

## Evening News Script

1920 hrs of

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

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### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- Reserve Bank of India cuts interest rates for first time in nearly five years to boost the economy
- Over 1.59 lakh new TB cases notified in 100 days of intensified TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan
- Business Association of Nagas hosts Nagaland International Conference on Tourism, Transport, and Logistics
- And, Total of 23 thousand 267 students to appear HSLC Exam 2025

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today reduced its interest rates for the first time in nearly five years to boost the economy. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the apex bank has unanimously decided to slash policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 percent. Making the announcement following a three-day meeting of the MPC, newly appointed RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said, the interest of the economy demands financial stability and consumer protection and their mandate at the RBI is to ensure both of them.

It was Sanjay Malhotra's first key address after taking over as the RBI Governor in December. The last rate reduction was in May 2020. The RBI Governor informed that, according to the first advance estimates, real GDP growth for the current year is projected at 6.4 percent. The Central Bank has also revised real GDP estimates to 6.7 percent from

6.9 percent for the next financial year 2025-26. The Apex Bank said, CPI inflation for the current financial year is estimated to be at 4.8 percent. Assuming a normal monsoon, CPI inflation for the financial year 2025-26 is projected at 4.2 percent. In order to enhance digital security in the banking and payments system, RBI has proposed to extend Additional Factor of Authentication to online international digital payments.

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The Central government today said over one lakh 59 thousand new TB patients have been notified during the 100 days of the Intensified TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, which has been held since December 7th last year across the country. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, informed this in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. The minister further said 494,000 Ni-Kshay services have been held across the country till the 1st of this month under the Abhiyan, and over 563,000 vulnerable individuals have been screened. The minister also informed that over 86 thousand Ni-Kshay Mitras have been registered during the same period.

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Business Association of Nagas today organised the Nagaland International Conference on Tourism, Transport, and Logistics. Advisor Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu, emphasized the government's role in expanding tourism opportunities through infrastructure development. Acknowledging budgetary constraints as a significant challenge, she emphasized that development requires collaborative efforts between the government and public, with platforms like BAN playing a key role in fostering such partnerships. During the event, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, Second Secretary Ryuta Saito said Japan and Nagaland share a unique historical connection through wartime experiences, as well as on future goals

and cultural practices. He expressed eagerness of Japanese business people to collaborate with people from Nagaland as they are hardworking, honest and ability to quickly adapt to Japanese work habits and styles. He also shared some of the programmes being implemented by the Japanese government in Nagaland.

The two-day conference aims to bring together policymakers, industry leaders, international dignitaries, and experts to discuss innovative strategies for promoting tourism, sustainable logistics, and enhancing regional connectivity.

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A total of 23 thousand 267 candidates will be appearing the HSLC Examination 2025 beginning from 12th of this month. These include 22 thousand 310 main examination candidates and 957 compartmental candidates. The HSLC Exams will be conducted in 97 centres across the State. Meanwhile, the HSSLC Examination 2025 will be conducted in 68 centres where a total of 17 thousand 194 candidates will be appearing. The HSSLC exam will commence from 11th of February. Simultaneously, Class 11 Promotion Examination 2025 will be conducted from 11th February with a total of 18 thousand 375 students across all the streams of Arts, Commerce and Science.

**The Nagaland Board of School Education has reminded candidates to bring their Original Admit Cards to the examination halls. They are also advised to reach the examination centre on time, and refrain from any kind of mal-practices during the examinations. The board has conveyed its best wishes to all the candidates appearing for the examinations.**

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In view of the ensuing HSLC and HSSLC exams, Deputy Commissioner, Chumoukedima has prohibited use of loud speakers, public address systems, generators, and construction works that are likely to disturb the students. The prohibition will be in place from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM until completion of the examinations.

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The Union government today said the Maternal Mortality Ratio in the country has declined by an impressive 83 percent, compared to the global reduction of 42 percent during the past 30 years. Health and Family Welfare Minister J. P. Nadda informed this in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. He added that the infant mortality rate also dropped by 69 percent against a global decline of 55 percent during the same period. In another written reply, Mr. Nadda informed that one thousand eighty-seven special newborn care units and two thousand eight hundred sixty-eight newborn stabilisation units have been set up in hospitals across the country to improve the key outcomes related to mother and child healthcare.

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The Election Commission today highlighted that it considers political parties as priority stakeholders, with the voters being the prime stakeholders, and it deeply values views, suggestions, and questions coming from them. In a social media post, the Commission said that it will respond in writing with a full factual and procedural matrix uniformly adopted across the country.

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The Department of Consumer Affairs has set up an AI-enabled National Consumer Helpline (NCH) system which offers sector-wise analysis of grievances. The Helpline is accessible for any grievances related to products or services via the toll-free number: 1-9-1-5 or through its website “consumer helpline(dot)gov(dot)in”. The Department said that the new technology-driven approach is aimed at improving the speed and efficiency of resolving consumer issues, particularly in the education sector.

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