



THE WARRIOR



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Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio presenting the Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 at the Sixth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall, Kohima on 6th March 2025.



Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025 (District Level) was held under the theme 'One Nation, One Election: Paving the way for Viksit Bharat,' at Dimapur on 21st and 22nd March 2025.



Advisor, Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu with Director, DPIIT, Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, IAS and other officials during the inaugural of 'SRF 5.0 Knowledge Exchange Workshop' Nagaland Edition held at Hotel Vivor, Kohima on 10th March 2025.



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OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

P&AR INFORMS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms (P&AR) has informed that it has come to the notice that several Government employees are engaging in private sector employment. In addition, the official Government designations and the names of the employees are also being publicly advertised in print and social media promoting their association with private enterprises.

In this regard, attention is drawn to Section 15(1) of the Nagaland Government Servants Conduct Rules, 1968, which states 'no Government servant, except with the previous sanction of the Government, engage in any trade or undertake any employment other than his public duties or carry on directly or indirectly any business or undertaking or use his position as a Government servant to help such business or undertaking.'

Therefore, the Department has notified that Government employees engaging in such private sector employment or trade, directly or indirectly, or found to be actively canvassing or promoting such trade without the prior approval/sanction of the appropriate authority, will be considered as violating the Nagaland Government Servants Conduct Rules, 1968 and will attract disciplinary action as per rules.

This is issued for strict compliance for all Government employees.

AG FURNISHES STATE FINANCES AUDIT REPORT (2022-23)

In a press note, the Senior Deputy Accountant General, Nagaland has briefed the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) of India on the State Finances of Nagaland for the year 2022-23 based on the audited accounts of the Government of Nagaland for the year 2022-23. The report provides an overview of the finances, budgetary management and quality of accounts, financial reporting practices and other matters relevant to State Finances.

The Report has been placed in the State Legislature on 8th March 2025 and is uploaded in the CAG's website: www.cag.gov.in. The copy of the Audit Report can also be obtained from the Office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Nagaland.

A synopsis of the important findings contained in the Report is presented below:

- Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) (at current prices) of Nagaland grew from ₹26,527.42 crore in 2018-19 to ₹35,933.96 crore in 2022-23.
- Budget Outlay of the State grew at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6.26 *percent* from ₹20,469.97 crore in 2018-19 to ₹26,092.48 crore in 2022-23.
- During 2022-23, GSDP increased by 12.60 *per cent* from ₹31,912.54 crore in 2021-22 to ₹35,933.96 crore in 2022-23. The State had a Revenue surplus of ₹688.90 crore which was 1.92 *per cent* of GSDP. Fiscal deficit was ₹1,562.63 crore during 2022-23 which was 4.35 *per cent* of GSDP and primary surplus was ₹569.40 crore, which was 1.58 *per cent* of GSDP.

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- Revenue Receipts increased by 4.82 *per cent* (₹648.12 crore) over the previous year (₹13,451.14 crore). The State's Own Tax Revenue increased by ₹160.80 crore (12.36 *percent*), Non-Tax Revenue increased by ₹174.82 crore (57.59 *per cent*), Grants-in-Aid from GoI decreased by ₹212.43 crore (3.05 *per cent*) and State's Share of Union Taxes and Duties increased by ₹524.92 crore (10.77 *per cent*) respectively over the previous year.
- Revenue Surplus decreased from ₹1,634.06 crore in 2021-22 to ₹688.90 crore in 2022-23. Fiscal Deficit (₹1,562.63 crore) increased by ₹1,302.11 crore (499.81 *per cent*) as compared to previous year (₹260.52 crore).
- Revenue Receipts increased by ₹2,661.85 crore (23.27 *per cent*) from ₹11,437.41 crore in 2018-19 to ₹14,099.26 crore in 2022-23 at a CAGR of 5.37 *per cent*.
- The share of Grants-in-Aid in Revenue Receipts decreased from 57.21 *per cent* in 2018-19 to 47.94 *per cent* in 2022-23.
- Revenue Expenditure constituted on an average, 86.79 *per cent* and ranged between 86.17 (2021-22) and 90.54 *per cent* (2019-20) of the Total Expenditure during the period 2018-23. The percentage of Revenue Expenditure to Total Expenditure was 83.22 *per cent* and Revenue Expenditure to GSDP was 37.32 *per cent* during 2022-23.
- Capital Expenditure (₹2,704.22 crore) increased by ₹810.37 crore (42.79 *per cent*) during 2022-23 compared to the previous year (₹1,893.85 crore) and stood at 16.78 *percent* of total expenditure during the year. During the five-year period of 2018-23, the borrowings were utilised for repayment of earlier borrowings which ranged between 74.38 *percent* (2022-23) and 89.30 *percent* (2018-19).
- During 2022-23, Fiscal Deficit (₹1,562.63 crore) increased by ₹1,302.11 crore (499.81 *per cent*) as compared to previous year (₹260.52 crore).
- Committed expenditure (₹9,921.54 crore) like salary and wages, pension, interest payments steadily increased by ₹2,652.06 crore at a CAGR of 8.09 *percent* from ₹7,269.48 crore in 2018-19 to ₹9,921.54 crore in 2022-23. The Committed Expenditure during the year 2022-23 was 70.37 *per cent* of the Revenue Receipts and 73.99 *per cent* of the Revenue Expenditure.
- At the end of 2022-23, the Government provided guarantees of ₹189.96 crore against loans to various Corporations. During 2022-23, the Government did not pay any amount as no guarantee was invoked.
- The outstanding Public Debt liability rapidly increased by ₹5,126.29 crore at a CAGR of 13.02 *per cent* from ₹8,115.52 crore in 2018-19 to ₹13,241.81 crore in 2022-23 whereas the Debt/GSDP ratio increased from 39.75 to 43.38 *per cent*.
- There was an outstanding excess expenditure of ₹455.78 crore under 27 Grants (pertaining to the year 2017-18 to 2022-23).
- As on 31st March 2023, an amount of ₹990.75 crore, including both Central and State shares, were parked in Single Nodal Agency (SNA) bank Account of 74 schemes.
- During the year 2022-23, 105 grants involving ₹86.65 crore were provided to 19 Departments for which Utilisation Certificates (UCs) are due for submission during

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the year 2023-24. As on March 2023, there are 145 UCs worth ₹252.11 crore, which are due for submission for periods pertaining up to 2022-23. High pendency of UCs is fraught with risk of misappropriation of funds.

- There were 323 Abstract Contingent (AC) Bills involving ₹554.76 crore pending for adjustment by submission of Detailed Countersigned Contingent (DCC) Bills, as of March 2023. Out of these, 89 AC bills amounting to ₹159.70 crore pertained to the year 2022-23. Non-adjustment of AC Bills may lead to fraught with the risk of misappropriation.
- As on 31st March 2023, there were seven State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs) in Nagaland, which included two non-working SPSEs under the audit jurisdiction of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). The prescribed timelines regarding submission of Financial Statements were not adhered to by seven SPSEs whose 42 accounts were in arrears. Out of five working SPSEs, three had incurred losses aggregating to ₹8.41 crore while only one SPSE earned a profit of ₹0.46 crore as per their latest finalised accounts and one SPSE viz. Kohima Smart City Development Limited did not finalise and submit the Annual Accounts for supplementary audit since its inception (March 2017). However, the profit earning SPSE did not declare any dividend during 2022-23.
- As per their latest finalised accounts, the accumulated losses (₹81.45 crore) of two working SPSEs had completely eroded their paid-up capital of ₹25.55 crore which is a cause of concern. The State Government needs to either improve their working or review the working of these SPSEs to decide on continuing their operations.

CENTRE RELEASES ₹ 37 CRORE TO NAGALAND STATE FOR PAYMENT OF POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Directorate of Higher Education is pleased to inform that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, has released ₹37 crore for payment of the Post Matric Scholarship to ST Students of Nagaland, which the Scheme Implementing Agency will soon disburse to the beneficiaries after completing the necessary formalities.



NAGALAND CINEFEST 2025 CONCLUDES ON A HIGH NOTE AT KOHIMA

The valedictory programme of Nagaland CineFest 2025, organised by Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) in collaboration with Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), was held at the Heritage, Old DC Bungalow, Kohima on 1st March 2025.

Director, Information & Public Relations, Nagaland, Dzüvinuo Theünuo expressed gratitude to Advisor to the Chief Minister & Chairman, IDAN, Abu Metha, for his role in encouraging and harnessing the creative potential of the youth. She acknowledged the filmmakers and resource persons for allowing the attendees to be exposed to different film genres and sharing

their insight.

Joint Director, Information & Public Relations, Nagaland, Asangla Imsong reflected on the past two days emphasizing that the films shown have had a profound power to evoke emotions and foster conversations to all who have attended. The masterclasses and conversations with upcoming artists sharing their experiences and lessons to the audience, she said, was an enriching experience.

The two-day film festival showcased various films, documentaries from various filmmakers and also held masterclasses from industry experts thereby experiencing and celebrating cinema.

6th SESSION OF THE 14th NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HELD

GOVERNOR LA GANESAN ADDRESSES THE 6th SESSION OF THE 14th NLA:

The 6th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) began on 3rd March 2025 with the Address of the Governor of Nagaland, La. Ganesan at NLA Hall, Kohima.

The Governor said that the House has collectively taken steps to ensure the peaceful resolution of the Naga political issue. As assured on the floor of the House by the Chief Minister, the Government held a Consultative Meeting with the apex and influential tribal bodies and civil society organisations to deliberate on the Naga Political Issue on 12th September 2024. On 21st November 2024, the Chief Minister, accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues, met the Union Home Minister and apprised him of the people's desire for an early solution to



Governor, La. Ganesan addressing the first day of the Sixth Session of the 14th NLA at NLA Hall, Kohima on 3rd March 2025.

the Naga political issue. The Government has also submitted their comments on the third Draft of the Memorandum of Settlement in respect of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority to the Ministry of Home Affairs on 6th November 2024. Two rounds of discussions have already been held, one in

New Delhi and the other in Chumoukedima. Substantial progress has been made and the Government is hopeful that any remaining concerns of the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) will be addressed.

The Governor, in his address, also highlighted the achievements of the Government during the ongoing financial year and also mentioned the future programmes of the Government.

In Agriculture & Allied Sectors, the Governor stated under the Digital Agriculture Mission, various initiatives towards smart farming have been launched, which include development of an integrated web-based geo-portal and a mobile application based on geo-cloud-oriented architecture. Under PM-KISAN, 2,21,931 farmers have benefitted and an amount of ₹620 crore have been directly credited to their individual bank accounts as on 31st January 2025.

Under the National Livestock Mission (NLM) Programme of the Government of India, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services during 2024-25, established 26 Pig Breeding Farms through credit linkage (50% bank loan & 50% capital subsidy from Government of India). To contain and control various diseases afflicting the animals, the State is constructing 3 (three) Veterinary Hospitals in Chumoukedima, Niuland and Shamator at an estimated cost of ₹250 lakh.

The Department of Co-operation under the 'Fast Track Loan Recovery Drive' has been able to recover ₹343.25 lakh during the last four years. Under the National Cooperative Database, our State has uploaded the data of 8020 Registered Cooperatives Societies under the National Cooperative Database, the Governor said.

The Department of Horticulture

identified 16 Horticulture Model Villages in each district across the State and with a total area coverage of 340 hectares, this initiative has been taken under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). In an effort to promote cash crops, the Department organized festivals focusing on specific products of the area like the Cucumber Festival in Mokokchung, the Organic King Chilli Festival in Kohima and Thanamir Apple Festival in Kiphire among others.

The Governor said that the Department of Soil & Water Conservation focuses on the promotion and distribution of micronutrients to cover 74,000 farmers and 74,000 hectares of land. The Department expects to distribute over 1.11 lakh Soil Health Cards under the Soil Health Fertility of the RKVY.

The Department of Rural Development has generated ₹65.94 lakh person-days of employment through MGNREGA till 11th of February 2025. Under the PMAY-G, 8191 houses were constructed in 2024-25 as on 11th February 2025. Till date, the State has constructed 20,569 houses out of a cumulative target of 48,830 houses.

Mentioning the Public Health Engineering Department, the Governor stated that under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), 3,37,174 Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) have been provided till date. Further, 26,601 rural households are planned for coverage with drinking water supply through FHTC during the current financial year. Out of 1,548 rural villages/habitations, 1,135 have been covered with FHTC till date. The State has already achieved 100% Open Defecation Free Status.

The Department of Water Resources, under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP),

is expecting to complete 270 Surface Minor Irrigation schemes at an estimated cost of ₹206 crore by March 2025. Under the Groundwater Scheme of the PMKSY, 262 units of Groundwater Irrigation schemes at an estimated cost of ₹18 crore covering five districts namely Dimapur, Peren, Wokha, Mokokchung and Mon have been completed.

The Department of Food & Civil Supplies has achieved 100% Online Allocation and 100% Supply Chain Management. 97.85% Ration Card wise Aadhaar seeding and 97.23% member wise Aadhaar seeding as on 04.02.2025 has also been achieved by the Department, the Governor stated.

The Department of Geology & Mining is taking up exploration aggressively of the three major minerals of the State. Under the coal sector, regional exploration is being undertaken in 2 blocks in Mokokchung district. For strategic mineral (Nickel, Cobalt) bearing iron ore deposits, the Department plans to take up detailed exploration in Pokphur block in Kiphire district and G3 level exploration in Mollen under Meluri district. Efforts are also on to resolve the pending issues relating to exploration and exploitation of petroleum oil and natural gas with the Government of Assam in the Disputed Area Belt (DAB) and with the Central Government for the rest of the State.

The Governor said the Power Department has completed the award process for tenders under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Works are expected to commence at the earliest, and the Government of India has sanctioned an amount of ₹667 crore for the scheme. Under 'Green Village Initiatives' programme, 23 villages were selected and free LED luminaries distributed by the Department. ₹20 crore under Special Assistance to State

for Capital Investment is being utilised for installation of 18,000 number of Smart Prepaid Meters in Dimapur and Kohima towns.

Further, the Department of New & Renewable Energy has installed a 5 MW Solar Power Plant (Phase- I) at Hovukhu village under Niuland district. Phase-II of the project with similar capacity and at the same location is also expected to be completed this FY. A Solar Power Plant of capacity 5MW at Zhadima village/Teichuma village is also under implementation.

