

Morning News Script

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16th April 2025

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Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda asserted that providing affordable and quality healthcare to every poor person in the country is a top priority for the government. The Minister was addressing the fifth convocation ceremony of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rishikesh in Uttarakhand yesterday. Mr Nadda said, under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi, his government is focused on providing healthcare that is not only curative, but also preventive, palliative and rehabilitative.

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India has strongly rejected the motivated and baseless comments made by Pakistan on the Waqf Amendment Act enacted by the Parliament. In response to media queries regarding comments made by Pakistan on the Waqf Bill, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on a matter that is internal to India. He said that Pakistan would do better to look at its abysmal record when it comes to protecting the rights of minorities instead of preaching to others.

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The government yesterday said that India's trade with the United States is expected to grow and reach 500 billion dollars by 2030. Briefing the media in New Delhi, Commerce and Industry Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that there are both concerns and opportunities for India in terms of the current tariffs. However, the country has taken a path of trade liberalisation and is pursuing a bilateral trade agreement with the United States. He added that this path will open many opportunities for both countries.

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Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer, has called for a renewed focus on grassroots development to uplift football in Mokokchung. Speaking at the launch of the zonal associations of the Mokokchung District Football Association (MDFA), he commended the MDFA's initiative, stressing that real progress in football begins at the local level. He also

highlighted the district’s lack of sports infrastructure and urged sports bodies to restructure their approach for sustainable growth. Mr. Longkumer said the ongoing construction of the astro-turf ground will take some time to complete, but expressed hope that it could host Nagaland Super League matches once finished. He further encouraged collaboration among stakeholders to boost Mokokchung’s development through sports and sports tourism. The zonal association aims to decentralize football governance and strengthen grassroots engagement in the district.

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The Multi-Purpose Hall of Government High School, Japan Riba at Chozuba, was inaugurated yesterday by Director of School Education Razouseyi Vese. In his speech, Mr Vese appreciated the communities from the five village —Chozuba, Runguzu, Runguzu Nasa, Khusomi, and Chozu Basa for coming forward in funding and constructing the Hall for the benefit of the students. He encouraged community leaders and parents to make the best use of government-provided facilities such as the Mid-Day Meal free textbooks, and free uniforms. Mr Vese challenged the community to continue supporting the development of the school, assuring that the department would also extend its full support.

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The temporary closure of a major stretch along National Highway-36 began today and will continue until April 30, due to ongoing road strengthening and construction works. In an advisory, the Dimapur Police informed that the road stretch below the Flyover along the Dimapur Railway Siding—from Blue Hill Police Assistant Booth to the exit point of the Flyover Y-Junction—will remain closed to all traffic during this period. The closure is necessitated by the development and strengthening of the existing two-lane pavement, which involves the use of Dry Lean Concrete and Pavement Quality Concrete. Commissioner of Police, Dimapur, Kevithuto Sophie, has urged all commuters to plan their travel accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

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