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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nagaland honoured with 'Distinguished Holistic Organic Developments Award 2025' at Organic Festa Asia in China
- Advisor Hekani Jakhalu underscores importance of banking in empowering rural communities
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Mauritian counterpart; Four agreements signed
- Dimapur administration meets villages to streamline ILP implementation

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Nagaland has been awarded the Distinguished Holistic Organic Developments Award 2025 at the Organic Festa Asia, held in Shanghai, China, from 3rd to 5th September. The award, presented by IFOAM-Organics Asia in collaboration with Messe Dusseldorf, recognizes organic practices and promotion of organic produces in Nagaland. The award was received by Director of Industries & Commerce, P. Tokugha Semathe and Additional Director of Horticulture Medemshiba on behalf of the state. A 15-member delegation from Nagaland attended the event, while government departments and enterprises from the state participated under the Nagaland India Pavilion.

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Advisor for Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu has underscored the importance of banking in empowering rural communities and promoting financial security. Speaking at a financial awareness camp in Bade Village in Chumoukedima yesterday, she highlighted the shift from traditional to digital banking, allowing villagers to manage finances anytime.

Ms Jakhalu encouraged villagers to take advantage of zero-balance accounts, insurance, and pensions to secure their financial future. Addressing the event, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda, Beena Vaheed said financial inclusion is the key to inclusive growth and the foundation of a resilient, equitable India.

The event is part of a nationwide campaign by the Department of Financial Services, in collaboration with RBI, to promote coverage of various schemes like PM Jan Dhan Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Varanasi today. At a joint press briefing, Mr Modi reaffirmed the deepening ties between the two countries, saying India and Mauritius are not just partners but a family.

The bilateral talks covered the full spectrum of cooperation. Following the talks, the two countries signed four agreements in the fields of science & technology, Oceanography, administrative training and telemetry.

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In light of the ongoing situation in Nepal and advisory issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, Nagaland has provided helplines for people of the state stranded in Nepal. For emergency and other support, individuals may contact State Emergency Operation Centre of NSDMA at 0370-2291122, 2291120 and 22291123, or the Embassy of India, Kathmandu at 977-9808602881 and 977-981032613. Further, people from Nagaland residing in Nepal are advised to stay indoors, avoid going out onto the streets, and exercise due caution. They are also advised to follow local safety guidelines from Nepal authorities and the Indian Embassy

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The Government has announced a big relief for the Education Sector by exempting the GST rates on stationery items. Under the new reforms, stationery items like Pencils, sharpeners, Crayons, Exercise Books, Graph Books, Maps, and Charts have been exempted from the earlier 12 per cent GST, while erasers will see a reduction of GST from 5 per cent to nil. Talking to the media, an engineering student hailed the government for introducing the new GST reforms in the educational sector. The exemption will support the students by reducing education expenses. It will further help the students in government schools in rural areas, making the basic learning tools cheaper.

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In a significant step towards streamlining the implementation of Inner Line Permit (ILP) and ensuring community-level accountability, Dimapur district administration today conducted a meeting with all the 31 Sadar villages across the district. Addressing the media following the meeting, Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO), Wiridin Zeliang, informed that the District

Administration will ensure that 33 percent of the ILP fees collected will be remitted to the respective Village Council, in accordance with the official notification. He emphasized that neither Village Councils nor public are authorized to conduct ILP checks or impose fines.

During the meeting, official ILP register formats were distributed, and village representatives were directed to maintain the registers, with detailed information of the ILP holders.

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Wokha will hold the first-ever Banana Festival on the 22nd and 23rd of October, aimed at promoting agricultural innovation, local produce and strengthen market linkages. The matter was discussed in detail during the District Planning and Development Board monthly meeting yesterday. Various committees and Departments outlined their preparations, including logistics, banana-based product exhibitions, stakeholder engagement, and technical workshops. During the meeting, Medical Superintendent Dr. N. Mhonchan Kithan shared that Dr. Motsuo Memorial District Hospital won the 2nd Prize in the Kayakalp Awards, conferred by Union Health Ministry, for excellence in cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

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Advisor Mhathung Yanthan has stressed the need for training and public awareness to ensure effective use of Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Raising the matter during the Wokha District Planning and Development Board meeting yesterday, he highlighted that GeM facilitates transparent and efficient online procurement for government entities. The platform supports MSMEs, startups, and women entrepreneurs, and aligns with national initiatives such as Digital India and Make in India.

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Director of Industries and Commerce, P. Tokugha Sema, inaugurated the state Handloom Exhibition at Urban Haat in Dimapur. The event aims to promote marketing opportunities for handloom products in both domestic and export markets. A total of 60 participants including artisans from various districts are showcasing varieties of handloom and handicraft products. The exhibition will run until September 23. The event is organized by the Nagaland Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation and sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles.

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