological Society.

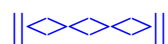


Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports today organized the district-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament in Dimapur, under the theme "One Nation, One Election: Paving the Way for Viksit Bharat." Addressing the event, BJP National Spokesperson Mmhonlumo Kikon emphasized the importance of debate and discussion in a democracy. He highlighted that since 2014, the government has prioritized key areas such as transportation, infrastructure, digital connectivity, and social development to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Mr Kikon said the idea of 'One Nation, One Election' has gained traction due to its potential to reduce the financial burden of frequent elections, improve efficiency, and increase voter participation.

As part of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament, 300 nodal districts have been identified across India, including Kohima, Dimapur, and Mokokchung in Nagaland. A total of 127 participants took part in today's event from five districts of Dimapur, Chumoukedima, Peren, Niuland and Wokha. From this group, 10 will be chosen to compete at the state level, and ultimately, three will represent Nagaland at the national level.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has underscored the need to develop villages as the first step toward building a Viksit Bharat. He said this during the Bavaliyali Dham programme related to the Bharwad Samaj of Gujarat through a video message. Mr Modi highlighted the importance of collective efforts, reiterating his statement from the Red Fort about "Sabka Prayas" being the nation's greatest strength. The Prime Minister also emphasised the importance of education for empowering the community through modernity as the way forward.



International Day of Forests is being celebrated today. The theme for this year is "Forests and Food"-emphasizing the vital link between healthy forests and global food security. The United Nations declared March 21 as the International Day of Forests in 2012. Since then the day has been celebrated every year to raise awareness about the critical role forests play in sustaining life and addressing global challenges.



On the occasion of World Forest Day, Minister of Tourism Temjen Imna Along emphasized the importance of forests as our lifeline. He called on everyone to protect and nurture the forests.

The Minister also called for building forests in all corners of the states of India so as to generate clean air, good biodiversity and healthy environment.



The Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP) a key initiative aimed at forest conservation and rehabilitation, has made significant strides in improving the livelihoods of local communities while contributing to environmental conservation across the state. Implemented by the state Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency, NFMP is designed to cover 185 villages with a total area to be covered of 79,000 hectares. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Nagaland, Dharmendra Prakash said the project involves participatory management. Noting that Nagaland is pioneer in community reserves, he said the project seeks to incentivize these initiatives of the people. Besides employment generation at the village level, the project has an inherent objective of women empowerment with 429 women self-help groups in 144 villages benefiting from it.

The project has also been instrumental in introducing community-based forest management practices, involving active participation of villagers in decision-making regarding forest conservation.



Government has said that India is moving fast to become a TB free nation this year. The incidence rate of TB in the country has shown a 17.7 percent decline from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 195 per lakh population in 2023, which is more than double the global reduction. Replying to supplementaries during question hour in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel said, the deaths due to TB has also reduced by over 21 per cent in 2023 as compared to 2015.



Nagaland Government has declared tomorrow as a working day for government offices located in Kohima. The day is also declared as working day for the Banks and the Financial Institutes. The declaration was made in view of the Financial Year Closing. Chief Secretary Nagaland, in a notification, asked all Administrative Heads and Heads of Departments to ensure attendance of the officers and staff of their respective Departments.

