

## Evening News Script

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### THE HEADLINES:-

- Supreme Court grants Centre three months to outline actions on delimitation exercise in Northeast
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman says Centre committed to bring normalcy to Manipur
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishes strength and safe return to NASA Astronaut Sunita Williams
- And, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar calls for fair international order to curb power imbalances

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The Supreme Court of India has granted the Central government three months to outline actions taken on the delimitation exercise in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur. A bench of the top court, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, approved the Centre's request for more time. It was hearing a petition seeking the immediate implementation of the delimitation process in these four northeastern states. The court had previously expressed concern over the delay, particularly since a 2020 presidential order had revoked the deferment of the process. The Centre said that consultations were underway for Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, while ongoing violence was making the process difficult in Manipur. The Supreme Court deferred the hearing until July 21 and directed the Centre to take necessary action within three months.

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the central government is committed to bringing normalcy to Manipur and assured all support for the

economic growth of the state. Replying to a discussion on the Manipur Budget in Rajya Sabha, she sought the support of the Opposition parties for peace in Manipur instead of engaging in blame game. She said violence in Manipur has adversely impacted economic activities in the state but expressed confidence that it will recover swiftly.

Parliament today, approved, the Manipur Budget for 2025-26, with the Rajya Sabha returning four bills to the Lok Sabha. For Manipur, which is currently under President's Rule, the Budget provides total receipts of 35,368 crore rupees, with total expenditure estimated at 35,104 crore rupees.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wished strength and safe return to NASA Astronaut Sunita Williams. Astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore are on their way back home from space, and set to return to Earth tomorrow after being stranded at the International Space Station for about nine months, for what was initially a week long mission. In his letter, the Prime Minister extended Ms Williams an invitation to visit India after returning from space. The letter was shared by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on his social media handle. Dr Singh also informed that Prime Minister Modi met former NASA astronaut Mike Massimino a few days ago and requested that this letter must reach her. In the letter, Mr Modi reaffirmed India's deep bond and great pride in Sunita Williams.

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External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has emphasized the need for a fair and robust international order. He stressed that the absence of a strong global order not only benefits powerful countries but also enables smaller nations to take risks and challenge the established norms. Dr Jaishankar was speaking at the Raisina Dialogue's session 'Thrones and Thorns: Defending the Integrity of Nations' in New Delhi. He highlighted the importance of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Dr Jaishankar also emphasized the need for fairness and consistency in global standards while pointing out the difference in international responses to military coups in Myanmar and Western countries. The Minister called for a thorough

review of the global order over the past eight decades and urged recognition of the shifting balance of power in the world.

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The Election Commission of India has decided that the linking of voter ID with Aadhaar will be done as per the provisions of Article 326 of the constitution, and various sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and in line with the Supreme Court judgements. This decision was taken during the meeting of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar with secretaries from the Home Ministry, Legislative Department, and CEO of UIDAI in New Delhi today. In a statement, the Election commission mentioned that technical consultations between its experts and the Unique Identification Authority of India-UIDAI will begin soon. The law allows voluntary seeding of voter rolls with the Aadhaar database.

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The Kohima Forest Division in collaboration with Nagaland Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) conducted a one-day Capacity Building in Apiculture for New Kigwema and Mitelephe villages yesterday. During the programme, resource persons from NBHM shared on bee keeping, techniques and benefits of honey. They covered topics such as apiary management techniques, crop pollination, and demonstrations on various bee-keeping equipment. Altogether, 30 participants from New Kigwema and Mitelephe villages, who are Livelihood beneficiaries under Forest and Biodiversity Management in the Himalayas Nagaland Project, took part in the training.

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A massive wildfire that broke out on the border of Humtso village in Wokha district yesterday, continues to rage, fueled by strong winds. The fire reportedly started around 10 AM during jhum cultivation by farmers. As of today, the blaze is pushing toward Yikhum village, and if it continues at the current pace, it may soon reach coffee and rubber plantations of farmers from Wokha village. *More from our correspondent...*

The fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has collapsed, triggering a devastating wave of violence across the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces launched extensive airstrikes early today, killing at least 400 people and injuring over 500,

according to Palestinian health authorities. The Israeli military said it is carrying out extensive strikes after talks to extend the ceasefire failed. It is the biggest wave of strikes since January 19, when the ceasefire began.

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