

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

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Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya said the Centre is placing special emphasis on the development of the Northeastern states. Addressing a press briefing in Chümoukedima yesterday at the conclusion of her 3-day visit to Dimapur, she said the government aims to make the region self-reliant and ensure that benefits of welfare schemes reach every section of the society.

Highlighting the vast potential of Nagaland, the Union Minister encouraged people in the state to promote local products such as handicrafts, handlooms and agricultural produce under the 'Make in India' initiative. She further highlighted the importance of skill development among youth and women, and called for collective efforts to make Nagaland a developed state.

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Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence and Central Nodal Officer for PM SHRI Schools in Nagaland, Dinesh Kumar, visited the state on February 20 and 21 to review implementation of the PM SHRI scheme. During the visit, he inspected Government Higher Secondary School Chümoukedima, Government High Schools at Naharbari and Thahekhu, and Kendriya Vidyalaya Project Sewak in Dimapur, where he interacted with students and teachers and shared the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 to develop model schools across the country. Acknowledging the need to strengthen infrastructure, including classrooms, laboratories, and sanitation facilities, Mr Kumar assured to take up the issues with the Centre. During a coordination meeting with education officials, he expressed concern over declining enrolment and poor transition rates from Class 9 to 10 in some schools. He directed officials to prepare school-wise action plan for

improvement. Mr Kumar also called on Nagaland Chief Secretary Sentianger Imchen in Kohima.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi will share his thoughts with the people of the country and abroad in the Mann Ki Baat programme on Akashvani at 11 AM today. It will be the 131st episode of the monthly radio programme.

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The India AI Impact Summit 2026 has adopted the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence. The declaration has been endorsed by a total 88 countries and international organisations, reflecting a broad-based global consensus on leveraging AI for economic growth and social good. Guided by the principle of “Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya” the Declaration called for strengthening global cooperation and stressed that the benefits of AI must be equitably shared across humanity. Meanwhile, curtains came down on the India-AI Impact Expo at Bharat Mandapam last evening.

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A special programme to honour the legacy of football legend Dr. T. Ao was held yesterday at Impur Mission Center in Mokokchung. The event marked the official renaming of the Impur Ground to Dr. T. Ao Ground. It was organized by the Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang in collaboration with the Nagaland Football Association (NFA) and Mokokchung District Football Association. Several dignitaries attended the programme and paid tributes to Dr. Ao’s contributions to football and the community. The unveiling of the new ground name was carried out by NFA President K. Neibou Sekhose. The programme concluded with an exhibition football match between NFA Eleven and ABAM Eleven, which ended in a one-all draw.

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And in Cricket, the Boys Under-16 Inter-District Tournament 2026-27 begins tomorrow. Nine districts are taking part in the third edition of the tournament. Matches will be played at GNR Ground, Sovima Cricket Ground and Chümoukedima Village Ground.

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