

## Evening News Script

1920 hrs of

20<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

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### THE HEADLINES ::

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah appeals Northeast insurgents to surrender and join mainstream
- Former Nagaland legislator and veteran politician Kejong Chang passes away; Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, other leaders mourn loss
- BJP MLA Rekha Gupta sworn in, assumes charge as new Chief Minister of Delhi
- And, Centre launches nationwide campaign to screen individuals above 30 years of age for Non-Communicable Diseases

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Home Minister Amit Shah today said that around 10,500 youths of Northeast have surrendered their weapons since 2014 and joined the mainstream. The Home Minister said this while addressing the Unity Utsav - One Voice, One Nation organised by Assam Rifles in collaboration with the North East Association for Social Welfare in New Delhi.

He added that from economic and cultural development to sports, education, agriculture and entrepreneurship, work has been done to open the doors of unlimited opportunities for the youth of the Northeast in every field.

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Former Nagaland legislator and veteran politician Kejong Chang passed away in Dimapur this morning. He was 91, and is survived by his wife and three sons. Mr Chang, who served as treasurer of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) Tuensang Sadar II, was a six-time elected member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly with his last term in 13th House.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, Rajya Sabha MP S. Phangnon Konyak, and leaders across party lines have expressed grief over the demise of former Minister Kejong Chang. In a condolence message, Chief Minister Rio described the departed leader as a simple man, yet a visionary leader who had long standing affinity with the people, especially the grassroots. Mr Rio said, in his demise, the Chang community in particular and the Nagas, in general, have lost a father figure and a guardian. Mr Rio prayed that his good legacy will continue. Deputy CM Patton recalled Mr Chang as a leader who dedicated his life to public service, and said his contributions to the people will always be remembered. MP S. Phangnon Konyak said Mr Chang's extensive political career was a testament to his deep connection with the people and unwavering commitment to public service. She said his legacy is one of resilience, wisdom, and an enduring passion for the state and the welfare of his community. Lok Sabha MP S. Supongmeren Jamir also paid tribute to Mr Chang at Wokha. Meanwhile, NDPP and Naga People's Front also mourned the passing of the former Minister.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today assumed charge at Delhi Secretariat. She was welcomed by Chief Secretary Dharmendra Kumar and other senior officials.

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Angami Public Organisation, APO, is all geared up to organise the Sekrenyi cum Mini Hornbill 2025 on 25th and 26th of this month at Amphitheatre, Kisama. Addressing media persons in Kohima today, members of the Planning committee for Sekrenyi 2025 informed that this year's celebration focuses on exhibiting and showcasing the diverse culture of Angami tradition. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio will be the Chief Host of the festival and grace the main event on 26th February.

This year's event will witness exhibition of Angami ethnic cultural and indigenous games on 25th February. While, exhibition of Naga wrestling for under 12 and 15, and tug of war among the four Angami ranges will be held on 26th February. Besides, display of antique attires, stalls of Angami cuisine and delicacies, and others. Meanwhile, the Planning committee invited all the Angami community and other Naga tribes to be a part of the festivities.

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