

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio raises concerns on Finance Commission proposals with Union Finance Minister
- Nagaland Cabinet sets up Political Affairs Sub-Committee to strengthen engagement with Centre
- Minister K.G. Kenye says state expects announcement on FNTA following Delhi talks
- And, President's rule revoked in Manipur

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio called on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi today. In a social media post, Mr Rio said he conveyed concerns over the 16th Finance Commission's recommendation to discontinue the Revenue Deficit Grant and reduce tax devolution for Nagaland. The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to Ms Sitharaman for her understanding and for assuring full support.

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Nagaland Cabinet has constituted a Political Affairs Sub-Committee to strengthen political engagement with the centre and address key state issues. This was announced by Parliamentary Affairs Minister and state Spokesperson K G Kenye during a press briefing in Kohima today. He informed that the decision was taken during a cabinet meeting held yesterday. Mr Kenye said, the sub-committee will be headed by Chief Minister as convenor, and comprise Members of Parliament, Deputy Chief Ministers, and cabinet ministers, among others. The State Spokesperson informed that few of the sub-committee members led by the Chief Minister are currently in the National Capital and will take up concerns related to the Free Movement Regime and the re-imposition of the Protected Area Permit, urging the Centre to review its impact on the state.

On the issue of exploration of oil and natural gas, Mr Kenye said despite delays in a court verdict, the Cabinet has resolved to proceed with oil and gas exploration in line with constitutional guarantees.

Minister Kenye further informed that the Cabinet also addressed longstanding issues surrounding Nagaland's landholding system. He said, after reviewing proposals from the Land Revenue Department, the state government plans to introduce new directives to regulate non-cadastral and government-occupied lands.

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Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and state spokesperson K.G. Kenye said the long-pending Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) issue raised by the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation is currently under discussion with the Government of India.

Addressing media persons in Kohima today, he informed that the Political Affairs sub-committee, led by Chief Minister Rio, is meeting officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi today. Expressing optimism, Mr Kenye said the state government hopes for a positive announcement from the Centre on February 5 regarding the creation of the proposed FNTA.

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President Droupadi Murmu has revoked the President rule in Manipur with effect from today. The President's rule was imposed in Manipur on 13th February last year. The Home Ministry has issued a gazette notification in this regard. BJP leader Y Khemchand Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur today. Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla administered the oath of office and secrecy to him.

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Today is World Cancer Day. The day is observed on the 4th of February every year to raise cancer awareness and encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. This year, World Cancer day is being observed under the theme – United by Unique to place people at the centre of care and their stories at the heart of the conversation. Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda today said that the day serves as a reminder to support cancer survivors and encourage regular screenings for a healthier society.

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Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang today underscored the vital role of student organisations in community and state development. Addressing the 79th General Conference of Chakhesang Students' Union (CSU) at Zuketsa in Phek district, he said student bodies like CSU mould leadership and values. On the conference theme, 'Nurturing Identity through Knowledge and Culture,' he said progress driven by knowledge must remain anchored in culture and values.

Highlighting development potential of Phek district, the Deputy CM reaffirmed the government's focus on improving road connectivity, market access, and infrastructure to better integrate the district into the state's growth framework.

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Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that the historic India and US trade deal is a significant step towards strengthening relations between the two countries and advancing the journey of India towards Viksit Bharat by 2047. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, Mr Goyal said, during this trade agreement amid opposition uproar, India has been able to successfully safeguard its interests in sensitive sectors particularly agriculture and dairy. He informed the House that the deal was concluded after several rounds of deliberations spanning nearly a year.

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A one-day orientation programme for Dobashis (DBs) of Kohima District was held yesterday at Kohima, to strengthen their understanding of administrative, judicial and governance roles. Deputy Commissioner Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, highlighted the historical importance of the Dobashi institution in Naga society and urged DBs to uphold integrity, neutrality and fairness while adapting to changing social and administrative conditions.

Sessions were conducted by district officials on the origin and evolution of the Dobashi institution, Village Council Act 1978, Bengal Frontier Regulation Act 1873, current administrative roles of DBs, and their responsibilities in customary justice and legal procedures.

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Advisor for School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, visited the KMC dumping site at Dzürüzou, Meriema yesterday to review ongoing legacy waste remediation work under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0, Dumpsite Remediation Acceleration Programme. Mission Director Kezhochole Rhetso, and officials of the Kohima Municipal Council highlighted that the remediation work underway to make Kohima a dumpsite-free city is set for completion within the timeline set by the Ministry. Mr. Yhome urged officials to expedite the work and appealed to the public to cooperate by practising proper waste segregation at the household level.

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The Nagaland Economics and Statistics Department will begin its statewide special drive for online registration and digitisation of old manual birth and death certificates from tomorrow. The drive will be carried out across all registration units in Nagaland and will continue until February 20. Citizens holding old manual certificates may approach their concerned registrars for digitisation. For assistance, they may contact the helpline number 7005404269 during office hours.

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