The Governor said that the Nagaland PWD has developed and launched the Online Management and Information System (OMIS) which will cover Road & Bridges, Housing, National Highways and Mechanical Departments. More than 95 (ninety-five) Roads/Bridges projects covering the entire length and breadth of the State is being undertaken by the Department during this FY. A few of the important projects being undertaken by the PWD (Housing) include Speaker's Official Quarters at NLA, Old Speaker's Quarter at New Capital Complex, ITC Complex Guest House & Staff Quarter and State Data Centre (SDC) at the Directorate of Information Technology & Communication.

The State is steadily making progress on industrialization front, and a total of 32,017 MSME units are registered in the State as on January 2025. The State Startup Policy, since its launch in 2019 has institutionalized Five Incubator Institutions, established Entrepreneurship Development Centres in 16 schools and 6 colleges across the State and promoted 330 Startups as on date. Nagaland has recently been acknowledged as the State with 200% surge in new Startup formations.

The Governor said that the Motor

Vehicles Department has entered into collaboration with HDFC Bank for facilitation of e-challan and payment gateway. The digital payment services facility was launched across all the RTO and DTO offices across the State. NST has inducted 5 (Five) New Buses during the year 2024.

The Urban Development Department, to cater to the Street Vendors, has completed a marketing shed at Medziphema and 2 (two) Marketing sheds are under construction at Chiephobozou and Shamator. Under the PM SVANidhi Scheme, so far, 4595 Street Vendors have availed loans enabling them to diversify their business. During 2024-25, 41 SHGs were formed and 40 SHGs have availed Revolving Fund through DBT under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM).

The Governor added that the Urban Local Body elections were held to 3 Municipal and 22 Town Councils, barring the 14 Town Councils under Eastern Nagaland districts. One-third of seats were reserved for women and the process was successfully and peacefully conducted after a long gap of 20 years. Poll was held on 26th June 2024 and the results declared on 29th June 2024. Out of 523 candidates in the fray for 278 seats, 198 women candidates contested. 103 of women candidates won the elections representing 37% (against the mandatory 33%) of the seats that went to polls.

The School Education Department has, under the NECTAR Project, introduced the Smart Attendance Management and Informative Leaves (SMILE) system for employee, and the Teacher Attendance Management System (TAMS). The Department is establishing one Lighthouse School Complex (LSC) in each of the 16 districts of the State. Under Samagra Shiksha

programme, the Department completed the construction of 11 new school buildings for Elementary, 7 Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools and 15 Residential Quarters.

In the health sector, the Governor said that the Health & Family Welfare Department, under the CMHIS has empanelled 66 hospitals outside Nagaland and 66 within Nagaland. 17,501 claims have been approved by the Government and 11,638 claims have been settled. Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), 77 hospitals are empanelled within Nagaland. 30,379 claims have been approved and 22,914 claims have been settled as on 16th February 2025. Under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Abhiyan, additional nutrition support to TB patients from willing donors called Nikshay Mitras is being provided. The support is in the form of once-a-month food baskets (containing protein, cereals, oils) & vitamin supplements for a minimum of 6 (six) months. Currently, about 387 donors including the Governor, Ao Baptist Church in Dimapur and Mokokchung have come forward to support more than a thousand (1000) beneficiaries who are undergoing TB treatment. Under the National Ayush Mission, training and distribution of medicinal plants were conducted at 10 (ten) locations covering 6 (six) districts – Tuensang, Phek, Longleng, Kohima, Dimapur and Mokokchung. Herbal Gardens were set up at Kisama and Yingli College, Longleng, sponsored by National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH.

The Department of Labour, under the e-SHRAM portal, has registered 2,32,758 unorganized workers in Nagaland. Social Security benefits/Welfare Schemes for unorganized workers run by the different

Ministries/State Government, in the future, is expected to be delivered through this portal.

The Governor stated that under the Tribal Affairs Department, there are 3 (three) functional Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Nagaland, namely EMRS Diphupar, EMRS Tuensang and EMRS-Tizit, Mon. 744 students have enrolled for the Academic Year 2024-25. 11 (eleven) new EMRSs are being constructed. The Tribal Affairs Department is implementing 19 (Nineteen) new projects under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, amounting to ₹20.7 crore.

The Minority Affairs Department is implementing the following projects- Multi-Disciplinary Sports Complex at Naga Ki Global City Chumoukedima (Phase-I) and 3 (three) Units of Women Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centers in Kohima, Mokokchung and Tuensang districts, Library-cum-Conference Hall at Zunheboto district.

The Governor stated that the Women Resources Development Department has initiated the programme for Protection and Promotion of Tribal Designs Project. This programme is expected to promote and safeguard the rich traditional attires and modern textile designs. The Department also initiated the Myki Village Adoption Initiative at Khonoma village.

The Social Welfare Department, under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), provided assistance through DBT to 7,563 beneficiaries. Under Mission Vatsalya, there are 44 child care institutions, covering an average of 699 children under Sponsorship and Foster Care Benefits. Assistance is provided under National Social Assistance Programme to 63,678 beneficiaries across the State.

The Governor said the 25th Edition of

the Hornbill Festival attracted 2,05,968 attendees, including 2,527 international and 56,217 domestic tourists. To enhance the tourist experience, the Government provided training to homestay owners, taxi operators and tour operators. A local taxi-hailing service, Ura Cabs was also launched in the run-up to this edition of the Hornbill Festival. Key achievements of the Tourism Department were the completion of Phase-I Development of the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama which include expansion of the parking lot, construction of toilet blocks, increasing the seating capacity to approximately 7000, among other improvements. Phase-2 Development of the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama has commenced with plans on upgrading the VIP rostrum and the main stage to international standards. Konyak Heritage Complex at Mon is also nearing completion.

The Department of Art & Culture has completed the Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial Indoor Stadium at Phesama and the Artist Dormitory. Under Special Assistance to State for Capital Investment (SASCI) 2023- 24, a Children & Adolescence Library and Digital Infrastructure is being implemented by the Department. Till date, 68 libraries have been constructed in various districts.

The Governor said the 9 (nine) Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the Department of Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, provides training across 16 trades, including 12 engineering and 4 non-engineering disciplines. So far, 11,092 trainees have successfully passed the All India Trade Test. Under the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) project, a Center of Excellence

for Media & Entertainment is being established in collaboration with the Media & Entertainment Skill Council.

The Department of Information & Public Relations has developed a user-friendly app, 'DIPR Nagaland Mobile App' compatible with Android phones, which can be downloaded from Google Play Store. Seven (7) well equipped Multi Media Mobile Vehicles to cater to broadcasting of various awareness and educational videos, documentaries etc. were flagged-off during this FY.

The Governor further said that the Government has introduced the Nagaland Super League (NSL), a prospective self-sustainable football league, on 28th January 2025 and Nagaland also hosted the 3rd North East Games in March 2024, bringing together athletes and officials from all eight North-eastern states. Recognizing the global growth of e-sports, the Department of Youth Resources & Sports also hosted the inaugural Hornbill e-sports Championship on 6th and 7th of December 2024 at IG Stadium, Kohima. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme, the Department targets to provide skill training to 1,050 youths across three job roles for one year, sponsored by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The Pre-fabricated Centre for Excellence in Music & Arts (CEMA) at TaFMA, Kohima has been completed.

In Law & Order, Planning and Finance sector, the Governor said that with the creation of Meluri district, there are now 17 (Seventeen) District Headquarters, 24 (Twenty-Four) Additional Deputy Commissioner sub-divisions, 18 (Eighteen) Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) sub-divisions and 63 (Sixty-Three) Extra Assistant

Commissioner circles in the State. These offices spearhead the various activities related to development and law and order administration.

The Governor stated that Nagaland Police has registered 1,308 cognisable cases, of which, 108-cases were UG-related. Drugs worth more than ₹44 crore was seized by the Police in 2024. The Police Engineering Project has recently completed the construction of the SPOffices at Wokha and Tuensang. The Officers' Mess and NGO's Mess at Police Complex, Chumoukedima have also been completed, he added.

The State Excise and Prohibition Department made seizures worth more than ₹1.18 crore and arrested more than 1770 persons. As on 1st February 2025, there were 10,826 active taxpayers under GST.

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services has constructed 15 Rainwater Harvesting Reservoirs along with deep bore wells for its utility towards fire prevention and safety in the State, under SASCI covering ten districts. Of these, 3 are in Kohima, 3 in Kiphire, 2 in Peren and one (1) each in Chumoukedima, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Phek, Wokha and Zunheboto districts.

The Governor stated that the Prisons Department has completed the construction of Petrol Pump at District Jail, Dimapur. This is intended to provide employment to jail inmates as part of rehabilitation and reforms on release from imprisonment and will help them earn and lead a better life.

During the fiscal year 2024-25, a significant allocation of ₹ 10 crore was made under the Chief Minister's Corpus Fund (CMCF) to support initiatives aimed at fostering education, entrepreneurship and skill enhancement across different sectors. At present, there are 29 ongoing projects

(including erstwhile NLCPR) under NESIDS (OTRI) for total approved cost of ₹ 526.83 crore. Under the PM-DeVINE, at present there are 4(four) ongoing projects for total approved cost of ₹ 376.87 crore. The North Eastern Council (NEC) is undertaking 74 projects in various sectors in different districts in Nagaland. The Nagaland GIS & Remote Sensing Centre carried out comprehensive mapping for all District Headquarters and towns, integration of urban data and reconstructions, Drone Technology providing near real-time data for more effective planning and management.

Governor La Ganesan said that with the initiatives taken by the Government, it is necessary for all to work towards the fulfilment of the policies of the Government. He requested that the spirit of co-operation that exists within the House is carried forward to the wider society and expressed hope that the deliberations in the August House will be done in the right spirit, keeping in mind the welfare of the citizens of the State.

RIO REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO NAGA POLITICAL ISSUE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES:

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) unanimously adopted the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address, with Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio expressing gratitude to all members for their support during the sixth session of the 14th NLA held at the NLA Hall on 4th March 2025.

In his concluding remarks on the Motion of Thanks, Dr. Rio reiterated that resolving the long-standing Naga political issue remains the Government's foremost agenda. He highlighted that eight resolutions have been passed in the Assembly for Naga integration and reaffirmed the Government's

commitment to working with civil societies, tribal bodies, ex-parliamentarians, and other stakeholders. He also informed that Interlocutor A.K. Mishra has been engaging with various organizations and individuals and also met with him and his cabinet colleagues. Dr. Rio said he will soon meet the Home Minister after discussions with the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) to push for an early, inclusive, and honorable solution.

Addressing challenges in school education, Dr. Rio acknowledged past mistakes and assured that corrective measures would take time. He pointed out issues more so in the Eastern Nagaland People's Organization (ENPO) region, where unqualified teachers have affected education quality. He emphasized the need for a policy review and restructuring of teacher transfers through consultations with elected representatives and officials under a state level committee. He also raised concerns over inaccurate census data, citing the drastic fluctuations in population growth rates - 67% in 2003 and a negative growth of 0.06% in 2011. He attributed the incorrect teacher-student ratio of 1:7 in Nagaland (compared to 1:30 nationally) to faulty census-based recruitments under the Right to Education policy.

The Chief Minister assured that justice would be done in the construction of the Foot Hill Road and agreed to rename it as the Trans Nagaland Highway. He also pointed out that census and delimitation exercises will be conducted soon and agreed with the suggestion to base reservations on economic and educational status, rather than tribe-wise.

Dr. Rio commended MLA, Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso's Mobile Operation

Theatre initiative with necessary equipments sponsored by the Government, which provides free medical care in difficult areas.

Highlighting the achievements of Naga athletes, Dr. Rio celebrated Hokato Hotozhe Sema's bronze medal at the Paris Summer Paralympics, for which the State Government awarded him Rs. 1.5 crore. He also acknowledged Dr. T. Ao, Nagaland's first Olympian, and emphasized that Nagas have talent in sports, however, enough time and attention was not given due to the political issue. The CM expressed happiness over the growing popularity of the Nagaland Super League, and announced that top players would receive rewards, including a Toyota car, Kia car, and bikes. He also revealed plans to construct Astro Turf Stadiums with Hymas lights in every district to boost sports infrastructure.

Dr. Rio highlighted Nagaland's rich oil, gas, and rare earth minerals, including Nickel, Cobalt, and Lithium, particularly in the eastern and western regions. He plans to take officials from the & Mining Department to Delhi to explore potential opportunities in these sectors. He expressed delight that Nagaland's internal revenue has grown from single digit to 13%, stressing that revenue generation is crucial for the development of the State.

OBITUARY REFERENCE:

On the first day of the 6th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 3rd March 2025, at the NLA Hall, Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio made an obituary reference to former Prime Minister of India, Late Dr. Manmohan Singh who passed away on 26th December 2024 at the age of 92 years in Delhi.

Speaker of Nagaland, Sharingain

Longkumer made the obituary references in honour of the Members of the NLA - Late T. A. Ngullie who passed away on 27th October 2024 at the age of 90 at Chümoukedima, Late K. Zungkum who passed away on 6th December 2024 at the age of 92 in Dimapur, Late Bendangangshi Ao who passed away on 27th December 2024 at Ungma village, Late Mavil Khieya who passed away on 18th January 2025 at Kohima, and Late Kejong Chang who passed away on 20th February 2025 at the age of 102 in Dimapur.

STARRED AND SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS RAISED ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE:

During the sixth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) held at the NLA Hall, Kohima on 4th March 2025, Minister for Roads & Bridges, G. Kaito Aye replying to a starred question raised by MLAs A Nyamnyei Konyak and Nuklutoshi on re-alignment of Foothill Road at Wokha district, said it was diverted due to poor terrain. He urged the members and the public to have cooperation and understanding, and give space to the Department to come to an amicable solution over their minor differences.

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of Home, Yanthungo Patton, while replying to a starred question on check gates in Dimapur during the sixth session of the 14th NLA on 6th March 2025, stated that there are three designated check gates at the Nagaland-Assam border, namely Dellai Check Gate, New Field Check Gate, and Khatkhathi Check Gate. He informed that an average of 77 heavy vehicles carrying essential commodities enters Nagaland daily through these gates, and no revenue is collected from them.

Supplementing the starred question, MLA, Naiba Konyak pointed out that despite the presence of numerous check posts in Nagaland, no revenue is being officially collected. However, he mentioned that some truck owners had informed him of paying Rs. 150 at these posts.

Responding to the issue, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio clarified that check gates along national highways have been removed, and no entry fees were being collected since the introduction of GST, as payments are now made at the destinations. He stated that any collections being made were likely for penalties and fines. Dr. Rio further explained that the existing check gates serve law and order purposes, particularly for monitoring Inner Line Permits (ILP), the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), and other security concerns, and that illegal items are often seized at these points. The Chief Minister also emphasized that heavy trucks should not be stopped in towns or highways unnecessarily. However, if vehicles exceed the permissible load limit, penalties should be imposed. He assured that the Government would review the current status of check gates.

