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1. Arunachal Pradesh

Namdapha Marathon: Yoischa Yobin's Call to Save Tigers

A Strong Message for Wildlife

At the "Run for Tiger" marathon in Namdapha National Park, Yoischa Yobin encouraged everyone to protect tigers. "I ran for the tiger and for Namdapha. We need to save tigers because they make nature beautiful," she said.

Event Highlights

The marathon was part of Global Tiger Day celebrations and aimed to raise awareness about tiger conservation. Around 100 local young people participated, promoting both environmental action and healthy living.


Winners

- Male Winner:** Ongla Singpho – finished in 39 minutes
- Female Winner:** Yoischa Yobin – finished in 1 hour and 10 minutes

Both received medals and prizes.

Community Involvement

The event included a drawing competition on "Save Tigers and their habitats," won by Wangmay Wangrey from Class 12. About 70 students also took part in a Tiger Conservation Awareness Rally, promoting wildlife protection.



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Rare Brahma Kamal Blooms Attract Bumble Bees in Arunachal Pradesh

In Arunachal Pradesh, the rare Brahma Kamal flower (*Saussurea obvallata*) has been found blooming, drawing attention from various bumble bee species. This flower is significant in Hindu mythology, created by Lord Brahma to assist Lord Shiva with Ganesha.

❑ **Discovery**

Researchers from Rajiv Gandhi University and other institutions discovered these flowers at Bumla Pass in Tawang District. This study, published in *Current Science*, is the first to document bumble bees visiting Brahma Kamal.

❑ **Habitat**

Brahma Kamal thrives in high-altitude areas of the Himalayas, particularly at elevations of 4,300 meters. The flowering season peaks in August, coinciding with increased bumble bee activity.

❑ **Bumble Bee Species**

Six bumble bee species were observed visiting the flowers, including:

- > *Bombus abnormis*
- > *Bombus mirus* (vulnerable)
- > *Bombus lemniscatus*
- > *Bombus pressus*
- > *Bombus prshewalskyi*
- > *Bombus sikkimi*

These bees are crucial for pollination, particularly in the challenging climate of the Eastern Himalayas.



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Longding District Launches NITI Aayog's 'Sampoornata Abhijan'

Longding District has officially launched NITI Aayog's 'Sampoornata Abhijan' at Pongchau Headquarters. The event began with the 'Sampoornata Pledge' and a briefing on the initiative's goals.

Key Highlights

- ❑ **Inauguration:** DC Longding, Bekir Nyorak, led the launch, joined by NITI Aayog official Shri Akshat Shrivastav and local stakeholders.
- ❑ **Marathon Event:** The launch included a marathon race in Pongchau Sub-Division, flagged off by the SDO.
- ❑ **Objectives:** The 'Sampoornata Abhijan' aims to improve six key performance areas—health, agriculture, social development, and nutrition—over the next three months.
- ❑ **Awareness Activities:** Performances by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and students raised awareness about the initiative.
- ❑ **School Inspections:** DC Longding visited several schools to assess their conditions.
- ❑ **Gram Sabha Meeting:** A special Gram Sabha was held to discuss challenges, targets, and action plans, resulting in a resolution to pursue these goals.
- ❑ **Coordination Meeting:** The day concluded with a meeting of Block Level officials to develop an action plan for monitoring and evaluation.



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Frog found in Arunachal named after Apatani tribe

- ❑ A team of scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has identified a new species of horned frog, named *Xenophrys apatani*, from Tale Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in Arunachal Pradesh, part of the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity hotspot.



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2. ASSAM

First Recorded Sightings of Mithun Bovine in Assam

- The mithun, also known as the gayal (*Bos frontalis*), is a semi-wild type of cattle traditionally raised by hill tribes. For the first time, this animal has been recorded in Assam, which is an important discovery in animal science. Previously, mithuns were only thought to live in the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. This new finding shows that mithuns are also present in the Dima Hasao district of central Assam.



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Charaideo Moidams: UNESCO World Heritage Site

The Charaideo Moidams in Assam, royal burial grounds of the Ahom dynasty, have recently been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, gaining international recognition. Located about 30 km from Sivasagar in eastern Assam, these sites hold significant historical value.

❑ What are Moidams?

Moidams are tumuli, or earth mounds, built over the graves of Ahom kings. While the Ahom royal moidams are in Charaideo, similar structures exist throughout eastern Assam. Each moidam typically features:

- ❑ A vault with rooms
- ❑ A hemispherical mound on top
- ❑ A tower (chow chali) surrounded by an eight-sided wall
- ❑ Unlike Hindu customs of cremation, the Ahoms, linked to the Tai people, practiced burial. Their unique rituals included placing not only the deceased but also items for the afterlife, servants, animals, and even wives within the moidams.

❑ Importance of Charaideo

Charaideo, meaning "shining town on a hill" in Tai Ahom, was the first capital of the Ahom kingdom established by King Sukaphaa in 1253 AD. It has remained a vital cultural and historical center in the region.



