

Evening News Script

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THE HEADLINES:-

- India and New Zealand sign agreements on defence, education, horticulture, sports and other areas
- Lok Sabha MP S Supongmeren Jamir urges Centre to amend North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971, and set up High Court in Nagaland
- Technical Education Department holds talks with student bodies on Khelhoshe Polytechnic Atoizu issue
- And, Two-day Khelo India Pencak Silat Women's League for North East Zone kicks off in Dimapur

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India and New Zealand today exchanged five agreements in the fields of Defence, Education, Sports, Horticulture, Forestry. Both sides also exchanged authorised economic operator mutual recognition agreement, and announced launch of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement and an arrangement facilitating the mobility of professionals and skilled workers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held talks with his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon in New Delhi. The discussions covered various aspects of India-New Zealand relations. In his press statement, Mr Modi said, both sides decided to strengthen and institutionalise the defence and security partnership.

Mr Modi said, India and New Zealand will continue to cooperate against terrorist, separatist and radical elements. In his statement, Mr Luxon said, both sides look forward to achieve mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement. He said, New Zealand will increase its diplomatic presence in India.

New Zealand has joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative and has become a member of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

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Lok Sabha MP S Supongmeren Jamir has urged the Centre to set up a High Court in Nagaland, and urgently amend the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971 to facilitate this. In a statement made in the lower house of Parliament today under Rule 377 of "Rules and Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha", Mr Jamir expressed concern that despite being the second oldest state in the North-East, Nagaland still lacked a high court of its own despite. Citing similar exercise in 2012 to create separate High Courts in Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur, the MP urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to take steps to revise the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, for Nagaland as well. Mr Jamir also highlighted the State Cabinet's approval in 2021 for a separate High Court for Nagaland, and infrastructure being developed for the same. Noting that previous appeals to revise the Act had not yielded results, the MP placed his request on the floor of the house for the Ministry to take up the issue urgently.

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The Department of Technical Education held a meeting in Kohima today with representatives of the All Sumi Students' Union (SKK) and the Naga Students' Federation to discuss the issue of upgrading Khelhoshe Polytechnic Atoizu (KPA) into a fully-fledged engineering college. Speaking to media persons post-meeting, Advisor Technical Education, Temjenmenba, said that the discussions were productive.

While noting that a final decision is yet to be made, Mr Temjenmenba said the government has invited the students to be part of the negotiations with the All India Council for Technical Education in New Delhi. On the delays in upgrading KPA, he attributed them to financial constraints despite appeals to various authorities, including the Education and DoNER Ministries. However, he expressed hope for an early solution now as the state's Chief Minister has agreed to allot the necessary funds. Meanwhile, SKK is expected to provide their feedback within the next two days, after which further discussions will take place.

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The School Education department today commenced block-level sensitisation and trainings for School Management Committees and School Management and Development Committees. As part of this, a one-day training programme was held across Phek, Zunheboto, and Kohima districts today. The programme, jointly organised by the Department, Samagra Shiksha, and NECTAR Project, aims to strengthen the committees in understanding their roles, responsibilities, and various initiatives of the department. The programme will be conducted across all the 46 blocks in Nagaland till 28th of March.

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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today launched the Prime Minister Internship Scheme App. Speaking at the event, the minister lauded the Prime Minister for recognizing that today's youth are pursuing different courses as per their aptitude, and the changes in the industry to incorporate AI, robotics, and other advancements. Noting that despite various trainings, there is still a shortage of industry expectation in the skills of new recruits, the minister hoped the app would facilitate better employment opportunities.

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Rajya Sabha has taken up various finance bills related to the Manipur Budget for consideration and passing. Initiating the discussion, Shaktisinh Gohil of Congress said political differences must be set aside to ensure support for Manipur. Noting that 60 thousand people have been displaced in the state, he said more funds should be allocated for relocation and rehabilitation. CPI(M)'s Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya claimed that imposition of President's rule in Manipur is not good for democracy, and urged for bringing back normalcy. BJP MP Arun Singh said that the people of Manipur know that the BJP and Prime Minister Modi are helping them. The discussion is underway, and the Chair announced that the Rajya Sabha will extend its working till the list of speakers is exhausted.

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The two-day Khelo India Pencak Silat Women's League for the North East Zone kicked off today at the DBC Indoor Stadium in Dimapur. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Advisor Youth Resources and Sports, S Keoshu Yimkhiung, underscored the importance of martial arts in empowering young women.

The Advisor recognized the significant impact of the Khelo India initiative in reshaping India's sports landscape and providing a platform for young athletes to excel. Mr Yimkhiung acknowledged developmental challenges faced by the North East, including gaps in education and infrastructure, and urged the youth to strive to bring the region on par with the rest of the country. Emphasizing the shared history and aspirations of the North East states, the Advisor called for stronger social, cultural, and regional ties to build more inclusive communities. Hosted by the Nagaland Pencak Silat Association, the tournament is seeing a participation of 250 athletes from all states of the Northeast.

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