

Evening News Script
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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Cabinet enhances fund allocation for Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and NCDC
- Centre reports major progress in infrastructure development across North East
- Nagaland bids farewell to retiring Chief Secretary Dr. J. Alam
- 24th Dr T. Ao Trophy Inter-District Football Championship 2025 to kick off tomorrow



The Union Cabinet has approved a total outlay of 6520 crore rupees including additional outlay of 1920 crore rupees for ongoing 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana' during 15th Finance Commission Cycle. Briefing media in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the approval includes 1000 crore rupees to support setting up of 50 Multi Product Food Irradiation Units, and 100 Food Testing Labs with NABL accreditation. The approval also includes 920 crore rupees for sanctioning projects under various components of the yojana.

The Cabinet also approved a 2000 crore rupees 'Grant in aid to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)' for four years till 2028-29. On the basis of grant in aid, NCDC will be able to raise 20 thousand crore rupees from open market over a span of four years. The move will help NCDC mobilise more funds for lending to Cooperatives.

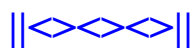


The government has reported significant progress in infrastructure development across the North Eastern Region. Informing the Rajya Sabha today on initiatives taken in the region, Minister of State Dr. Sukanta Majumdar said, over 16,000 kilometers of National Highways has been constructed. In the railway sector, 12 projects covering 777 kilometers and costing nearly 70 thousand crore rupees have been sanctioned, with 278 kilometers already commissioned. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, more than 80,000 kilometers of roads and over 2,100 bridges have been completed. Meanwhile, digital connectivity is also improving across rural areas, with over 6,300 Gram Panchayats connected and more than 3,000 mobile towers commissioned. Further, Dr Majumdar said, 90 routes connecting 12 airports and heliports have been made operational under the UDAN scheme.

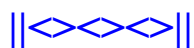


Nagaland's Chief Secretary, Dr. J. Alam, retired from service today after an illustrious career spanning 34 years, serving both the state and the Centre. He held the post of Chief Secretary for 4 years and 9 months. Addressing a farewell programme at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat in Kohima, Dr. Alam described the day as the closing of a cherished chapter in his life. He said Nagaland has been a home, a calling, and a source of enduring inspiration. He reflected on how the people, culture, and challenges of the state shaped him both professionally and personally.

Dr. Alam recalled taking over during the COVID-19 pandemic, steering the state through tough times, including natural disasters, climate challenges, and digital transformation in governance. Calling his service in Nagaland the greatest honour of his life, Dr. Alam expressed gratitude to the government, officials, tribal and civil bodies, for their support during his tenure, and urged continued support for his successor to help realize the vision of a stronger Nagaland. Sentiyananger Imchen will assume office of the Chief Secretary from tomorrow.

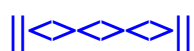


Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended warm greetings to the Ao community on the occasion of Tsungremmong, a pre-harvest festival of thanksgiving. Mr Rio hoped that the festival will usher in a season of abundance, happiness, and unity.

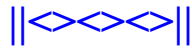


Both the Houses today faced repeated adjournments following opposition parties' uproar over the issues demanding discussion on Special Intensive Revision of electoral roll in Bihar. The Lok Sabha was adjourned twice and the Rajya Sabha three times before being finally adjourned for the day. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal addressed both the Houses on the reciprocal tariff announced by the US on Indian goods, saying the government is examining implications of the 25 percent tariffs. He said the country will take all steps to protect national interests and consulting with all stakeholders including farmers, entrepreneurs, MSMEs and industry bodies.

Both Houses also congratulated scientists for the successful launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite.



The Government has said that at present, 585 Akashvani FM stations and 388 Private FM radio stations are operational in the country. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L Murugan said this in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha. He said, the annual license fees for FM channels in 234 new uncovered cities will be charged at four per cent of Gross Revenue. The Minister informed that the fee for North East states and Jammu and Kashmir will be charged two percent of Gross Revenue, for an initial period of three years.



The 20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme will be released on Saturday. The event will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted that, six thousand rupees is being transferred to farmers in three instalments under the scheme, with each instalment issued every four months.



And, Kohima is all set to host the 24th Dr T. Ao Trophy Inter-District Football Championship 2025. The tournament will kick off tomorrow at IG Stadium Kohima with all 17 districts vying for the coveted title. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio will grace the event as special guest. Convenor of the Organising Committee, MLA Kevipodi Sophie said preparations are in full swing with every effort being made to ensure the championship is a grand success. He said, with participation of all 17 districts, the event will showcase Naga unity, besides cultural and artistic presentations.

On the opening day, no entry fee to the stadium will be charged, and free bus shuttle service from High School Junction to IG Stadium will be provided from 4 PM onwards. In the first match of the tournament, host Kohima District will take on Tseminyu District.

