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:: THE HEADLINES ::

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says India must move forward by embracing both development and heritage

Chief Minister Dr Neiphiu Rio discusses collaborations with JSW group in Karnataka

Nagaland remembers Captain Kenguruse on 26th martyrdom anniversary

And, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma stresses English as vital to identity and functioning of Northeast



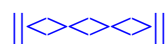
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the nation must move forward by embracing both development and heritage. Inaugurating the centenary celebrations of Acharya Vidyanand Ji Maharaj in New Delhi, he said with this resolve at the core, the government is also developing the country's cultural sites and pilgrimage places. The Prime Minister said, the centre has granted classical language status to Prakrit and also running a campaign to digitize India's ancient manuscripts. He stressed on freeing the nation from colonial mindset.

Mr. Modi said, India is the world's most ancient living civilization and the source of this timeless philosophy lies in the sages, seers, saints and Acharyas of the country. The programme marked the formal commencement of a year-long national tribute to honour the 100th birth anniversary of Acharya Vidyanand Ji Maharaj.



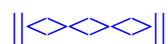
Chief Minister Dr Neiphiu Rio continued his official visit to Vijayanagar in Karnataka today with industrial and strategic engagements hosted by the JSW Group. Dr Rio and his delegation began the day at the Inspire Institute of Sport, where they observed live training sessions, interacted with athletes and coaches,

and experienced the state-of-the-art facilities. Dr Rio also met Nagaland Super League's Youth under-20 team who are training at the institute, and congratulated them on their 4-0 win against Bengaluru FC Young Blues in the exhibition match. The delegation then visited several key JSW facilities, including the Vijayanagar Steel Plant. At the JSW Group Experience Centre, Dr Rio was felicitated by JSW Steel President P.K. Murugan. The team also engaged in multiple high-level meetings with leaders of JSW Group, focused on collaborations across sectors including sports, youth skills, industrial investments, and cultural exchanges. In a social media post, Dr Rio commended the JSW Foundation's charitable initiatives, especially in women empowerment, and support to the underprivileged and physically challenged children.

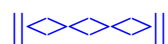


The 26th Memorial Day of Mahavir Chakra awardee (posthumous) Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse was observed today at Nerhema Phezha Village, commemorating his ultimate sacrifice during the 1999 Kargil War. Organized by the 45 Assam Rifles, the ceremony featured a wreath-laying, lighting of Amar Jawan Jyoti, a prayer service, and screening of a short film highlighting Captain Kenguruse's military service. A ceremonial march past was presented by NCC cadets, pipe bands from Fernbrook School and 45 Assam Rifles, and ex-servicemen. Addressing the gathering, Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North) Major General Manish Kumar, reflected on Captain Kenguruse's bravery and dedication, and urged the youth to emulate the values embodied by the late officer.

The memorial event was attended by senior army officials, ex-servicemen, students, villagers, and the martyr's family. A free medical camp named after Captain Kenguruse was also inaugurated. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neisalie Kenguruse, were also felicitated during the event.



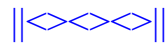
On the 26th martyrdom anniversary of Captain Kenguruse, Rajya Sabha MP S. Phangnon Konyak paid tribute, calling him 'a proud son of Nagaland'. Ms Konyak said, his supreme sacrifice during the Kargil War remains a shining example of courage, valour and unwavering love for the Nation.



Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma emphasized that while promoting local languages is important, English remains integral to the identity and functioning of the Northeast. Speaking at a press conference in Kohima yesterday, Mr. Sangma responded to recent remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the use of English language. Clarifying that Mr. Shah's comments called for promoting all Indian languages, and not just Hindi, Mr. Sangma agreed

on the need to preserve mother tongues like Khasi, Garo, and Naga dialects. However, he underscored that English plays an irreplaceable role in the region, and removing it was neither realistic nor desirable in states like Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Mr. Sangma further highlighted the role of English for global connectivity, opening doors for the Northeast youth in sectors like IT and healthcare.



Advisor for School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, today called for stronger youth leadership and strategic engagement in politics. Addressing the 1st General Meeting-cum-Introductory Session of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) Central Youth Organization in Kohima, he emphasized that with a large segment of Nagaland's population under 35 years, the youth are the state's greatest strength. He urged the party youth to actively participate across all constituencies.

Dr Yhome also pointed out that Nagas remain among the few indigenous peoples globally to retain control over their land and resources, and called for reimagining development while preserving the state's unique identity and political history. He said Nagaland has much room to grow with its natural resources coupled with government focus on investments, and youth engagement. Further, Dr Yhome highlighted the need to empower youth amid changing global dynamics, including the emerging influence of bio-politics.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will share his thoughts with the people of the country and abroad in the Mann Ki Baat programme on Akashvani at 11 AM tomorrow. It will be the 123rd episode of the monthly radio programme. More from our correspondent...



And, India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rainfall at most places of the Northeast during the next seven days, accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning. Isolated heavy rainfall is likely to continue, with heavy showers expected in Nagaland on the 1st and 2nd of July.

