

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

24th February 2026

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MLA and Secretary General Naga People's Front (NPF), Achumbemo Kikon said the NPF remains committed to the Naga political issue, with Naga integration as its topmost priority. Addressing an orientation programme for legislators and party leaders at NPF Central Office in Kohima yesterday, Mr Kikon announced that the Election Commission of India has officially communicated its acceptance of the merger. He emphasised that with the recent merger of Naga regional political parties, the NPF must strive to do its best. He noted that the party should act as a channel between the government and the grassroots people, urging leaders to be well-equipped to fulfill their responsibilities. He stressed that as the regional party has now become a larger family, it must work in accordance with people's expectations. Reaffirming the party's longstanding position, Mr Kikon said that the NPF remains committed to the Naga political issue, with Naga integration as its topmost priority. "The NPF stands beyond statehood," he added. The General Secretary also appreciated Home Minister Amit Shah's assurance to take the Naga political issue to the ministerial level.

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The Nagaland Government Teachers' Association (NGTA), representing the erstwhile SSA and RMSA 2010 and 2013 batches, will launch a two-day pen-down strike starting today over unresolved salary issues. Although 2,293 teachers were mainstreamed into the State Education Cadre in September 2022 with effect from April 21, 2022, the Association alleged that their salaries are still being drawn under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme instead of the State Account Head applicable to regular state cadre employees. After serving a seven-day ultimatum on February 16 to the Principal Director of School Education and receiving no response, the Association said it was compelled to proceed with the pen-down strike. The NGTA further cautioned that if the issue remains unresolved during the two-day strike, it would launch a peaceful and democratic agitation from February 26 until their demands are addressed.

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Government yesterday sanctioned over 2.88 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 at the meeting of 6th Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee held in New Delhi. Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry informed that the newly sanctioned houses have been approved in 16 States and Union Territories including Nagaland under different verticals of PMAY-U 2.0 such as the Beneficiary Led Construction of 1.66 lakh houses, 1.09 lakh houses under Affordable Housing in Partnership and 12,846 houses under Affordable Rental Housing. The Ministry further added that the total number of sanctioned houses under the Scheme is now over 13 lakh 61 thousand.

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The Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday unveiled the country's new national counter-terrorism policy and strategy titled PRAHAAR. The strategy outlines the comprehensive framework to address evolving terror threats using a proactive approach to prevent and counter terrorist threats.

Vc:PRAHAAR stands for Prevention of terror attacks to protect Indian citizens and interests, Responses, which are swift and proportionate to the threat posed, Aggregating internal capacities for achieving synergy in a whole-of-government approach, Human rights and 'Rule of Law' based processes for mitigation of threats, Attenuating the conditions enabling terrorism, including radicalization, Aligning and shaping the international efforts to counter terrorism and Recovery and resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

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The Indian Embassy in Tehran has urged the Indian nationals in Iran to leave the country by available means of transport, including commercial flights. The Embassy has reiterated its advisory issued on January 14 this year, saying all Indian citizens and Persons of Indian Origin should exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests or demonstrations, stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Iran and monitor local media for any developments. The Embassy also issued helpline numbers +98 912 810 9115 and +98 912 810 9109. The Embassy can also be reached at cons.tehran@mea.gov.in.

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