

## Evening News Script

1920 hrs of 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

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### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nagaland Chief Minister and Leader of NPF Legislature Party, Neiphiu Rio calls upon party members to rise above differences and revive spirit of regionalis
- Independent Legislators Forum of Nagaland Legislative Assembly extends Support to Neiphiu Rio's Leadership
- Advisor Mhathung Yanthan reaffirms state government's commitment to building farmer-centric agriculture.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrates festival of lights with Navy personnel onboard INS Vikrant.

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Nagaland Chief Minister and Leader of the Naga People's Front (NPF) Legislature Party, Neiphiu Rio, today called upon party members to rise above differences and revive the spirit of regionalism guided by the ideals of Peace for Development and Development for Peace. Mr. Rio was addressing the traditional Central Executive Council meeting of the NPF held at the party's Central Office in Kohima. This will be Mr. Rio's first address as the Leader of the NPF Legislature Party, following the merger of NPF and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP).

Mr. Rio further expressed sincere appreciation to NPF President, NPF Secretary General, and members of both NDPP and NPF for reposing faith in his leadership and for their steadfast support throughout the transition.



The Independent Legislators Forum (ILF) of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly today has described the merger of Naga People's Front (NPF) and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), as a historic step towards strengthening regionalism and safeguarding Naga identity. In a joint statement, ILF Convener, Bangtick Phom and Co-Convener Dr. Neisatuo Mero, termed the merger as a significant era for the whole of the Nagas in safeguarding its identity and the spirit of regionalism in the political history of Nagaland. The Forum also conveyed its congratulations to Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on being elected unopposed as the Leader of NPF Legislature Party. Stating that the unification is a matured political decision, the forum expressed optimism that it would bring political stability and further the legacy of the Nagas.



Advisor for Agriculture, Nagaland, Mhathung Yanthan today reaffirmed the state government's commitment to building a sustainable and farmer-centric agricultural future. Mr. Yanthang was speaking at the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Alumni Association of School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University, at Medziphema today. He further highlighted the need to address pressing agricultural challenges such as climate change, soil health, and livelihood resilience, while promoting opportunities in organic farming, agri-technology and food processing. Reflecting on the institution's impact, Mr. Yanthan emphasized that the School of Agricultural Sciences has served as a cradle of knowledge, innovation, and leadership.

Earlier, the event commenced with the unveiling of the Silver Jubilee Monolith by Advisor, Mhathung Yanthan.

Minister for Rural Development & SIRD, Metsubo Jamir also attended the program as the Chief Host.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the extraordinary coordination among the three defence services together compelled Pakistan to surrender during Operation Sindoor. Keeping up his annual tradition of celebrating Diwali with the Indian armed forces, Mr. Modi celebrated the festival of lights with Navy personnel onboard INS Vikrant off the coast of Goa and Karwar today. He said the INS Vikrant, which is India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, reflects the capability of India's armed forces. Mr Modi said that INS Vikrant is not merely a warship; it is a testament to 21st-century India's ingenuity, resolve, and global influence. He said that INS Vikrant is a towering symbol of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Made in India

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The Marwari community in Dimapur observed the traditional five-day celebration of Deepawali, the festival of lights according to Hindu customs. Prominent businessman of Dimapur, Chandu Agarwal said that each day of the festival holds its own significance, symbolizing goodness, renewal, and devotion. In Dimapur, the community observed the festival with enthusiasm and unity. Even general residents, beyond the Marwari community, celebrated Diwali for three days, performing three rounds of puja — morning, evening, and midnight — with a belief that midnight worship brings the greatest blessings. A few traders and business owners continued the tradition of performing puja at their business establishments, keeping alive the age-old custom of combining faith with

enterprise. Each day of Diwali in Dimapur was marked by devotion, light, and hope — truly reflecting the spirit of this sacred festival.

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The GST Bachat Utsav, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and launched on the 22nd of last month, is benefiting people across all sections of society. Today, our correspondent brings a report, highlighting the impact of GST reforms in strengthening the country's real estate sector.

*The next-generation GST reforms have provided a major boost to the real estate sector by making essential materials more affordable and reducing overall project costs. The tax rate on cement has been reduced from 28 percent to 18 percent, lowering the cost of building houses and infrastructure projects across the country. Furthermore, the GST on marble and granite blocks has also been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent, cutting down the cost of flooring and finishing works. Similarly, job works related to bricks and sand-lime bricks now attract a reduced rate of 5 percent instead of the earlier 12 percent, making small-scale construction activities more affordable. These reforms have made housing and infrastructure development more affordable and promote the government's vision of Housing for All by reducing the financial burden on both builders and citizens.*

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The filing of nominations for second phase of assembly elections in Bihar ended today. Out of a total 243 seats, 122 constituencies spread over 20 districts will go to polls in this phase on the 11th of November. So far, a total of 1,066 nomination papers have been filed by candidates from various political parties, as well as

independents, for the second phase. Today is also last date for withdrawal of candidature for the first phase of Assembly elections. 121 constituencies spread over 18 districts will go to polls in the first phase on 6th November.

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Super Seniors FC and Doyang Strikers Mokokchung sailed through to the semifinals in the Mokokchung District Football Association (MDFA) Trophy 2025. In the first quater final match today, Super Seniors FC defeated Team Gilgal by two goals to one. In the second quarter final match, it was an easy win for Doyang Strikers Mokokchung as they easily cruised to the semifinal beating Sangpang Riju FC five goals to nil. Telongjem FC will meet Sports Society Soyim in the third quater final tomorrow, while Chargers FC will take on Thunderbolt FC in the fourth quater final.

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