



Evening News Script

1920 hrs

3rd December 2025

<><><><><><>

:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nagaland joins global community in marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio says true progress requires inclusion
- Vibrant tribal performances enliven Day-3 of Hornbill Festival
- Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to begin three-day visit to Nagaland tomorrow

<><><><><><>

Along with the rest of the world, Nagaland observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities today under the theme 'Fostering Disability Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress'. Speaking at the main programme at Heritage Bamboo Hall in Kisama, Advisor Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak said disability rights are human rights, and reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. Stressing that inclusion is a matter of justice, not charity, he said the leadership of persons with disabilities is essential for a sustainable and progressive Nagaland.

The Advisor called on citizens to pledge for greater inclusion, ensure accessibility across all districts, and to work collectively to make equality a lasting reality. During the event, financial assistance of two lakh rupees each

under CM Corpus Fund for PWDs were presented to three beneficiaries from Wokha, Noklak and Kiphire.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said the International Day of Persons With Disabilities, is a time to recognise and celebrate the abilities and contributions of persons with disabilities. In a message on social media, Mr Rio said, the theme, 'Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress,' is a reminder that true progress can only come through inclusion.



President Droupadi Murmu today said that a society can only be called developed in true sense when the differently-abled are treated as equals. She added that they should not be treated with pity but with respect and dignity. The President said this during National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi.

During the event, the President conferred the National Awards to individuals and institutions for their exemplary effort in empowering Persons with Disabilities.



The third day of the 26th Edition of the Hornbill Festival 2025 today witnessed a vibrant array of cultural presentations at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama. The Cultural Show was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister, Yanthungo Patton and co-hosted by Advisor for Food & Civil Supplies, K. Tokugha Sukhalu. Distinguished guests included Consul General of Bhutan, Jigme Thinlye Namgyal, Air Marshal Surat Singh, and other dignitaries. The day featured a rich showcase of cultural dances and folk traditions by all Naga tribes. Meanwhile, the Department of Youth Resources & Sports conducted the 'Stilt Bamboo Race' for tourists and visitors at Kisama Amphitheatre, where a total of 10 male and five female participants took part. In the female category, Kuenne Katrin

from Germany was declared the winner, while Duncan from Australia won in the male Category.



Union Minister of Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia will be on a three-day visit to Nagaland from tomorrow. During his stay, Mr Scindia will attend the traditional stone-pulling ceremony in ToupHEMA village on Friday, held as part of the ongoing Hornbill Festival. He will also inaugurate and lay foundation stones of several ministry projects. As part of the tour, the Minister is scheduled to join the Hornbill festivities at the Naga Heritage Village at Kisama and visit the Heirloom Naga Centre in Dimapur.



In view of increasing acceptance of Sanchar Saathi app, the Government has decided not to make the pre- installation of this app mandatory for mobile manufacturers. It also clarified that citizens can remove the app whenever they want. Earlier, Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia rejected allegations of snooping over the app, saying the facility seeks to protect citizens from fraudulent activities.



Advisor, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Zhaleo Rio has called for greater transparency and accountability in urban governance. Speaking at the inauguration of the new Chiephobozou Town Council Office today, he called upon the elected councillors and other administrative officers to openly discuss revenue and ULB fund allocation during house meetings and arrive at decisions with consensus. He appealed to councillors to judiciously exercise their powers and responsibility as defined in the Municipal Act, and work together for the development of the sub-division. He also urged for genuine enumeration in population census and electoral rolls.



Marking a major step in urban biodiversity conservation and environmental education, Mokokchung today inaugurated Nagar Van Meraküm Tzün, a 50-hectare urban forest designed to reconnect people with local flora, fauna, and cultural heritage. The project, led by the Mokokchung Forest Division in partnership with the community, transforms land that lay fallow for nearly a decade into a restored green space. Speaking at the event, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force Vedpal Singh emphasized that the initiative aims to bridge the growing disconnect between urban populations and forest ecosystems. Lauding the community's efforts, he noted the potential for replicating the model across Nagaland. DFO Mokokchung Forest Division, Dr. Sentitula, highlighted the project's journey since its inception in July 2023. The restored forest features an eco-trail, a QR-coded 'Living Lab' for plant information, a Bible theatre, and a Bio-Amphitheatre, among others.



And, The Department of Youth Resources and Sports, in collaboration with Esports Association of Nagaland, is bringing the Hornbill Esports Championship for Season 2. Addressing a press conference today, Director of Youth Resources and Sports, Kethosituo Sekhose, said the Grand LAN Finals will be held on December 8 and 9 at IG Stadium, Kohima as a flagship event under the department. He highlighted the growing interest in esports as a major sporting avenue for youth.

The Hornbill Esports Championship Season 2 will feature top athletes from across India for a total prize pool of 10 lakh rupees. It will see 16 teams compete in BGMI and eight teams in Mobile Legends. Individual events include E-Chess, E-Football, and FC 25. With 512 team athletes and 240 individual competitors, this edition marks the largest esports participation in Nagaland to date. An Esports Music Festival will also be held on December 9.