During the discussion on the starred question regarding the Free Movement Regime (FMR) raised by MLA, A. Nyamnyi Konyak, concerns were expressed over designated crossing points at Mon, Meluri, and Noklak, where Assam Rifles personnel, along with two police officers and two medical personnel, are to be stationed for checking. MLA, A. Nyamnyi Konyak, opposed the construction of a border fence under the FMR. MLA, P. Longon and others also voiced concerns about the fencing project, noting that in places like Pangsha and Longwa, people, animals, and livelihoods

have traditionally coexisted across the border. Many villagers engage in trade and agricultural activities on the Myanmar side. Also, a suggestion was made to establish an administrative headquarters at Pangsha to facilitate the implementation of government policies.

Replying to the starred question put up by MLA, Achumbemo Kikon regarding the construction of Capital Road (Bypass Road from Dimapur and Kohima), Minister of Roads & Bridges, G. Kaito Aye said the reasons for delay in completion is due to litigation, alignment changes and forest clearance issues, landowner disputes and compensation demands, and Covid-19 pandemic. With respect to the question on names of the firms the work has been allotted to, Kaito said Package -I (0-11 Km) and Package-III (23-34.17 Km) has been allotted to Vilelie Khamo and Sons with a payment of Rs. 30.04 crore and 98.13 crore respectively, and Package -II (11-23 Km) to M/s Coal Mines Associated traders with a payment of Rs. 100.99 crore, Kaito further said that the expected date of commissioning of the bypass road is 31st March 2026.

With regard to the starred question raised by MLA, Nuklutoshi on the status of Dimapur Railway Station modernisation to world class railway station and its budget allocation of Rs. 283 crore, Minister, Health & Family Welfare, P. Paiwang Konyak replied that the required fund for the project, taken up by Amrit Bharat Station scheme, has been sanctioned by the Railway Ministry, and the tender formalities has been completed and is slated to be kickstarted by the month of March 2025. Regarding the steps taken by the Government for the encroachment of Railway Land at Dimapur, P. Paiwang Konyak stated that various steps have



Minister, H&FW, Paiwang Konyak taking part in the discussion during the 6th Session of the 14th NLA at NLA Hall, Kohima on 6th March 2025.

been taken, such as exploring the option of eviction by the Estate Officer, Northeast Frontier Railway as per PPE Act 1971 and the re-settlement plan is also being explored, however, the Railways expressed its inability to pay the compensation amounting to Rs. 132 crore (Preliminary Assessment). The land issue may jeopardize the proposed project, therefore, the Government of Nagaland and the NFR has decided to kickstart the project on the areas under the possession of the Railways which are free from encumbrances.

Replying to the supplementary questions raised by MLA Nuklutoshi as to whether the authority is yet to cancel the land pattas issued earlier and whether any eviction has been carried out, Minister Paiwang Konyak replied that the land pattas could not be cancelled as the land occupants approached the court and no eviction has been carried out as the cases are under litigation. He said spot verification has been carried out and land upgradation survey of

the Dimapur Railway has also been carried out. The Department has decided that Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) should submit the list of encroachers along with the land patta documents and after the submission, a joint survey will be conducted, which will then be submitted to the State Government for further corrective course of action.

Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio stated that Article 371(A) has given protection to the Nagas in terms of protection of land. He lamented that the people have taken advantage of it and has created problems for themselves. On the issue of land compensation, he sought the cooperation of the landowners for a reasonable outcome. He suggested that resettlement would be a good option. He informed that the Tuli-Dimapur railway line was approved by the Ministry of Railways in 2011-12 and that the Ministry was willing to take up the project if land was provided free of cost. However, the people were willing to provide the land only if the foothill road was completed. Rio added that the State Government will take up the matter with the Ministry and also the people of the area for a positive outcome.

Replying to the starred question put forward by Y. Lima Onen Chang, MLA regarding the status of National Highway 202 and the reasons behind the delay in getting the project approved, Deputy Chief Minister, and Minister in-charge of National Highways, T.R. Zeliang replied that in accordance to the Approved Sanction Ceiling and Annual Plan for NH(o) works for the FY 2024-25, the Department had submitted an estimate for widening of the existing single lane to a two lane road with a paved shoulder from Km 39 to Km 283 on NH 202 to the Chief Engineer, North East Zone, Ministry

of Road Transport and Highways and that further direction was awaited from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

In reply to the question put up by MLA, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie as to whether the authorities responsible for leasing or allotting land patta(s) are required to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned department before reallocating land or property to a new party, and if so, whether procedural formalities are followed, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of Home, Y. Patton affirmed that the authorities responsible for leasing or allocating land patta (s) are required to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Secretary of the concerned department before re-allocation is made and that procedural formalities are required to be followed as per the Land Revenue Department Notification No. LR/4-9/82 dated 10/11/93 (Annexure –A).

REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION ON OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME:

Replying to the starred questions raised by MLA, Achumbemo Kikon regarding the total number of population in Nagaland covered under the Old Age Pension Scheme, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio said that under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), there are 57,402 beneficiaries and under the State Old Age Pension (SOAP), 5970 beneficiaries are enrolled, totalling to 63,372 beneficiaries. Regarding the amount paid to the beneficiary per month and per year, he stated that under the IGNOAPS (60-79 years), Rs. 200 is provided p.m, under the IGNOAPS (80 years and above), Rs. 500 is provided p.m. and under the State Old Age Pension (SOAP), Rs. 200 is provided p.m. The CM also stated that

the qualifying age to be eligible is 60 years and above, and the budget for IGNOAPS is 100% Central Grant and the SOAP beneficiaries are covered under State Grant.

MLA, Achumbemo Kikon raised concerns on the fact that modern technology and the increase in the living standards have attributed to driving the young Naga people away from the close proximity and association shared with one's parents/grandparents, which was not so, earlier in the past. In this regard, he proposed that the State Government need to formulate its own policy where we care for our parents and grandparents. Nowadays, many young Nagas prefer sending their parents and grandparents to old age homes rather than taking care of them at home. Stating that this is not a part of the Naga culture, he suggested if an enhancement of the amount under the Old Age Pension Scheme can be made from the state budget, because as far as central policy is concerned, it cannot be enhanced. He also proposed about setting up old age homes in some of the big villages, identifying where there is a good number of population.

Advisor, Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak, in response to the supplementary questions raised regarding the old age pension, said that 63372 beneficiaries are covered under this welfare scheme, and though there are many genuine people who are not covered under the scheme, the Ministry has stopped adding new beneficiaries because the number of beneficiaries has already saturated in the State. He said the Old Age Pension Scheme is for the citizens living Below Poverty Line or old aged persons belonging to the poorest of the poor households, but the wrongful inclusion of beneficiaries belonging to Above Poverty Line or wrongful inclusion

of non-eligible population is filling the slot saturating the ceiling.

Wanpang Konyak appealed for honesty in availing the scheme so that the Department will have windows to include more of the genuine vulnerable left-out and deserving applicants. He advocated for educating the public and giving awareness which will surely contribute for more coverage and towards meaningful implementations of any scheme.

Delivering his remarks on the Old Pension Scheme, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio lamented that 60 years is not the age to retire in life, and the age of retirement needs to be reviewed for further discussion. He stated that there are 16,000 free eligible beneficiaries as per the report from the various District Welfare Offices who are yet to be covered under Old Age Pension Scheme. Also, many eligible beneficiaries cannot be covered as the Ministry has put a ceiling limit based on the BPL population of 2001 Census. The CM highlighted that there are many bogus people drawing the pension, and underlined the role of the village council in identifying the eligible beneficiaries. Dr. Neiphiu Rio pointed out that increasing the pension amount is in discussion, but the foremost thing is to make sure that the rightful beneficiaries are availing the scheme.

REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION ON FREE MOVEMENT REGIME:

Deputy Chief Minister, Yanthungo Patton, in a starred question on Free Movement Regime (FMR), replied that the Government of India has regulated the FMR between India and Myanmar through a letter dated 24th December 2024. He stated under the new rules movement is restricted to 43 designated crossing points, requiring a Border Pass issued by Assam Rifles. In

Nagaland, 9 border crossing points have been designated in four districts: Kiphire (3), Meluri (2), Mon (2), and Noklak (2). He mentioned that entry/exit is to be monitored by Assam Rifles, with two police personnel and two health officials deployed at each point. The Border Pass allows a single entry for up to seven days within 10 Km of the Indo-Myanmar border. He added that the Nagaland Government is responsible for checking Myanmar nationals' border passes and addressing overstays or unauthorized activities. No work order has been issued for fencing along the Nagaland border.

The State Cabinet discussed the issue on 6th January 2025, and decided to request the Centre to continue the FMR, with the Chief Secretary formally communicating this to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Earlier, on 8th February 2024, the Cabinet had also urged the Centre to regulate movement in consultation with border residents and involve village councils in the process.

Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio replying to a supplementary question, stated that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) is a very serious issue and explained the position taken by the Government following the announcement of border fencing. He emphasized the need to appeal to the Home Ministry to review the Protected Area Permit (PAP) and the FMR, as the situation in Nagaland is not as severe as in some neighboring states. He highlighted that due to the ongoing Nagaland political issue, the State remains under the Disturbed Areas Act and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). He suggested that all 60 Members of the Assembly pass a resolution, meet with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and submit their concerns. While acknowledging that the Government of India

may have apprehensions, he urged the State Government to work diligently on the FMR issue.

Replying to a supplementary question raised by MLA Achumbemo on Protected Area Permit (PAP) and Free Movement Regime (FMR), on the fourth day of the 6th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 7th March 2025, Chief Minister & Leader of the House, Dr. Neiphiu Rio replied that PAP was re-imposed in the State on the grounds of security concern by the Government of India though the signing of Framework Agreement, Agreed Position and Dialogue have been in progress between the Government of India and the Nagas. He added that Christian missionaries, foreigners or foreigners married to Nagas often faced situational challenges while visiting the State due to enforcement of this Act. On AFSPA, he said the Government of India might continue to enforce this Act in the State as long as the Naga Political Issue persists.

MLA, Achumbemo opined that PAP should be scrapped in the State to which our resentment and the sense of the August House should be conveyed to the GoI.

CM'S REPLY TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS ON FOOTHILL ROAD:

Replying to the supplementary questions on Foothill Road during the Sixth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 4th March 2025 at NLA Hall, Kohima, the Chief Minister & Leader of the House, Dr. Neiphiu Rio said that the foothill road is an issue concerning not only the elected members and people of that area but also to all the citizens of the State. On allotment of contract, he said there are many qualified contractors who are eligible in the State to do such a contract work in

the State. Rio expressed optimism that the Department under the able leadership of the Minister for Roads & Bridges, G. Kaito Aye would be able to sort out public grievances and differences, and smoothly execute the ongoing construction to its completion in time. He also mentioned on the floor of the house that the first proposed foothill road was taken up during his time as the Minister in-charge for Works & Housing way back in 1993. However, it was objected by the Assam Government when this issue was raised in the NEC. After that, the amount sanctioned by NEC for this road was dropped due to obstruction and the project has been kept in abeyance.

On allocation of funds, Dr. Rio said the State Government did not receive even a penny from the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, GoI. Whatever amounts have been received so far for this project was through SPA and SASCI, he added. Till date, Rs. 245.50 crore has been sanctioned against this project, and he assured to give more funds during the current financial year 2025- 2026 to expedite the completion of the road. Yet, he specifically mentioned that the amount already sanctioned under SASCI has to be utilized within that Financial Year, which can also be extended for another 6 months followed by submission of UCs accordingly. In the event of failure to do so, there are a penalty and no more sanction to be made in the subsequent years, he cautioned.

Dr. Rio appealed to all the stakeholders, be it NFRCC, leaders, CSOs, Tribal Hohos, etc. to support the project and extend their sincere cooperation to the Department.

CM, DR. NEIPHIU RIO PRESENTS BUDGET OF NEW INITIATIVES:

Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr.

Neiphiu Rio while presenting the budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 during the 6th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 6th March 2025, at the outset, lamented over the fact that the Indo-Naga political issue still remains unresolved, however, he assured that the State Government, as a facilitator, is making its best efforts to play a proactive and contributory role for an early solution.

Dr. Rio said that with regard to the concerns and issues of the brothers and sisters of the Eastern Region, the Cabinet had deliberated on the issue of Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) on the 30th of October 2024 following which, the State Government had forwarded its comments on the third Draft Memorandum of Settlement on Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority on 6th November 2024 to the Union Home Ministry.

Dr. Rio while reaffirming the State Government's commitment to bring governance closer to every citizen, also mentioned that erstwhile Meluri sub-division of Phek district was inaugurated as the 17th District of Nagaland on 21st February 2025, and was christened as the 'Land of Fortune.'

The CM stated that the Sixteenth Finance Commission visited the State from 4th to 6th November 2024, during which a Memorandum was submitted, seeking a substantial Revenue Deficit Grant to cover committed revenue expenditures. Given our revenue constraints, Capital Deficit Grants to support developmental activities was requested. Additionally, the Commission was urged to waive the mandatory property tax requirement for ULB grants due to Nagaland's unique landholding system under Article 371(A), and also sought State Specific Grants for key development projects.

Dr. Rio said that one of the most prominent initiatives of the State Government is the the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS), which will continue to be a key priority of the Government. A total of 12,047 beneficiaries have availed benefits in the current financial year. 66 hospitals are empaneled both within and outside the State. The other initiatives include entrepreneurship development through the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative (CMMFI) and 1,318 subsidized loans have been sanctioned. An amount of Rs. 50 crore has been allocated for 2025-26. The Chief Minister's Life Insurance Scheme (CMLIS) was onboarded with insurers on 1st October 2024, and 3,99,915 beneficiaries have already enrolled. To date, 30 beneficiaries have claimed benefits under the scheme. The initiative follows an open enrolment model open throughout the year, allowing more families to enroll and extend financial security to those in need. The renewal of CMLIS is scheduled for October 2025, with a provision of Rs. 15 crore allocated for the next year's premium to ensure continued coverage for beneficiaries.

