

Evening News Script

1920 hrs

28th September, 2026

THE HEADLINES :-

- Supreme Court refuses to stay MDR on specified UPI transactions above 2,000 rupees
- Governor Nand Kishore Yadav stresses last-mile delivery, time-bound implementation of government services
- Kohima DC Henok Buchem urges responsible pet ownership amid concerns over roaming dogs
- And BJP State President Benjamin Yepthomi says political allegations concerning electoral process should be supported by evidence

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Supreme Court refused to stay the Centre's decision to impose Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on specified person-to-merchant UPI transactions above 2,000 rupees, with the charges set to take effect from the 15th of next month. Hearing a plea challenging the imposition of MDR on UPI payments above 2,000 rupees, the apex court observed that the issue is less legal and more technical. The Supreme Court also directed the Centre and other respondents to file their counter-affidavits within four weeks.

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Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav has stressed the need for effective last-mile delivery of government services, inter-departmental coordination and time-bound implementation during his visit to Zunheboto district today. Addressing public representatives, civil society organisations and government officials, the Governor emphasised that development should be assessed not merely through release of funds or completion of official procedures, but by actual impact on people's lives. Mr Yadav highlighted education and healthcare as key priority areas.

He also called for greater focus on agricultural productivity, value addition, processing, market linkages and income generation, while stressing the importance of road connectivity, electricity, drinking water and digital connectivity. The Governor urged departments to work in coordination, fix clear timelines and regularly monitor delayed projects. He also encouraged responsible tourism and greater use of technology and data in governance.

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Kohima Deputy Commissioner B Henok Buchem has appealed for responsible pet ownership in view of concerns about pet dogs being allowed to roam freely in the city. Speaking during World Rabies Day observed in Kohima today, he said such incidents have raised safety, hygiene and health concerns besides instances of dog bites and injuries in some colonies. Mr. Buchem informed that Kohima Municipal Council is preparing a regulatory order and said a dog shelter is expected to become operational by mid-October. Once functional, dogs found roaming freely will be taken to shelter by designated team with support from police and local communities, he added . Mr Buchem further announced that two vaccination camps will be organised annually across all 19 wards of Kohima. The DC urged pet owners to provide proper care, ensure timely vaccination and keep their dogs restrained in public spaces. Senior SP Kohima, Krodi Rhetso, described rabies as fatal but preventable disease and called for collective efforts by government departments, pet owners and public.

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Nagaland BJP State President Benjamin Yepthomi has defended Election Commission of India against allegations raised by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over electoral process, Electronic Voting Machines and Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Addressing a press conference in Dimapur yesterday, Mr. Yepthomi said political allegations concerning electoral process should be supported by evidence and urged those raising questions about ECI to approach appropriate authorities with specific proof. Referring to ECI's September 26 statement, he said the Commission had clarified that the SIR order and subsequent schedules were approved unanimously by the full Commission.

The BJP leader also noted that the ECI has outlined measures such as assistance through Booth Level Officers and special drives for voter enrolment with the exercise intended to clean up electoral rolls and remove duplicate or ineligible entries

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi is completing 25 years in public service, a journey defined by the mantra of Jan Seva Se Desh Seva, and a relentless commitment that continues. Guided by this vision for Seva and Sushasan, the Government has been ceaselessly working towards achieving the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Through inclusive development and social empowerment, this dedication is transforming lives. Today, in our special series, we bring you an instance of how this vision has been translated into action through the Startup India initiative.

Launched in 2016, Startup India set out to change India's entrepreneurial culture - from a nation of job seekers to a nation of job creators; innovators and problem-solvers. What began with just around 400 recognised startups has grown to 2 lakh+ DPIIT-recognised startups creating more than 23 lakh direct jobs by March 2026, making India the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. The transformation is no longer confined to Bengaluru, Mumbai or Delhi. Nearly 50 percent of recognised startups now originate from Tier-II and Tier-III cities, signalling a genuine decentralisation of entrepreneurship. The mindset is being

built even earlier. Over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established in schools, with 1.1 crore+ students actively engaged across India encouraging children to experiment, build prototypes and solve local problems before they ever become entrepreneurs. Women are increasingly leading this transformation too, more than 1 lakh recognised startups had at least one woman director or partner by March 2026-this is around 50 percent of all recognised startups. Startup India changed entrepreneurship from an exception into an aspiration and innovation from a metro advantage into a national movement.

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The Mokokchung District Administration has enforced zero tolerance against sale, transportation, manufacture and storage of liquor following reports of deaths and hospitalizations linked to suspected spurious liquor in the district. This was undertaken during an emergency meeting on Sunday convened by Deputy Commissioner Ajit Kumar Verma. Senior SP Vesupra Kezo informed that seized consignments have been sent for laboratory testing. The administration said it will intensify checking, raids and patrolling, with police to conduct daily patrols in public areas. It further advised public to report suspected liquor sale or transportation to Police.

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Water Resources Department, Chief Engineer Thepfusalie Guozi has called for responsible action for global water resources management while noting that it is vital for survival of every inhabitant of this planet. He was speaking during the training on Earth Observation and GIS in Water Resources Engineering and Management which got underway in Kohima today. He said every action has an impact and said we are all stakeholders of the natural resources. The training is being conducted in collaboration with National Institute of Hydrology, North Eastern Regional Centre Guwahati. The training aims to provide spatial data, modelling frameworks and monitoring tools for modern water resources management.

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Nagaland Olympic Association has announced that it has changed the nomenclature of Nagaland Olympic & Paralympic Games (NOPG) 2026 to Nagaland State & Para Games (NSPG) 2026. In this regard, it has informed that it will use the revised nomenclature with immediate effect for any future communication or document.

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