

:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi advocates for ethical, inclusive 'Made in India' AI model
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio highlights role of Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission in sustaining livelihoods
- NPCC launches statewide protest against proposed repeal of MGNREGA
- Nagaland Labour Department notifies statewide implementation of ESI Scheme

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today chaired the roundtable with Indian AI Start-Ups at his residence in New Delhi. Ahead of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to be held in India next month, twelve Indian AI start-ups who have qualified for the AI for ALL: Global Impact Challenge attended the roundtable and presented their ideas and work. During the meeting, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of artificial intelligence in bringing about transformation in society. He emphasised that startups and AI entrepreneurs are the co-architects of India's future, and said that the country has immense capacity for both innovation and large-scale implementation. Mr Modi added that India should present a unique AI model to the world that reflects the spirit of Made in India, Made for the World. He emphasised the need to ensure that Indian AI models are ethical, unbiased, transparent, and based on data privacy principles. Prime Minister Modi said, India can promote affordable and inclusive AI globally, and suggested that Indian AI models promote local and indigenous content and regional languages.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today highlighted the role of the Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission in promoting honey production, preserving indigenous apiculture traditions and supporting sustainable livelihoods. In a social media post, he said the Mission, launched by the state government in 2007, works to strengthen scientific beekeeping practices while protecting diverse species and their natural habitats. The state can support 22 lakh bee colonies, with a potential to yield 10,000 metric tons of honey and 10 metric tons of beeswax annually. Mr Rio said the Mission has helped achieve an output of 440 metric tons of honey currently.

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The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) today launched a statewide protest against the proposed repeal of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The protest was launched by Congress MP and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, at Congress Bhavan in Kohima. Mr Ulaka strongly criticised the Modi-led government, accusing it of weakening MGNREGA over the past 11 years through delayed wage payments and material costs, low wage rates, and chronic underfunding. He highlighted the crucial role of MGNREGA during the COVID-19 crisis in preventing distress migration and sustaining rural livelihoods. Mr Ulaka alleged that the new Viksit Bharat G RAM G Act was a deliberate attempt to dismantle MGNREGA by removing legal guarantee of employment, shifting financial burden to states, and centralising decision-making.

The protest marks the start of a 45-day nationwide campaign against the Viksit Bharat G RAMG Act and will include district-level press conferences, symbolic protests, fasts, panchayat-level outreach programmes, and engagement with civil society, youth, and NGOs. NPCC President and Lok Sabha MP S Spongmeren Jamir reiterated the party's firm stand to restoring the MGNREGA in its original form, to safeguard the rights of rural and poor communities. Mr Jamir accused the ruling government of contradicting its own position by acknowledging the scheme's success while simultaneously alleging misuse. The Congress vowed to continue its peaceful agitation until the new Act is repealed.

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The State Department of Labour Commissioner has informed that the Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been extended to all districts of Nagaland. The extension follows notifications issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. All employers with 10 or more employees in shops, hotels, restaurants, road motor transport, newspaper establishments, private educational and medical institutions, have been directed to register their establishments and eligible employees on or before 31st of January.

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The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is conducting searches in a Fake Government Job Scam against an organized gang, across the country. The agency said the scam was initially detected in the name of Indian Railways. However, the investigation revealed that it covers over 40 other Government organisations. Searches are ongoing at 15 locations in 13 cities across Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The ED noted the gang used fake email accounts, impersonating official government domains to send fraudulent joining letters. The probe agency added that, to gain trust, the gang made initial salary payments for 2-3 months to some victims, who were

placed in roles like RPF, TTE, and Technician in Indian Railways.

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Prime Minister's flagship platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, PRAGATI, has marked a significant milestone with the successful conduct of its 50th meeting. Since its launch by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, PRAGATI has transformed governance by enabling real-time monitoring and resolution of key infrastructure projects and public grievances through direct Prime Ministerial review. Today, in this special series, we take a look at the Rosa - Sitapur Cantonment - Burhwal Rail Doubling Project in Uttar Pradesh.

(VC : The Rosa - Sitapur Cantonment - Burhwal Rail Doubling Project in Uttar Pradesh, spanning 180 km, was conceived as a key capacity augmentation initiative under Ministry of Railways. The project was sanctioned on 1st March 2015 at a cost of 2,560 crore rupees. It aimed to eliminate single-line constraints on an important section of the Northeastern Railway network. The project encountered implementation challenges, and delays in statutory clearances and land acquisition began to impact timelines. The matter was taken up for review under the PRAGATI mechanism, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2017. Two critical bottlenecks emerged, including pendency of Stage-I forest clearance with Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and land acquisition of private land in Sitapur district, involving 212 farmers. Following the PRAGATI review, Forest authorities fast-tracked the Stage-I forest clearance, while the Sitapur district administration streamlined land acquisition processes. Due to Prime Minister's intervention, physical progress surged to 100 percent, leading to completion of the project on 13th February, 2024.)

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Former Cabinet Secretary and Member NITI Aayog Rajiv Gauba has said, that PRAGATI has brought about a new momentum to infrastructure project execution in the country. In an exclusive interview with Akashvani News, Mr. Gauba revealed that some of the projects to be reviewed under PRAGATI are selected by the Prime Minister himself.

The interview will be broadcast tonight at 09.30 on 100.1 Akashvani FM Gold channel and additional frequencies.

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