Evening News

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Dimapur Police seize around 3 kilograms of suspected narcotics; Arrest three persons
- Nagaland Health Protection Society discontinues emergency approval for CMHIS General Category
- Union Cabinet approves continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts, including exclusive POCSO Courts
- Agniveers get two-year extension as Cabinet approves increase of service period

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In a major crackdown on inter-state drug trafficking, Dimapur Police have seized approximately 3 kilograms of suspected narcotic drugs near Patkai Bridge Junction, and arrested three persons. According to a police statement, the operation was conducted yesterday following credible intelligence. Police intercepted two vehicles at around 2:10 PM, and during a search conducted in the presence of a Gazetted Officer and independent witnesses, recovered the suspected drugs concealed inside a spare tyre of one of the vehicles. The arrested persons have been identified as 44-year-old Robinson Abonmai, 39-year-old Jeta Rai, and 37-year-old Wilamdinnang, all residents of Senapati district in Manipur. Preliminary investigation indicated that the consignment originated from Churachandpur in Manipur and was being transported to Guwahati in Assam. A case has been registered at Chümoukedima Police Station under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Further investigation is underway to identify the intended recipient and trace the wider drug trafficking network.

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The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts, including exclusive POCSO Courts, for a further period of five years from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2031. The Scheme has a total financial outlay of over 3,788 crore rupees. Briefing media in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vashnaw said, the Scheme has provision of operationalisation of 850 Fast Track Special Courts across various States and Union Territories.

The Cabinet also cleared a two-year extension for Agniveers who were earlier set to exit after four years of service. Chief of Defence Staff, General NS Raja Subramani said, 75 percent of Agniveers who had to exit will now be given an additional two-year engagement period, after which the willing Agniveers can enrol in the Armed Forces.

General Raja Subramani said that the recruitment footprint under the Agnipath Scheme has expanded and Agniveers are being enrolled in almost all districts across the country. Meanwhile, the Cabinet gave its nod to the Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR) Scheme, to modernise India's official statistical ecosystem. It also approved a 92 Gigawatt-hour energy storage scheme to further strengthen India's clean energy programme.

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The Nagaland Health Protection Society has revised registration procedures under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS), introducing changes to emergency approval and the registration of single-member households. According to an Office Memorandum issued on October 31, the provision for emergency approval under the CMHIS General Category will stand discontinued. However, the facility will continue for beneficiaries under the Employee and Pensioner Category. The revised guidelines also state that registration of single-member households under both categories will not ordinarily be permitted. However, exceptions may be considered upon submission of an affidavit sworn before a Notary Public or Magistrate. The affidavit must be based on a declaration issued by the Village Council Chairman, Ward Chairman or Gaon Bura, as applicable. The revised provisions have come into effect from the date of issue of the memorandum.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today inaugurated the Totok Chingnyu Village Council Hall in Mon district. Congratulating the Village Council and the people of Totok Chingnyu, he said the new facility reflects the collective efforts and aspirations of the community. Mr Rio expressed hope that the hall would serve as a common platform for meaningful dialogue, strengthen unity and harmony, and contribute to the overall growth, harmony, and prosperity of the village.

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Emphasizing that public accountability transcends party lines, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla issued a strong call for strict adherence to financial discipline, auditing integrity, and transparent utilization of public funds. The Lok Sabha Speaker was delivering the valedictory address at the conference of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) Chairpersons of Parliament and Assemblies at Thiruvananthapuram. The Speaker reminded the representatives that despite political differences, their duty to safeguard the public exchequer remains non negotiable.

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Nagaland Agriculture Advisor Mhathung Yanthan participated in the two-day Conference of Chairpersons of Public Accounts Committees held at Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam which concluded today. In a social media post, Mr Yanthan said the conference deliberated on the evolving role of PACs in strengthening legislative oversight, ensuring financial accountability, transparency and promoting good governance. He said, the discussions reaffirmed the shared commitment to accountability and responsible management of public finances.

Hosted by the Keralam Legislative Assembly, the conference brought together delegates from across the country to exchange views and share experiences on improving public financial management.

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The four-day Tokhu Emong, the premier post-harvest festival of the Lotha community, began today at the Public Ground in Wokha today. Speaking at the inaugural programme, Lotha Hoho Chairman, Mhondamo Ezung, underscored the importance of preserving the community's cultural identity, roots and heritage. He said the festival is a time to thank God for the blessings received throughout the year, seek forgiveness, exchange gifts and strengthen bonds of togetherness. The four-day celebration features traditional folk dances, songs and indigenous games, showcasing the community's rich cultural heritage and traditions. Various stalls have also been set up at the venue. The festival will continue until November 7.

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And, The second day of the Nagaland State and Para Games 2026 concluded today with competitions in athletics, archery, Pencak Silat and badminton. At the close of the day's events, Kohima and Phek are tied with 8 gold medals each. Kohima leads the overall standings with a total of 23 medals, including 7 silver and 8 bronze medals, while Phek has 2 silver and 3 bronze, bring its total to 13 medals. Peren occupies third position with five gold medals. Dimapur has the highest overall medal count with 24 medals, including 4 gold, 11 silver and 9 bronze.

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