Dr. Rio said that the Budget emphasizes skilling and employment-led growth, sustainability and private sector partnerships as key drivers of economic transformation. In a decisive step towards this, the Government will launch a special initiative under the Nagaland Skill Mission to train and provide employment opportunities for at least 5,000 youth in sectors such as hospitality, tourism, banking and insurance, construction, healthcare, logistics and drone technology within the financial year. The Mission will bridge the gap between education and employability, offering Skill Loans backed by Government Guarantee to promote financial

independence. A dedicated PMU under IDAN will oversee seamless execution. Rs. 5 crore has been allocated for the same. Further, dovetailed to this mission, to promote tourism as a key driver of employment, the Government is launching the Nagaland Tourism, Hospitality and Transport Scheme. This scheme will facilitate concessional loans to entrepreneurs to set up 500 homestays and 200 tourist transport vehicles. This initiative will integrate various government programs, including CMMFI, Nagaland Skill Mission, and Tourism Connect.

Dr. Rio said the Government will launch the Drone Training and Logistics Programme and an amount of Rs. 2.50 crore has been earmarked. This initiative will skill youth in drone operations through public private partnerships, ensuring employment opportunities in this growing field.

The CM said effective governance and service delivery depend on capacity building and continuous professional competency enhancement for both local bodies and public servants and Rs. 2 crore has been earmarked. Through these initiatives, the Government aims to equip officials with the necessary expertise to enable effective policy formulation and execution for the benefit of the people. Further, to nurture future leaders and policy innovators, the Government will launch the Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme with Rs. 2.50 crore earmarked, aimed at developing a cadre of highly skilled professionals with a deep understanding of Nagaland's development priorities.

The Government is committed to revitalizing and preserving the culture, tradition and knowledge systems of Nagaland while seamlessly integrating them with modern development and sustainable livelihoods. Towards this objective, Dr. Rio

said that the Living Morung Initiative with an allocation of Rs. 5 crore will be implemented by the Department of Art & Culture.

Dr. Rio stated the Government is committed to addressing the State's power deficit through sustainable solutions. The Nagaland Solar Power Mission with an outlay of Rs. 10 crore earmarked will encourage rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The Government shall provide a State subsidy of Rs. 20,000 per KW upto a maximum of Rs.50,000 per consumer, enabling households to benefit from clean and affordable energy.

The CM said the total developmental outlay including CSS is Rs. 5819.24 crore. Out of this, the State developmental outlay from State's own resources is Rs.1,200 crore which is an increase of Rs. 190 crore, constituting a growth of 18.81% over the financial year 2024-25.

The Agri and Allied sector have been provided with a total outlay of Rs.49.03 crore. The Agriculture Department has been provided Rs. 11.55 crore for construction of agri link roads, office buildings and agri park at Kisama Heritage Village. Further, an amount of Rs. 2 crore under maintenance has been provided for upkeep of existing government farms. The Horticulture Department has been provided Rs. 6 crore for construction of office buildings in newly created districts, horti link roads, Strawberry Model Farming Project at Zubza and core activities. The Soil & Water Conservation Department has been provided Rs. 3.52 crore for construction of departmental buildings and for implementing comprehensive sustainable land development project.

The Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department has been provided Rs. 4.76 crore for completion of Veterinary

Hospital in Jalukie, strengthening of existing dispensaries and health centres, and construction of 12 meat production units. The Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Department has been provided Rs. 3.50 crore for construction of departmental buildings and the ongoing State Programme 'Cluster based Fisheries Development & Institutionalization of FPOs.' The Cooperation Department has been provided Rs. 3.20 crore for construction of district offices at Peren and Niuland, grants to MARCOFED and other core activities.

The Water Resources Department has been provided Rs. 4.46 crore for creation of water bodies, construction of E.E. Office at Peren and Integrated Model Settled Farming at Mongsenyimti. The Department of Land Resources Development has been provided Rs. 5.81 crore for promoting sustainable livelihood through cultivation of coffee, rubber and arecanut, support to set up coffee cafes and springshed development. The Environment, Forests & Climate Change Department has been provided Rs. 5.70 crore for construction of range offices at Tuli, Noksen, Rangapahar, Phungkhuri and Aboi, and check gates at Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary, Tizit and Lanye.

Rs. 1 crore each has been provided to the Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency, Bio-Resource Mission, Beekeeping and Honey Mission and NEPED.

The Department of Rural Development has been provided Rs. 5 crore for construction of roads and farmers market, construction of BDO Office at Zunheboto, staff quarter at Lerie and amenities at the Directorate complex. The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) has been provided Rs. 1.95 crore for construction of administrative-cum-academic block and trainings. The Department of Land Revenue has been

provided Rs. 4 crore for activities including construction of new Directorate and district office at Longleng.

In the Power sector, the distribution and revenue has been provided Rs. 9.02 crore for construction of three 33 KVA sub-station lines in Mon and Phek districts, purchase of transformers, and upgradation of existing 33 KVA substations. The transmission and generation section has been provided Rs. 14.27 crore for commissioning of transformers at various sub-stations and construction of departmental buildings. In addition, Rs. 16.50 crore has been provided for maintenance and Rs. 38 crore for payment of service delivery under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme. The New & Renewable Energy Department has been provided Rs. 3 crore for implementation of street and home lighting systems, and water pumps through solar energy. The Electrical Inspectorate has been provided Rs. 1 crore for Green Village initiatives.

The Industries & Commerce Department has been provided Rs. 10.05 crore for construction of departmental buildings, handloom development programme, for 'Ease of Doing Business,' training and awareness programmes and export promotion activities. This includes Rs. 1 crore each for NHHDC, NKVIB and Nagaland Hotels Limited. The Government has allocated Rs. 1 crore for Startup Nagaland and plans to sign a MoU with SIDBI and NEDFi to create the Nagaland Venture Fund, offering incentives to drive innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Sericulture Department has been provided Rs. 4.95 crore for construction of district offices at Niuland, Shamator and Peren, development of Eri Silk in rural areas and for the ongoing State programmes,

‘Augmentation programme for Eri and Muga cultivation’ and establishment of ‘Silk processing units.’ The Geology & Mining Department has been provided Rs.5 crore for construction of chemical laboratory, ground water exploration and development, mineral exploration and mineral connectivity road from Lal Pathar to Dikhu bridge. The Nagaland State Mineral Development Corporation Limited has been provided Rs. 1.53 crore.

For the Roads & Bridges Department, the allocation has been increased to Rs. 55 crore for implementing Special Road Development Programme, improvement of other roads and rehabilitation of bridges. Rs.30 crore is provided for maintenance of existing roads. The Mechanical Department has been provided Rs.3 crore for procurement of heavy machineries, and construction of boundary wall for the Mechanical Workshop-cum-Training Centre at Shokhuvi, Chumoukedima.

The Road Transport Department has been provided Rs. 7.88 crore for construction of sub-station and garages at various districts, upgradation of workshop at Lerie, booking office at Tamlu and establishment of Aviation, Inland Waterways and Railways Cell. The Motor Vehicles Department has been provided Rs. 4.99 crore for construction of DTO office at Dimapur and Zunheboto, flat type quarter at Chumoukedima and Department related activities. In line with the State’s commitment to modernize public transport infrastructure, the Government will initiate the introduction of a fleet of over 40 new buses to the Nagaland State Transport (NST) this year. Additionally, Rs. 2.5 crore has been allocated to NST to upgrade essential amenities, ensuring quality facilities at five priority NST stations

to begin with.

The Science & Technology Department has been provided Rs.2.71 crore for departmental infrastructure and for Nagaland Science Mission. The Information Technology & Communication Department has been provided Rs. 3.86 crore for construction of buildings and setting up of Artificial Intelligence and Research Centre, Dr. Rio added.

The Planning Machinery has been provided Rs. 7 crore for construction of district offices at Zunheboto and Shamator, SDPDB conference hall at Pughoboto and Bhandari and other infrastructure. Rs. 282.55 crore is earmarked for State Matching Share to CSS. Other provisions include Rs. 12 crore for Special Development Schemes, Rs. 120 crore for LADP, Rs. 200 crore for Land Bank, Rs.10 crore for CMCF and Rs. 40 crore for Innovative Programmes.

The Art & Culture Department has been provided Rs.4.40 crore for activities including Hornbill Festival. The Tourism Department has been provided Rs. 14 crore for the Hornbill Festival, Mini Hornbill Festivals and construction of office buildings in various districts. The Economics & Statistics Department has been provided Rs. 4.10 crore for construction of various departmental buildings.

The Food & Civil Supplies Department has been provided Rs. 4.60 crore for construction of office buildings and godowns at various locations. The Legal Metrology & Consumer Protection Department has been provided Rs. 2.40 crore for construction and upgradation of various departmental building, trainings and for consumer awareness. The Evaluation Department has been provided Rs. 3.99 crore for various construction works and evaluation studies,

the CM added.

The School Education Department has been provided Rs. 14.05 crore for construction of DEO and SDEO Offices in the new districts, and school buildings. Lighthouse School Complexes which are envisioned as hubs of academic excellence with modern facilities and best teaching and learning practices are being established in the districts. Rs. 5 crore is allocated for maintenance of school buildings. The Higher Education Department has been provided Rs. 10.63 crore for construction of departmental buildings, procurement of IT equipment for Government Colleges and for accreditation activities. The NAAC has accredited 37 colleges out of 71 Higher Education Institutions in Nagaland. The SCERT has been provided Rs.3.15 crore. The Technical Education Department has been provided Rs. 2.86 crore.

The Youth Resources & Sports Department has been provided Rs. 13.55 crore for construction of a new Directorate building, departmental buildings and support for TaFMA activities. Construction of a Pre-fabricated Centre for Excellence in Music & Arts, Kohima has been completed while 15 Pre-fabricated Multi-Discipline Indoor Sports Stadiums and 15 Futsal grounds spread in various districts are ongoing. The Government is committed to provide basic infrastructures for promotion of sports throughout the State. Construction of Pre-Fabricated Multipurpose Halls and Futsal grounds have been established in most of the District Headquarters and these facilities will be extended to sub-divisions. Further, the Government will endeavour to provide Astro Turf Grounds with flood lights and allied amenities in all District Headquarters, provide assistance to the youths and sports

personnel through capacity building programme and also provide platform for competition through tournaments. The Nagaland Super League will hopefully emerge as a premier professional sports league in the region.

The Health & Family Welfare Department has been provided Rs. 9.46 crore for construction of CHC, PHCs, offices, staff quarters, health Sub-centres, and infrastructural improvement and patient lodge at District Hospital, Dimapur. The Public Health Engineering Department has been provided Rs. 4.08 crore for improvement of water supply to Mon, Kohima and Mokokchung, construction of SDO office at Medziphema and data storage block at Chief Engineer's office.

The Housing Department has been provided Rs. 25.86 crore for construction of rental housings, staff quarters, rest houses and office buildings in various districts and sub-divisions. Fund provided is also earmarked for State Commissions Complex which will house various Commissions. Rs. 4.5 crore is provided for maintenance of existing buildings. CAWD has been provided Rs. 19.43 crore for office buildings, residential quarters, flat type staff quarters, rest houses and circuit house for District Administration in various parts of the State. Further, Rs. 5 crore is provided for maintenance of administrative buildings. The Police Housing has been provided Rs. 14.11 crore for construction of SP residences in all the new districts, office buildings, police stations, staff quarters, barracks and upgradation of buildings.

The Law & Justice Department has been provided Rs. 2.34 crore for construction activities. The Home Guards has been provided with Rs. 3.60 crore for construction

of buildings in Kiphire, Mon and Dimapur. The Jails Department has been provided Rs. 4.85 crore for construction of District Jail at Noklak, Sub-Jail at Pfutsero, and necessary amenities at other locations. The Excise Department has been provided with Rs. 2.90 crore for construction of buildings in Phek, Peren and Dimapur.

The Urban Development Department has been provided with Rs. 17.41 crore for Urban Roads, Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes including Master Plan for Nagaki City. Further, Rs. 25 crore is allocated for maintenance of urban roads. The Municipal Affairs Department has been provided Rs. 3.96 crore for Urban Sanitation and Sewerage Scheme and construction of office for ULBs. Under State Finance Commission Grants, Rs. 17.37 crore is allocated to Municipal Department for urban local bodies.

The Information & Public Relations Department is provided with Rs. 4 crore for construction of district offices at Phek, Tseminyu, Shamator and Tuensang and for electronic and mobile journalism. The Labour Department has been provided with Rs. 2.13 crore for construction of office buildings. The Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department has been provided with Rs. 4.70 crore for construction of office buildings, establishment of centres for entrepreneurship development and providing access to core employability skills.

The Social Welfare Department has been provided Rs. 5.30 crore for construction of CDPO offices at Kikruma, Mon, Shamator, Peren, Tamlu, officers' quarters at Kohima and 32 model anganwadi centres covering all the districts. The Women Resources Department has been provided Rs. 4.80 crore for completion of women resource

centres at Peren, Wokha and Zunheboto.

The General Services sector has been provided Rs. 52.69 crore. This includes Rs.3.30 crore to the Printing and Stationery Department, Rs.1.30 crore to the Administrative Training Institute, Rs. 7.82 crore to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and Rs. 11 crore to the Fire & Emergency Services for development of fire stations in the newly created districts, construction of staff quarter at Peren and purchase of equipment and appliances, Dr. Rio added.

The Treasuries & Accounts Department has been provided Rs. 2.25 crore for construction of office-cum-staff quarters at various locations. The Parliamentary Affairs Department has been provided Rs. 2 crore. The Taxes Department has been provided Rs. 4 crore for construction of Directorate building, staff quarters at Kohima and office buildings at Phek and Noklak.

The Village Guards has been provided Rs. 3.27 crore for construction of VG offices at Kiphire and Tuensang, training ground at Shamator, improvement works at various locations and construction of 20 VG barracks. Border Affairs Department has been provided Rs. 1.13 crore for ongoing construction of staff quarter and a Border Magistrate office. The Department of Under Developed Areas has been provided Rs. 27 crore for Iconic Projects under the State flagship Underdeveloped Areas Programme, construction of staff quarters and human resource development.

To fast track the developmental needs of villages in the interstate border areas, CM Dr. Rio announced a new initiative in the current budget with an allocation of Rs. 15 crore. This initiative will focus on creation of vital amenities such as buildings, roads, power and water supply.

The Election Department has been provided Rs. 4 crore for construction of new CEO Office building. The Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority under Home Department has been provided Rs. 4.20 crore for setting up of infrastructure in the districts, procurement of machineries and strengthening of State Emergency Operation Centre. The Tribal Affairs Department has been provided Rs. 2.90 crore for construction of directorate building and staff quarters.

The Minority Affairs Department has been allocated Rs. 4.50 crore for construction of new directorate building, minority women marketing outlets and for Holy Land Tour. The State Lotteries has been provided Rs. 1 crore for construction of a new directorate building at new Capital Complex, Thizama.

