

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls for support on India's defining reform to empower women
- Governor Nand Kishore Yadav reviews water supply and sanitation initiatives in Nagaland
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio underscores role of rural libraries in literacy and community growth
- And, High-level state government delegation inspects projects in Lower Tizu

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India's Nari Shakti have reached new heights through their hard work, courage and confidence. He urged everyone to come together to empower Women by expanding opportunities. Addressing the Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan in New Delhi today, Mr Modi said that India is going to take one of the biggest decisions of the 21st century and this decision is dedicated to women's empowerment.

He said, the Parliament is on the verge of creating a new history, one that will fulfill the aspirations of the past and the future. Prime Minister Modi said, from the State Legislative Assemblies to the Parliament of the country, the long wait of decades is coming to an end on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of this month.

Meanwhile, Congress, Janata Dal United and Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) have issued a three line whip to all its MPs in Lok Sabha and

Rajya Sabha to remain present in the House from 16th to 18th April, and support the party stand.

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Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav, today reviewed the progress of water supply and sanitation initiatives in the state during a meeting with the Public Health Engineering Department at Lok Bhavan in Kohima. Highlighting progress under key national programmes, department officials informed that under Jal Jeevan Mission, the state has achieved nearly 95 percent household tap water coverage as of April 1, benefiting over 3.45 lakh households. Further, 1,258 villages, or 88 percent, have been declared ODF Plus under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). During the meeting, the Governor highlighted key challenges such as depleting water sources, funding constraints, and maintenance issues. He stressed the need for sustainable water management, timely implementation of projects, and stronger community participation. Mr Yadav further emphasized upon rainwater harvesting as a sustainable solution to address water shortages, particularly in urban and water-stressed areas.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has underscored the vital role of rural libraries in promoting literacy and fostering community development across Nagaland. He stated that rural libraries under the Department of Art and Culture continue to serve as important platforms for expanding educational access by providing books, learning spaces, and digital infrastructure. Mr Rio said, these libraries function as knowledge hubs that encourage reading habits, facilitate information sharing, and create spaces for community engagement. Highlighting the scale of the initiative, the Chief Minister noted that the Department's public library network comprise one State Library, one Museum Library, 11 District Libraries, and 448 enlisted rural libraries across Nagaland. Mr Rio noted that the rural libraries, operated by NGOs, student bodies, and community organisations, play a key role in extending educational resources to remote and underserved areas. He added that the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation supports these rural libraries by providing books and infrastructure. In addition, under the SASCI Scheme of the Finance Ministry, Children and Adolescent Libraries

along with digital infrastructure have been established, with 120 libraries now equipped with digital facilities. The Chief Minister said this move has significantly enhanced digital access, promoted digital literacy, and helped create inclusive, child-friendly learning environments for young learners in both urban and rural areas.

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A high-level delegation of the state government, led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, visited Lower Tizu under Pungro sub-division in Kiphire district from April 10 to 13 to inspect ongoing development projects. The delegation included Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton, along with Ministers, Advisors, and MLAs. During the four-day visit, they reviewed key construction works such as of the Tourist Amenities Centre, Lower Tizu road and the Setsu-Lalori-Phor road. The delegation also visited Ranyak Khun Cave, Mimi and held discussions with the Mimi Circle Joint Council on future developments. The visit was supported by the district administration and local police forces.

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Search operations to recover the body of a youth feared drowned in the Doyang Reservoir resumed today. However, despite combined efforts of the SDRF and NDRF, the body was not located. Search operations began at 6:30 AM but were called off at 4:00 PM due to cold water conditions and limited underwater visibility. The operation will resume tomorrow, with the team still awaiting the arrival of an underwater drone to assist in the search. Meanwhile, local villagers are supporting the search teams with food and other assistance to during the ongoing operation.

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A new study led by researchers from Nagaland University has identified anti-cancer potential of traditional herbal formulation used by the Konyak Naga tribe. In a preliminary investigation, the team analysed a five-plant formulation long used in indigenous medicine and found that its bioactive compounds can target VEGFR2, a protein responsible for the growth of blood vessels in tumours. Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry,

Nagaland University, Dr. G. Bupesh noted that the study used advanced scientific techniques, including chemical analysis and molecular simulations, to identify compounds that performed comparable to existing cancer drugs with while indicating lower toxicity.

The study was carried out in collaboration with Berhampur University and Saveetha Medical College. Researchers emphasized that further laboratory and clinical studies are needed to confirm the results, particularly for colon cancer treatment. The study highlights the value of indigenous medicinal practices and their potential in offering new pathways for natural and cost-effective drug development.

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And, The Foundational Learning Study 2026, conducted by the National Assessment Centre under NCERT, began in Nagaland today. The two-day assessment is being held across 70 selected schools in 10 districts, covering 798 Grade-3 students from both government and private schools. A team of two state-level and district coordinators each, along with 70 field investigators have been deployed to ensure smooth conduct. The study aims to gather reliable data on early learning outcomes to support better education planning and strengthen foundational education across the state.

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