Sunrise Festival

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

Why in News?

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister said the Sunrise Festival in Anjaw holds immense potential not only for the border district but for Arunachal Pradesh as a whole.

- It is the ***first-ever New Year festival*** in Arunachal Pradesh (2026) built around the unique experience of witnessing India's earliest sunrise.
- **Theme –** "First to Rise, First to Celebrate" – India's first sunrise of the year.
- **Location – *Dong***, Anjaw district, near the tri-junction of India, China, and Myanmar.
- **Unique Feature of Dong –** It is India's easternmost village and the first place in India to witness the earliest sunrise each year.
- **Geographic significance –** Dong is nestled near the ***meeting point of the Lohit River and the Himalayan foothills***, known as one of the most offbeat destinations in the country.
- **Duration –** It is a 5-day festival that begins on December 29, 2025, and concludes on January 2, 2026.
- **Signature Event –** "*Alo Prabhat – Dance of the Dawn*", a performance drawn from the cultural traits of the indigenous ***Meyor and Mishmi communities.***
- **Cultural Highlights –**
  - **Cultural Performances** – Meyor and Mishmi tribes showcased traditional dances and songs.
  - **Spiritual Emphasis** – The festival highlights harmony with nature and reverence for the sun.
  - **Community Gathering** – It brings together travellers, locals, and artists to celebrate heritage and new beginnings.
  - **Experiential Activities** – Includes village walks, storytelling, music, art residencies, and cultural interactions with the Meyor tribe.
- **Significance –** This festival represents a significant initiative to position ***Arunachal Pradesh as a global*** destination for nature, culture, adventure, heritage and sun-led New Year celebrations to boost eco-tourism.

References

1. The Hindu | Arunachal celebrates India's first sunrise of 2026
2. Hindustan Times | Sunrise Festival in Arunachal
3. Sunrise Festival | Sunrise Festival - Dong



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