

Morning News Script

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India and Slovakia yesterday elevated their ties to a comprehensive partnership. The two sides also inked 11 agreements to boost cooperation in key areas including labour migration, digital technology and defence following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico in Bratislava. Later, addressing a joint press conference, Mr Modi said, elevation of ties symbolises shared beliefs, priorities and future.

Speaking on this occasion, Slovak Prime Minister lauded India's rapid economic growth, saying the country has outpaced many advanced nations in key sectors. The Prime Ministers also agreed to establish a joint working group on counter-terrorism. Meanwhile, Slovakia has conferred its highest civilian honour, The Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class) on Prime Minister Modi.

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Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced that he will visit Nagaland within the next 15 to 20 days to unveil a special package and address pending issues concerning the state. Mr. Gadkari gave the assurance during the North East India Infrastructure Summit and Exhibition 2026 in Shillong yesterday, where he also announced major road connectivity projects worth nearly 50,000 crore rupees for the Northeast, including the Silchar-Shillong and Shillong-Guwahati corridors. He said infrastructure development would serve as the region's growth engine and stressed the need for transparent and time-bound execution of projects.

The programme was attended by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, and Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang, among other dignitaries. Later, at a separate event in Shillong, the Union Minister laid the foundation stone and dedicated six National Highway projects to the nation, involving a total investment of 3,214 crore rupees.

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Polling for by-elections to three municipal wards in Nagaland will be held today. The wards going to the polls are Ward 11, Chaara, under Chümoukedima Town Council; Ward 8, Tsumang 'B', under Wokha Town Council; and Ward 9, Samba Ghoki, under Atoizu Town Council. The bypolls in Chümoukedima and Wokha will see a straight contest between NPF and BJP. NPF has also fielded a candidate for the ward in Atoizu. Counting of votes is scheduled for June 19 with declaration of results the same day.

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Minister for Public Health Engineering Department, Jacob Zhimomi, yesterday reviewed the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission during a meeting with departmental officials, including the Mission Director and Executive Engineers of all divisions. The Minister appreciated the officials for their continued commitment to delivering public services at the grassroots level and said their efforts were contributing significantly to boosting the ease of living in all parts of the state.

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Nagaland Higher Education Minister Temjen Imna Along said that digital connectivity has transformed governance and public outreach across the country. Addressing the valedictory session of the two-day D-3 (Digital Democracy Dialogue) 'Triveni' programme in Lucknow yesterday, he said, the digital revolution has broken geographical barriers and ensured that even people living in the remotest villages along the Nagaland-Myanmar border are familiar with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Mr Along urged digital content creators to focus on producing positive content. The Minister added that Nagaland had witnessed significant infrastructure development after 2014, with the highest number of roads constructed, and around 16,000 crore rupees spent on 18 national highway projects in the state.

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