

**HEADLINES:-**

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma underscores shift in public expectations from basic amenities to advanced infrastructure.
- Smart India Hackathon underway at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.
- Demonstration on fish cultivation held at ICAR, Meghalaya for benefit of tribal fisherwomen and men.
- Tripura's Handloom & Handicrafts Minister Bikas Debbarma says state moving ahead by making rural women self-reliant.
- Mon edition of Hornbill Festival underway at Konyak Heritage Complex in Nagaland.
- Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar calls to transform India from water-stressed to water-secure nation.
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology highlights Nagaland's potential to play key role in India's digital economy.
- Review meeting held on ongoing construction of new Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Building by Speaker Thomas Sangma in Shillong.
- Sepanati Deputy Commissioner Mamoni Doley flags off half marathon as curtain raiser to Barak Festival.
- Hornbill Esports Championship Season-2 kicks off at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima.

**NEWS IN ORDER:-**

**MEGHALAYA:**

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma has underscored the remarkable shift in public expectations across the state, from demands for basic amenities like roads and water supply to aspirations for higher educational facilities, advanced infrastructure, and improved quality of life. Speaking at the foundation laying ceremony for Rymbai Government Higher Secondary School in East Jaintia Hills yesterday, the Chief Minister said this evolution in community demands is a clear indicator of rising standards of living and the transformative progress underway in Meghalaya. Reiterating the government's commitment, the Chief Minister said that the transformational work in Rymbai and across Meghalaya will continue with renewed focus. Education Minister, Lakhmen Rymbui expressed satisfaction at the visible improvements in roads, water availability, and the school's development.

**HACKATHON:**

The spirit of innovation and technological problem-solving came alive as the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2025 – software edition finale was formally inaugurated in the North-Eastern Hill University (Nehu), Shillong yesterday. The prestigious national event—an initiative of the Union ministry of education's Innovation Cell and All India Council for Technical Education, brought together some of India's brightest young innovators for an intensive 36-hour coding marathon. It was aimed at building practical solutions for real-world challenges posed by various ministries, industries, and government agencies. Professor S. K. Dixit, registrar, Nehu, reaffirmed the university's commitment to nurturing a culture of innovation and technical excellence. He encouraged participants to view the hackathon not merely as a competition but as an invaluable opportunity for collaboration, peer learning, and national contribution.

**FISH:**

A three-day capacity-building-cum-field-demonstration programme on 'Small-scale entrepreneurship development for tribal community of NEH region – fisherwomen and youth in Meghalaya' was conducted at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Research Complex for North Eastern Hills Region, Umiam, Meghalaya. A total of 20 members of the Ri Bhoi Fish Farmers Producers Organization Co-operative Society Ltd. actively participated in the training. Participants were given hands-on demonstrations on preparation of various value-added fishery products including fish pickle, fish cutlet, fish ball, fish finger, and prawn chutney powder. They were also trained in utilizing fish waste for the preparation of amino acids, promoting waste-to-wealth practices. Officials also announced the establishment of a small fish processing unit, which will enable members the fish farmers to produce value-added products on a custom-hiring basis, fostering local entrepreneurship and livelihood enhancement.

**TRIPURA:**

Tripura's Handloom & Handicrafts Minister Bikas Debbarma has said that the state government is moving ahead with the goal of building "Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura" by making rural women self-reliant. He said that after inaugurating a seven-day handicraft exhibition in Agartala, marking the National Handicrafts Week yesterday. Mr Debbarma said that the demand for Tripura's bamboo and cane products is increasing in India and abroad. He, therefore emphasized on maintaining quality and fixing proper prices to expand marketing of these products. Tripura Social Welfare and Social Education Minister Tinku Roy highlighted the importance of design, quality and packaging in marketing handicraft products.

#### **HORNBILL:**

In Nagaland, the Mon edition of the Hornbill Festival 2025 got underway yesterday at the Konyak Heritage Complex. Addressing the event virtually, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat described the Hornbill Festival as one of India's most cherished cultural spectacles and a shining jewel of the Northeast. The Minister commended the government of Nagaland and all participants for keeping the festival vibrant and evolving, emphasizing its role in promoting tourism and cultural renaissance in the Northeast. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio expressed hope that the Mon edition of the Hornbill Festival would inspire pride in cultural identity, strengthen community bonds, and preserve the legacy and traditions of ancestors in Nagaland.

#### **WATER:**

Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, has called for concerted efforts to transform India from a water-stressed to a water-secure nation. Speaking at the launch of the State-Level Watershed Mahotsav in Kohima yesterday, he emphasised the joint responsibility of the government and people to effectively use funds and resources for grassroots development. He also emphasized the need to capture, store, and utilise every drop of rain. Mr Sekhar highlighted the impact of watershed programmes, including the PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, which yielded six-fold returns. In Nagaland, he said, 14 watershed projects worth 140 crore rupees have been approved, with 80 crores already released. Launching Mission Watershed Punarutthan, the minister said it will rejuvenate water bodies and rivers, while generating sustainable livelihoods through fisheries and organic farming. Cash prizes were presented to Watershed Committees of Wamuken Village in Mokokchung, Wokha's Chudi Village and Tsaphimi Village from Zunheboto, all winners of the Watershed Jan Bhagidari Cup 2025.

#### **DIGITAL:**

Secretary of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, S. Krishnan, has highlighted Nagaland's potential to play a key role in India's expanding digital economy. Addressing the Nagaland Digital Entrepreneurship & Startup Fest 2025 at NIELIT, Kohima, he lauded the creativity and skills of Naga youth. Underlining the importance of entrepreneurship, the secretary expressed hope for more startups from the northeastern region, and urged the Nagaland government to capitalize on its service-sector potential. He described the Cyber Security Lab at NIELIT Kohima as one of the best in the country. During the event, the Nagaland Digital Startup Awards 2025 were presented.

#### **ASSEMBLY:**

A comprehensive review meeting on the ongoing construction of the new Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Building at Mawdiangdiang was convened by Speaker, Thomas A. Sangma in Shillong yesterday with Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong and officials in attendance. Mr Sangma noted that the regular monthly review mechanism has contributed significantly to improved monitoring and steady advancement of work. The speaker reaffirmed that the timeline for the completion of the main Assembly Hall remains unchanged, with June 2026 set as the target. Once the main hall is completed, Assembly sessions can be convened at the new complex immediately thereafter.

#### **MARATHON:**

The Deputy Commissioner of Senapati, Mamoni Doley, flagged off a half marathon yesterday morning from the Astro Turf as curtain raiser to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of State Barak Festival 2025 under the theme 'Run for Harmony'. The run was organised in collaboration with District Administration, Senapati Police, Indian Red Cross Society and Senapati Medical Department. Around 1000 persons participated the Barak Half Marathon in three categories. All the winners and runners were felicitated with medals and cash prizes. The event was aimed at promoting fitness, gratitude, togetherness and renew the bonds between nature and community.

#### **ESPORTS:**

The Hornbill Esports Championship Season-2 kicked off yesterday at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Kohima. Addressing the launch programme, advisor to the Chief Minister, Abu Metha emphasized that esports has become a modern-day trend and should not be underestimated. Mr Metha also highlighted the career opportunities of esports, including in game development and creating content, and assured government's full support in making Nagaland a centre for esports. The Championship features competition in BGMI, Mobile Legends, FC 25, E-Chess and E-Football.

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