

THE HEADLINES:-

- **Advisor Mhathung Yanthan calls for preserving indigenous varieties at first North-East Festival of Rice**
- **Principal Secretary Y. Kikheto Sema urges intensified, community-driven conservation efforts**
- **Nagaland partners with IMD to strengthen weather forecasting**
- **India and Israel exchange multiple MoUs in several areas**



The first 'North East Festival of Rice: Grains of Heritage' commenced today at Agri Expo in Dimapur. The event is organized by Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Nagaland Chapter in collaboration with the state Department of Agriculture, ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hill Region, and the North East Zone Cultural Centre. Inaugurating the festival, Agriculture Advisor Mhathung Yanthan termed the event 'historic' and emphasized the cultural significance of rice for Northeast communities.

Highlighting the region as a globally recognised hotspot of agro-biodiversity, Mr Yanthan said Nagaland alone has more than 200 identified indigenous rice varieties, adapted over generations to diverse microclimates. However, he cautioned that many traditional varieties are at risk of degeneration and called for focused discussion during the festival. He also raised concerns over the impact of climate change on agriculture, and stressed the need climate-resilient, high-yielding rice varieties while preserving traditional germplasm.

The Advisor further informed that Nagaland's new Agriculture Policy 2026 has received Cabinet approval and will be implemented soon. He reaffirmed the collective responsibility to conserve seed heritage, support farmers, empower youth, and sustain rice-based livelihoods across the region. The two-day festival features technical sessions, craft section and a marketplace with participation from all northeast states.



Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Y. Kikheto Sema, has called for intensified and community-driven conservation efforts amid declining forest cover and impact of climate change. He made the remarks today during the opening session of the Annual Review-cum-Planning Workshop of the Forest and Biodiversity Management in the Himalaya (Nagaland) Project, FBMP. Mr. Sema underlined the importance of grassroots awareness and participation in sustainable practices, noting that most forest land in the state are community-owned. Emphasising that conservation must become a people's movement, he advocated intensive and focused interventions, prioritising ecologically sensitive areas. Principal, Chief Conservator of Forests, Vedpal Singh, emphasized the need for measurable outcomes, and called for strengthening components such as human-wildlife conflict mitigation to enhance public engagement and institutional support. The FBMP project is co-financed by the government of Germany's KfW and is currently being implemented in six districts covering 64 villages and 13 community conservation areas. The two-day workshop is reviewing progress of the project and charting the roadmap for the next phase of implementation.



Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw today said that synthetic content should not be generated without the consent of the person whose face, voice or personality has been used to create the content. Addressing a conclave in New Delhi today, he said the online safety of citizens and children is a responsibility of the platforms.

Mr Vaishnaw said that the time has come for platforms to take proactive action against cyber fraud and cybercrime.



Nagaland's Department of Higher Education has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to strengthen weather forecasting and atmospheric research in the state. The MoU was signed today at the Directorate of Higher Education in Kohima in the presence of Higher Education Minister Temjen Imna Along and officials from both sides. Under the agreement, the Government of India will install one X-Band Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radar at Dimapur Government College under the Centre's Mission Mausam scheme. The collaboration is expected to improve understanding of weather hazards specific to Nagaland and support more accurate operational weather forecasts. The MoU will remain valid for 20 years.



India and Israel today exchanged multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on several areas, including cultural exchange, fisheries and aquaculture, UPI and advancing education through Artificial Intelligence. The MoUs were exchanged after the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. In his press statement, Mr Modi said the India-Israel relationship is founded on deep trust, shared democratic values, and profound human sensitivities. He said both sides have decided to elevate the time-tested ties to a Special Strategic Partnership.

Mr Netanyahu said, Israel and India are bent on innovation, and added that they have decided to hold a government-to-government meeting in India soon.



Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that road safety is an important and crucial subject for the country, expressing his concern over the rising number of road accidents in India. Speaking at the national conclave on road safety in New Delhi today, Mr Gadkari said, India witnesses nearly five lakh road accidents every year, resulting in about one lakh eighty thousand deaths.



The Nagaland Directorate of School Education has informed all heads of schools, both government and private, that no student must be denied admission for not having an Aadhaar Card. The Directorate has instructed all concerned authorities to ensure strict compliance with the order.



Pochury Wrestling Association (PWA) conducted its maiden wrestling championship-cum-training at Meluri today. Altogether, 13 wrestlers participated in the event. Dakoye Sharu emerged as champion, with Hamtepa Chutseh and Kutsilo secured the first and second runners-up positions respectively. The event was held ahead of the 1st NWA Provisional Unit Championship next week.

