

**THE HEADLINES :-**

- **Hornbill festival enters day two with visitors enjoying cultural performance of different tribes.**
- **Irish Ambassador Kevin Kelly says Festivals like Hornbill provide excellent opportunity for trade, enterprise and investment.**
- **Annual Myki Fest opens at Directorate of Women Resources Development.**
- **Union Minister Kiren Rijiju criticizes leaders of opposition parties for disrupting proceedings of parliament over SIR.**



The 2nd Day of Hornbill Festival witnessed a vibrant line-up of events at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama. The cultural show was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang and co-hosted by Advisor for Land Resources G. Ikuto Zhimomi with Ambassador of France, Thierry Mathou and Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Justice Ashutosh Kumar as special guest. The different tribes of Nagaland showcased a diverse range of Naga traditional dances and cultural expressions. Meanwhile, Tourism department informed that a total of 22 thousands 508 visitors, including 363 foreign tourists, 5 thousand 314 domestic and 16 thousand 831 locals witnessed the inaugural session of the 10-day long festival yesterday.



Ambassador of Ireland to India, Kevin Kelly, said, Festivals like Hornbill provide an excellent opportunity for trade, enterprise and investment. Speaking to Akashvani News Kohima, Ambassador Kelly highlighted that Ireland has maintained its embassy in New Delhi for over six decades, forming the backbone of diplomatic engagement between the two nations. He expressed strong optimism about the future of India–Ireland relations, outlining a series of ambitious plans to elevate bilateral cooperation across political, economic, and cultural spheres. He noted that Ireland is working now to deepen and grow the relationship supported by a new Strategy for South Asia which places India at the center of Ireland’s regional outreach. The Ambassador said Ireland currently enjoys a healthy trade volume with India, estimated at 16 billion Euros, adding that there is significant scope for further growth.

Extending Ireland’s engagement beyond major metros, Ambassador Kelly emphasized the importance of building ties with India’s Northeast, describing it as a region with immense cultural, academic, and economic potential. He said Ireland’s participation in the Hornbill Festival in Nagaland marks its first major outreach effort in this direction.



The annual Myki Fest opened today at the Directorate of Women Resources Development, Bayavü, Kohima, with Commissioner & Secretary Zhothisa Dawhuo as the special guest. Mr Dawhuo reaffirmed the Nagaland Government's commitment to women's empowerment and said Myki Fest celebrates the talents, achievements, and resilience of women. He noted that women's contributions are often overlooked and stressed the need for society to recognise their vital role beyond household responsibilities.

Mr Dawhuo said the department is dedicated to uplifting women. Dawhuo urged society to change gender-biased mindsets and assured continued government support, calling for collective efforts to empower women. Director Vilone Sakhrie shared that Myki Fest, launched in 2018, honours women's daily contributions and will feature a food court, evening live music, and stalls showcasing products by local women entrepreneurs.



Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju has criticized the leaders of opposition parties for disrupting the proceedings of parliament over the issue of Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll (SIR), saying they don't need to dig out issues. Talking to the media outside the parliament, the Minister said, they do not need to find new issues and disturb the Parliament.

Meanwhile the leaders of opposition parties, including Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and others held a protest outside the Parliament and demanding the roll back of SIR on the second day of the winter session. As the deadlock continued over the issue of SIR, the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day. The House witnessed two adjournments before being finally adjourned for the day, following the opposition's demand for discussion over the SIR issue. Rajya Sabha also adjourned for the day after completing its scheduled business.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said that, with the growing digitalisation of the economy and emergence of new financial products, countries globally will have to cooperate with timely exchange of information, while ensuring fairness and public trust in the tax system. Addressing the 18th Global Forum Plenary Meeting in New Delhi, the Minister said transparency in tax matters has always gone beyond administrative reforms for India.



The Assam Statehood Day celebration was held today at Dr. Imkongliba Ao Hall, Raj Bhavan Kohima under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative. Nagaland Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in his address, the Governor praised Assam's cultural harmony, rich heritage, and contributions to the nation—from tea, oil, and agriculture to art, literature, and biodiversity conservation. He highlighted the vibrancy of traditions like Bihu and Sattriya, and commended the Assamese diaspora for preserving their identity while contributing nationwide. He said such celebrations strengthen national unity and expressed confidence in Assam's continued progress. The cultural programme featured Bihu and Bodo dances, modern creative dance, Bhupendra Sangeet, and other traditional performances.



Miss Yangerjungla, a research scholar from the Department of Law, Nagaland University, was awarded Best Paper Presenter for her paper, “Hornbill Festival as a Platform of Cultural Diplomacy: Bridging Nagaland with Asia and Beyond.” She received the award at the Multidisciplinary International Seminar on North-East India and Beyond: Past, Present, and Future, held from November 14 to 16 at Rajiv Gandhi University. Her paper highlighted the Hornbill Festival’s role in promoting Naga cultural diplomacy and supporting India’s Act East Policy, while also stressing the need to address issues of authenticity, commodification, and sustainability. She is currently pursuing her PhD under Dr. Sentikumla at Nagaland University.



Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chohan has said that under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) the government has released 68,393.67 crore rupees to the states and Union Territories in the current financial year 2025-26. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the Minister said out of this total amount 57,853.62 crore rupees has been allocated for wage component and an amount of 10,540.05 crore rupees for Material and administration. He said under the scheme, the wage payments are directly credited by the Government to the accounts of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer protocol.