Dr. Rio said the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) constitutes a substantial portion of the annual budget. Timely implementation is critical to ensure benefits to the people of the State and towards this, the State has launched a digital platform - Nagaland e- Proposal System (NePS). This will streamline submission of proposals, and ensure timely release of funds. Departments are advised to be “implementation-ready” from the beginning of the financial year. The cash management position of State is stable, and the Departments must submit proposals early, particularly those involving civil works to ensure projects are initiated and completed as scheduled, he added.

Dr. Rio said our own tax and non-tax revenues contribute around 13% of the total revenue receipts. However, it is felt that there is room for increasing our tax revenue. The Government urges all citizens to demand GST cash memos for transactions to enhance transparency and curb tax evasion. This simple step will help track revenue streams

and prevent leakages. To further strengthen tax administration, a dedicated research wing within the State Taxes Department will analyze tax data, detect evasion patterns, and optimize revenue collection. Additionally, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) reading posts will be installed along major inter-state routes to ensure e-way bill compliance, he added.

Dr. Rio added the revenue loss in the power sector has made it increasingly challenging for the Government to ensure uninterrupted power supply, especially amid rising demand from households, businesses and entrepreneurs. To address this, the State has initiated the installation of smart prepaid meters to enhance efficiency and accountability. The success of this initiative depends on the cooperation and active participation of every citizen and power consumer and proactive action of the Department. The smart meters will also ensure efficient billing for the consumer combined with emergency credit facility.

Dr. Rio stated that the closing deficit for the year 2024-25 is estimated to improve by Rs. 62.57 crore. As against the projection of Rs. 905.78 crore in the Budget estimates, it is now estimated to close at Rs. 843.21 crore only.

As regards to the Budget proposals, CM, Dr. Neiphiu Rio estimated the gross receipts at Rs. 24849.01 crore and gross expenditure at Rs. 24699.01 crore for the financial year 2025-26. The broad item-wise statement is as under:

A: RECEIPTS (Rs. in crore):

State's Own Tax and Non-Tax Revenue:
2472.13

State's Share in Central Taxes: 8093.70

Central Assistance (Grants & Loans)::
8216.25

Internal Debt (including WMA from RBI):
6065.41

Recovery of Loans and Advances by State
Govt: 1.52

Total: 24849.01

B: EXPENDITURES:

Non-Development Expenditure: 12949.72

Servicing of Debt (including repayment of
WMA): 5930.05

Development Expenditure (including CSS
etc): 5819.24

Total: 24699.01

C. Balance (A-B): 150.00

D. Public Account (NET): (-) 150.00

E. Net Current Transactions (C+D): 0.00

The gross receipts and expenditures during the year 2025-26 is estimated to be equal. However, due to the negative opening balance as mentioned in Para 47, the year 2025-26 is estimated to close with a negative balance of Rs. 843.21 crore.

**NLA MEMBERS DISCUSSES ON
ISSUE OF MUSHROOMING OF
UNIONS & ASSOCIATIONS IN THE
STATE:**

Minister, Parliamentary Affairs and Power, K. G. Kenye initiated the discussion under Rule 50 with regard to the issue pertaining to "Mushrooming of Unions & Associations in Nagaland," during the third day of the sixth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 6th March 2025. Kenye highlighted the number of registered societies under the Government of Nagaland which currently stands at 7,952, out of which, 5,922 are inactive and a mere 2,030 are active till date. He said that Nagaland as a progressing State, still in its developmental period, is bound to come across various situations and scenarios where certain elements can sometimes hamper the

growth of society unconsciously and one such example is the uncountable unions and associations that have mushroomed in Nagaland over the years. Kenye voiced out against the hyperactive social organizations whose annual activities are proving to be a huge financial burden for its members and leaders as a whole and also said that such activities often turns out to be a waste of precious time for many. He urged the Naga people to be aware of the ever competitive world scenario and to devote our precious resources and time to more productive ventures.

Taking part in the discussion, MLA, Achumbemo Kikon talked about the system of forming associations in Nagaland and it being quite different from the rest of India due to its history. Nagas are very much aware and interested in the area of politics and history, he said. Referring to Article 19 (1) (c) of the Indian Constitution guaranteeing citizens the right to form associations, unions, or cooperative societies, Kikon emphasized that the issue needs to be dealt in a careful manner so as to not strangle the fundamental rights of the Naga citizens. Kikon said, much importance needs to be given to the matter of sensitizing the citizens, creating awareness of the pros and cons of forming unions and associations.

Advisor, Water Resources, Tongpang Ozukum clarified that although the House does not have the authority to make resolutions on the issue, it is mostly to make people aware of the same through its platform. Speaking on the three-day conventions held by various organizations, he recommended lessening it to a one-day affair as done by associations in Ongpangkong Range recently.

Participating in the discussion, MLA, Dr.

Sukhato A. Sema questioned the intentions and motives behind the formation of unions and associations, and funds being diverted for personal use and expenditure etc. He said that there is competition among unions for popularity, power and influence leading to division, thereby fostering tribalism instead of unity. He also lamented on churches being divided and the pursuit of building churches in almost every locality, for the want of more power and autonomy. Formation of unions and associations affects the economic development of the State, and in this regard, he appealed for regulations to keep a tab on such activities. He also appealed for necessary initiatives to engage the youth, especially unemployed youths, in various trainings such as skill labour trainings, handicrafts, games and sports, music and arts etc. to make them economically and financially independent, so as to curb the mushrooming of unions and associations.

MLA, Nuklutoshi cited that almost all the unions and associations function on collections, donations being contributed by the concerned members and well-wishers, which become burdensome. He added that it is important to have unions and associations but without limitations, it will cause hindrance in the society.

Delivering the concluding remarks on the discussion on 'Mushrooming of unions and associations in Nagaland,' Chief Minister, Nagaland and Leader of the House, Dr. Neiphiu Rio stated that Unions and Associations must be registered for functioning under Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Government of India Act), and in Nagaland, Home Department is designated as Registrar of Societies under the Act. He added that the purposes for which registration can be done is governed by Section 20 of the Act.

As per the Amendments made by Nagaland, registration requires fulfilling different criteria such as submission of form, payment of fees of Rs. 2000, verification report by the concerned EAC/SDO(C), validity of registration for two years as per Section 3A(1) (as inserted by the 3rd Amendment in 2008), registration should be renewed within three months of expiry etc.

Dr. Neiphiu Rio stated that the number of societies in Nagaland given registration till date is 7,952, out of which, 2,064 societies have come for renewal till date, and 244 societies are newly registered (i.e. since 2023). He spoke on the reality of unions/associations spending crores of rupees to hold and conduct meetings, jubilees and other activities. He advised the Home Department to go through the details and to segregate it into different groups/categories, and whether these unions are functioning as per the aims and objectives, activities etc. for the welfare of the people. He mentioned that if there may arise a need for further discussion on the topic, it can be deliberated upon in the August House or in the Cabinet for decisions to be taken in the future.

NAGALAND LEGISLATORS CALL FOR RESUMPTION OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION:

The issue pertaining to "Exploration and Extraction of Petroleum Oil in Nagaland" was discussed under matters of public importance on the fourth day of the sixth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) at the NLA Hall, Kohima on 7th March 2025. Several legislators voiced out the need to explore and extract petroleum oil and natural gas in Nagaland.

Nagaland Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio addressing on the issue, reaffirmed the

State Government's commitment to resuming petroleum oil exploration and extraction in the State. Highlighting Nagaland's rich oil reserves, the Chief Minister recalled that exploration activities began in 1973 when the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) first discovered petroleum in Changpang, leading to production in 1983. However, operations were halted in 1994 due to issues such as royalty disputes and unauthorized production beyond the state government's permitted limit.

To facilitate oil exploration, the Nagaland Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulations and Rules were notified in 2012, and Metropolitan Oil and Gas Pvt. Ltd. was granted permission for exploration in Wokha district. However, legal challenges arose, including a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that was later withdrawn. The Gauhati High Court took up the matter suo moto, and the case remains pending.

The Chief Minister revealed that the State Government has been actively engaging with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) since August 2018 to resolve the deadlock and resume operations under Nagaland's special constitutional provisions. Meetings with central and state stakeholders, including a key discussion in Dimapur on September 21, 2021, addressed potential solutions such as permitting ONGC to resume operations and integrating Nagaland's oil blocks into the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). As part of the negotiations, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas proposed a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India, the Nagaland Government, and the Assam Government, along with a Bipartite MoU specifically for Nagaland. The State

Government has submitted its comments and suggestions on the draft MoUs.

Chief Minister Dr. Rio also met Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, on 9th September 2022, and urged the formulation of a Nagaland-specific petroleum policy. Key proposals included creating smaller exploration blocks to attract more bidders, ensuring royalty and revenue sharing with the people of Nagaland, and setting up a refinery within the state.

Acknowledging the ongoing legal proceedings, Dr. Rio emphasized that the proposed measures were interim arrangements designed to facilitate exploration and revenue generation without prejudicing the pending Supreme Court case. He stressed that a revenue-sharing mechanism is crucial, particularly for the Disputed Area Belt (DAB), covering sectors A to F. To push forward the agenda, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas constituted a High-Level Committee, which visited Kohima on 8th October 2024. Discussions continued on 13th November 2024, with a focus on ensuring economic viability based on the production volume.

Concluding his statement, CM Dr. Neiphiu Rio reiterated that unlocking Nagaland's petroleum potential would significantly improve the State's financial standing. "Nagaland is rich, yet our people remain poor. It is time we work together to harness our natural resources for the benefit of all," he stated.

Minister of Public Health Engineering, Jacob Zhimomi expressed support for the exploration of petroleum and natural resources but raised concerns about revenue sharing in the disputed belt. However, he did not oppose the concept of revenue sharing. He suggested a phased approach to ensure

a successful and productive exploration of petroleum.

Partaking in the discussion, MLA, Dr. Sukhato A. Sema pointed out that Nagaland State could not follow through the extraction of oil inside Nagaland due to various internal differences arising out of Article 371 (A), civil societies argued that in view of Article 371A, outsiders shall not be allowed to extract oil as the land and its resources belong to its people, and the Naga Political groups said that oil should not be extracted inside Nagaland till we get independence. On the other hand, Government of Assam continues to develop oil fields along our borders, and it is now 51 years old that oil extraction has been operational between Assam and Nagaland boundary, and also inside the State of Nagaland. Dr. Sukhato appealed to the Nagas to introspect and resolve our past differences in this matter and at the earliest, take appropriate decision on Assam-Nagaland boundary wells and also the oil

fields that are inside our State.

MLA, Achumbemo said that the benefits which are due to our people has not been given. He expressed dismay over the fact that thousands and lakhs of metric tons of crude oils have been taken away from our people. Stating that initially, an exploration license was given to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for exploration, whether there is oil or not, but they went into extraction, and now it is in the production stage. Achumbemo Kikon informed that Changpang Landowners Union and the Tssori Old Landowners Union have given the 'No Objection Certificate,' provided the Government of Nagaland is ready to explore the petroleum oil. In this regard, he urged upon the State Government to expedite the matter which is still pending in the court. He appealed that there has to be an oil refinery in the State so that it will generate employment for youth, and can accommodate our people.

MLA Ar. Jwenga Seb expressed his deep concern about the state's economic future and the need for financial self-reliance. He said that Nagaland, rich in natural resources, continues to depend heavily on external sources, with 90% of its energy needs being met by other states and that this dependency is stifling economic growth and preventing the state from fully utilizing its natural resources. Seb outlined the benefits of pursuing oil exploration, including economic growth, revenue generation, employment creation, infrastructure development, energy security, and strategic advantages for national energy security. Seb urged the State Government to issue a Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) to enable reputed companies to conduct detailed exploration under a Revenue Sharing Contract. This, he argued, would bring both immediate and



MLA, Achumbemo Kikon participating in the discussion on matters of urgent public importance at the Sixth Session of the 14th NLA at NLA Hall, Kohima on 6th March 2025.

long-term benefits, including job creation, localized hiring and increased infrastructure, while laying the groundwork for sustained oil production and reducing the State's dependence on external resources.

CM PROPOSES TO LEAD AN ALL-PARTY DELEGATION TO MEET UNION HOME MINISTER ON THE ISSUE OF FREE MOVEMENT REGIME:

Speaking on the Free Movement Regime (FMR) at the 6th session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 7th March 2025 at Assembly Secretariat, Kohima, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio stated that Government of India has issued instructions allowing the cross-border movement of people residing in the "Border Area" i.e., within 10 Km on each side of the Indo-Myanmar Border. Movement of people as per the above instructions shall be limited to 43 (forty-three) designated crossing points and will be granted to the holders of "Border Pass" issued by authorised representative of Assam Rifles. Of the above 43 designated points, nine (9) of these are located within the State of Nagaland. He informed that MHA has requested the Government of Nagaland to undertake checking of Myanmar nationals for their border pass and take appropriate action on their overstay/any other unauthorized activity.

The Chief Minister said that these measures will impact the age-old historical, social, cultural, tribal and economic ties of Nagas living on both sides of the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB). He added that there is movement of people across the IMB to avail health and education facilities and hence, on humanitarian considerations, the above restrictions need to be re-looked upon.

Dr. Rio stated that the State Government has been highlighting the issues to the Ministry of Home Affairs on numerous occasions. He said that the State Cabinet on 8th February 2024, decided to request the Central Government to continue the FMR, enact appropriate regulations and lay down processes for movement of people across the borders in close consultation with the people inhabiting the border areas. He also informed that the Chief Secretary wrote a letter to the Union Home Secretary, on 14th February 2024 citing the significant to and fro movement across the borders due to the close familial and tribal ties, ownership of residential and agricultural lands and sensitive nature of the issue among the people living in the border areas. He said that the State Cabinet in its meeting, held on 6th January 2025, discussed the MHA notification. He added that the Chief Secretary wrote a letter to the Union Home Secretary on 22nd January 2025, reiterating the Government's stand to restore the old FMR.

Dr. Neiphiu Rio reminded the House on the unanimous resolution, "On Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB)" adopted during the Fourth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 1st March 2024. The Resolution cited the unique age-old historical, social, cultural, tribal and economic ties of the Naga people living on both sides of the border and appealed to the Government of India to reconsider its decision to suspend the FMR along the IMB.

Chief Minister Dr. Rio felt that the sentiment of the August House needs to be communicated to the MHA in an appropriate manner. The Chief Minister proposed that he shall lead an all-party delegation to meet the Home Minister, Government of India

at the earliest and express the unanimous resolution passed on 1st March 2024 and the Cabinet decisions of 8th February 2024 and 6th January 2025 in an appropriate manner.

