

Evening News Script
1920 hrs of
25th December, 2024.

THE HEADLINES :-

- Christmas celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion throughout Nagaland.
- Prime Minister Modi lays foundation stone for country's first river-linking project worth 44 thousand 600 crore rupees.
- Nation observes Good Governance Day marking the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- President Murmu to confer 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' on 17 children for exceptional achievements.

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Along with the globe, Christmas was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion throughout Nagaland today. Churches and homes were beautifully decorated to welcome the birth of Jesus Christ. Special Christmas services were held in churches, while people came together for community feasts. Across homes, shops, and public places, Christmas trees and decorative lights are on full display, showcasing the festive spirit. Hymns and carols filled the air, adding to the joy and festive atmosphere of the day. Let's listen to a report from our correspondent on the celebrations:

VOICE CAST: *In the state capital, the Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, the main church of the Kohima Diocese, marked the joyous occasion with mass, songs and prayer. The church and its surroundings have stunningly been decorated, attracting large crowds. Thousands of Christians, along with tourists, joined in the service, celebrating the day with joy and devotion. Similar celebrations took*

place at other churches as well. In some, the statue of Baby Jesus was carried in procession and placed in the cribs. Some churches organized traditional common meals, while some distributed food packages and gifts to both members and the needy, spreading the spirit of Christmas.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the country's first river-linking project, the Ken-Betwa River Linking National Project worth 44 thousand 600 crore rupees in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh today. The first of its kind in India, the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project is aimed at revolutionising water management in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The project aims to irrigate 8.11 lakh hectares across 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh, including Chhatarpur, Panna, and Tikamgarh, and stabilize irrigation for an additional 1.92 lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh.

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Mr Modi also dedicated the country's first Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project to the nation and performed the bhoomi puja for 1,153 Atal Gram Sushasan Bhavans. The Prime Minister also released a commemorative coin and a stamp in honour of Bharat Ratna Vajpayee. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Modi said, the event marks a tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 100th birth anniversary.

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The Good Governance Day was observed today marking the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We have a report

On the occasion, Defence Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh launched the Rashtraparv website and app in New Delhi. Mr Singh said, the website will provide information related to National events like Republic Day, Independence Day Celebrations, Beating Retreat and Tableaux to the general public. He also said the information related to ticket, Parking, Seating arrangements for a particular event will also be provided to citizens.

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Former CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant today said that India has potential to leap to 30 trillion US dollar economy by 2047 and it can be achieved by triggering its growth in manufacturing and exports. Mr. Kant was delivering the special memorial lecture on the occasion of Good Governance Day at Rajbhavan in Patna. He said India has to accelerate its national GDP nine times, per capita income 8 times and manufacturing capacity 16 times to become a developed nation. Mr. Kant said, at present Indian economy size is 4 trillion US dollar and it has to maintain compound power growth to excel further in present challenging scenario. The former Sherpa of India at G-20 summit Mr. Kant said, global great power conflict, tariff war and disturbed global supply chain are major challenges at international fora whereas in domestic aspect country has to improve its skewed population dividend and lopsided manufacturing growth.

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President Droupadi Murmu will confer the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' on 17 children for exceptional achievements in seven categories in New Delhi tomorrow. Children hail from 14 states and UTs. The government confers the Bal Puraskar to children for achievements in art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and the environment. Each awardee will receive a medal, certificate, and citation booklet. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in Veer Baal Diwas, a nationwide celebration honouring children as the foundation of India's future, at Bharat Mandapam tomorrow. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. The Prime Minister will launch 'Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan.' It aims at improving nutritional outcomes and well-being by strengthening the implementation of nutrition-related services. Various initiatives will also be run across the nation to engage young minds, promote awareness about the significance of the day, and foster a culture of courage and dedication to the nation.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to educationist and social reformer Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya on his birth anniversary today. In a social media post, Mr. Modi said, apart from being an active freedom fighter, Pandit Malviya remained a pioneer of education in India throughout his life. The Prime Minister added that Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya's contribution to the country will always remain a source of inspiration.

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The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has registered a net addition of 13 lakh 41 thousand members during October this year. The Labour and Employment Ministry said the surge in members can be attributed to growing employment opportunities, increased awareness of employee benefits, and EPFO's effective outreach initiatives. The provisional payroll data showed that EPFO enrolled around 7 lakh 50 thousand new members in October of the current fiscal year. The data showed the dominance of the 18 to 25 age group, constituting over 58 percent of the total members added during the period. The payroll data highlights that approximately 12 lakh 90 thousand members exited and subsequently rejoined EPFO. This figure depicts year-over-year growth of 16.23 percent compared to October 2023.

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