

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Mon Edition of Hornbill Festival kicks off; Union Minister Shekhawat hails Festival for promoting tourism
- Government launches Mission Watershed Punarutthan in Nagaland to revive water bodies
- MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan highlights Nagaland's role in India's digital economy
- Lok Sabha holds special discussion on 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram

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The Mon Edition of the Hornbill Festival 2025 got underway today at the Konyak Heritage Complex. Addressing the event virtually, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat described 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. He expressed regret for not being present in person due to parliamentary commitments, and assured best wishes to festival-goers. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio expressed hope that the Mon edition would inspire pride in cultural identity, strengthen community bonds, and preserve the legacy and traditions of ancestors. The Chief Minister asserted that the state government is committed towards building the ENPO's area in terms of development infrastructures.



Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, today 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 2025 at Kohima, he emphasised the joint responsibility of 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. Dr. 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 crore 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. During the event, cash prizes of 20 lakh rupees were presented to Watershed Committees of Wamuken Village in Mokokchung, Wokha's Chudi Village and Tsaphimi Village from Zunheboto, winners of the Watershed Jan Bhagidari Cup 2025.

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Secretary of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), S. Krishnan, today 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, lauded the creativity and skills of Naga youth, and emphasized the role of institutions like NIELIT in nurturing these potentials. Underlining the importance of entrepreneurship, the Secretary expressed hope for more startups from the region, and urged the state to capitalize on its service-sector potential. He further described the Cyber Security Lab at NIELIT Kohima as one of the best in the country. Mr Krishnan launched the Digital Learning and Simulation Hub, the Digital Delivery of Statutory Services initiative, and AI-powered news platform Pulse App. During the event, the Nagaland Digital Startup Awards 2025 were presented. Ahibi won the Best Seed Stage Startup award, Kikonik Tech bagged the Most Innovative Early Stage Product award for its Pikonik app, and JoldiPabo received the Outstanding Bootstrapped Success award. Meanwhile, 87T Entertainment emerged as the winner in the Innovative Startup (Non-Tech) category.

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The Lok Sabha today began a special discussion on the 150th anniversary of the National Song Vande Mataram. The national song was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1875. Initiating the discussion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the mantra of Vande Mataram gave strength and inspiration to the entire country and energised the freedom struggle. He said, the national song continues to inspire people to fulfil the dreams envisioned by the freedom fighters. He said, Vande Mataram is not just a mantra for

political freedom but it was a sacred war cry to rid Bharat Mata of shackles of colonialism.

Mr. Modi added that the 150th anniversary of the song provides an opportunity to revive that historic chapter and its glory. Participating in the debate, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said, several writers and poets from Bengal wrote songs that inspired many during the Independence movement.



Ahead of the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine 2025 to be held in New Delhi this month, a Curtain Raiser Press Meet was held today at the AYUSH Office in Dimapur. Research Assistant at the Regional Ayurveda Research Centre, Nikhil Krishna, highlighted the key themes of the Summit guided by the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034.

The Summit will take place from December 17 to 19, and aims to advance the role of traditional medicine in achieving Universal Health Coverage by integrating evidence-based traditional practices into mainstream health systems. It will showcase new products, scientific collaborations and global initiatives shaping the next decade, and is expected to bring together international experts, policymakers, researchers and practitioners, both onsite and online.



The Hornbill Esports Championship Season 2 kicked off today 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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