Morning News Script

0730 hrs

6th December 2025

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India and Russia yesterday exchanged sixteen agreements in areas related to defence, trade, economy, healthcare, academics, culture and media. Addressing a joint press meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that India-Russia friendship will give the strength to face global challenges, and this very trust will enrich the shared future of both nations. He stated that India and Russia have been standing shoulder to shoulder in the fight against terrorism.

Prime Minister stated that both sides are working towards the early conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union. Mr Modi announced that India will soon be launching a free 30-day e-tourist visa and a 30-day Group Tourist Visa for Russian citizens. He said the Russian side has decided to adopt the Framework Agreement to join the International Big Cat Alliance. Mr Modi said that President Putin's visit has come at a time when bilateral relations are reaching many historic milestones.

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The Nagaland Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) observed the 7th Nagaland Honey Bee Day yesterday at the NBHM Multi Utility Center, Sovima, under the theme "Securing the Future of Honey Enterprises through Financial Literacy."Speaking at the event as the Special Guest, NBHM Chairman Obed Quinker lauded the dedication of beekeepers and the Mission's continuous efforts in uplifting Nagaland's honey industry. He encouraged beekeepers to move beyond traditional practices and adopt scientific methods, emphasizing that modern apiculture extends beyond honey extraction to maintaining healthy colonies, promoting pollination, and safeguarding biodiversity. Mr. Quinker underscored the importance of branding and quality assurance, urging young entrepreneurs to highlight Nagaland's natural uniqueness to gain a competitive edge in both national and international markets. He also stressed the need for sustainable and ethical honey production, reminding participants that bees are vital contributors to food security and environmental balance.

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At Day-5 of the 26th Hornbill Festival, a vibrant array of traditional performances captivated visitors at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama. The Cultural Show was hosted by Imkongmar, Advisor for Minority Affairs and Sericulture. Among the special guests in attendance were Lt. General Vikas Lakhera, Director General of Assam Rifles, and Suneel Sachdeva, Director, NFSSA

& BP, Ministry of Food & Public Distribution, along with other dignitaries.Adding to the day's attractions, the inaugural Hornbill Dog Show was held at Pony Farm, Kigwema, featuring 35 canine participants—22 pure breeds and 13 mixed and local breeds.A Blood Donation Camp was also organized at Kisama, where 23 donors volunteered to contribute.In traditional sports, the Chakhesang and Khiamniungan tribes emerged champions in the tug-of-war competition, winning in the male and female categories respectively.

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The third edition of the Hornbill Extension in Wokha district began yesterday at the Doyang tourist resort. The opening day featured traditional boat racing, a 50-metre freestyle swimming competition,a tug-of-war, and a musical evening. Guest of honour, Executive Director (Technical) and HoP, DHEP NEEPCo/NTPC Ltd, CH R John Zeliang, highlighted tourism as a key economic avenue for Wokha alongside power generation. He stressed the importance of quality hospitality services, noting that even a hygienic homestay could generate significant income. In addition, the 2nd Edition of the Hornbill Festival Extension 2025 also began at Zunheboto. Minister for Forest, Environment & Climate Change and Village Guards, C.L. John, gracing the event as the special guest expressed hope that the Hornbill Extension at Zunheboto will continue to grow stronger and more vibrant in the years to come. Day 1 showcased an exciting line-up of competitions such as Apukhu Kiti – Round 1 and Street Arm Wrestling.

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