

THE HEADLINES:-

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirms India's commitment to empowering young minds
- Nagaland launches intensified IEC campaign second edition on HIV awareness
- Nagaland holds State-Level Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme 2025.
- Startup Nagaland launches push for local private sector investment for home-grown entrepreneurs



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reaffirmed India's commitment to nurturing scientific curiosity and empowering young minds. Addressing the 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics, he highlighted key initiatives that are shaping the country's innovation landscape.

The Prime Minister said billions are being invested to strengthen the country's research ecosystem. Mr Modi invited young minds from around the world to study, collaborate, and innovate in India, saying the next major scientific breakthrough could come from such global partnerships.



Nagaland joined the nationwide launch of the intensified IEC campaign 2.0 on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections today, coinciding with International Youth Day. Addressing the state-level event at NBCC Convention Centre in Kohima, Health and Family Welfare Minister P. Paiwang Konyak said the two-month campaign will reach communities across the state with both information and inspiration.

While noting a steady decline in HIV cases, the Minister expressed concern that Nagaland still has the second-highest adult HIV prevalence in the country at 1.37 percent. He said unprotected sex accounts for majority of the transmissions, followed by injecting drug use and parent-to-child transmission. Mr Konyak shared that over 15,000 people living with HIV are currently on anti-retroviral treatment, while 64 treatment centres are serving more than

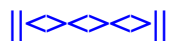
10,000 injecting drug users in the state. Calling for collective effort he said true change comes from people.

On the occasion, a pledge for an HIV-Free Nagaland was administered. This year, the campaign aims to cover 520 villages, 376 schools, 110 colleges, and other institutions.

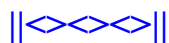


The State-Level Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme 2025 was held today in Kohima. The event was organised by the Department of Youth Resources and Sports, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan. Addressing the event, Commissioner & Secretary, Anthony Ngullie, urged the young people to actively contribute towards shaping the nation's future, stressing that the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 is a collective mission requiring their energy, creativity, and determination.

Mr Ngullie further highlighted innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and inclusive growth as key drivers for development. The State Level Youth Parliament Competition was won by Neiketounuo Thapo from Chümoukedima, while Limugha from Niuland, and Sentirenla Pienyü from Dimapur came in second and third respectively.



In a key milestone for Nagaland's startup ecosystem, Startup Nagaland under the Department of Industries and Commerce concluded a three-day program yesterday connecting entrepreneurs, mentors, and High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs). The final day featured the state's first-ever HNIs Awareness session, bringing together business leaders, legacy families, and professionals to bridge the gap between local wealth and local ideas. It marked the beginning of local private sector engagement with startups. Delivering the keynote, Startup Nagaland CEO and Industries Director, P. Tokugha Sema, said the goal was not for immediate investment but long-term commitment. Noting that startups in Nagaland often rely on personal savings or outside funding, he emphasized that local investors can offer more than capital. They bring cultural understanding, mentorship, networks, and trust to help build home-grown, globally competitive companies, he added. In the earlier sessions on August 7 and 8, the Startup Mentorship & Bootcamp 2025 featured leading entrepreneurs and professionals, who shared practical strategies and sectoral insights to early and growth-stage startups.



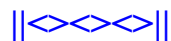
The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports celebrated International Youth Day today in collaboration with Miranda House, University of Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary of the Department of Youth Affairs, Pallavi Jain Govil, highlighted key initiatives taken by the government, including the introduction of the My Bharat application and the inclusion of artificial intelligence in the application to enhance youth's skill development. Dr. Govil pointed out the importance of youth's engagement as leaders of the society.



Following the detection of African Swine Fever at Kigwema and Mitelephe villages, Kohima Deputy Commissioner, DC, has declared both areas as Infected Zones. A 1-kilometre radius around the affected villages is designated as the Infected Zone, while a 10-kilometre radius is marked as the Surveillance. To contain the outbreak, the DC has placed certain restrictions, including ban on slaughter of pigs, import and export of pigs and piglets, as well as on transport of pigs and pork, until further notice.



In sports, Mokokchung defeated Peren to enter the semifinals of 24th Dr. T. Ao Trophy Inter-District Football Championship. The rain-soaked quarterfinal was a tightly contested match, ending in a 2-2 draw at full time. With the match decided by a penalty shootout, Mokokchung emerged victorious with a 5-3 win. In the second quarterfinal for the day, Wokha is leading 1-nil against host Kohima at half time.



In weather, The Northeastern states are likely to see continued showers during the next two days. India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rainfall accompanied with thunderstorm and lightning, at many parts of region. In Nagaland, heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in Peren, Wokha, Kiphire and Mokokchung tomorrow.

