

Morning News Script

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External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has ruled out any third-party mediation between India and Pakistan, reiterating that New Delhi dealings with Islamabad will be strictly bilateral. Talking to the media on the sidelines of an event in New Delhi yesterday, Dr Jaishankar said India has made it clear that the only thing which remains to be discussed with Pakistan is the vacating of illegally occupied Indian territory in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The External Affairs Minister also stressed that the Indus Waters Treaty will continue to be held in abeyance until cross-border terrorism by Pakistan is credible and irrevocably stopped.

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Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan yesterday praised the Indian Army's swift response and lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for the country's strategic success in Operation Sindoor. He said this at an event in Peren District. Stating that the country is filled with pride and glory, he saluted the Indian Army's precision and considerable restraint in the execution of the operation.

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Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang has proposed the establishment of a Regional Research Centre on Natural Farming for Hill Agriculture in the state. Speaking at the inauguration of new facilities at the College of Veterinary Sciences in Jalukie, Peren District yesterday, he emphasized the need for research on shifting cultivation and sustainable farming practices. Highlighting the lack of agricultural institutions in Nagaland, Zeliang said this gap has contributed to a sense of deprivation among youth and farmers, despite the state's rich potential. He urged Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to support region-specific research, education, and capacity-building initiatives.

Mr. Zeliang further called for the sanctioning of six new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the newly created districts of Nagaland.

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Two members of the North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of DoNER, Tenzing Norbu Thongdok and Longki Phangcho yesterday visited the Nagaland GIS & Remote Sensing Centre under the Planning & Transformation Department at the State Secretariat, Kohima. The visit aimed to review NEC-supported initiatives in the state. The NEC members urged the department to regularly update spatial data and integrate all NEC-funded development projects into the system. They also emphasized the need to support cadastral mapping and improve data on life-saving drugs and road connectivity to health centres. Meanwhile, the members also called on Chief Minister Dr Neiphiu Rio at his official residence in Kohima.

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And, Meghalaya lifted the trophy of the 3rd edition of the North East Cricket Development Council (NECDC) Senior Men's Interstate Friendship Tournament 2025, defeating hosts Nagaland by a commanding 110 runs in the final held at the Nagaland Cricket Stadium, Sovima. Chasing a challenging

total set by Meghalaya, Nagaland were bowled out for 120 runs. The tournament featured six participating Northeastern states—Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim. Nagaland Chief Minister and NECDC Convenor, Dr. Neiphiu Rio, graced the prize distribution ceremony yesterday evening , lauded all teams for their sportsmanship and camaraderie. He emphasized the importance of such tournaments in strengthening regional unity and fostering cricket development. Dr. Rio also advocated for greater investment in women’s cricket, underscoring its growing potential and parity with the men’s game.

Earlier in the day, the chief Minister also inaugurated the NECDC headquarters at Nagaland Cricket stadium, Sovima.

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