

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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India and Sri Lanka yesterday exchanged protocol amending agreement between the two countries for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes in income. Both sides also exchanged MoU on training and capacity building of civil servants of Sri Lanka. The agreements were exchanged after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake in New Delhi. Both leaders held discussions on issues of mutual interest. In his press statement, Prime Minister Modi expressed happiness that Mr Dissanayake has chosen India for his first foreign visit as President. He said, both sides also discussed issues related to the livelihood of fishermen.

In his statement, Mr Dissanayake said, he has given an assurance to the Prime Minister of India that they will not allow Sri Lanka to be used in any way in a manner that is detrimental to the interest of India.

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The Lok Sabha yesterday took up the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants - First Batch for 2024-2025. The government has sought approval of Parliament to authorise gross additional expenditure of over 87 thousand 762 crore rupees. Out of this, the proposals involve net cash outgo aggregate to 44 thousand 142 crore rupees for payments of debts, liabilities, and interest rates.

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The Union Government yesterday launched the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR-Based Pledge Financing.' Under this scheme, farmers will now be able to get a loan through their produce. After submitting their produce to warehouses registered with the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority, they will be issued an electronic negotiable warehouse receipt (e-NWR). Launching the scheme in New Delhi, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi said that this is another pivotal initiative by the government to bring farmers into the institutional network of banking and finance. Highlighting its benefits, Mr Joshi said that this scheme will prevent post-harvest distress sale that forces many farmers to sell their produce at below market price.

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The Central Government has said that there are about 21 fake universities in the country. Replying to supplementaries in the Lok Sabha yesterday, Minister of State for Education, Sukanta Majumdar said, in the last ten years, twelve fake universities have been closed. Mr Majumdar said that UGC has released the list of fake universities and recognized universities every year, before the academic session.

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National Council of Educational Research and Training- NCERT yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an E-Commerce platform to ensure the affordable and seamless availability of NCERT publications across the country. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presided over the signing and stated that this will help in delivering NCERT textbooks to learners' doorstep, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Mr. Pradhan emphasized initiatives like the NISHTHA teachers' training modules and experiential learning centers by private companies. This will strengthen the capacities of teachers and empower both educators and students.

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Nagaland's Advisor for CAWD and Taxes, Kudecho Khamo urged the youth to be honest, hardworking and have determination. He said this while Addressing the 53rd Phusachodu Youth Society games and sports meet at Local Ground Phusachodu village under Phek district yesterday. He emphasized that these qualities are essential not only in sports but also in education, agriculture, and entrepreneurship. Mr Khamo told the youngsters to dream big, have vision to excel and in order to win laurels at state, National and international level. The four days sporting event would be competed by four colonies in Track events, field events and games for both men and women.

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