

Evening News Script

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:::THE HEADLINES:::

1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman says Budget 2024-25 strikes fine balance among priorities like growth, employment.
2. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Diethono Nakhro advocates enhanced support and accessibility for persons with disabilities.
3. Lok Sabha resumes discussion on Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Railways for 2024-25.
4. And in the 2024 Paris Olympics, Indian Pugilist Lovlina Borgohain is through to the quarter-final of women's 75kg Boxing

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the Union Budget strikes a fine balance among priorities like growth, employment, welfare, capital investment, and financial consolidation. She was replying to the debate on the Union Budget 2024-25 in the Rajya Sabha today. Saying that the government believes in the motto of sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, and sabka prayaas, the Finance Minister stressed that the budget has proposed unflinching support for cooperative federalism. The Finance Minister rejected the opposition's allegation of a reduction in allocation in the agriculture sector. Sitharaman informed that 1.48 lakh crore rupees have been allocated for education, employment, and skilling.



State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Diethono Nakhro, has advocated for enhanced support and accessibility for persons with disabilities. She pointed out the need to activate the District Level Committees on Disability, maintaining that many are not functioning as per the mandates of the Disability Act. Nakhro was today speaking at the distribution camp for persons with disabilities, Divyangjan, organized by the District Level Committee on Disability in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, in Kohima. The camp was held under the scheme Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase, Fitting of Aids and Appliances. Nakhro said that families with disabled members face unique and high costs requiring extra assistance. She observed that there is limited support from society, the church, and the government for affected families. She pointed out that the high costs of assistive aids and devices often lead to exclusion and isolation for persons with disabilities. Kohima Deputy Commissioner Kumar Ramnikant in his speech emphasized on the importance of making society more accessible. He said that equality cannot be achieved without accessibility, and this camp represents a small but significant step towards creating a more inclusive society. The DC urged the community to be more aware of the needs of persons with disabilities.



The Lok Sabha today resumed discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Railways for 2024-25. Participating in the discussion, TM Selvaganapathi of DMK raised the issue of safety of Railways and higher operational cost. He accused the government for giving less allocation for the Railways projects in Tamil Nadu. Dilip Saikia of BJP said, the country is witnessing the positive effects of works done to build the robust Railways infrastructure. He said, world class Railways infrastructure have been made under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said, budgetary allocation for Railways have witnessed tremendous growth since 2014. He said, Railways has received a record allocation of over two lakh 52 thousand crore rupees in financial year 2024-25.

Devesh Shakya of Samajwadi Party, Bapi Haldar of TMC, Harish Chandra Meena of Congress also participated in the discussion.

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Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax, GST imposed on life and medical insurance premiums. Gadkari in a letter to the Finance Minister said that the 18 per cent GST currently levied on life and medical insurance premiums tends to penalize individuals seeking to protect themselves and their families against life's uncertainties. He contended that taxing life insurance premiums essentially taxes the very act of preparing for unforeseen circumstances, which is counter-productive to the objective of providing financial security. Gadkari said high tax rate discourages individuals from investing in medical insurance, despite its crucial role in ensuring public health and financial stability.

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Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended warm greetings to the Ao community on the occasion of Tsungremmong. Rio in his greeting message said that Tsungremmong is a pre-harvest festival of thanksgiving and seeking God's blessings for a bountiful harvest. The Chief Minister expressed hope that the festivities will be filled with happiness and lasting memories.

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The launching program of the scheme PM- Vishwakarma Skilling Component was held today in Kiphire. Kiphire Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, DIC - PM Vishwakarma, Temsuwati Longkumer in his address said that components of the scheme such as Skill development, access to finance, technology adoption and marketing linkages are aimed at fostering innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship in all round development. The DC urged all participants to give their best during the training programme. PM-VKS ID Cards were also distributed to the beneficiaries.

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In Kerala, death toll in the massive landslide that devastated Wayanad yesterday has reached 157. 186 injured people are undergoing treatment in various hospitals. About 100 people are reportedly missing. Relief and rescue operations are in full swing. Several bodies are believed to be buried beneath the debris. While Several others washed away in the landslide into Chaliyar river in Malappuram district.

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The India Meteorological Department has forecast isolated extremely heavy rainfall with very heavy falls over the Northeast, Northwest, West, Central, and Southern parts of the country for the next few days. IMD said many areas across the country will witness very heavy rainfall for the next four days. Meanwhile, state capital Kohima recorded a maximum temperature of 24.4 Degree Celsius and a minimum of 18.1 Degree Celsius in the past 24 hours. A rainfall of 18.1 mm was recorded with a Relative Humidity of 88 per cent.

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A total of Two Thousand 463 security personnel from Central Armed Police Force and Assam Rifles have lost their lives on duty between 2021 and 2023. Out of these, 112 had died in action while Two Thousand 351 died. In a written reply in Rajya Sabha today, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said, benefits are being provided to the families or Next of Kins of the personnel who sacrifice their lives for the nation.

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The Union Public Service Commission, UPSC has cancelled the provisional candidature of Puja Khedkar and permanently debarred her from all its future Exams. The UPSC announced in a release that after examining available records, it has found Khedkar guilty of violating Civil Services Examination - CSE 2022 Rules. The Commission had earlier issued a show cause notice to her for fraudulently availing attempts beyond the permissible limit by faking her identity. The UPSC

said it will further strengthen the Standard Operating Procedure to ensure that such a case does not recur in the future.

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At the 2024 Paris Olympics Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale qualified for the final of men's 50m rifle Three Positions event by finishing 7th with a score of 590. In boxing, Indian Pugilist Lovlina Borgohain is through to the quarter-final of women's 75kg Boxing. Lovlina won the Round of 16 bout with an unanimous decision defeating Sunniva Hofstad of Norway. In Badminton both PV Sindhu and Laksha Sen entered to round of 16. In archery, Deepika Kumari kumari entered into round 16. Meanwhile, in the women's 54kg round of 16 boxing match, Preeti Pawar lost to Yeni Arias of Colombia in a 3, 2 split decision. So far, India have won two medals, both bronze in shooting.

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