LEGISLATORS ADDRESSES THE IMPLICATIONS OF ONOE:

Under the matter of urgent public importance, “One Nation One Election (ONOE)” was discussed on the final day of the sixth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) at the NLA Hall, Kohima on 8th March 2025.

MLA, Achumbemo Kikon addressing the issue stated that the ONOE initiative greatly concerns the Nagas and the introduction of the same would defeat the federal structure laid down by the Indian Constitution. India being one of the most diverse countries in the world with multiple ethnicities and diverse history, a one-size-fits-all approach is only wishful thinking and a detriment to the democratic features of the country, he said. Achumbemo emphasized that most of the countrymen live in rural areas where regional parties play a crucial role in the electoral process by addressing the local issues, and that introduction of ONOE would sideline these issues as national parties would mostly address issues of national interest. He is apprehensive that use of money, power and government machinery by the national parties will also be rampant if ONOE is implemented.

Speaking on the matter of election expenditure, Kikon said that the reduction in the cost cannot be at the cost of federalism but instead stringent measures should be taken up for regulation of the same. Kikon argued that while countries like South Africa, Sweden and Belgium have been successful in practicing ONOE, implementing the same in

India would prove to be a difficult task due to large population of the country and the complex Party-list Proportional System used alongside ONOE. Kikon also reminded the House that introduction of ONOE will lead to a One Party rule akin to a communist government which will invite chaos and threaten Indian democracy. He concluded by stating that he strongly objects and does not subscribe to the ONOE initiative, and urged the House to thoroughly discuss the issue at an appropriate time.

Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio in his statement, said that ONOE has been proposed to be introduced in the country through the 129th Constitutional Amendment Bill introduced in Lok Sabha on 17th December 2024. Rio stated that after fierce debate in Parliament, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Om Birla forwarded the bills to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) consisting of 27 Lok Sabha and 12 Rajya Sabha members. He added that the JPC has met twice to discuss the feasibility of the implementation of the Bill, however, the final recommendation is yet to be made.

Dr. Rio said that bills were based on the recommendations of an eight-member High-Level Committee and further, the Committee had submitted its recommendations to the President. He also rationalised on the objective of the bill and said that elections have become expensive and time consuming. Rio also highlighted various important actions points which are to be taken after the Bill is passed and the implication of it in terms of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA). Rio also highlighted in length the simultaneous elections norm from the first General Election in 1951 until 1967 and 1967 onwards.

Rio in his concluding statement, said

that it would be improper to make any further comment on the matter since the Bill is still being considered by a Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT MADE BY MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND POWER, K.G. KENYE UNDER RULE-55:

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Power, K.G. Kenye under Rule-55 on the Sixth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 8th March 2025 at the NLA Secretariat, Kohima, stated that the Legislature is the Temple of Democracy and it is an institute where policies are conceived and these policies are transformed into laws through enactment by the Legislature to govern the State and its citizens, and that the role of the assembly committees is to co-ordinate with the working systems of the two Secretariats to ensure the implementation of developmental programmes. These Committees also play dual roles in that, they submit their reports on which the popular government rectify or streamline their future plans and programmes.

Therefore, the evidences, both written and oral established by the committees have far reaching impacts and consequences. In all, the very essence of a people's government will be missing if the roles and purpose of the Committees are compromised in many manners. He remarked that in his observation and submission, Assembly Committee members are not able to shoulder and discharge their assigned responsibilities owing to their absence repeatedly, to relinquish their position as a member of the committee with prior information to the Speaker so as to facilitate another member

for the smooth conduct of such Committees.

Secondly and more importantly, in many cases the Administrative Heads of Department (AHOs) and Heads of Department (HoDs) are not attending to their responsibilities with regard to Assembly matters, he said. He further observed that there are many instances where meetings are not being attended, leading to repeated rescheduling of the meetings causing serious inconveniences. Non-attendance in these meetings and the tendency to depute Junior Officers to represent AHO/HoD is highly inappropriate and must be scrupulously avoided. Kenye stated, all recommendations made by the Committees must be treated with due importance, and the mechanism should be in place for their timely implementation. All AHOs/HoDs must ensure their presence at the Oral Evidence Meetings and Assembly Sessions.

K. G. Kenye emphasized that the Assembly is the highest democratic institution of governance, and all its matters must be treated with utmost seriousness and priority. Government officials, especially those in leadership role, have a duty to respect the legislative process and ensure that the concerns and recommendations of this House are addressed with sincerity and diligence, he added.

SPEAKER, NLA ANNOUNCES CONSTITUTION OF TWO NEW ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:

Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) Speaker, Sharingain Longkumer announced the constitution of various financial and non-financial committees of the assembly for 2025-2026 during the Sixth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Secretariat, Kohima. The Speaker said that

the two newly created committees, namely Committee on Urban Local Bodies and Nagaland Village Council was necessitated to emanate only the fundamental essence of Article 371A.

The uniqueness of our social fabric and the continuous efforts of the Members of the August House to take governance toward people necessitated the emergent requirement of the formation of these two committees.

RULES/REPORTS LAID DURING THE 6th SESSION OF THE 14th NLA:

On the third day of the 6th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 6th March 2025, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio laid the following Reports/Rules - The Nagaland Food Processing Industries Policy (NFPIP), The Nagaland Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 2024, Rules for Administration of Urban Station Committees: Nagaland 2024, Nagaland New & Renewable Energy Service Rules, 2018, and The Nagaland Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Rules 2024. Minister, Health & Family Welfare, P. Paiwang Konyak laid 'The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules for Excluded Areas, Assam, 2025, in force in the State of Nagaland.' Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Power, K. G. Kenye laid the 'Sixth Report of the Rules Committee (2024-2025).'

On 7th March 2025, Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (2024-2025), Advisor, Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan presented the 137th Report of the Committee on Public Accounts (2024-2025) on the examination of the Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2019-20 on the State Finances Audit Report and the 138th Report of the

Committee on Public Accounts (2024-2025) on the Examination of the Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2019-20 on Social, Economic, Revenue and General Sectors.

CM PRESENTS BUDGET

DOCUMENTS DURING THE 6th SESSION OF THE 14th NLA:

During the 6th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 6th March 2025, Chief Minister of Nagaland and Minister-in-charge of Finance, Dr. Neiphiu Rio presented the 'Regularization of Excess Expenditure for the Year 2017-2018 (As recommended by the PAC bats 132nd Report 2023-24),' 'Review of the Trends in Receipts and Expenditure for the First, Second and Third Quarter of the year 2024-25 (as required under Section 11 of the Nagaland Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005),' 'Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year 2024-25,' and 'Statement under the Nagaland Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2025.'

On 7th March 2025, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio presented the Nagaland Information Commission Annual Report 2023-2024 and Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Annual Report 2022-2023. Rio also presented the Nagaland Economic Survey 2024-25 on the floor of the house. Minister, Power and Parliamentary Affairs, K. G. Kenye presented the Nagaland Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) Separate Audit Report (SAR) for FY 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 and Samagra Shiksha Audit Report 2023-2024.

On the last day of the 6th Session of the 14th NLA on 8th March 2025, Chief Minister and

Minister-in Charge of Finance, Dr. Neiphiu Rio presented to the House the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Report which included the Appropriation Accounts 2023-24, Finance Accounts (Volume-I) 2023-24, Finance Accounts (Volume-II) 2023-24, and State Finances Audit Report of the CAG for the year ended 31st March 2023.

ASSENT TO BILLS:

On the second day of the 6th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on 4th March 2025, held at the NLA Hall, Kohima, reported on Assent to the following Bills: 1) Disqualification on Ground of Defection in Urban Local Bodies Bill, 2024, 2) The Global Open University Nagaland (Second Amendment) Bill 2024, 3) The Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, 4) The Nagaland Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2024, 5) The Nagaland Road Safety Authority (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024, 6) The Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation (First Amendment) Bill, 2024.

On 6th March 2025, the following Bills were passed - The Nagaland Town and Country Planning (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2025 and Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (Validation) Bill, 2025.

On 7th March 2025, the following Bills were passed - 1) The Rules for Administration of Justice and Police in Nagaland (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2025' 2) The Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025.'

On the last day of the 6th Session of the 14th NLA on 8th March 2025, the following bills were passed: 1) Nagaland Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2025, 2) Nagaland Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2025 (Supplementary 2024-2025), 3) Nagaland Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2025 (Budget 2025-2026), and 4) Nagaland Goods and Services Tax (Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2024.

BUDGET DOCUMENTS PASSED DURING THE 6th SESSION OF THE 14th NLA:

Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of Finance, Dr. Neiphiu Rio passed the Regularization of Excess Expenditure for the year 2017-18 (As recommended by the PAC in its 132nd Report 2023-24), the Supplementary Demand for Grants for the year 2024-2025, The demand for grants for the year 2025-2026, during the sixth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) at Assembly Secretariat, Kohima on 8th March 2025.

UNION MINISTER OF STATE MURLIDHAR MOHOL VISITS MOKOKCHUNG

Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Cooperation, Government of India, Murlidhar Mohol visited Mokokchung on 3rd March 2025. The Minister reviewed the programme and policies of Centrally Sponsored Schemes during a meeting with the Heads of Offices and Civil Societies at the

Deputy Commissioner's Office Conference Hall, Mokokchung.

Minister Mohol mentioned that the present government is committed to uplifting the living standard of all sections of people, adding that he is eager to work with the State Government for all round



Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Cooperation, Murlidhar Mohol being felicitated during his visit to Mokokchung on 3rd March 2025.

development. The Minister while appreciating the natural beauty of Mokokchung district, also thanked the people for the hospitality shown towards him.

The Minister held a separate meeting with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies. He also visited the proposed Heliport at Ungma village, Mini Dairy Cooperative Plant at Marepkong Ward and proceeded to Impur, where he visited Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM) Centre. The Minister also visited Etiben Tower and Sungkotenem Park at Mopungchuket Village.

ONE DAY TRAINING ON GST HELD AT KOHIMA

A one-day training on GST/TDS/TCC for DDOs/Tax Deductors for Kohima based government department and registered contractors was conducted by the Department of State Taxes at the Directorate of & Accounts, Kohima on 4th March 2025.

The resource persons of the training, Yarenthung Yanthan, Assistant Commissioner of State Taxes, and Commercial State Tax Officers, Merenkaba

and Vizayie Kar spoke on the topic, “Registration, Return Filling and Payment, OMs and Notices, and Tax clearance certificates” The training initiative by the Taxes Department was aimed at effective GST implementation and understanding amongst the government departments and registered contractors.

The programme was attended by around 200 participants.

HAVING CERTIFICATES IS NOT THE END: MINISTER TEMJEN IMNA ALONG

Minister of Tourism and Higher Education, Temjen Imna Along while congratulating the passing out students who successfully completed the course in different disciplines, said that having a certificate is not the end but just a beginning in learning more and to strive for the best outcome in life. The Minister said this while

he was addressing as the Guest of Honour during the 38th Convocation of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Regional Centre, Kohima, Nagaland held at Capital Convention Centre, Kohima on 5th March 2025.

Imna Along encouraged the students to be a game changer in the society rather than

being parasites. He also urged the graduating students to be truthful to oneself and bring back those qualities of honesty, hard work and hospitalities that our forefathers have practiced long before amongst the Nagas, and lead the society in the right direction.

Earlier, while giving the welcome address and Director's Report, Regional Director, Dr. Premila Swamy D informed that under Kohima Regional Centre, 220 (UG & PG) candidates will be receiving Certificate out of 914 eligible students, comprising of 711 Master's Degrees, 155 Bachelor's Degrees, 31 Diplomas and 17 Certificate programmes.

Experiences were also shared by the

IGNOU students and a special number was favoured by Assistant Registrar, IGNOU, Ato Tetso. Altogether, 914 students in various programmes passed out in 2025. The main convocation function was held at IGNOU Headquarter, New Delhi and live telecast of the countrywide programme was broadcast through Gyandarshan, YouTube, Facebook, etc.

Commissioner & Secretary, Higher Education, Rajesh Soundararanjan IAS and Director, Higher Education, V. Lovitoly Sema and officials from IGNOU were part of the convocation programme.

DEPUTY CM, T. R. ZELIANG REAFFIRMS ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

A review meeting was held at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat Conference Hall, Kohima on 5th March 2025 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of Planning & Transformation and National Highways, T. R. Zeliang to assess the progress of ongoing National Highway projects and address critical issues hindering their smooth implementation. Zeliang emphasized

the importance of regular review and coordination meetings to ensure timely completion of projects, reaffirming the Government's commitment to prioritizing the development of National Highways.

The meeting started with the review of the Action Taken Report of last meeting held on 28th January 2025. While majority of flagged issues were resolved, a few critical challenges remain unresolved. One



Deputy CM, T. R. Zeliang chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing National Highway Projects held at Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 5th March 2025.

of the key unresolved issues pertains to the land acquisition for the Peren-Dimapur (Package-V) and Kohima- Jessami (Package-II). On the Land Acquisition and Damage Compensation matter of the Peren-Dimapur (Package-V), Deputy Commissioner, Chumoukedima informed that the delay in finalizing damage compensation was due to non-submission of the estimates by departments such as Horticulture, Agriculture and PWD (Housing). Additionally, rectification of alignment in certain sections has further delayed the process. However, he assured that the matter will be expedited and submitted to NHIDCL at the earliest.

On the Kohima-Jessami (Package-II), the Deputy Chief Minister directed the contractor to commence work immediately, warning of termination for undue delays. Both NHIDCL and Deputy Commissioner, Phek also admonished the contractor for non-performance which has caused significant hardship to the public.

Executive Director, NHIDCL highlighted disruptions in the Merangkong-Tamlu-Mon (Package-IV) project caused by the Konyak Union and Civil Societies, citing

concerns over the quality of work. These interruptions have resulted in time and cost overruns for the Government.

While acknowledging the role of civil society as a watchdog, the Deputy Chief Minister urged stakeholders to address grievances through proper channels rather than halting work. He emphasized that complaints regarding quality should be lodged with the District Administration or NHIDCL for verification. If claims are validated, appropriate action will be taken against the defaulting contractor.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner & Secretary (Works & Housing) Kesonyu Yhome, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary (Land Revenue), Zasekuolie Chusi, IAS, Executive Director, NHIDCL, Deputy Commissioners of Kohima, Chumoukedima, Phek and Meluri and representatives from DC's Office, Peren.

The Government remains committed to addressing challenges and ensuring the timely completion of National Highway projects, which are critical to the State's infrastructure development and economic growth.

