

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

5th March 2026

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has said that the Foothill Road project is facing major challenges due to land acquisition issues, despite assurance of central support. Stating this during his concluding remarks on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address on Tuesday, Mr Rio highlighted that the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had agreed to construct the road and declare it a National Highway, provided the state makes 30 meters of land available and secures forest and environmental clearances. However, he said, landowners have refused to part with land without compensation. The Chief Minister clarified that compensation cannot be processed as the road has not yet been declared a National Highway. He added that district deputy commissioners had been directed to hold consultations with tribal groups and landowners to assess their willingness to provide land. He noted that the ministry had sent two reminders seeking updates on the matter, but the state government could not give a reply due to the pending issue. The Chief Minister said the foothill road would significantly boost economic activities in the region, and called for resolving the issue to move the long-pending project forward.

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Conflict in West Asia has intensified as Israel carried out a series of strikes on the Basij and internal security command centers in Tehran belonging to the Iranian regime. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth claimed that a torpedo from a US submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean near Sri Lanka, adding that it was the first such attack on an enemy since World War II. On the deadly strike on the girl school in Tehran, which Iranian officials claimed killed at least 153 people including many children, he said the US does not target civilian sites and emphasized that an investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, commander of US Central Command, Admiral Brad Cooper, has said that the US will not stop and Iran's ability to hit back is declining rapidly.

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In view of the current situation in West Asia and the Gulf region, India's External Affairs Ministry has set up a Control Room. The Control Room can be contacted from 9 AM to 9 PM at toll free number 1800-118-797, or via 011-2301 2113, 011-2301 4104 and 011-2301 7905. In addition, Indian embassies in the conflict region have set up 24x7 emergency helplines to assist in coordinating safety measures and potential evacuations.

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Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan is expected to arrive in Nagaland tomorrow on a one-day visit. During his visit, Mr Radhakrishnan will attend the 8th convocation ceremony of Nagaland University at Lumami as Chief Guest. The VP is also scheduled to attend the convocations of Mizoram University on March 7 and Tripura University on March 8.

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Dimapur Police announced traffic restrictions tomorrow along the National Highway from Airport Junction at 3rd Mile to Chümoukedima. According to a traffic advisory, no parking will be allowed in the stretch from 6 AM to 3 PM. Further, vehicles will be allowed to park only on one side of the road from 4th Mile, Central Jail junction, to the Christian Institute of Health Sciences and Research, Referral Hospital. Police have urged citizens to cooperate and strictly adhere to the advisory.

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In Cricket, New Zealand defeated South Africa by nine wickets in the first semi-final clash of ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Eden Gardens in Kolkata last night. Chasing a target of 170 runs set by South Africa, New Zealand overhauled the score in just 12.5 overs. India will face England in the second semifinal match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai this evening. The final match will be played on 8th of March at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

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