

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

18<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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Christians across the globe are observing Good Friday today- one of the most solemn and sacred days in the Christian calendar. Marking the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ at Calvary, Good Friday is a day of mourning, reflection, and spiritual devotion. Churches throughout Nagaland are holding special prayer services and fasting, where the faithful gather to seek forgiveness for their sins and express gratitude for Christ's sacrificial act. In the state capital Kohima, Catholic congregations will participate in processions, carrying wooden crosses to symbolize the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. On the occasion, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio extended a solemn message of faith and hope, calling on people to reflect on the true essence of the day and the profound sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Chief Minister Rio said, His selfless act of love offers us forgiveness, unmerited grace, and the hope of new and eternal life for all who believe in Him.

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Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton has urged the Eastern Naga people to bring a progressive change not only in Eastern areas but in the rest of the State. Addressing Valedictory Program of the 8th Eastern Naga Students' Federation General Conference yesterday in Tuensang, Mr. Patton highlighted the commitment of the Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, in development and progress of Eastern Region at par with the rest of the Nagas. The Deputy chief minister commented that present Naga society is fragmented with different groups which is hampering peace and development of the Nagas. He urged the student communities to play a positive role in unifying the Nagas.

MLA Imtichoba MLA opined that in the Eastern Region, there is much to be done in the field of medicine, communication and education. The MLA advised students to stay away from drugs and look forward to moving on with the changing of time.

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Naga Students' Federation (NSF) yesterday addressed several issues concerning Naga society. The Federation during a press conference in Kohima demanded the state government to revoke its cabinet decision to absorb 147 Assistant Professors under the Higher Education Department which undermines meritocracy and fairness. NSF members said that earlier in October 2024, the minister in-charge had assured that absorption of Assistant Professors would be kept in abeyance for further consultation. Despite this, 147 out of 151 Assistant Professors were regularized. The NSF clarified that it is not demanding termination but wants the absorption revoked and to continue on a contractual basis.

The federation has also called on all schools in Nagaland to set up dedicated committees to prevent bullying to strictly address students' concerns, following a recent alleged assault incident at a School in Kohima.

Additionally, it has demanded immediate suspension of Reny Wilfred, IAS, Joint Secretary of Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland following multiple sexual harassment complaints filed by female employees. In a separate issue, the NSF reiterated termination of Prof. Sarat Chandra of Nagaland University, Lumami, who allegedly assaulted a female Assistant Professor in December

last year. The NSF also urged Vice-Chancellor of Nagaland University to discontinue practice of conducting online interviews for recruitment of both teaching and non-teaching staff.

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Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench has rejected a plea praying for interim stay of a complaint and FIR against alleged sexual harassment by Reny Wilfred, IAS and Joint Secretary of Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland. During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel submitted that the written complaint addressed to DGP by Nagaland State Commission for Women and the FIR did not mention any specific offence and that the allegations are vague and general in nature. It submitted that cognisance of any offence under Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace or POSH Act, 2013 can only be taken by a Magistrate upon a written complaint by victim or authorised person. Justice Y Longkumer cited that interim prayer will be considered at a later stage and the Court was not inclined to consider the plea at this stage.

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Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru has signed an Memorandum of Understanding with Nagaland Health Protection Society to provide beneficiaries advanced medical treatments to beneficiaries under Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS-EP). Sakra World Hospital, Managing Director, Yuichi Nagano said Sakra is committed to delivering technologically advanced care to the people of Nagaland, ensuring that patients receive timely and effective treatment through CMHIS-EP.

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The State will experience light rainfall and cloudy moderate rain in almost all the districts till 24th of this month. According to updates from Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, these showers may be accompanied with thunderstorm and lightning at isolated places. It added that Tuensang district will experience heavy rainfall on 20th and 21st of April.

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