

Evening News Script

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THE HEADLINES

- Naga Students' Federation organises mass rally opposing imposition of national song Vande Mataram.
- Kiphire observes National Vaccination Day.
- Jal Mahotsav Pakhwada 2026 under Jal Jeevan Mission observed at Dimapur.
- And, PIB Kohima takes Nagaland journalists on tour to South Bihar.

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The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) today organised a mass rally at Old MLA Hostel Junction in Kohima opposing the alleged imposition of national song Vande Mataram. Following the rally, members marched to Lok Bhavan and submitted a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu through the Governor of Nagaland. In the memorandum, the NSF objected to a directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs mandating the playing or singing of Vande Mataram at official functions and educational institutions.

The federation said such imposition raises concerns over freedom of conscience and cultural sensitivity, particularly among the Naga people. Describing the rally as a peaceful democratic protest, the NSF urged the President to withdraw the

directive and called for greater consultation with Naga representatives on policies affecting the region.



National Vaccination Day was observed today in Kiphire with a vaccination drive organised by the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services department under Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Tsilise Sangtam. The programme was attended by veterinarians and NITI Aayog Aspirational Block Fellow Ningsangwu Bomrr, who flagged off the drive and assured support for district development under Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0. A three-day vaccination campaign covering 11 wards of Kiphire town and nearby villages was launched to vaccinate cattle against Foot and Mouth Disease and pigs against Classical Swine Fever.



The Jal Mahotsav Pakhwada 2026 under the Jal Jeevan Mission was observed at the DC Office in Dimapur today. The programme was organised by the District Water and Sanitation Mission and PHED Urban Division as part of a nationwide water conservation campaign running from March 8–22. DC Dimapur Dr. Tinojongshi Chang urged communities to take responsibility for maintaining rural water supply systems, stressing that long-term success depends on community participation. PHED Executive Engineer Bendangtola Walling said major infrastructure has been created since 2019 under the mission, with the focus now shifting to handing over schemes to village communities for operation and maintenance. She added that the campaign, launched on International Women’s Day, also aims to increase women’s participation in water management. As part of the observation, discussions were held on forming technical and source-sustenance committees to monitor rural water supply systems and ensure their sustainability.



Under the aegis of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Kohima, under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, a seven-day media tour to South Bihar for journalists from Nagaland commenced today. The team departed from Dimapur Airport and is scheduled to return on March 22. The tour aims to provide local media with an opportunity to observe the implementation

of government schemes, cover key programmes of various ministries, interact with journalists from other regions, and gain insights into the socio-economic and cultural aspects of different states. The delegation comprises representatives from the Department of Information and Public Relations and members of both print and electronic media organisations, led by officials from PIB Kohima.



The Nagaland Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Mission (NSEDMD) under the Government of Nagaland, in collaboration with National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Kohima, will organise a Mega Job Fair on March 21 at the Integrated Business Hub and Innovation Centre, IDAN, Forest Colony in Dimapur. The initiative aims to bring employers and job seekers together on a single platform. Addressing media persons in Kohima, Under Secretary and Project Lead NSEDMD, Meripeni said the job fair will offer opportunities across sectors such as hospitality, healthcare and construction. She also informed that a dedicated online registration portal has been launched to help streamline coordination between employers and candidates.

Under Secretary and Project Manager in-charge of NSEDMD, I. Changsang said over 6,000 vacancies have been opened by 33 employers, including two recruiters licensed under the Ministry of External Affairs, but only 326 candidates have registered so far, despite ongoing concerns about unemployment in the state. Meanwhile, Technical Officer at NIELIT Kohima and Placement Officer, Moasunep Kichu said the registration process is transparent and structured, with all job listings available on the portal. Candidates unable to attend the recruitment centre in Dimapur can also access online support at NIELIT centres in Meriema, Chuchuyimlang and the NIELIT study centre at the SP Office in Mokokchung.

Interested candidates can register through the portal www.nsedm.in/jobfair or via the QR code provided by the organisers.



Nagaland will host the 9th North East Youth Festival organized by the Department of Youth Resources & Sports and sponsored by Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav will inaugurate the four-day long festival on March 18 at 5 pm at Chumoukedima Football stadium. Addressing media today, Director of Youth Resources & Sports Department, Kethosituo Sekhose informed that the festival is flagship initiative of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports designed to promote national integration, cultural exchange and youth engagement among the eight north eastern states.

Mr Sekhose said the festival is organized under the theme 'Ashtalakshmi - Celebrating Eight Forces of Youth and Progress'. The festival will have competitive events in folk song and dance, declamation, one-act play, rock band and instrumental guitar. He said the youth will have the opportunity to participate in non-competitive events featuring folk music, traditional dances and martial arts. Mr Sekhose said about 1200 youth from different states for the event.

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The Chief Electoral Officer Nagaland has constituted a Pre-Certification Committee to scrutinise and certify political advertisements ahead of the bye-election to the 28-Koridang Assembly Constituency. The committee will be chaired by Additional Chief Electoral Officer Awa Lorin, with members Ruopfukuotuo Noudi, ADC HQ Kohima, Asonuo, Assistant Director (News), Akashvani, Kohima, and Ruokuovizo Chupuo, Senior Programme Officer, Directorate of Information Technology & Communication. The committee will examine applications for certification of political advertisements to be aired on television channels and cable networks from political parties, organisations, and associations within the state.

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