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3. MANIPUR

After 4 years, Sirarakhong Chilli Festival returns to Ukhrul

❑ Overview

- The Sirarakhong Hathei, a unique chilli native to Sirarakhong village in Ukhrul, Manipur. Situated about 67 km from Imphal, this chilli is renowned for its distinctive taste and vibrant red color.
- After a four-year break, the 13th Sirarakhong Chilli (Hathei) Festival is set to take place from August 29 to 30, 2024, in Sirarakhong village, Ukhrul district.

❑ Importance to the Community

- ❑ **Cultural Significance:** The Sirarakhong chilli is deeply embedded in the culture of the village, being a staple in local cuisine.
- ❑ **Economic Impact:** It supports the livelihoods of approximately 300 households, providing significant revenue that helps meet family expenses.



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Manipur appoints first tribal woman as chairperson of state women's commission

- ❑ The Naga Women's Union Chandel (NWUC) has extended heartfelt congratulations to Thumli Tiningpham Monsang on her appointment as the chairperson of the Manipur State Commission for Women (MSCW) on Saturday



Manipuri film sole NE entry for Bangalore Queer Film Festival 2024

- ❑ ONENESS, directed by Priyakanta Laishram, has been officially selected for the 14th Bangalore Queer Film Festival (BQFF 2024), taking place from August 23-25, 2024.



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Manipur: Joyson Khoho appointed as state NSUI president

- ❑ Joyson Khoho has been appointed as the new president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) Manipur unit, effective immediately.
- ❑ The announcement was made by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in New Delhi



Manipur: Ukhrul marks Naga Independence Day with tributes to martyrs

- ❑ Ukhrul District commemorated the 78th Naga Independence Day on Wednesday at the district headquarters, with a large turnout of people from various parts of Ukhrul and Kamjong districts, joining the broader Naga community in observing the day.



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Manipur: Lakshman Prasad Acharya sworn in as new Governor

- ❑ Lakshman Prasad Acharya has been sworn in as the new Governor of Manipur. He took the oath of office in a ceremony that typically involves the Chief Justice of the High Court or another designated authority administering the oath. Acharya, a politician with a background in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has previously served in various capacities within the party and government.



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4. Meghalaya

Dr. Mukul Sangma appointed leader of opposition in Meghalaya assembly

- ❑ Dr. Mukul Sangma, a leader from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), has been officially appointed as the new Leader of Opposition in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly on Thursday. Speaker Thomas Sangma also announced that lone Congress MLA Ronnie V. Lyngdoh has been appointed as the new Opposition Chief Whip.



Zubeen Garg, Lou Majaw awarded honorary D.Litt. at USTM's 10th Convocation

- ❑ Zubeen Garg and Lou Majaw were awarded honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) degrees during the 10th convocation of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM). This recognition celebrates their significant contributions to music and culture in the region.
- ❑ Zubeen Garg, a renowned singer and musician from Assam, is known for his versatility and impact on Assamese and Indian music. Lou Majaw, often referred to as the "Bob Dylan of India," is celebrated for his contributions to rock music and his influence in Meghalaya and beyond.



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BSF personnel at Indo-Bangla border trained to handle wild elephants

- ❑ *Aaranyak*, a research-driven non-profit focused on biodiversity conservation, has initiated a sensitisation programme for Border Security Force (BSF) personnel stationed along the India-Bangladesh border in the Garo Hills region of Meghalaya. This programme aims to equip the BSF with the necessary knowledge and skills to handle encounters with wild elephant herds, a frequent occurrence in this area.



Meghalaya: Former CM Salseng C Marak passes away at 82

- ❑ Salseng C Marak, former Chief Minister of Meghalaya and a prominent Congress leader, passed away on Friday at Tura Civil Hospital (TCH) in West Garo Hills. He was 82.



USTM Ranks Among India's Top 200 Universities

- ❑ The University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has been ranked among the top 200 universities in India for the third consecutive time in four years. The prestigious ranking has been announced by the Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, in the 9th edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024.



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Meghalaya HC considers cancellation of pilgrimage to Mawjymbuin Cave

- ❑ The Meghalaya High Court on Wednesday accepted the decision of the writ petitioners to call off the annual pilgrimage to the Mawjymbuin cave.
- ❑ Mawjymbuin Cave, located near Mawsynram in Meghalaya, India, is renowned for its stunning stalactites and stalagmites. This natural cave is significant both geologically and culturally, tied to local legends. It attracts tourists and adventure seekers, offering a glimpse of Meghalaya's lush landscapes and unique underground formations.



Meghalaya's Betsida Marak wins Global Gibbon Champion Award

- ❑ In a remarkable honour, Betsida Ch Marak from Meghalaya has been awarded the inaugural Global Gibbon Champion Award 2024 for her exceptional contributions to gibbon conservation.
- ❑ The Global Gibbon Champion Award was launched in 2020 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other conservation organizations. The initiative was created to raise awareness and support for gibbon conservation efforts around the world, highlighting the critical threats these primates face and recognizing those making impactful contributions to their preservation.



