

Evening News Script
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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio reaffirms Nagaland's growing cultural influence on global stage
- Election for post of Vice President to be held on 9th of September
- Ao Naga community celebrate pre-harvest festival Tsüngremmong
- 24th Dr T. Ao Trophy Inter-District Football Championship kicks off

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio reaffirmed Nagaland's growing cultural influence on the global stage, crediting its expanding international footprint to the rich heritage and unique identity of the Naga people. Speaking at a special programme titled "Nagaland's Global Footprints: Cultural Diplomacy & International Engagements", held at the State Banquet Hall in Kohima today, he emphasized the importance of global recognition for the Naga community.

Commending the new generation, Mr. Rio noted that Naga youth are not only educated but also deeply connected to their cultural roots.

Reflecting on his recent visits to Japan and Russia, the Chief Minister highlighted that Nagaland was the only Northeastern state among six Indian states invited. From signing Memorandums of Understanding to participating at the World Expo Osaka and Bharat Utsav 2025 in Moscow, he highlighted this international outreach as evidence of the state's cultural power, talent, and potential. He also spoke about Hornbill Festival's uniqueness and how it has inspired similar cultural events across the Northeast. Expressing gratitude to all who made these

achievements possible, especially the Government of India, Mr. Rio called for unity among citizens.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Rio presented citations to artistes in recognition of their contributions in showcasing Nagaland on the global stage. He also launched "Treekam", an international music collaboration album cover produced by Arpito Gope.

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The Election Commission of India today announced the schedule for the election to the office of the Vice President of India. According to the ECI, the election will be held on September 9. The notification for the election will be issued on 7th of this month, and the last date for filing nominations will be August 21. This will be the 17th Vice Presidential election. Polling, if required, will take place in the Parliament building on September 9, and results will be announced the same day.

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The Ao Naga community celebrated Tsüngremmong, its pre-harvest festival, today at Kisama Heritage Village. The event, organized by the Kohima Ao Union, marks the completion of the sowing season with thanksgiving, feasting, and community bonding, showcasing Ao cultural identity through folk music, dances, games, and reconciliation rituals. The celebrations today featured vibrant traditional performances, indigenous games and other cultural showcases.

Gracing the occasion as special guest, former Chief Minister and Padma Bhushan, Dr. S. C. Jamir, emphasized the festival's spiritual and cultural importance and called on the younger generation to remain thankful to God. Expressing concern over Nagaland's ongoing challenges, he said the unresolved Naga political issue hinders progress and sovereignty. He urged the public to choose honest and capable leaders for the betterment of the society. Minister Metsubo Jamir also extended greetings.

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A mid-career training for 20 Nagaland Civil Service officers is underway at the Administrative Training Institute, Kohima. The programme, culminating tomorrow, focuses on enhancing governance and public service delivery. In interactive sessions with ATI Director General V. Shashank Shekhar, officers

shared ideas to improve citizens' lives. Key suggestions included better road connectivity, timely access to government schemes, improving agriculture, skill development, and strengthening health infrastructure. Focus on rural areas and protecting the youths from substance abuse were also discussed.

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The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has approved SPREE 2025 (Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees) last month. The scheme is active till December 31, offering a one-time registration window for unregistered employers and workers, including contractual and temporary staff, without inspections or demands for past dues. Registrations can be done digitally through the ESIC portal, Shram Suvidha, or the MCA portal. SPREE 2025 encourages voluntary enrolment, simplifies procedures and removes penalties, to ensure that workers gain essential health and welfare coverage.

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The 24th Dr T. Ao Trophy Inter-District Football Championship 2025 kicked off with fanfare at IG Stadium Kohima this evening. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio hoisted the flag at the glittering opening ceremony. Addressing the event, Mr Rio emphasized the importance of the tournament in bringing players from all the districts over the years. He affirmed the government's commitment to the development of sports.

Mr Rio highlighted the state government's efforts to develop sports infrastructure across the districts. He also noted that Nagaland will host the first edition of the Dr T Ao Junior Girls' National Football Championship later this year. Meanwhile, Convenor of the Organising Committee, MLA Kevipodi Sophie highlighted the event as a tribute to the enduring legacy of Dr T Ao and a celebration of football's unifying spirit. Urging players to compete with fairness, he emphasized the championship as a symbol of Naga unity.

All 17 districts are participating in the tournament which will culminate on 15th of August. In the opening match, host Kohima District is **leading 1-nil against** Tseminyu District.

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And, The 35th Nagaland Taekwondo Championships concluded yesterday at Longleng. Team DYRS Kohima emerged champions with 17 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze, followed by Dimapur and Wokha district. In the individual awards,

Anirudra Pandey was named the best referee, while Visazuno Sachu won best female fighter and Vilabizo Nagi won best male fighter. Longleng District was awarded the best discipline team. Addressing the Valedictory Programme, Director of Youth Resources and Sports, Kethosituo Sekhose, highlighted ongoing sports infrastructure projects in the state, including 31 indoor stadiums, 20 futsal ground, and six football turfs.

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