

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has underlined that India is today seen as a trusted partner for growth. Pointing to recent trade deals with countries across regions including the UK, the US and the EU, he said, trust has become India's strongest currency. Addressing the Indian diaspora at an event in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he emphasized the deep personal and people-to-people ties between India and Malaysia. He also highlighted expanding economic engagement between the countries, and announced that India's digital payment platform UPI will be launched in Malaysia soon.

Mr. Modi reached Kuala Lumpur yesterday on a two-day official visit, and will hold talks with the Malaysian Prime Minister today after which several MoUs are likely to be signed.

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Union Minister of State for External Affairs, and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh arrived in Nagaland yesterday and met with BJP party members and representatives of Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation in Dimapur. Congratulating ENPO on the historic FNTA agreement, he said it marks a significant step towards peace and prosperity in Nagaland. The Minister reaffirmed that the development of the North-East and fulfilment of the aspirations of its youth are key to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. During his stay, Mr Singh will visit Kohima and Phek to attend local programmes, and address the media on the Union Budget 2026 in Kohima.

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Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will visit Longleng district later this month. Sharing this during the District Planning & Development Board meeting yesterday, Deputy Commissioner, W. Manpai Phom urged all departments to be ready with their activities. The meeting also discussed the recently signed Frontier Nagaland Territory Authority agreement. The DC noted that an interim body is expected to be formed within a year and called on officials to ensure its smooth implementation.

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Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has launched the nationwide Pulse Self-Reliance Mission from the Food Legumes Research Centre in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh. At the

national meeting of the mission yesterday, the roadmap for the Mission was finalised, with key components including a cluster-based production model, seed villages, establishment of 1,000 pulse mills across the country, and strengthening research-farmer linkages. Addressing the meeting, Mr Chauhan said that the country will now move towards becoming a global exporter of pulses.

The Union Minister said self-reliance in pulse production is essential for building Atmanirbhar India.

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Union Public Service Commission-UPSC has extended the operational hours of its call centre to provide enhanced support and guidance to aspirants. UPSC said that the call centre will remain operational on all days including Saturday, Sunday, and holidays till the submission of application forms for the Civil Services and the Indian Forest Service Examinations 2026. It will function in two shifts from 7 AM to 9 PM, allowing candidates to seek assistance beyond regular working hours.

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In local sports... Twenty-nine-year-old Venuzo Dawhuo emerged as the Champion of the 30th Senior Meet of the Chakhesang Wrestling Association. Hailing from Thenyizu, Mr Dawhuo defeated Hüluyi D. Vadeo of Sakraba in the final to secure the title for the fifth consecutive time. Venü Vadeo and Mülüsü Veswüh finished in third and fourth positions. In the under-15 category, Kutho Puro emerged as the winner.

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And, Nitsuyan FC has won the 15th Lotha Football Championship. The team lifted the trophy after a dominant 5-0 win over Nyiro Range FC in the final played at Wokha yesterday.

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