

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Governor Nand Kishore Yadav stresses on equal access for persons with disabilities
- Chief Secretary Sentianger Imchen calls for stronger elderly support systems amid changing lifestyles
- Former Nagaland Assembly Speaker E.T. Ezung passes away
- And, Nagaland observes International Coffee Day

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Governor Nand Kishore Yadav has called for greater efforts to ensure persons with disabilities have equal access to education, healthcare, employment and public services. Addressing the 100th Regional Parents' Meet of the Nagaland Parents Association for the Disabled in Kohima today, the Governor said care must go beyond the family and lead to empowerment, independence and full participation in society. He stressed on greater accessibility in schools, public buildings, transport, workplaces and digital platforms, along with better vocational training and job opportunities. Highlighting Nagaland's difficult terrain and dispersed settlements, Mr Yadav said, inclusive services must reach all villages and communities beyond state and district headquarters, and called for innovative approaches through technology to bridge geographical gaps. He said persons with disabilities must have a central role in decisions affecting their lives, including policies and programmes. The Governor further called for a change in social attitudes towards for persons with disabilities from sympathy to respect and equal opportunity.

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Nagaland Chief Secretary Sentiyaanger Imchen has called for stronger family, community and institutional support systems for senior citizens, saying longer lives and changing lifestyles are placing traditional support structures under strain. Mr Imchen was speaking at the state-level observation of the International Day of Older Persons organised by the Department of Social Welfare in Kohima today. He noted that modern life had brought changes and complexities, as families became more dispersed due to education, employment, migration and changing lifestyles. He urged families, communities, churches and the government to work together to meet the needs of the elderly.

During the event, the State Level Senior Citizens Award 2026 were conferred on Prof. Alongla P. Aier and Dr L.M. Murry.

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Former Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) and Cabinet Minister E.T. Ezung passed away in Dimapur today. Mr Ezung was a three-time member of the NLA from the Bhandari Assembly Constituency. He served as NLA Speaker from February 1985 to October 1986 and later held several ministerial portfolios. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio expressed grief over his demise, remembering Mr Ezung as a passionate and dedicated leader. He recalled Mr Ezung's association with the Joint Legislators' Forum, which brought elected representatives together across political affiliations in efforts towards a peaceful and honourable resolution of the Naga political issue. Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, NLA Speaker Sharingain Longkumer also conveyed condolences, recalling Mr Ezung's long public service and contribution to the people. Lok Sabha MP S. Supongmeren Jamir and Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee also mourned his passing, describing it as a great loss to the party and the state.

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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 PM MUDRA Yojana.

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The Department of Land Resources today celebrated International Coffee Day in Kohima under the theme, “Coffee is Part of the Solution.” The event featured coffee tasting, latte art competitions, an entrepreneurs and growers’ meet, coffee exhibition and sale of products among others. Speaking on the occasion, Advisor for Land Resources G. Ikuto Zhimomi said the strategic development of coffee in Nagaland is emerging as a sustainable model of rural transformation. He said Nagaland’s unique agro-climatic advantages and growing demand for specialty coffee can drive inclusive economic growth and strengthen climate-resilient land use. He stressed the need for continued investment across the coffee value chain to enhance Nagaland's global visibility and ensure long-term economic resilience.

On the occasion, a documentary on ‘Coffee of Nagaland’ was launched, while new coffee publications and a book on coffee cultivation were released.

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Nagaland has developed a cumulative 11,647.69 hectares of land for coffee cultivation, from the first plantations established in 1981 to positioning coffee as a State Unique Selling Proposition. The State produced over 105 metric tonnes of green coffee beans during 2025–26, while 461.41 hectares were brought under coffee cultivation during the year. The figures were highlighted by the Department of Land Resources on International Coffee Day today. Nagaland's coffee development is supported by the Coffee Board of India, NABARD-RIDF, the North Eastern Council and PMKSY-WDC 2.0. To strengthen the coffee value chain, the state has been provided 600 coffee pulpers, and established 28 washing stations and seven roasting units. In addition, 26 coffee cafés have been established under the State Plan, promoting a farm-to-cup model for locally produced coffee. Among the districts, Kohima has the largest coffee cultivation area at 1,900.87 hectares, followed by Zunheboto with 1,278.70 hectares and Wokha with 1,134.74 hectares. Kohima also recorded the highest production at 26.67 metric tonnes, followed by Mokokchung at 14.26 tonnes.

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Dimapur Deputy Commissioner Dr. Tinojongshi Chang has called for building a culture of regular voluntary blood donation, stressing that a reliable supply of safe blood depends on sustained community participation. Speaking at the observance of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day 2026 at Immanuel College, Dimapur, Dr. Chang said blood could only come from willing human donors and urged eligible, medically fit people to donate regularly rather than waiting for emergencies.

The DC encouraged students to become ambassadors of voluntary blood donation and help dispel fears and misconceptions through accurate information and awareness.

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