

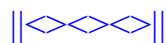
Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Akashvani DG Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur stresses ownership and creative potential at Northeast Zone Meeting
- Chairman IDAN, Abu Metha emphasizes mapping of Nagaland's creative economy
- PHED Minister Jacob Zhimomi reaffirms government's commitment to boost infrastructure, service delivery
- And, Advisor for Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan, flags off 23 Reefer Trucks for farmers



Director General of Akashvani, Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur, today stressed the importance of officials taking ownership of their respective programmes and kendras. Speaking the final day of the two-day Programme and Commercial Meeting of Akashvani Stations in the Northeast Zone in Kohima, she highlighted the uniqueness of the public broadcaster, given that it is in the creative field, and emphasized the vast potential for Akashvani's coverage.

Dr. Gaur also stressed the need to boost listenership by producing more lively programmes, and involving more people, especially the youth. She further highlighted the importance of leveraging social media to effectively reach out to the younger population.

The Director General also commended motivated officials of the region. During the event, the DG released Northeast Canvas-Akashvani Celebrating the Local Tradition~A Compendium of Akashvani Kendras of NE with their brief video clips.



Advisor to Chief Minister and Chairman, Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland, Abu Metha, today said the State Government is working to map and organize the creative sector in the state. He was speaking at the Nagaland CineFest 2025 which commenced today at Kohima, organised by the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR). Noting the large presence of local talent in the creative economy, Mr Metha reaffirmed the state government's desire for young people to have gainful careers within the State.

Mr Metha said the government is working with the DIPR so that there will be more and bigger festivals related to films and cinema during the Hornbill Festival. He added that the government will collaborate with Ministries, Foreign Embassies and engage real stakeholders of the film industry to design, formulate, and guide the planning process. Mr Metha also highlighted the need to tell the stories and journey to the dreams and aspirations of the Nagas in a different narrative through the innovative minds of the people, so that our struggles will be better appreciated and understood by the global community. The two-day festival is showcasing a diverse range of films highlighting both local and national talent,

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Minister of PHED and Cooperation, N Jacob Zhimomi today reaffirmed the state government's commitment to improving infrastructure and service delivery. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the newly constructed office of the Superintendent Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Dimapur Circle, he highlighted the office's vital role particularly for the growing town of Chümoukedima and rural areas of Niuland. The Minister further urged officials not to limit their work to office spaces but to also visit project sites to ensure effective implementation. Acknowledging the department's ongoing challenges, particularly on water scarcity despite installation of pipelines and tap connections, he assured that the state government is closely working with the central ministry to address the issue, especially in water-stressed districts and urban areas like Dimapur. Mr Zhimomi also stressed the need for accountability and efficient service delivery, and called for a collective effort from all stakeholders to support the department's mission.



Advisor for Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan, today flagged off 23 Reefer Trucks for farmers sponsored by FOCUS-IFAD Nagaland. Addressing the brief event at Kohima, the Advisor expressed hope that the vehicles will cater to farmers' needs, especially on perishable goods, fruits, and vegetables, which will now be linked to the market through these vehicles. He lauded the initiative as a remarkable achievement in addressing the state's transportation challenges. Mr Yanthan urged the beneficiaries to responsibly use the vehicles to benefit the entire community.

During the event, Commissioner and Secretary, and State Project Director, FOCUS-Nagaland, Shanavas C, informed that the reefer vehicles were distributed to 16 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) created under the FOCUS-IFAD Project, and seven high-performing FPOs and entrepreneurs.



The Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has kept unchanged and recommended the same interest rate of 8.25 percent on EPF deposits for 2024-25. The recommendation of the EPFO, which manages EPF accounts of over seven crore subscribers, will be sent to the Union Finance Ministry for approval. The recommendation came during the meeting today chaired by Union Minister for Labour and Employment Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.



Aggrieved police personnel who were recruited between 2018 to 2020 without proper advertisement organised a peaceful rally in Kohima today. During the rally, representatives from 40 units submitted their grievances to the DGP. PRO Kohima K. Soriso, informed that only 150 police personnel were allowed to attend the rally, and that a march which was planned to be taken from PHQ Junction to Secretariat was restricted. It may be noted that the Gauhati high court stand had quashed the appointment of hundreds of police personnel citing lack of proper advertisement.



Dimapur Naga Students' Union (DNSU) has sealed a dispensary located inside a school campus after the Health Department failed to vacate the premises within a seven-day deadline. DNSU said the step was a direct response to the department's negligence in addressing the issue, and aimed to ensure appropriate use of healthcare facilities for community service. The action comes after multiple appeals and warnings from the DNSU asking the department to vacate the space. The union also urged the state government to take immediate corrective action, warning of further protests if their demands are not met.

