

## Evening News Script

1920 hrs of

26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio emphasizes on need to preserve culture and traditions
- ADG Akashvani, North-East Zone, Ashish Bhatnagar says Akashvani is the voice of people
- Tribal hohos stress urgent need for resolution of Foothills Road dispute
- And, Fire in Naga Gaon, Dimapur leaves around 80 families homeless

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has stressed on the need to preserve and protect the culture and traditions of the Nagas. At the culmination of the two-day celebration of the Angami Tribe's Sekrenyi cum Mini-Hornbill Festival at Kisama today, he said, Sekrenyi is a time-honoured tradition of the Angamis, celebrating renewal and unity. He said, the festivities reflect on the ways of the ancestors and a reminder to uphold one's identity. Mr Rio added, festivals is also a time to retrospect and introspect. He also informed that the state government intended to promote the customary laws through the Deobashi Courts and Goan Buras court.

Highlighting the hardworking culture of ancestors and their selflessness in preserving natural resources, he urged the people to uphold honesty and truthfulness in the society. Further, Mr Rio encouraged all tribes to celebrate their festivals at Kisama village. He further informed that Konyak Heritage Village site will be inaugurated during the forthcoming Aoleang Festival. The Chief Minister said, with the view to protect the culture, traditional and customary practices, the state government introduced the Hornbill Festival, drawing lakhs of visitors to witness our tradition, culture and heritage. The last day of the Sekrenyi festival witnessed Naga Wrestling for under 12 and 15, tug-of-war and musical night

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Additional Director General (Administration & Broadcast Operations) (Content-Operations) Akashvani, North East Zone Guwahati, Ashish Bhatnagar today said, Akashvani is the voice of the people, emphasizing that it is not just a radio broadcaster or an entertainment medium but the true voice of people. Addressing the staff of Akashvani Kohima during a meeting held today, Mr. Bhatnagar urged the staff to connect with more people, particularly in the villages, noting that villagers are the primary listeners. He expressed hope that the Kohima station will

lead other stations in the Northeast region by introducing more programs closely connected to rural communities.

The ADG further encouraged the staff to work together closely and provide better service to the public. During the meeting, various issues were also discussed. Later, Mr Bhatnagar also interacted with the assignees.

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The Nagaland Foothills Road Coordination Committee (NFHRCC) held a closed-door meeting with 12 Dimapur-based tribal Hohos yesterday to resolve the ongoing misunderstanding with the state government concerning the Foothills Road project. Representatives from the tribal hohos while extending support to the NFHRCC, emphasized their commitment to address concerns and ensuring fair treatment for all parties. The committee also refuted allegations of political bias, asserting its neutral stance in the selection of contractors and its dedication to the community's welfare. The representatives reiterated that the Foothills Road project is for the people of Nagaland, and urged all parties to engage in urgent dialogue to avoid further delays. They emphasized that the project's successful completion is paramount for the region's development and prosperity.

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A devastating fire broke out at Naga Gaon in Dimapur, today, leaving more than 30 thatched houses in ruins and affecting around 80 families. The fire, which started around 11:30 AM, caused extensive damage to the village, although no casualties have been reported. An official from the Fire station informed that the fire is suspected to have been caused by an electrical short circuit. Six fire tenders were pressed into service which took around three hours to control the flame. Property damage caused by the fire is yet to be ascertained.

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Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said, festivals play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage. He made this remark while attending the first-ever joint mega Nyokum Yullo celebration at Boasimla in Kamle district today. He noted the government's Act East policy which has brought significant development to the region.

Highlighting India's rapid progress, Mr Dhankhar asserted that India is the fastest-growing country in the world, emphasizing the nation's advancements in economic growth, infrastructure development, and social welfare schemes.

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The world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj will conclude today on the auspicious day of Mahashivratri. Pilgrims from across the country have been taking a holy dip at the Sangam and other ghats in Prayagraj. The MahaKumbh Mela, which began on the 13th of January, has drawn over 64 crore 60 lakh visitors so far over six weeks, making it the largest gathering of humanity in the world.

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Prasar Bharati Chairman Navneet Sehgal has said, Akashvani has always played a major role in connecting people with the country's culture and takes its responsibility as a public broadcaster very seriously. In his message on the final day of Mahakumbh, Mr Sehgal said, throughout its 48 day broadcast, Akashvani's Kumbhvani channel touched a lot of people. Meanwhile, Director General of Akashvani, Dr Pragya Paliwal Gaur acknowledged the success of Kumbhvani in reaching a large audience in a short period. She highlighted the team's efforts in delivering continuous programming on the Kumbhvani channel.

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State Department of Water Resources conducted a one-day State-Level training and workshop on 7th Minor Irrigation Statistics, 2nd Census of Water Bodies and 1st Spring Census with reference Year 2022-23 at Kohima yesterday. Addressing the event, Commissioner & Secretary, Water Resources Department and Census Commissioner, Nagaland, Gregory Thejawelie, stressed upon on the significance of data collection for planning and formulation of schemes. Noting that data should be genuinely canvassed at field level, he exhorted the participants to diligently and actively engage in field operations to deliver credible data for sustainable planning of the State. Chief Engineer and Joint Census Commissioner, K. Hutoi Sema informed that the forthcoming Census operation will be conducted entirely on mobile-based Apps.

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