

## Evening News Script

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### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- National Press Day reaffirms vital role of a free, responsible, and ethical press in strengthening democracy.
- Press Clubs in Nagaland joins media fraternity in observation of National Press Day.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says national service inspires motivation.
- Government dismisses fake video claiming Finance Minister Sitharaman endorsed investment scheme.

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The National Press Day is being observed in the country today. The day reaffirms the vital role of a free, responsible, and ethical press in strengthening the Nation's democracy. The day marks the establishment of the Press Council of India, which began its work on this day in 1966 as an independent moral watchdog of the media. We have a report:

V/C PRESS: Since its formation, the Press Council of India has worked diligently to uphold press freedom, maintain journalistic standards, and address the challenges confronting the media. This day symbolizes a free and responsible press, central to democracy. The day is commemorated through various activities, including the National Awards for Excellence and the release of a Souvenir. As per official data, the media landscape continues to expand, with registered publications rising from about 60 thousand in 2004 to more than one-and-a-half lakh in 2024-25. Some recent reforms, including the new Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023, and the fully digital Press Sewa Portal, are streamlining the registration process and enhancing transparency. With Rohan, Saklen Akhtar, Akashvani News. National Press day serves

as a reminder of the crucial role the press plays in strengthening the country's democracy. The day not only celebrates the achievements of the press but also reinforces the responsibility it bears in building a more informed and transparent society, ensuring that the future of journalism remains strong, free, and responsible.

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The Kohima Press Club (KPC) today marked National Press Day with Aküm Longchari, Publisher of The Morung Express, as the resource person. Speaking at the event, Dr. Longchari said the 21st century should not be defined by who controls truth and decides what is real but by a collective responsibility to safeguard truth. He asserted that the media in Nagaland must reimagine and redefine itself amid shifting times in order to remain credible and reliable. Its role, he said, goes beyond information dissemination and includes nurturing critical thinking and consciousness through quality news. Dr. Longchari emphasised that the Naga media must relentlessly tell fact-based stories to emancipate truth in the common interest and dignity of shared humanity.

Calling for responsible reporting, he urged journalists to prioritise fact-checking and remain mindful of the consequences of sensationalism. On the occasion, KPC Impact Journalism Award 2025 was presented to Reyivolu Rhakho.

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The Dimapur Press Club (DPC) observed National Press Day today at Ethnic Table, Dimapur, on the theme "Safeguarding Press Credibility Amidst Rising Misinformation." Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Moalemba Jamir, Associate Editor of The Morung Express, stressed that credibility is the foundation of journalism, warning that any lapse erodes public trust in both media and institutions. He pointed to a growing "crisis of transparency," where digital platforms mimic news outlets without editorial accountability, creating "visibility without responsibility." He outlined key threats to press credibility, including unregulated digital platforms, pressure for speed over

verification, sensationalism, ethical inconsistencies, and the rapid spread of AI-enabled misinformation.

In this, Dr Jamir urged media organisations to publish ownership and editorial details, correct errors promptly, clearly label sponsored content, and maintain separation between editorial and commercial roles. DPC President Henlly Phom delivered the presidential address, emphasising the significance of National Press Day and the need for collective commitment to ethical journalism.

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The Mokokchung Press Club, MPC supported by DIPR Nagaland, observed National Press Day. Delivering the keynote address, Limalenden Longkumer, Editor of Mokokchung Times, stressed that credibility—built on trustworthiness—is the foundation of journalism and once lost, cannot be regained. He identified misinformation, including fake news, half-truths and paid news, as a major threat, noting that false narratives often spread faster than facts. Mr. Longkumer urged journalists to prioritise verification over virality, uphold transparency and ethics, and maintain editorial independence. MPC President Sashimeren highlighted the urgency of combating misinformation and reaffirmed the press as the fourth pillar of society.

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The government has dismissed a video circulating on social media which claimed that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is promoting an investment scheme promising easy returns monthly. The Fact check unit of the Press Information Bureau informed that the video is fake and AI-generated. It further said that the government has not endorsed any such scheme. Meanwhile, the government has urged citizens not to fall for such investment schemes and advised them not to use any such links, as they could be phishing attempts.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised that when the feeling arises of working for the nation and contributing something new, it becomes a source of immense motivation.

Mr Modi said this while interacting with the team of India's first Bullet train project after a review of the project in Surat yesterday. He drew a parallel with India's space journey, recalling how the scientists who launched the country's first satellite must have felt, and how today hundreds of satellites are being launched. Mr Modi remarked that if the experiences gained here are recorded and compiled like a Blue Book, the country can move decisively towards large-scale implementation of bullet trains. He emphasized that India must avoid repeated experimentation and instead replicate the learnings from existing models.

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The Nagaland Directorate Ministerial Service Association (NDMSA) will celebrate its Golden Jubilee on Tuesday at the Capital Cultural Hall, Kohima. Member of Parliament Lok Sabha, S. Supongmeren Jamir will grace the occasion as the special guest.

V/C NDMSA: Established in 1975, the NDMSA is among the first State-registered service associations in Nagaland to receive official recognition from the Government of Nagaland. Over the years, it has emerged as a key platform for ministerial staff across departments, fostering coordination, support, and engagement with the State Government. Today, the Association comprises 57 directorates and two units - one each in Kohima and Dimapur. The Kohima Unit includes 51 departments, while the Dimapur Unit covers six departments, with a total sanctioned strength of 1,549 members. With a vision to serve as a support system and an avenue for constructive dialogue with the government, the Association continues to uphold the legacy of its founders- rooted in dedication, unity, and commitment to the greater good.

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