

## Evening News Script

1920 hrs

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

### :::THE HEADLINES:::

- **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio calls for patience on state's reservation policy review**
- **Chief Minister Rio lauds Captain N Kenguruse, MVC, Centre of Excellence and Wellness for empowering youth**
- **Home Affairs Ministry holds high-level meeting to resolve land issue stalling Dimapur Airport development**
- **ICMR and AIIMS studies find no link between COVID-19 vaccines and sudden death cases**

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has said that the state's Reservation Commission is a very detailed policy, that demands time and patience. Speaking to media on the sidelines of an event at Tsiesema in Kohima today, he maintained that the Commission's recommendations cannot come out immediately and that everybody has to have patience. He emphasized that the Cabinet has already decided for reformation of administration, delimitation, and backward reservations, to be conducted after the 2027 census.

Mr Rio also said, the government does not want any temporary arrangements. On the demand for excluding civil society in the commission, the Chief Minister said, concerns of the five tribe committee will look into by the Cabinet, adding that they did not have dispute with anyone.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today visited Captain N Kenguruse, MVC, Centre of Excellence and Wellness at Tsiesema in Kohima. During his visit, the Chief Minister felicitated the students who successfully cleared JEE and NEET examinations. Speaking at the event, Mr Rio lauded the remarkable achievements of the first three batches comprising of 104 students, each attaining 100 percent success in NEET and JEE examinations, as a shining example. He appreciated the role of the Assam Rifles in Nagaland for transcending its conventional security duties. He said, the unwavering dedication, leadership, and a genuine spirit of service of the Assam Rifles has nurtured the Centre into a bastion of strength, structure, and values. Mr Rio also urged the young students to uphold the legacy of Captain Kenguruse with pride and determination. He said, the Centre is not just an academic initiative, but a movement towards empowerment, equality of opportunity, and a brighter future for our youth.

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Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday conducted a high-level meeting in New Delhi to address land issues hindering the expansion of Dimapur Airport. The discussion focused on the release of 18.8 acres of land currently occupied by Assam Rifles, despite being allotted alternate land at Shokhuvi village. The meeting was chaired by Additional Secretary (Police II), Abhijit Sinha, and attended by key officials including OSD, State Transport Department, Myingthungo Ababe Ezung, Director of Dimapur Airport, Moa Pongen, representatives of Airports Authority of India and Assam Rifles. The meeting follows persistent efforts of the state government led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Chief Secretary Dr J Alam to resolve the issue, including earlier letters written to the Ministry seeking directions to facilitate the transfer of land.

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Assam Rifles, one of the oldest Central Para-Military Forces in the country, continues to transcend its conventional security duties by making a profound impact on the weaker sections of society through its CSR efforts across Nagaland. These initiatives address critical areas such as education, health, environment, and community welfare. Assam Rifles strongly believes that education is one of the few interventions capable of truly transforming lives. One of its flagship

initiatives in this direction is the establishment of the Centre of Excellence and Wellness, a dedicated program aimed at supporting underprivileged students from Nagaland by providing quality educational support and mentorship. Initiated by the then Director General of Assam Rifles, Lieutenant General PC Nair, the Captain N Kenguruse, MVC, Centre of Excellence and Wellness was launched in 2022. Director General of Assam Rifles, Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera, highlighted the immense potential of Naga youth and emphasized the transformative role of the centres.

These educational projects are full-time residential programs for boys and girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. They provide free coaching, mentoring, and guidance for one year to prepare students for competitive entrance examinations to India's premier institutions in engineering and medicine. In addition to academic coaching, the centres focus on personality development and holistic growth. So far, three batches of students have successfully cleared their respective entrance examinations, achieving a 100 percent success rate. The fourth batch, comprising 33 aspirants for NEET and JEE, is currently enrolled in the centres and undergoing training.

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Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that extensive studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences have conclusively established no linkage between COVID-19 vaccines and sudden deaths among adults post-COVID-19. The Ministry noted that studies conducted by ICMR and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) affirm that COVID-19 vaccines in India are safe and effective, with extremely rare instances of serious side effects. The incidence of sudden cardiac deaths can result from a wide range of factors, including genetics, lifestyle, pre-existing conditions, and post-COVID complications. The ICMR and NCDC have been working together to understand the causes behind sudden, unexplained deaths, especially in young adults between the ages of 18 and 45 years.

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Deputy Commissioner, Zunheboto, Dharam Raj today called intensified enforcement drives to control sale of tobacco. Chairing the District Level Coordination Committee under the National Tobacco Control Programme, Mr Raj urged the Zunheboto Town Council to conduct awareness programmes and take stringent action against illegal vendors operating in residential colonies. He also emphasized the need for geo-tagging and mapping of all licensed shops within the town. Noting prohibition on tobacco sale near educational institutions, he also recommended that tobacco sale licenses should not be issued to pharmacies, bakeries, grocery stores, toy shops, or stationery outlets. During the event, several schools were recognized and awarded for being tobacco-free.

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And, The Northeast states are likely to experience rainfall throughout the week. India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rainfall at most places over the region accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning. In Nagaland, heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places in Kiphire and Tuensang districts over the next three days.

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