

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

15th October 2026

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The Union Cabinet yesterday gave its approval to continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme for five years, from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with an outlay of 53 thousand 428 crore rupees. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw made the announcement while briefing the media after the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The National Social Assistance Programme has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana. Mr Vaishnaw said, the assistance under the disability pension scheme will be 375 rupees for beneficiaries up to the age of 79 years and 625 rupees for those aged 80 years and above.

Pension schemes for senior citizens and widows, as well as the family benefit scheme, will continue in their existing form. The Union Minister said, the government has also given nod to the strategic restructuring of IDBI Bank. Mr Vaishnaw said, the Cabinet has also cleared a Productivity-Linked Bonus of 78 days for more than 11 lakh 40 thousand eligible railway employees in recognition of their performance.

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The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority and NPCI BHIM Services Limited have launched 'Tatkal NPS' on the BHIM Payments App. The new feature allows eligible citizens to open a National Pension System account in just three steps using existing bank-verified KYC and UPI, eliminating the need for branch visits or fresh paperwork.

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Advisor for Civil Administration Works Division, Kudecho Khamo, has called upon CAWD officials to work collectively and ensure timely execution of infrastructure projects across Nagaland. Addressing a coordination meeting with department officials in Kohima yesterday, Mr Khamo stressed the importance of mutual understanding and cooperation between engineers and administrative officers. He urged officials to discharge their duties sincerely, prepare Detailed Project Reports on time, and safeguard government and public property. Mr Khamo also highlighted the difficult working conditions faced by administrative officers in some districts and said the state government is gradually working to improve infrastructure and residential facilities. He also expressed concern over obstructions to government projects despite land compensation and employment benefits, stating that such practices hinder development. The meeting also reviewed ongoing projects, with engineers sharing updates on various works.

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The Youth Resources and Sports Department, Government of Nagaland, has received the prestigious SKOCH Silver Award for its Grassroots Football Festival, also known as the Baby League, recognising its efforts to promote grassroots sports development. The SKOCH Award is a nationally recognised honour that acknowledges excellence in governance, innovation and public service delivery, recognising impactful initiatives contributing to socio-economic development. Launched in June 2024, the initiative

introduces children aged five to twelve years to football through fun, inclusive and age-appropriate matches. The programme has witnessed significant growth, with participation increasing from around 142 children in an earlier edition to approximately 420 in its third edition held in 2026. The initiative also received national recognition when Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted Nagaland's grassroots football efforts during his Mann Ki Baat address in June this year.

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And, Day two of the 25th Dr. T. Ao Inter-District Football Championship, witnessed high-scoring action, with 17 goals across three matches. Tuensang District Football Association thrashed Meluri District Football Association 9-nil, with Ayenmongba scoring a hat-trick. Zunheboto District Football Association also registered a convincing 7-nil victory over Noklak District Football Association, as Atopu netted a hat-trick. In the day's third match, Mon District Football Association edged past Dimapur District Football Association 1-nil, with Eshong Konyak scoring the decisive goal in the 56th minute. Meanwhile, today's fixtures will see Niuland take on Chümoukedima at 7:30 AM, followed by Phek taking on Peren at 10 AM, Shamator meeting Longleng at 12:30 PM, and Kohima facing Tseminyu at 3 PM.

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