

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says India's digital ecosystem setting global standards for innovation and inclusion
- Nagaland joins nationwide launch of Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0
- Nagaland Assembly Speaker Sharingain Longkumer emphasizes importance of sports for well-being
- And, Kuki United and Anal Lenruwl Tangpi seal quarterfinal spots at 25th NSF Martyrs' Trophy

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that country's digital ecosystem is setting global standards for innovation and inclusion. Addressing the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai this evening, Mr. Modi said, India is one of the most technologically inclusive societies due to democratisation of technology. He said, the country is witnessing 20 billion transactions worth 25 lakh crore rupees through UPI every month.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi held delegation level talks with his United Kingdom counterpart Keir Starmer. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enhance economic cooperation in key areas of education, technology, defence and critical minerals.

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Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel today launched the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 in New Delhi. The 60-day national campaign seeks to educate and empower children and youth to prevent the initiation of tobacco use, support those who wish to quit, and promote a strong culture of health and wellness across schools and institutes of higher education. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Patel highlighted that a large part of country's youth is addicted to tobacco, and reaffirmed government's commitment to save the youth from tobacco.

During the event, the Minister also administered the 'Say No to Tobacco' pledge.

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Nagaland joined the nation in launching the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0 today. Addressing the state-level launch in Kohima, Commissioner & Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Anoop Khinchi, described the initiative as a timely and strategic move to address the high tobacco use among both adults and children in Nagaland. Emphasizing the urgent need to tackle tobacco use, he called for a shift from isolated interventions to a system-wide approach, stronger inter-departmental coordination, vendor licensing, and capacity building of stakeholders. Meanwhile, Principal Director, Dr. Mereninla Senlem, highlighted achievements made in the previous phases of the campaign. However, she noted that challenges remained, with national surveys showing 43 percent of school-going children and adults in Nagaland still using some form of tobacco. The campaign was also launched across districts. In Wokha, Additional Deputy Commissioner Wokha, Renbomo Ezung, spoke on the harmful effects of tobacco and addiction. In Zunheboto, the launch event was held at Immanuel Higher Secondary School with students from Cornerstone Higher Secondary School, Love Dale School also attending. Officials and community leaders urged youth to lead the fight against tobacco and promote healthier lifestyles.

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Horticulture Minister Salhoutuonuo Kruse today reaffirmed the state government's commitment to rural development. Speaking at the Village Fair in Phusachodu under Phek district, she highlighted the government initiatives aimed at food security, poverty alleviation, rural infrastructure, agriculture technology, natural resource management, and inclusive growth with focus on women, youth, and tribal communities. She urged the people to avail benefits of the multiple schemes across departments. On the occasion, several initiatives were launched including the Green Village Link and One Family One Project

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Advisor for IT & Communication, H. Sethrongkyu Sangtam, participated in the State IT Ministers' Round Table at the India Mobile Congress 2025 in New Delhi yesterday. The meeting, chaired by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, focused on the theme 'Innovate to Transform.' Mr Scindia emphasized the need for states to work as equal partners in realizing a digitally empowered and connected Bharat. He urged states to adopt best practices, ease Right of Way processes, and enhance last-mile connectivity to bridge the digital divide. Nagaland is actively working with the Centre and telecom providers to improve connectivity, and continues to align its policies with the national goal of Viksit Bharat 2047.

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The Chungtia Students' Union has issued a five-day ultimatum to the Principal Director, Health & Family Welfare Department, demanding urgent action regarding the technical test report on the 50-bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital at Sabangya in Mokokchung district. In a statement today, the Union expressed dissatisfaction with the test report dated 29th September, calling it incomplete and lacking clear justification for certain results. It also raised serious concerns about the quality of work by Northeast Engineers, which conducted the testing. The Union alleged that the department failed to follow up on an agreed joint meeting with stakeholders after the report was released. It claimed that despite repeated attempts to contact the department, no official response has been received.

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Speaker of Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer, has underscored the transformative role of sports in building camaraderie, discipline, and teamwork, especially in the context of today's fast-paced digital era. Addressing the 8th edition of the Niathu Sports Festival 2025 in Chümoukedima today, he highlighted rising stress and health issues linked to sedentary lifestyles, particularly among professionals and public servants. He urged all to adopt sports as a personal remedy for physical and mental wellness. Calling stress a 'silent killer,' Mr Longkumer encouraged individuals to invest in 'alone time' through physical activities to maintain emotional balance.

The Speaker also urged participants to see sports not just as a competition, but as a means to protect health and nurture holistic growth. Returning after a five-year break, the three-day event is organised by the Niathu Group as part of its CSR initiative, and features eight sporting disciplines across three venues in Chümoukedima.

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And, Kuki United and Anal Lenruwl Tangpi have secured the final two spots in the quarterfinals of the ongoing 25th NSF Martyrs' Memorial Trophy 2025. In today's first match, Kuki United defeated Delhi Police 2-0, with Lunaldo Kuki netting standout goals in the 23rd and 48th minutes. In the second match of the day, Anal Lenruwl Tangpi claimed a dominant 3-0 victory over Nagaland Police. Kagaly, Winkle, and Changkingam each netted a goal. With these wins, the quarterfinal lineup is now complete as the tournament enters its decisive phase. The first quarterfinal clash is scheduled for tomorrow, featuring Chedema Village Youth Organisation against Tangkhul Katamnao Saklong.

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