

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron review India-France strategic ties
- First Indian Consulate in Marseille inaugurated
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio pays tribute to unwavering dedication of ex-servicemen and Veer Naris; reaffirms government's support
- And, RBI directs banks to remain open for government transactions on March 31

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed all aspects of the India-France strategic partnership and reviewed cooperation in the strategic areas of defence, civil nuclear energy, and space. During their bilateral talks yesterday, both leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to the India-France Strategic Partnership. In a special gesture, Prime Minister Modi and President Macron flew together from Paris to Marseille in the French Presidential Aircraft. They discussed the full spectrum of bilateral relations, and key global and regional issues. This was followed by delegation-level talks after arrival in Marseille. Both leaders discussed ways to strengthen collaboration in the fields of Technology and Innovation, enhancing trade and investment ties. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri today briefed media in Marseille.

Prime Minister and President Macron expressed satisfaction at the ongoing collaboration in the fields of health, culture, tourism, education, and people-to-people ties. They committed to further deepening engagement in the Indo-Pacific and in global forums and initiatives.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated the first Indian consulate in the historic French city of Marseille this afternoon. Earlier in the

day, the two leaders interacted with members of the Indian diaspora in the city. They also paid tribute to Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the First and Second World Wars at the Mazargues War Cemetery. Mr. Modi, along with the French president, reached Marseille this morning after concluding a series of high-level engagements in Paris. The Indian community in Marseille gave them a warm and enthusiastic welcome on their arrival. After wrapping up his visit in France, Prime Minister Modi departed for a two-day visit to the United States at the invitation of President Donald Trump.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India is making remarkable strides in AI, leveraging it for the public good. Mr. Modi urged the world to come and invest in India and bet on India's Yuva Shakti. He made these remarks after meeting with Google CEO Sundar Pichai at the AI Action Summit in Paris. Mr. Pichai described this meeting as delightful. In a social media post, the Google CEO said they discussed the incredible opportunities AI will bring to India and ways we can work closely together on India's digital transformation.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today paid tribute to the unwavering dedication of ex-servicemen and Veer Naris, and reaffirmed the government's continued support. He was addressing the Mega Ex-Servicemen Rally for veterans of the Armed Forces and Assam Rifles at Dimapur. Mr Rio acknowledged their critical role in the nation's security and development.

Highlighting various government schemes, Mr Rio encouraged them to avail benefits of initiatives such as CM's Micro Finance Initiative, and called on banks to extend all financial services to veterans and their families. The Chief Minister also recognized challenges faced by Veer Naris and war widows, and pledged his government's support to empower them through skill development programs and financial assistance. He emphasized the importance of enabling them to lead dignified, independent lives. Mr Rio also encouraged veterans to remain actively engaged in community-building, using their experience and discipline to contribute to the welfare of society. He urged the public to take advantage of opportunities at Sainik School Punglwa which is performing well. The rally saw around 1,300 participants, including Ex-Servicemen, war veterans, Veer Naris, and families from Nagaland and Karbi Anglong district. Highlights of the rally included medical checkups, and distribution of medical devices, besides cultural performances and a military band display.

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The Reserve Bank of India has advised all agency banks to keep all their branches dealing with government business open on March 31. This has been done following the Centre's request to process all government transactions relating to receipts and payments in the financial year 2024-25 itself.

The Zunheboto unit of National Tobacco Control Programme today initiated a full scale checking of prohibited tobacco products, primarily focusing on areas near educational institutions. The drive was carried under COPTA 2003, in collaboration with District Administration officials led by EAC Tsoinchu Sangtam, along with Dobashis, Police personnel, Officials from Zunheboto Range Students' Union, Sumi Youth Organisation and No Tobacco Club Zunheboto. The seized products were later disposed off.

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Shamator District Social Welfare Department, ICDS Project today organized an Orientation and Refresher Training for Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers. Resource persons from the Department dwelled on topics including Nutrition delivery in Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, Aadhaar enrollment of children, Importance of pre-school and job responsibilities of Anganwadi Helper. The programme was attended by all Anganwadi workers of Shamator district.

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Actor Deepika Padukone, today urged students to focus on their strengths and work on their weaknesses without the fear of failure. Interacting with students during the second part of Pariksha Pe Charcha-2025, she said students must face challenges with clarity and conviction and should not panic if there is any mistake.

Ms. Padukone, who is also a mental health advocate, said that mental health issues should not be treated as a stigma and that people facing such issues must always express their feelings.

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And, India Meteorological Department has forecast light rainfall activity over isolated places in Nagaland during the next couple of days. During the last 24 hours, maximum temperatures were above normal by 1 to 3 degree Celsius over the Northeast India.

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