

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

21st December 2025

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Nagaland's Department of Health & Family Welfare has announced the regularisation of 97 Medical Officers engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic, with immediate effect. In a press release yesterday, the department said the decision follows approval by the State Cabinet in August 2024, recommendation of the Departmental Screening Committee, and a judgement of the Division Bench of the Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench. On December 11, the Division Bench upheld an earlier Single Judge ruling that had dismissed petitions challenging the state government's decision to regularise in-service medical officers engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic through a Special Recruitment Drive. Finding no infirmity in the August 1 judgment, the Bench allowed the State to proceed with the regularisation.

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President Droupadi Murmu has emphasized that the values of compassion, tolerance, mutual respect, and collective responsibility are not merely past ideals but essential foundations for a strong and harmonious modern world. Speaking at an event in Gachibowli, Hyderabad of Telangana, Ms. Murmu highlighted that the vision for a developed India requires a blend of modern education with moral wisdom, and innovation with environmental responsibility. The President stressed that the destiny of the country will be shaped not only by the skills and knowledge of its youth, but also by their integrity and sense of purpose.

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The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued an advisory saying that a cyber campaign, called GhostPairing, is being used for hijacking WhatsApp accounts. The Ministry said, offenders are exploiting WhatsApp's device-linking feature to hijack accounts using pairing codes without authentication requirement. It added that the campaign usually begins with victims receiving a message from a trusted contact. The message contains a link with a Facebook-style preview which later leads to a verifying process via phone number. The Ministry noted that this activity grants attackers full access to the victim's WhatsApp accounts, without any password theft or SIM swapping and the chain follows. The ministry asked citizens not to click on suspicious links and never enter their phone number on external sites.

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Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the Viksit Bharat G RAM G Bill is connected to the development of villages in every aspect. He said this while addressing the Chaudhary Charan Singh Awards 2025 in New Delhi.

He informed that the Ministry is inviting suggestions in the agriculture sector for the upcoming budget 2026-27 to build a resilient system.

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On the second day of his visit to Assam today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with 25 school students today as part of his 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme while sailing on the Brahmaputra River aboard a cruise ship. After that, Mr Modi will visit the newly constructed Swahid Smarak Kshetra in the city, built in memory of the 860 martyrs of the Assam Movement. He will also perform Bhumi Pujan of the 12,000 crore rupees Ammonia-Urea fertiliser project, and address a public meeting at Namrup. The Prime Minister arrived in Guwahati yesterday on a two-day visit to Assam.

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Kohima district administration has reopened a section of the National Highway-29 between Liezocha and Kezanu for movement of heavy vehicles up to 10-wheeler trucks, with immediate effect. In an order, Deputy Commissioner B Henok Buchem said, the decision was taken following a status report from the National Highway, Kohima Division on Friday, which confirmed the road was fit for vehicular traffic

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In men's cricket, Nagaland will face Manipur in the final of the under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy (Plate). The four-day match will be played at Sovima Cricket Ground in Chümuokedima from December 24 to 27. Manipur enters the finals unbeaten, while Nagaland recorded three wins and two losses on its way to the title clash.

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