

Evening News Script

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THE HEADLINES:-

- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio inaugurates Elder's Forum Building and Multi-Utility Community Hall in Kohima.
- NPF President Apong Pongener offeres to step down if Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio rejoin Party.
- Department of Health & Family Welfare to keep regularization of posts created during COVID-19 in abeyance.
- GST reforms all set to reduce tax rates on range of daily use items of consumers from September 22.

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Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio today inaugurated the Elder's Forum Building Northern Angami-II at Chiephobozou, under Kohima district. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rio said, the building reflects the wisdom, dedication, and leadership of our elders, whose contributions continue to shape our community. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Multi-Utility Community Hall Nerhema village on Kohima. Terming it as another milestone, he said the new facility will serve as a space for meetings, training and community gatherings. Later, the Chief Minister attended the 2nd edition of Nerhema Organic Day cum Khuvie Nyi or festival.

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The Naga People's Front (NPF) President, Apong Pongener, today offered to resign from the post of president in the event of Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio's

willingness to rejoin the NPF. The statement comes in the midst of speculation about a possible merger between the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party and the NPF. Speaking at the NPF Central Executive Council meeting held in Kohima, Mr. Pongener, added that he stands by the commitment to let Rio lead the Cock party and steer the party-led government in Nagaland. In the wake of this development, the Party President also called upon all Central Executive Council members to continue to work collectively to strengthen the NPF and secure the aspirations of the people.

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The Department of Health & Family Welfare has informed that the ongoing process of regularization of various categories of posts created during the COVID-19 pandemic, through the Department Screening Committee, has been kept in abeyance until further orders. The decision was taken in compliance with the interim directive of the High Court that stayed the Cabinet decision and directed that no further steps for regularization be undertaken by the State respondents on the basis of the said Cabinet decision and notification.

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The Goods and Services Tax reforms launched by the government are all set to reduce tax rates of a range of daily use items of consumers from September 22. The GST Council has simplified the indirect tax system into a two-tier structure of five percent and 18 percent from a four-tier structure of five percent, 12 percent, 18 percent and 28 percent. The GST rate reduction and rationalisation with a focus on commonman will reshapes how consumers and businesses will pay tax from September 22. From medicines and milk to cars, soaps, and even IPL tickets, the GST Council's latest rate rationalisation is expected to ease the tax burden of consumers significantly. The reform will directly benefit over eight crore rural farmer families, particularly small, marginal and landless labourers engaged in rearing milch animals for their livelihoods. Meanwhile, in an interview to a TV channel, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the new GST regime will improve consumption by citizens and it will not impact capital expenditure.

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In a significant crackdown on illegal activities, the Kohima Police today rescued a minor girl from a human trafficking and sexual exploitation ring. Nine individuals, including the key accused were apprehended during the raid. The operation was launched based on a Suo-Motu FIR registered by the Kohima Women Police Station following a meticulous enquiry into a missing person report. During the enquiry, reliable information led officials to trace and rescue the girl from a Hotel in Kohima on August 30. Based on the victim's disclosure, one of the primary accused was apprehended. During interrogation, the accused disclosed that she operated under the main accused, one Rakesh, and was instrumental in recruiting the minor victim. Acting on credible intelligence and extensive surveillance, a coordinated team comprising of personnel from North PS and Women PS led by the Officer-In-Charge of Women PS executed raids, leading to the arrest of more suspects. The arrested accused includes both locals and non-locals who are alleged to have been acting as organizers, pimps, and agents facilitating the illegal trade. The Kohima Police reaffirms its zero-tolerance policy towards crimes against women and children and commitment to dismantling organized trafficking networks. It further appeals to the public to come forward with any relevant information that could assist in the investigation, assuring that the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

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Union Science and Technology Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh today inaugurated the Campus Tank in New Delhi for empowering youth of the country. The flagship startup launchpad will provide country's next generation founders with an early-career professional opportunity to build the next big thing by setting up their own startup. Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister highlighted that the pan India initiative with a funding pool of six million dollars will serve as the platform for young innovators to pitch their startup ideas and secure funds. Dr. Singh emphasized the role of youth in transforming the nation into a global startup hub and also underlined their contribution in achieving Viksit Bharat.

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Nagaland University celebrated the 32nd foundation day at its Medziphema campus today. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor of Nagaland University, Professor Jagadish K. Patnaik, expressed happiness over the improvement in National Institutional Ranking Framework of Nagaland University. Emphasizing that Nagaland University is at its peak, Professor Patnaik asserted that through excellence, hard work, dedication and thinking out of the box, Nagaland University will gain even greater heights. Later, as per the tradition initiated by Professor Patnaik, the Vice-Chancellor's Award 2025 was presented to the deserving Awardees. The Awards are presented campus-wise for Best Teacher, Best Non-Teaching Staff, Best Research Scholar and Best student. A press release from the University stated that the venue of the Foundation Day is rotated every year, so that each Campus gets the privilege of hosting the main program in its premises. Meanwhile, at the University Headquarters in Lumami, Senior Professor, Department of Economics, Professor Mithilesh Kumar Sinha delivered the foundation address, while Professor Buno Liegise, Department of Education, delivered the address at Kohima Campus.

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