

## Evening News Script

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### :::THE HEADLINES:::

1. President Droupadi Murmu nominates four prominent personalities to Rajya Sabha.
2. Centre directs States and Union Territories to take immediate and strict action against issue of counterfeit and substandard fertilizers.
3. Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton acknowledges the role of Gorkha and Nepali communities in Nagaland's development across various sectors.
4. And, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh says, Brahmos missile performed remarkably during Operation Sindoor.



President Droupadi Murmu has nominated eminent lawyer Ujjwal Deorao Nikam, Social Worker C Sadanandan Master, former Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and historian and academician Dr Meenakshi Jain to the Rajya Sabha. In a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed about the decision. Mr Nikam who hails from Maharashtra has served as a government counsel in the Mumbai terror attacks case while Mr. C. Sadanandan Master from Kerala has a long career in education. He has been a victim of political violence and lost both his legs. Mr. Shringla has also served as Ambassador to the United States, Bangladesh and Thailand. He served as Chief Coordinator for India's G20 Presidency in 2023. Dr. Jain has served as Associate Professor of history at Gargi College, University of Delhi.



The Centre has directed States and Union Territories to take immediate and strict action against the issue of counterfeit and substandard fertilizers. Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has written a letter to the Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories in this regard. This letter has been issued with the objective of curbing the sale of fake fertilizers, black marketing of subsidized fertilizers, and illegal activities such as forced tagging across the country. Mr Chouhan said that agriculture is the backbone of India's economy and to ensure stability in farmers' income, it is essential to provide them quality fertilizers at the right time and affordable prices. The Minister further said, it is the responsibility of the States to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers at the right places and locations where it is required.



The Hamro Chinhari Nagaland Prant organised the 211th Bhanu Jayanti celebration today at Holy Cross Auditorium, Dimapur. Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton fondly recalled his days as one of the first students of Holy Cross Higher Secondary School and expressed pride in the contributions of Nepali-speaking community to Nagaland's growth and harmony. Highlighting the literary legacy of Bhanu Bhakta Acharya, Mr. Patton emphasized the poet's pivotal role in making classical literature accessible to the common people by translating the Ramayana into Nepali. The Deputy Chief Minister acknowledged the significant role of the Gorkha and Nepali communities in Nagaland's development across sectors such as education, healthcare, trade, and agriculture. He lauded the event for recognizing academic excellence among students from diverse communities, calling education the cornerstone of societal progress. The Deputy Chief Minister also reaffirmed the government's

commitment to preserving cultural heritage and promoting inclusive development.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that Brahmos missile performed remarkably during Operation Sindoor. After Operation Sindoor, the demand for Brahmos missiles has increased in foreign countries. After unveiling the statue of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Chandra Bhanu Gupta at the National PG College on the second day of his two-day visit to his parliamentary constituency Lucknow, Defence Minister said, 14 countries have asked for Brahmos missile and it will also be exported from Lucknow. Mr Singh said, this will help in increasing employment in the state. Defence Minister said that Uttar Pradesh is one of the major centres of the country's political journey and the state determines the direction of the country. On this occasion, Mr. Rajnath Singh also released a postage stamp in honour of Chandra Bhanu Gupta.



External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar today met his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan and reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation. In a social media post, Dr Jaishankar who is on a visit to Singapore, said, the country is at the heart of India's Act East Policy while Singapore's Foreign Minister said, as the world inexorably transitions into multi-polarity, India will play an increasingly important role as one of these major poles of opportunity. The External Affairs Minister also met Chairman-designate of Temasek Holdings Teo Chee Hean today where they discussed the transformation underway in India and its investment opportunities.



Railways has decided to install CCTV cameras in all coaches to enhance passenger safety. Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu reviewed progress of CCTV Camera installation in locomotives and coaches. The purpose of fitting cameras in common movement areas of coaches is to improve safety and security of passengers and help in identifying miscreants. To preserve privacy of passengers, CCTV cameras will be installed in common movement area near the doors. Mr Vaishnaw has approved installation of CCTV cameras in all 74 thousand coaches and 15 thousand locos. Each railway coach will be covered with four dome type CCTV cameras and each locomotive will have six CCTV cameras.



Indian Astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and three other crew members of the Axiom-4 mission are expected to begin their journey back to Earth tomorrow. Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in a social media post said, the undocking has been scheduled for tomorrow at 4:30 PM Indian Standard Time. He said, the crew will arrive on earth on Tuesday at around 3:00 PM IST. Group Captain Shukla was on a 14-day mission to the International Space Station. He became the first Indian to visit the International Space Station and the second Indian astronaut after Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, who went to space in 1984. Talking to media at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's father, Shambhu Dayal said, they are praying to God that he comes back safely.



The gross direct tax collections in the country have witnessed 274 percent growth over last ten years. Finance Ministry sources said,

between 2013-14 and 2024-25, refunds issued by the tax department have increased by 474 percent, and the taxpayer base has grown by 133 percent. The average time of issuing tax refunds has decreased from 93 days in 2013 to just 17 days in 2024. This transformation in tax administration over the past decade is largely due to adoption of digital infrastructure, including end-to-end online filing and faceless assessments, which enable faster and more accurate processing of income tax returns.