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New cave-dwelling fish discovered in Meghalaya's limestone marvels

- ❑ A new species of cave-dwelling fish has been discovered in Meghalaya's limestone caves, highlighting the region's rich biodiversity. This fish, adapted to its dark, subterranean environment, exhibits unique traits such as loss of pigmentation and enhanced sensory adaptations.
- ❑ The discovery underscores the ecological importance of Meghalaya's limestone formations and the need for conservation efforts to protect these fragile ecosystems. Researchers continue to study these caves to uncover more about the unique species that inhabit them and their adaptations to such environments.



Meghalaya: CH Vijayashankar sworn in as new Governor

- ❑ Newly appointed governor of [Meghalaya](#), CH Vijayashankar, was sworn in at Raj Bhavan in Shillong. Chief Justice S Vaidyanathan administered the oath of office and secrecy.



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5. Mizoram

Mizoram: 11-year-old posthumously awarded India's highest bravery honour

The prestigious [Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak 2023](#) was posthumously awarded to 11-year-old Anthony Vanmawia of Tuirial Tlangveng, Mizoram, for his extraordinary bravery in saving his younger brother from drowning. The award, which recognizes acts of courage in saving human lives, was presented to Anthony's family by Aizawl District Deputy Commissioner Er. Lalhriatpuia at a ceremony held in the DC Office Conference Hall.



CRS authorises train operations on new railway line in Mizoram

The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), Sumeet Singhal, has authorised the operation of freight and passenger trains on the newly constructed 16.725 km broad-gauge (BG) line between Bhairabi and Hortoki in Mizoram. The approval was granted on 22 August 2024, following the completion of a statutory inspection of the section at the end of last month. The section is part of the ongoing 51.38 km Bhairabi-Sairang new rail line project, which is part of Indian Railways' capital connectivity initiatives.



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Mizoram: Excise dept. leads walk against drugs to mark I-Day

As part of the 78th [Independence Day](#) celebration and to strengthen the fight against drug abuse, the Excise & Narcotics Department organized the Ruihlo Do Kawngzawhpui (Walk Against Drugs) Walkathon on the morning of August 14, 2024. The event, held under the theme "Together we can create a safer, healthier, and drug-free community", aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.



Mizoram to host India's first Red Bull Urban Downhill racing event

This October, Mizoram is set to make history by hosting India's first-ever Red Bull Urban Downhill Racing event, the Red Bull Tlang Ruam. Held in the bustling streets of Aizawl, this landmark event will bring together elite cyclists from across the nation and beyond, competing in a thrilling and challenging race that marks a significant milestone in India's adventure sports scene.



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6. Nagaland

Nagaland: Tuensang gears up to host Dr T Ao Football Trophy

The 23rd edition of the Dr T Ao Trophy, Nagaland's prestigious inter-district football championship, is set to take place from September 17 to 27, 2024, in Tuensang. This marks the first time Tuensang district will host the tournament, which promises to showcase the best football talents from across the state's 16 districts.



Nagaland's Seiyhama village all set to host 3rd Naga King Chilli Festival

The 3rd Naga King Chilli (Naga Mircha) Festival is set to take place on September 6, 2024, in Seiyhama village under Kohima district, a picturesque community perched on a mountaintop 42 km from Kohima town, bordering Tseminyü district of Nagaland.



Nagaland: CM life insurance scheme launched for indigenous residents

Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio launched the Chief Minister's Universal Life Insurance Scheme (CMLIS) on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day celebrations at Civil Secretariat Plaza, Kohima.



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Silene vagans: Plant rediscovered after 138 years in Nagaland

A team of botanists has rediscovered *Silene vagans*, a plant species previously believed lost to science, during a recent botanical exploration in Nagaland. The rare and endemic plant had not been observed in the wild for over 138 years.



Nagaland's Hotozhe Sema qualifies for Paris Paralympic Games 2024

In a historic achievement, Nagaland's Hotozhe Sema has secured his place in the Paris Paralympic Games 2024. The announcement was made on Sunday by the Associate Vice President of the Athletics Federation of India.



Nagaland: NSF to host "The Naga Morung" event in Kohima on Aug 14

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) is set to organise a significant event titled "The Naga Morung" on August 14, at the NBCC Convention Centre in Kohima.



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7.Tripura

Tripura CM Manik Saha aims to eradicate HIV by 2030

Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha has set an ambitious target of eliminating HIV cases in the state by 2030.



ICFAI University Tripura Offers Flood Relief

ICFAI University Tripura has donated Rs. 5 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in aid of the flood-affected communities in Tripura. The university has distributed food packets to over 1000 families in the flood-affected areas.



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8.Sikkim

A Orchid that never opens its flower discovered in Sikkim

Orchids are known for their blooming flowers, but a newly discovered species in India challenges this norm. A unique orchid species, *Gastrodia indica*, was recently discovered in Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary, Sikkim, which never opens its flower. This discovery was made during a botanical expedition by botanist Madhusudan Khanal from the G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment—Sikkim Regional Centre.



I-Day celebrations in Sikkim focus on 50 years of statehood next year

The State-level celebrations of 78th Independence Day was held at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok which had the Chief Minister Prem Singh Golay hoisting the National Flag followed by national salute and review of the Independence Day parade.



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