

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

24th May 2026

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio yesterday discussed sustained progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and issues related to regional and global peace and security. Mr Rubio called on Prime Minister Modi at Seva Teerth in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Dr Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval were also present during the meeting. The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that Secretary Rubio briefed Mr Modi on the sustained progress in bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, education and people-to-people ties. He shared the US perspective on various regional and global issues, including the situation in West Asia. The Prime Minister reaffirmed India's consistent support for peace efforts and reiterated the call for peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. Later, Mr Rubio inaugurated the US Embassy Support Annex Building, where he said India is at the cornerstone of how the US approaches the Indo-Pacific.

Secretary Rubio is on a four-day visit to India to take part in the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting on the 26th of May.

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Petrol and diesel prices were raised again yesterday, taking the cumulative increase in retail fuel rates to nearly 5 rupees a litre in less than 10 days. The latest revision pushed petrol prices higher by 87 paise per litre and diesel by up to 91 paise across the country. Alongside, compressed natural gas (CNG) prices were raised by 1 rupee per kg, taking the cumulative hike to 4 rupees per kg.

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Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies - IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum - have assured that availability of petrol, diesel and LPG remain adequate and uninterrupted across Nagaland. They said the overall fuel supply position in the state is stable. The companies noted that the entire fuel supply chain, including terminals, storage depots, LPG bottling plants, retail outlets and distributorships, is functioning normally, with daily dispatches continuing as scheduled to ensure adequate stock levels in all districts. The companies said they are maintaining close coordination on logistics, stock movement and replenishment to ensure uninterrupted fuel availability despite prevailing global uncertainties. Consumers have been advised to continue normal purchasing practices and avoid panic buying or stockpiling. The companies also urged the public to rely only on official communications for verified information on fuel availability.

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The Foothill Road stretch from Doyang Bridge to Merapani sector under EE Baghty Division in Wokha was inaugurated yesterday by MLA Achumbemo Kikon. Speaking at the programme, Mr Kikon said the project was completed within one year, three months and two days as per approved specifications. He urged transporters to cooperate in maintaining the road and appealed for more government funding for blacktopping work. The Roads and Bridges Department said the 38.6-kilometer stretch under SASCI 2023-24 was divided into three road packages and five double-lane modular steel bridges, with almost all works completed. Speaking on behalf of M/S Chabou & Co. and JK Construction, contractor Dr. John Murry said that minor repairs would continue till the end of the month. Lotha Hoho, Lotha Lower Range Public organisation and other Civil society organisations attended the event.

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And, Honorary Secretary of the Nagaland Basketball Association, Sentiningsang Longkumer has been appointed Team Manager of the India Under-18 Girls Basketball team for the FIBA Under-18 Asia Cup – SABA Qualifiers 2026 to be held in Sri Lanka from May 25 to 29. Mr Longkumer becomes the first Naga basketball

administrator to lead a national team as Manager marking a historic milestone for the state. He had also previously served as an Executive Member of the Basketball Federation of India. India's Under-18 Girls and Under-18 Boys teams will compete for continental qualification. The girls' qualifiers will feature India, Maldives, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

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