

Evening News Script

1920 hrs of

2nd April, 2025.

:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Lok Sabha discusses Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act imposed in Meluri district for six months
- Centre to set up 728 Eklavya Model Residential School for tribal students
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls National Education Policy 2020 nation's intellectual renaissance

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The Lok Sabha is holding discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 as reported by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju moved the bill saying that it has nothing to do with the religious practice of Muslim and it only deals with the properties related to Waqf Boards.

The Minister termed this legislation a prospective saying that it is not retrospective and not intended to confiscate anyone's property. He further informed that as per the present bill, the Waqf Boards will have representations of different Muslim sects, women and non-Muslims and others. Initiating the discussion, Gaurav Gogoi of Congress accused the government of misleading the people on this bill. He alleged that through this bill the government wants to dilute the constitution, defame minorities and divide Indian society.

During the discussion, Akhilesh Yadav of Samajwadi Party alleged that the legislation will hit the secular image of the country. TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee

termed the Bill as misconceived, irrational and arbitrary, and an attempt to curtail the rights of Muslim community. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, the bill has been brought after detailed deliberations by the Joint Parliament Committee as approved by the Cabinet.

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As the discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is underway, we also have a reaction from Nagaland on its impact on the minorities settled in the state.

WAQF-NL BYTE :

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Centre yesterday imposed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Meluri district for six months, with affect from 1st April unless withdrawn sooner. This comes two days after the law was extended to eight districts and 21 police station areas in five other districts of the state. In a notification, the Union Home Ministry noted that the Nagaland government had created the district of Meluri last year by carving it out of Phek district, which had been declared a 'disturbed area' on March 30.

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The centre has set a target to set up 728 Eklavya Model Residential Schools benefiting around 3.5 lakh Schedule Tribe students across the country. As of date, a total number of 721 schools have been sanctioned across the country, out of which 477 schools are reported to be functional. In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey said the Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School was started in 2018-19, under which, the government has decided to establish one Eklavya Model Residential School in every block having more than 50 percent ST population and at least 20 thousand tribal persons. The Minister highlighted that the government is implementing several initiatives in collaboration with other government bodies to provide tribal students with access to digital and skill-based education.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is more than a reform and is the nation's intellectual renaissance. He mentioned that the NEP is paving the way for a self-reliant, globally competitive nation through education and innovation. Mr Modi said this while sharing Union

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's article in a newspaper highlighting the transformation India's education sector has undergone in the last decade.

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A fire broke out around noon today at Officers Hill Colony in Kohima, razing down three houses and displacing six families. Officer-in-charge of South Fire Station, Kohima, Inspector Kelesezo Tsukru, said a preliminary report suggests that the fire was caused by an electric short circuit. No casualties have been reported. The officer informed that a call was received around 12:05 pm, following which two fire tenders and crews from the South Fire Station rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. The extent of property damage is still under investigation, and an assessment had not been finalized at the time of filing this report.

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In an effort to enhance fire safety measures and prevent potential hazards, the Kohima Municipal Council (KMC) has directed all business establishments and shops within its jurisdiction to install portable fire extinguishers by May 31. In a March 29 order, KMC Chief Executive Officer T. Lanusenla Longkumer said the directive aligns with fire safety guidelines issued by the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority and aims to mitigate risks associated with fire outbreaks in commercial areas. Acknowledging the shortage of fire extinguishers in bulk within Kohima, the KMC said it has procured the equipment and will make them available at a nominal rate. Business owners have been asked to collect fire extinguishers from the KMC office during working hours starting from April 14.

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Deputy Commissioner of Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, has directed all pharmacies and medical stores in the district to comply with regulations tied to the sale of restricted drugs. As per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rule 65 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, the DC notified that the Schedule X, H, and H1 drugs will only be sold on a valid prescription from a registered medical practitioner and only in the prescribed quantity. Pharmacies need to record all sales of these drugs in registers mentioning details of the prescriber, patient, drug, and quantity. Further, in compliance with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Joint Action Plan, the District Drug Controller Authority and the Kohima District Enforcement Force will carry out checking of the CCTV

footage of the last two months. The DC cautioned that non-compliance with the directives will lead to penal action under applicable laws.

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India has surpassed the United States and Europe by producing one thousand 681 locomotives during the financial year 2024-25. The Ministry of Railways in a statement today said that this marks an increase of 19 per cent, compared to the 1,472 locomotives produced in the previous financial year 2023-24. This record-breaking production is the highest ever for locomotive manufacturing in the country, reflecting the significant achievements of all units in enhancing railway infrastructure and capacity.

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Today is World Autism Awareness Day. The day is observed on April 2nd each year. Established by the United Nations in 2007, it advocates for understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals with autism around the globe. The theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2025 is "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals."

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