

Morning News Script

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The GST Council during its 57th meeting in New Delhi yesterday approved a series of measures to ease compliance for taxpayers. The decisions include scrapping the arrest powers of tax officers under the GST regime and raising the threshold for prosecution from one crore rupees to five crore rupees. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made the announcement while addressing the media in National Capital. The punishment, whether a fine, imprisonment or both, will be left to judicial discretion in each case. A taxpayer who files a return late, makes a mistake or falls behind on payment will face recovery proceedings, interest and a proportionate penalty.

The Finance Minister said no changes has been made to GST rates at the meeting and that the rate structure is settled..

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Government has approved a cap on the margins charged for the supply and sale of non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, limiting them to 30 percent of the Maximum Retail Price (MRP). The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers expects this measure to reduce medicine prices by up to 70 percent, helping cancer patients save two thousand 5 hundred crore annually. While essential cancer medicines on the scheduled list are already subject to strict government-set ceiling prices, this new decision extends price protection to non-scheduled cancer medicines by limiting their margins.

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Kohima district joined the nationwide launch of the Joint Squad for Health(JOSH) campaign yesterday aimed at strengthening community participation in the fight against tuberculosis. District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Chiben Kithan, informed that 36 villages in Kohima achieved TB-Free status last year. He highlighted free testing and nutritional support for patients, while urging communities to overcome stigma and increase participation in screening camps. ADC Kohima, Ruopfukuotuo Noudi, called for collective efforts to ensure early detection, timely treatment and complete recovery. Following the launch, orientation was conducted for Block Development Officers, NCC cadets and My Bharat volunteers. JOSH teams comprising five NCC cadets and five My Bharat volunteers will be constituted at the block level to mobilize communities towards TB eradication.

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A one-day stakeholder consultation workshop on the Draft Nagaland Community Conserved Areas Policy was held in Kohima, bringing together government departments, community representatives and conservation organisations to deliberate on the proposed policy framework. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Chairman of the Nagaland State Biodiversity Board, Y. Kikheto Sema, stressed the need for a structured policy to sustain community-led conservation initiatives. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Vedpal Singh, called for refining the draft policy to make it more practical for government support in recognising and managing Community Conserved Areas. The draft policy outlines criteria for recognition, governance, monitoring, financial and technical assistance, and coordination among neighbouring conserved areas.

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The 4th Patkai Trophy 2026 Inter-Institutional Championship got underway at Patkai Christian College (Autonomous) yesterday. Students from institutions across Nagaland and Assam are participating for three days of sporting competition. Addressing the inaugural programme, Advisor for Civil Administration Works Division, Kudecho Khamo, encouraged students to identify and develop their talents through discipline, dedication and perseverance. He urged participants to compete responsibly, win with humility and accept defeat with dignity, stressing that sports should strengthen friendships, integrity and sportsmanship.

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The Nagaland State Bharat Scouts and Guides Jamborette 2026 was inaugurated by Advisor for Youth Resources and Sports and President of the State Bharat Scouts and Guides, S. Keoshu Yimchunger, at Nerhema on October 7. Held under the theme, “Serving Community, Preserving Culture,” the event brings together Scouts and Guides from ten districts to promote leadership, discipline, teamwork and cultural appreciation. Addressing the gathering, Yimchunger emphasised the importance of co-curricular activities in shaping responsible citizens and encouraged students to actively participate in scouting programmes. State Chief Commissioner Chubanungla described the jamborette as a historic occasion, being held after a gap of 25 years since 2001.

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And, National Testing Agency (NTA) has opened registrations for the UGC NET December 2026 session. Eligible candidates can apply online for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), Assistant Professorship, or PhD through its website ugcnet.nta.nic.in The application window closes on the 28th of this month. The examination is scheduled to take place between 14th and 19th December.

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