APPAREL TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP: REDEFINING TRADITION WITH TECH HELD AT DIMAPUR

As part of the ongoing RAMP programme under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Department of Industries & Commerce, in collaboration with Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) with support from Department of Underdeveloped Areas (DUDA) successfully organized the "Apparel Technology Workshop: Redefining Tradition with Tech" on 4th and 5th March

2025 at Mongken Apparel Unit, Sovima, Chumoukedima.

A total of 58 entrepreneurs and MSMEs from across Nagaland participated in each workshop, demonstrating a growing interest in integrating modern technology with traditional apparel craftsmanship. To ensure inclusivity, suitable stay arrangements were made for participants from remote areas. The workshop aimed to enhance

knowledge on new handloom techniques, the fusion of tradition with modern fashion, fabric selection, textile printing, advanced industrial machinery usage, and skill development.

The workshop featured six technology clinics covering topics, fusion of handloom weaving and modern technology, understanding fabric types, textile printing technologies, digitization of motifs and patterns, optimizing apparel production workflow, and sustainable practices in production.

The event commenced with a welcome address by the RAMP team, followed by a presentation on understanding MSMEs, the RAMP programme, and the importance of Udyam registration. Industry experts led the sessions, including Vilhousa Movi, an award-winning fashion designer and entrepreneur recognized for his contributions to creative fashion innovation, Vekuvolu Dozo, a national and state award-winning weaver specializing in Backstrap Loom and indigenous weaving techniques, and the team from Mongken Apparel Unit.

During the workshop, experts encouraged participants to incorporate traditional tribal motifs into contemporary ready-to-wear garments. Innovative fabric options such as banana fibre and stinging nettle plant fibre, alongside traditional cotton, were introduced. Another session emphasized the importance of producing market-driven garments using breathable, weather-friendly fabrics.



Participants experiencing hands-on training in advance machinery during the Apparel Technology Workshop held at Mongken Apparel Unit, Sovima, Chumoukedima on 4th and 5th March 2025.

The Mongken team conducted live demonstrations on using illustrator for apparel design, promoting the adoption of modern digital tools. Participants also had hands-on experience with advanced machinery, including embroidery machines, buttonhole and button stitching machines, overlock and interlock sewing machines, single needle sewing machines, fabric cutting machines, digital textile printing (Pre & Post Digital Textile Machine), Direct to Film (DTF), Direct to Garment (DTG), sublimation printing machines, and CAD software for motif digitization.

The RAMP team encouraged participants to integrate technology with traditional techniques to enhance efficiency and reduce production time and labour. They also stressed the importance of Udyam registration for MSMEs to access credit and national MSME schemes.

RAMP, a World Bank-supported initiative, aims to enhance MSMEs in

Nagaland by improving market access, credit availability, and capacity building. Through its Technology Clinics, the programme equips entrepreneurs with technical skills and exposure to advanced machinery, fostering

modernization and competitiveness. The RAMP programme continues to spearhead innovation and sustainability in Nagaland's apparel sector, paving the way for a dynamic and competitive industry.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON MAHILA AROGYA SAMITI

A one day Training of Trainers (ToT) of District Consultant, National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), District Community Mobiliser, Block ASHA Coordinators, Block Programme Manager, General Nursing & Midwifery, Auxiliary Nursing and Midwifery, Data Entry Operator, Vaccinator and Community Health Officer of Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung, Tuensang, Wokha and Mon on Mahila Arogya Samiti (MAS) was held at the IDSP Hall of Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Kohima, Nagaland on the 6th of March 2025.

Addressing the participants and trainers present, Dr. Akuo Sorhie, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Nagaland mentioned that MAS was formed with a central objective to empower women in the communities and involve them directly in the health & well-being of their respective communities. She added that one of the major responsibilities of MAS is to engage in the community health planning, thus creating an environment of trust and openness where people feel empowered to seek help, access services and take charge of their own



MD, NHM, Dr. Akuo Sorhie addressing the participants during the one-day ToT held at IDSP Hall, Directorate of H&FW, Kohima on 6th March 2025.

health. The participants will be trained on the aims and objectives of MAS, Community Health Planning, maintaining records and funds, monitoring etc. after which, they will train the MAS members in their respective districts.

Mahila Arogya Samitis (MAS) are women's groups of 8-12 locally resident women, formed for every 100 households

in urban vulnerable settlements, for neighborhood health planning, action on social determinants of health and for monitoring all local services. Urban Primary Health Unit has been fully set up in five districts so far in the State and at present, Mon district is under process. The rest of the districts will be covered in the coming years in a phase wise manner.

1st FOUNDATIONAL MUSIC PRODUCTION WORKSHOP INAUGURATED IN KOHIMA

The 1st Foundational Music Production workshop, organised by the Department of Task Force for Music & Arts (TaFMA) was inaugurated by Additional Director, Information & Public Relations, Kevizayieno at the Centre of Excellence in Music and Arts in Kohima on 7th March 2025.

Speaking at the inaugural programme, Kevizayieno expressed her appreciation to the Department for giving opportunities to the youth by organizing the workshop and stated that the Government is focused on empowering the youth to have a self-sustaining career. She encouraged the participants to strive for excellence and fine tune their performances, which will undoubtedly boost their artistry. She asserted the importance of Artificial Intelligence in the field of music production and said that the music industry has progressed technologically and has made production more efficient and user friendly.

In his welcome address, Project Director, TaFMA, Dr. Hovthal Sothu said that it was a historic day for the Department of TaFMA to organise its 1st Foundational Music production workshop and added that the department is working day in and day out to make sure that the right people get the right trade and opportunities to do things right, and to move forward in the vision that the Government has for the Music and Arts industry.

Music producer, TaFMA, Imcha Imchen was the resource person for the two-day workshop. Altogether 22 participants from all over Nagaland attended the workshop. Topics like Technical Foundations of Music Production, Understanding Sound, Digital Audio Workstations, Recording Techniques and Sound Design, Mixing and Mastering and Business and Future of Music Production were discussed during the workshop.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED

The International Women's Day was celebrated at Capital Convention Centre, Kohima under the theme 'For all women and girls: Right. Equality. Empowerment,'

with Advisor for Social Welfare Department, Wangpang Konyak as the special guest on 8th March 2025.

While address the gathering, Advisor,



Officials and participants during the International Women's Day celebrated at DC's Conference Hall, Niuland on 8th March 2025.

Wangpang Konyak said in our state, we are blessed with rich cultural heritage where women plays key roles in the family, community and economy, but needs to address the challenges such as access to higher education, economy, opportunities and protection from violence. He called upon all, the need to renew our commitment in creating a future, where every human can progress, prospers free from discrimination and with equal opportunities to succeed while celebrating the day.

The Advisor mentioned that the Naga women today are recognized for their contribution in various capacities not only in our state level but also in the national and international level. He also said that women are the hearth of the society, irrespective of profession or position, and called upon

them to support one another, break barriers to build a brighter future for generation to come.

Felicitation of SHG Women Achievers was conducted by Mission Director, Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission, Imtimenla, while Commendations of NSCW Excellence Award 2025 and NSCW Award 2025 were pronounced by Chairperson, Nagaland State Commissioner for Women, W. Nginyeih Konyak.

International Women's Day was also celebrated in Atoizu town under Zunheboto district, Niuland, Longleng, Tuensang, inspiring collective action towards creating a more equitable and sustainable society, promoting women's empowerment and environmental sustainability.

KOHIMA FC GIRLS WINS AFC WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DAY 2025 MATCH

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Football Day 2025 was held at IG Stadium, Kohima, on 8th March 2025. The programme was organized by the

Kohima District Football Association (KDFA) under the aegis of the Nagaland Football Association (NFA), with the President of Angami Women Association, Neithono R.

Sothu as the special guest and the President of Kohima Press Club, Alice Yoshü as the honored guest.

Speaking at the event on behalf of all women, Sothu expressed gratitude to KDFA for organizing the program to encourage women footballers, coinciding with the Nagaland Super League and providing opportunities for female players. She cited renowned footballers Alisha Lehmann and Marta Vieira as inspirations, emphasizing that Nagaland's women can also reach international levels, win trophies, and bring pride to the state.

In his welcome address, AIFF Executive Member and NFA President, K. Neibu Sekhose highlighted that AFC Women's Football Day marks a decade of progress and

commitment to advancing women's football since its inception in 2015. He stressed the importance of sports in youth development, stating that participation in games boosts self-esteem, social skills, and confidence. He also announced that the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) had approved naming the Junior National Girls Championship after Dr. T. Ao, the first captain of the Indian Olympic Football Team in 1948 and the flag bearer of the Indian contingent. Additionally, AIFF has requested Nagaland to host the first Women's League later this year.

As part of the celebration, a football match was played between IG Girls Sports Academy and Kohima FC Girls, where Kohima FC Girls secured victory with a one-goal lead.

RIO VISITS TULI: APPEAL FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO PROGRESS IN ALL SECTORS

Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio undertook an official visit to Tuli Sub-Division under Mokokchung district on 12th March 2025. The visit aimed at assessing developmental projects and interacting with local communities.

The Chief Minister's itinerary commenced with his arrival at the Tzudikong Town Helipad, followed by a visit to Wameken village, where he inaugurated the newly constructed Wameken Village Council Hall (Panchayat Bhavan), marking an important step in strengthening local governance infrastructure. The visit also included a stop at the Sentimeren Memorial Watch Tower at Kangsung village.

Continuing the tour, the Chief Minister arrived at the Longnakba Lenden Tuli Railway Station, reflecting the government's commitment to improving connectivity

in the region. He later visited the ongoing Foothill Road construction site, emphasizing the importance of better road infrastructure for economic and social development.

Dr. Rio addressed the local populace, discussing government policies, ongoing projects, and future plans for the region. In his speech, the Chief Minister emphasized on the goal of Viksit Bharat@2047, and stressed the importance of aligning Nagaland's growth with the national vision for a developed India by 2047, the 100th year of its independence. He called for collective efforts from the people to accelerate progress in all sectors.

Regarding railway connectivity, Dr. Rio announced that the State Government had engaged in discussions with the Central Railway Ministry to upgrade services in the area. He assured that efforts would be made to extend the facility beyond goods transport

to include passenger services, enhancing accessibility for the people.

A major highlight of his speech was the revival of the Tuli Paper Mill, a long-standing concern for the people of the region. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to restoring its operations and mentioned ongoing coordination with 3ACSL Company to facilitate the mill's revival, ensuring employment opportunities and industrial growth.

The CM was accompanied by Minister, Rural Development and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir, Advisor, Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, A. Pangjung Jamir, Advisor, Geology & Mining, DUDA, W. Chingang Konyak, MLA Y. Mhonbemo Humtsoe, and MLA Benei M. Lamthiu. Also present were Additional Secretary to the Chief Minister's Office, Sentiwapang Aier, along with Heads of Offices and administrators from Mokokchung headquarters and Tuli Sub-Division.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME ON MSME HELD AT KOHIMA

One-day Capacity Building Programme on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Competitive (Lean) Scheme for the officers of Industries & Commerce Department was held at the Conference Hall, Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kohima on 12th March 2025. The objective of the programme was to create awareness and further disseminate about the importance of the MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme.

The programme was organized by the National Productivity Council (NPC), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India in association with the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Nagaland.

Director of Industries & Commerce, P. Tokugha Sema in his opening remarks, highlighted that the MSME Competitive (LEAN) Programme is a component of the Government of India's initiatives to support the MSME sector, which is a crucial supporter

of India's economic expansion and the main aim is minimizing waste and maximizing values. He requested the department officers to keenly participate and obtain knowledge about the scheme as implementation will solely depend on them.

Regional Director, Manoj Kumar Verma in his keynote address, said MSME Competitive (Lean) Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of MSME to enhance the global competitiveness of MSMEs by promoting Lean manufacturing techniques. The scheme is implemented through the National Productivity Council, providing technical support and training.

Deputy Director, NPC, Subhra Seal presented a PowerPoint on "LEAN Manufacturing Technique, detailed concept and eligibility to avail benefits of the Scheme." He also said that to avail the benefits, enterprises have to be UDYAM registered MSMEs.

KHONOMA HOSTS NAGALAND'S FIRST-EVER CHÜMERIE (GARLIC) FESTIVAL

Khonoma marked a historic milestone with the first-ever Chümerie (Garlic)

Festival, on 14th March 2025, organized by the Khonoma Women Union and sponsored by the Department of Women Resource Development under the MYKI Village Adoption Initiative, with co-sponsorship from the Horticulture and Agriculture Departments. The festival celebrated not just agricultural progress but also the vital role of women in leading rural development.

Minister for Rural Development, Metsübo Jamir graced the event as the special guest, and called the festival a proud moment for Nagaland. Drawing from his own experience as a part-time farmer, he highlighted the importance of processing and preserving agricultural produce, announcing that the Rural Development Department would set up a small processing unit in Khonoma. "Anything you do, make it sustainable," he urged. Praising the active involvement of the village's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), he described their participation as a reflection of Khonoma's unity and resilience. He further encouraged the youth to pursue entrepreneurial training and skill development, adding that the department would provide a Tata Mobile vehicle to support the transportation of farmers' goods.

Zhothisa Dawhuo, Commissioner & Secretary of Women Resource Development, emphasized that the festival marks the

success of the One Village, One Product programme, with Khonoma focusing on garlic cultivation - a step toward economic growth and self-reliance. He commended the 30 women farmers who received seed money to expand their garlic farms, acknowledging their critical role in agriculture and community building.

Director, Horticulture, Meyasashi congratulated the Khonoma Women Union for organizing the festival and encouraged farmers to explore new areas for growth, not only in agriculture but also by promoting tourism to strengthen the village's economy.

Director, Agriculture, S. Yongchang Phom spoke about the importance of adopting sustainable and scientific farming practices. He stressed the need for integrated farming methods, soil preservation to prevent erosion, and the continuation of traditional farming techniques, urging farmers to gradually move away from jhum cultivation. Reflecting on the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, he emphasized the importance of building agricultural resilience to withstand future hardships.

The Chümerie Festival stands as a symbol of women's leadership and community resilience, with garlic cultivation now a growing source of economic empowerment for the village.

ABU METHA PROMOTES NAGALAND IN AUSTRALIA, EXPLORES COLLABORATIONS

Advisor to Chief Minister and Chairman of Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) Abu Metha and Chairman of TaFMA, Theja Meru attended the Adelaide Fringe Festival 2025, in Australia on 14th March 2025 as official delegates, on the invitation of the Fringe Festival and Honey

Pot networking and spotlight events.

