

Evening News script

1920 hrs

April 2025

THE HEADLINES:-

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives 21 gun salute welcome upon reaching Jeddah
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar says elected representatives are ultimate masters of constitution
- Today is Earth Day; Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio advocates use of renewable energy
- And, Nagaland business community calls indefinite voluntary shutdown over ULB nomination dispute

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today arrived at Jeddah on a two-day official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was welcomed with a 21 gun salute at the airport. As a special gesture, Prime Minister Modi's aircraft was escorted by F-15 fighter jets of the Royal Saudi Air Force upon entering Saudi airspace. In a social media post, Mr Modi said that this visit will strengthen the friendship between India and Saudi Arabia. He expressed eagerness to take part in the various programmes today and tomorrow. The visit, at the invitation of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, marks Mr. Modi's third visit to the country and reflects the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations.

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Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that elected representatives are the ultimate masters in determining the content of the Constitution. Speaking at an

event at Delhi University today, the Vice-President emphasized that Parliament is supreme and it is as supreme as every individual in the country. He also said that the Constitution does not envision any authority above Parliament.

The Vice President added that people of India have chosen their representatives under the Constitution to reflect their expressions, their desire and their 'will' and they hold these representative accountable during elections.

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Today is Earth Day. The day is celebrated worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The first Earth Day celebrations were held in 1970 after the day was suggested at the UNESCO summit in 1969. The theme for this year is "Our Power, Our Planet".

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended greetings on Earth Day. Taking to X, he encouraged that everyone's efforts be aligned under the theme "Our Power, Our Planet," to promote the use of renewable energy and generation of clean electricity. Mr Rio also called for tapping into natural resources, to pave the way for a more sustainable future for all.

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Commemorating Earth Day, the Kick off Program for 'Dzükou Cleanliness Drive' was held at Jakhama today. The event was organized by the Southern Angami Youth Organisation (SAYO) and sponsored by the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kohima Forest Division. Addressing the participants, Conservator of Forest (Southern Territorial Circle), Nagaland, Zuthunglo Patton, said this year's Earth Day focuses on renewable energy sources. She appealed every individual to do their part in safeguarding the planet. A number of volunteers, including from NSS of St. Joseph's College, Jakhama and youth organisations from 13 villages of Southern Angami area, participated in the 'Dzükou Cleanliness Drive'.

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The Confederation of Nagaland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CNCCI) has called for an indefinite voluntary business shutdown from April 24 to protest the state government's alleged unfair treatment in the nomination of District CCI representatives to the District Urban Local Bodies. The CNCCI said it had exhausted all available course for resolution, including an appeal to the Chief Minister and a press release warning of a democratic protest if justice was not delivered by April 20. It said the decision is in accordance with the collective demand of the nine aggrieved District CCIs. The shutdown will include banking institutions, but exempts medical services, petrol pumps, and taxi services during its first phase. Further, vehicular movement, educational institutions, and government offices will remain unaffected. Emphasizing that participation in the shutdown is entirely voluntary, the CNCCI urged all District Chambers to ensure that the protest remains peaceful. The second phase of the protest will be discussed on April 25 during the Executive Council Meeting with all Presidents of District CCIs.

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Union Public Service Commission, UPSC, has announced the final results of its civil services exam 2024. The UPSC has recommended a total number of 1009 candidates for appointment, with 725 men and 284 women. The top 25 candidates comprise 11 women and 14 men, with the top five candidates comprising three women and two men. Shakti Dubey from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, has secured the first position in the Civil Services Examination, 2024. Margi Chirag Shah who got 4th rank said, shared on her aspirations.

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The Vatican has announced the plan for the Pope's funeral after the Cardinals met today. Pope Francis' funeral has been set for Saturday in St. Peter's Square, and a viewing of his body will begin tomorrow in St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Francis passed away yesterday at his residence in the Vatican after suffering a stroke. Tributes have come in from around the world, remembering him as a liberal reformer. A slew of world leaders and foreign dignitaries are set to attend the funeral. Following his wishes, Pope Francis will be buried in a simple tomb marked only with his Latin name, Franciscus.

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US Vice President JD Vance has said that the future of the century depends on the shared trade relations between India and the US. He said, the US and India have officially finalised the terms for trade talks, which prepares a roadmap between the two countries. The US Vice President addressed the Business Summit at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur today.

Vice President Vance said that India is America's closest and trusted partner in the field of defence, and there is a great possibility of partnership in the field of energy. Mr Vance also emphasised on the partnership for building new houses in India and developing facilities to improve the standard of living.

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The Nagaland Athletics Association in collaborating with the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is organizing the District Technical Official course for Northeast in Dimapur. The course is scheduled to be held from 9th to 11th of May. It is the third time that the AFI is conducting the technical official course in Nagaland. The course is one of the AFI's most significant grassroot programs which provides training and certification to untrained technical officials all over India. The course provides an opportunity to technical officials to improve the quality and standards of officiating during athletics competitions. The course is open to anyone who is interested in Athletics. Interested participants can register through AFI website at www.indianathletics.in.

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