

:::THE HEADLINES:::

- Finance Minister Sitharaman says India's transformation is structural, driven by rapid urbanisation and world-class digital infrastructure.
- APC Nagaland Dr. Chusi says millet has proved suitable for Nagaland's difficult terrain.
- Dimapur Police recovers 126 cartons containing 19,760 bottles of suspected cough syrup.
- IMA urges people to remain vigilant amid a seasonal rise in Influenza A.

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said that India stands as the fastest-growing major economy in the world and offers a unique combination of scale, sustained growth, a young population, expanding consumption and rapidly deepening capital markets. Addressing prominent members of the Indian business community in Toronto today, Sitharaman said India's transformation is structural, driven by rapid urbanisation, a growing middle class and world-class digital infrastructure. She noted that these developments are creating new opportunities across virtually every sector of the economy.

The Finance Minister also highlighted the role of India's digital ecosystem in transforming access to financial and commercial services. She underlined significant opportunities for collaboration with Canadian banks, fintech companies and regulators, not only in payments but also in shaping the next generation of digital financial infrastructure. Referring to the agreement reached between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in June 2025 to reset bilateral ties, Sitharaman said the two countries have reaffirmed their commitment to building a future-focused strategic partnership.

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reached Toronto yesterday, for a four-day official visit to Canada, focused on strengthening bilateral trade, investment linkages and financial cooperation.

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Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr. Zasekuolie Chusi said millet has proved suitable for Nagaland's difficult terrain and slopes and is gaining importance due to

its climate resilience and nutritional value. Speaking at the 2nd Millet Festival at Kezoma Village, he urged farmers to explore alternative agricultural activities as paddy cultivation becomes less economically viable in some areas. He called for better farming practices by combining traditional knowledge with modern technology and machinery to build sustainable rural livelihoods. Director of Agriculture Sanuzo Nienu said efforts to revive millet cultivation were encouraging and assured support to committed farming communities. District Agriculture Officer Kekhrieletuo Yhome highlighted Kezoma's adoption of improved practices, including System of Rice Intensification, covering about 98% of its paddy cultivation, and double cropping. Over 20 stalls at the festival showcased local agricultural products. More than 1,000 kg of millet harvested by villagers in July was sold, along with organic vegetables, fruits and other local produce.

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Dimapur Police raided a warehouse at Jain Temple Road, Marwari Patti, and recovered 126 cartons containing 19,760 bottles of suspected codeine-based cough syrup. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dimapur the seizure include 101 cartons of Bescod Cough Syrup containing 16,160 bottles and 25 cartons of EB-DYL Cough Syrup containing 3,600 bottles. Several other unaccounted pharmaceuticals were also taken into custody for verification. The official said that the raid was conducted based on credible intelligence, with independent witnesses present and the search digitally documented through the e-Sakshya platform. Police said a suo motu case has been registered under the NDPS Act while investigation of the warehouse operators and the suspected supply and distribution network is in progress.

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The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has urged people to remain vigilant amid a seasonal rise in Influenza A (H1N1) cases, saying that the majority of infections are mild and self-limiting and there is no cause for panic. The IMA has advised people not to take antibiotics over the counter for flu symptoms, stressing that H1N1 is a viral infection and antibiotics do not kill viruses. It specifically cautioned against self-medication with antibiotics such as azithromycin, amoxicillin-clavulanate and cefixime. According to the association, antibiotics should be taken only when prescribed by a qualified medical professional. The IMA said H1N1 commonly presents with sudden onset of high-grade fever and chills, persistent dry cough, sore throat, severe muscle aches and fatigue. The association has recommended basic preventive measures including respiratory hygiene by covering their mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing. wearing a well-fitted mask in crowded and enclosed spaces among others.

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Home Minister Amit Shah has said that to emerge as a leader in every sector, India must further strengthen its internal security. Addressing the concluding session of National Security Strategies Conference (NSSC) in New Delhi, Mr Shah said, the move will enable disposal of criminal cases up to the Supreme Court within three years and raise the conviction rate by 25 per cent.

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India has asserted that the immediate priority of the United Nations Security Council must be to take steps to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of ongoing hostilities. Addressing a Security Council open debate titled “Food Under Fire: The Security Council’s Role in Mitigating Global and Local Food Crises”, India’s permanent representative to the UN, P. Harish, called for safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access, as well as support for effective de-confliction arrangements.

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New Delhi has rejected the references in the report of UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, terming them politically motivated and highly malicious. In response to media queries on the Committee’s report following India’s 11th periodic review under International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India participated in the spirit of constructive engagement, as a routine treaty-body review. The Spokesperson said, as a country that played a leading role in negotiating and drafting ICERD in the 1960s, India’s commitment to combating racial discrimination remains unwavering.

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Nagaland Department of Youth Resources and Sports (DYRS) today organised the Athletics Meet 2026 at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Kohima, as part of National Sports Day observance. A total of 183 students from eight schools competed in the 100m, 200m, 400m, long jump and 4x100m relay events across boys’ and girls’ categories. Additional Director Jakedovo Chase said informed that the winners will receive certificates and medals during a special National Sports Day programme on August 29 at the stadium.

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