

## Evening News Script

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### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- Governor's Award honours excellence in Arts, Music and Literature
- Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla highlights role of arts and literature in preserving culture
- Hokato Hotozhe Sema becomes first Indian Army para-athlete to receive both VSM and AVSM
- And, Parliament takes up discussion on motion of thanks on President's address

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Four individuals and one musical group from Nagaland were conferred with the Governor's Award for Distinction in Arts, Music and Literature 2025 for their outstanding contributions in preserving, enriching, and reimagining the cultural identity of the state. The awards were presented by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, at Dr. Imkongliba Ao Hall, Lok Bhavan, Kohima, today. Mannyei Konyak from Mon and Guru Rarenbenba from Mokokchung were honoured in the field of Arts, while Coloured Keys from Chümoukedima and Moko Koza from Phek district received the award in the field of Music. Vishü Rita Krocha was conferred the award in the field of Literature. Instituted in 2003, the Governor's Award for Arts, Music and Literature has grown to become one of the state's most prestigious recognitions.

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Nagaland Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla has emphasized the importance of arts and literature in preserving the cultural identity of the people of the state. Speaking at the Governor's Award ceremony in Kohima today, he described Nagaland as a land blessed with extraordinary cultural wealth, marked by diverse traditions, languages, folklore, rhythms, and artistic expressions. He said that Naga arts and literature are not confined to galleries or bookshelves but live through festivals, songs, dances, storytelling, and everyday life. He said, they represent the soul and living memory of the history of the Naga people. Congratulating the awardees, the Governor said that in a rapidly changing world where modernity often overshadows tradition, the role of artists, musicians, and writers has become even more significant.

The Governor stressed that cultural growth must go hand in hand with economic and technological advancement, adding that a society investing in arts and literature is investing in its soul. He urged educational institutions, government departments, and civil society organisations to continue nurturing creative talent and expanding platforms for artistic expression. Commending the state government's efforts to promote cultural preservation and creative industries, he said such initiatives strengthen identity, create livelihoods, foster tourism, and enhance Nagaland's national and international presence. Governor Bhalla called upon all stakeholders to build an ecosystem where creativity flourishes, diversity is celebrated, and excellence is encouraged.

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Parliament has taken up discussion on the motion of thanks on President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both the Houses. Moving the motion in the Rajya Sabha, Nominated Member C Sadanandan Master said, the Presidents' address articulated a clear and confident vision of India's journey towards Viksit Bharat. Rajya Sabha has allotted a total of 16 hours for the discussion. During the discussion in Lok Sabha, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said President Murmu's address provided an inspiring vision for the country's future. He said, it reflects the government's vision of social justice, inclusive growth and commitment for Viksit Bharat.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that a total of 18 hours have been allotted in the Lok Sabha for the discussion. Talking to reporters, he said, the discussion will spread over three days and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will reply to the discussion in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

On the fourth day of the Budget Session 2026, proceedings in the Lok Sabha remained disrupted. Following repeated interruptions, the House was adjourned till tomorrow.

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Nagaland's paralympian Hokato Hotozhe Sema of the Assam Regiment has been conferred the prestigious Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), becoming the first Indian Army para-athlete to receive both the Vishisht Seva Medal and the AVSM. Highlighting the achievement on social media X, PHED Minister Jacob Zhimomi said Mr Sema's journey reflects grit, discipline and determination, calling it an epitome of excellence. The Minister wished him continued success and glory in the service of the nation. The honour was conferred during the 77th Republic Day celebrations.

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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. Over a decade, PRAGATI has helped accelerate decision-making, resolution of issues causing delay in key infrastructure projects, and instilled a strong culture of accountability. In this special series, today, our correspondent takes a look at the projects related to the Ministry of Railways.

**(VC)-** Indian Railways is one of the strongest pillars of country's economic and social infrastructure, forming the backbone of passenger mobility and freight transportation across the country. As one of the world's largest railway systems, it plays a vital role in national integration, logistics efficiency and regional connectivity. A total of 387 railway projects with a cumulative investment of over 12 lakh crore rupees are currently being monitored on the Project Monitoring Group portal. Out of these, 97 high-value projects have been reviewed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the PRAGATI mechanism. These projects include high-speed rail corridors, Dedicated Freight Corridors, new line projects in difficult terrains, and large station redevelopment initiatives. Railways has executed some of the most complex and ambitious infrastructure projects like Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, providing all-weather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley through Chenab Bridge and Anji Bridge, commissioning of the Bairabi-Sairang line in the Northeast, and inauguration of India's first vertical-lift sea bridge at Pamban, in Tamil Nadu. The PRAGATI mechanism has played a critical role in expediting railway projects by resolving inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues related to land acquisition and forest clearances. Indian Railways supports industrial growth, agricultural supply chains, tourism, defence logistics and the daily mobility of millions of citizens, making it indispensable to the country's development trajectory.

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The Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0 was officially launched today at the Akuhaito Aspirational Block in Zunheboto. The programme focuses on key indicators across health, nutrition, education, and agriculture sectors. Delivering the keynote address, Deputy Commissioner Zunheboto, Dharam Raj, expressed concern over the block's current performance, saying progress has been unsatisfactory despite three years of the programme's implementation. He urged for focused efforts and better coordination among key departments to improve outcomes. Mr Raj directed that all fieldwork under the programme be completed by March 31.

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And in cricket... The Ranji Trophy Elite match between Nagaland and Andhra ended in a draw at the Nagaland Cricket Stadium in Sovima yesterday. Andhra secured the first-innings lead.

The match saw notable performances, with Chetan Bist scoring twin centuries for Nagaland and CR Gnaneshwar hitting a double hundred for Andhra.

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