The Adelaide Fringe Festival is the world's second largest arts festival that takes place for 30 days in the capital city of South Australia and is commemorating its 65th edition. The festival has more than 1000 events with performances from all over the

world.

As part of the official delegation from India, Metha met with the leadership of the festival and held discussions on possible collaborations, partnerships and mutual agreements. Metha also met festival directors and stakeholders and leaders of the industry from within Australia and different parts of the world. The delegation was also hosted by the Minister for Arts, Andrea Micheals.

Metha took the opportunities of the several meetings and deliberations with multiple leaders and delegations to highlight Nagaland as a tourist destination and the emergence of the Hornbill Festival as a renowned cultural and arts festival that has been built to its present status over the past 25 years. Metha emphasised that the vision and policy of Nagaland's "Land of Festivals" and its yearly culmination in the "Festival of Festivals" plays a pivotal role in bolstering the economy while enriching the rich cultural landscape of Nagaland and India to the global community. He shared the close bonds of India and Nagaland with Australia as a fellow Commonwealth country and highlighted Nagaland's special position in history in the context of the iconic Battle of Kohima during the 2nd World War.

TaFMA Chairman, Theja Meru highlighted the vast potentials of the music, arts and entertainment sector of Nagaland. Meru interacted with festival directors and held follow-up deliberations of the Asia Music Summit which was hosted by India in Kohima. TaFMA's multiple verticals in the music industry, its corporate and institutional collaborations along with its constant efforts in promoting music and arts as industry were not only highlighted but well appreciated by industry representatives.

At multiple meetings, the Nagaland government's decision of instituting a separate Ministry for Music and the Arts was seen as a progressive policy initiative that enhances creativity, innovation and strengthens the creative economy.

The delegation's itinerary included visits to facilities and infrastructures for sports and games, centres for performing arts, musicals and exhibitions, libraries and public infrastructures. These visits and interactions gave an opportunity to get first-hand experience of multiple verticals and get a better understanding of not just the designs and concepts but operations, collaborations and sustainable long-term visions.

ONE-DAY COMMUNITY MOBILISATION PROGRAMME HELD FOR SMC/SMDC ACROSS VARIOUS DISTRICTS

A one-day block-level sensitization and training programme for School Management Committees (SMCs) and School Management and Development Committees (SMDCs) was held across Phek, Zunheboto, and Kohima districts. This convergence programme, jointly organised by the Directorate of School Education (DoSE), Samagra Shiksha, and the NECTAR Project, aims to strengthen the

SMCs and SMDCs in understanding their roles, responsibilities, and various initiatives and activities under the Department of School Education. The programme commenced on 17th March 2025 and was conducted across all the 46 blocks in Nagaland till 28th March 2025.

The training for EBRC L Khel, Kohima was held at the Directorate of School

Education (DoSE), Kohima. A presentation on the achievements and activities of the Department was delivered by Lebu Krose, Joint Director, DoSE. Some of the activities highlighted were PM Poshan Mid-day Meal, free distribution of school text books, yearly science activities, teacher's award (district, state, national level), scholarships for government schools (classes 5 to 12), Chief Minister's Meritorious Scholarship, Governor's Scholarship, free deworming drive, and distribution of iron and folic supplements in schools.

Kelhikha Kenye, Deputy Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, introduced the objectives and initiatives of Samagra Shiksha, emphasising the need to strengthen school enrolment. He also provided an overview of the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR), highlighting its benefits in ensuring the security and convenience of students' educational documents. Currently, only 26% of students in the State are registered under APAAR. The session also highlighted topics like NIPUN Bharat, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) curriculum, Kala Utsav, inclusive education, vocational education, etc.

Visato Koso, Project Coordinator, EBRC, NECTAR spoke about the inception of the NECTAR project and its key initiatives, such as the development of one Lighthouse School Complex across 16 districts of the State, the SMILE App, the Performance Incentive Grants (PIG) which has a strong community

participation and has benefitted 99% (1914) of the government schools in the state, Exam Reforms which is being implemented in collaboration with NBSE, and the various governance and capacity building trainings conducted in collaboration with DoSE and SCERT.

The programme concluded with a session conducted by P3 Consortium under the NECTAR Project, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of SMCs/SMDCs, followed by a self-reflection report card to assess their functioning and responsibilities.

On 24th March 2025, a One-Day Block Level Community Mobilization Programme for SMDCs & SMCs, organised by Samagra Shiksha NEP-The Lighthouse (NECTAR) Department of School education Nagaland, in collaboration with SDEO/DEO/EBRC Tseminyu, was also held at Tseminyu Town Hall. In Tuensang, a One Day Block Level Community Mobilization Programme for SMC/SMDC under EBRC Hakushang was held on 25th March 2025 at CKS Hall, Tuensang. A One-Day Block Level Community Mobilization training for SMC and SMDC under EBRC Changtongya 'B' was conducted successfully on 25th March 2025 at Town Hall, Changtongya town, Mokokchung. In Longleng, a One-Day Block Level Community Mobilization Training for SMC and SMDC under EBRC Longleng was held at VCC and VDB Conference Hall, Longleng district on 27th March 2025.

MINISTER TEMJEN IMNA ALONG AND ADVISOR DR. KEKHRIELHOULIE YHOME CALLS ON REPRESENTATIVES OF TAIWAN IN INDIA

Minister for Higher Education and Tourism, Temjen Imna Along and Advisor for School Education and State Council of

Educational Research & Training (SCERT), Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome called on Peters Chen, Director of Education Division, Taipei

Economic and Cultural Center in India and Sampriti Rajkhowa, Education Assistant, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India, at New Delhi on 19th March 2025, to discuss collaboration in the field of Mandarin language, education, and job opportunities, especially through scholarships, internships,

MoUs, and exchange programmes.

Taiwan has vast opportunities in employment due to a slowing growth rate in population. Taiwan also invests a lot in Human Resource Development due to lack of natural resources. It is a leading country in semi-conductors and education.

GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND GRACES THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SANEI

The Governor of Nagaland, La Ganesan graced the first annual conference of the Sociological Association of Northeast India (SANEI) at Japfu Christian College, on 21st March 2025.

In his address, Governor Ganesan emphasized the vital role of sociology in documenting the lived experiences of communities and shaping inclusive policies that promote social justice and sustainable development. “The Northeast stands at the crossroads of rapid modernization and the preservation of indigenous knowledge systems. Striking a balance between progress and cultural identity is imperative,” the Governor stated. He urged sociologists, policymakers, and community leaders to

collaborate on key issues such as gender equality, violence against women, economic disparities, migration, climate change, and environmental sustainability.

Governor Ganesan lauded institutions like SANEI for facilitating dialogue and fostering research that contributes to meaningful societal transformation.

The event was held in collaboration with the Indian Sociological Society, also marked the Golden Jubilee Year of the All India Sociological Conference. Sponsored by the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong, the conference brought together scholars, policymakers, and students to discuss pressing social issues in the region.

NAGALAND STATE LAUNCHES PHASE-V VACCINATION MISSION ON FMD

In a significant step towards protecting the State’s livestock, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS), Nagaland launched Phase V (FMD) vaccination programme at Lerie Farm, Kohima, on 21st March 2025. The vaccination drive, implemented under National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries, Government of India, aims to

immunize 68,050 number of cattle and other susceptible animals against FMD, a highly contagious and economically devastating disease that affects livestock.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, AH&VS, Dr. Achila Ao emphasized the importance of vaccination in controlling FMD, stating ‘FMD is a major threat to our livestock industry, and vaccination is the most effective way to prevent its spread.’ She

urged all livestock owners to cooperate and get their animals vaccinated to protect their livelihoods and the State's livestock industry.

Livestock owners have been requested to bring their cattle and other susceptible animals to the designated vaccination centers for immunization. The vaccination is free of cost, and livestock owners are encouraged

to take advantage of this initiative to protect their animals.

For more information on FMD vaccination programme, livestock owners can contact their nearest Veterinary Institutes in the districts or the Office of the Director, AH&VS, Nagaland.

UNION MINISTER OF STATE RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE VISITS NOKLAK

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Raksha Nikhil Khadse visited Noklak district on 22nd March 2025 where a programme was held at Tourist Guest House, Noklak.

The Union Minister of State in her address, emphasized on the district's requirement to enhance banking infrastructure and financial support. With the focus on developmental projects, Khadse said that the district is in the process of transitioning from a backward district to an aspirational district. She called on the officials for accurate data management to ensure effective implementation of developmental schemes for the wellbeing of the district.

The visit reaffirmed the Government's

commitment to accelerate developmental initiatives in Noklak. District authorities and concerned departments were urged to intensify efforts, improve data management and enhance preparedness for the growth in the region. Key topics included the challenges particularly in banking, connectivity and efficient utilization of funds.

Guard of honour was performed by the Nagaland Village Guards, Noklak. As part of the visit, the Union Minister along with officials from various departments visited Nokyan village to assess the needs of the local community. The purpose of her visit was to get an overview of the district's profile, progress and challenges.



Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Raksha Nikhil Khadse chairing a meeting during her visit to Noklak on 22nd March 2025.

VIKSIT BHARAT YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2025 (DISTRICT LEVEL) HELD IN DIMAPUR

The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025 (District Level) was held on 21st to 22nd March 2025 at Eastern Christian College, Padumpukhuri, Dimapur, Nagaland. It was organized by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, under the theme “One Nation, One Election: Paving the Way for Viksit Bharat.”

D. Athikho, Assistant Professor of Political Science, moderated the plenary session, expressing gratitude to the government for selecting the college as the host. He also emphasized that the Viksit Bharat 2047 Vision aims to make India a fully developed nation by its 100th year of independence.

Dr. Dominic K. Khanyo, Principal, Eastern Christian College (ECC) emphasized democracy as a way of life and urged students to engage actively in governance. He noted that the 18–25 age group plays a crucial role in shaping the country’s future, as voting and participation at a young age lay the foundation for a responsible citizenry. He urged students to take their formative years seriously, reminding them that their involvement today will shape the nation tomorrow.

Delivering an exhortation, Mmhonlumo Kikon, National Spokesperson of BJP, urged participants to take the youth parliament seriously. He emphasized the importance of leadership, discipline, and informed debate in a democratic society. He highlighted that leadership is not just about having a vision but also about its effective implementation. He commended the event’s focus on national development and the vision of a developed India by 2047, aligning with the government’s long-term goals. He stressed

that discussions on policies like ‘One Nation, One Election’ should be viewed as proposals for debate rather than impositions, reaffirming India’s democratic process of consultation and deliberation. Encouraging students to approach debates with well-researched arguments, Kikon emphasized the need for educated and informed leaders in society. He urged participants to engage in discussions with clarity, knowledge, and professionalism, as these qualities would be essential for future leadership roles.

The district-level Youth Parliament event, organized under the Ministry of Youth Affairs, encourages young minds to share their views on India’s vision for becoming a fully developed nation by 2047.

The event featured participants from five districts - Dimapur, Chümoukedima, Peren, Niuland, and Wokha, selected through a screening process. Out of 202 participants, 127 were chosen for the district-level round. The topic for discussion was “One Nation, One Election – Paving the Way for Viksit Bharat.” Ten participants from this round will move on to the state level, where three will be selected for the national round.

In a similar programme held at Mokokchung, Chuthaib L Phom, NSS, Volunteer, Yingli College Longleng, secured the 1st position in the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025 (District Nodal Round) competition held at Fazl Ali College, Mokokchung. The competition was conducted on the topic ‘One Nation, One Election: A Bold Step Towards Viksit Bharat.’ A total of 68 participants from Mokokchung, Mon, Longleng, Tuensang, Noklak, Kiphire and Shamator districts took part in the competition.

DR. NEIPHIU RIO JOINS 25th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LT. VAMUZO AT YORÜBA

Chief Minister, Dr Neiphiu Rio joined the 25th death anniversary of Late Vamuzo (former Chief Minister of Nagaland 19.06.1990 – 02.04.1992) organised by the Vamuzo Memorial Trust and Chozuba Range Public Organisation, remembering and celebration of his life and contribution at Local Ground, Yorüba village, Phek on 22nd March 2025.

Dr. Neiphiu Rio said he knew Vamuzo from 1974 when he himself was a youth leader. He said that he was a man with great integrity and had a peaceful atmosphere to work with him. He added that Vamuzo's legacy is freshly alive through the VDB and Compact Area Development, mainly for the economically weaker section. He called on Sano Vamuzo (wife of Late Vamuzo) and her family continue to contribute to the society even in days to come.

Dr. Shürhazelie Liezietsü, former Chief Minister of Nagaland who also spoke on the occasion, asked the people to remember good things Late Vamuzo has done for the State, and urged the people to do good things

in remembrance of Vamuzo.

I. Imkong, former Minister who also spoke, called Late Vamuzo a decisive leader with resourceful qualities. He added that the Hotel Japfü Project was initiated and materialised during Vamuzo's tenure.

MLA, Achumbemo Kikon also spoke on the occasion. Zapra Chakhesang, former Chairman of Nagaland Public Service Commission presented a brief initiative and achievement of Vamuzo's contribution to the State. Speeches were also delivered by Vezühü Keyho, president of CPO, Niketu Iralu, social activist and Müdihi Lohe, Head GB of Yorüba.

Nibano V. Swüro, daughter of Vamuzo presented a song entitled 'Puo Ciekhrie Zo Rei Mehoya' which was sung at his funeral.

The death anniversary programme was also attended by Advisor of School Education & SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, Advisor for New & Renewable Energy and NSDMA, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, government officials, public leaders and citizens from neighbouring villages.

BIHAR STATE FOUNDATION DAY OBSERVED AT RAJ BHAVAN, KOHIMA

The State Foundation Day of Bihar was held at Raj Bhavan, Kohima on 22nd March 2025.

Addressing the gathering under the theme of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,' the Governor of Nagaland, La Ganesan emphasized the importance of unity, cultural exchange, and mutual respect in fostering national integration. In his address, the Governor lauded Bihar's historical and intellectual legacy, calling it the cradle of

India's spiritual and academic awakening. He highlighted Bihar's contributions through institutions such as Nalanda, the world's first residential university, and the profound teachings of Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavira, which have shaped philosophy, education, and governance in India.

The celebration featured cultural performances showcasing Bihar's rich traditions, with the Governor praising the artists for bringing the essence of Bihar's

vibrant heritage to Nagaland. He emphasized that cultural exchanges serve as a bridge connecting different regions of the country, reinforcing the spirit of national unity.

Highlighting the longstanding relationship between Nagaland and Bihar, the Governor acknowledged the contributions of the Bihari community in the State's progress. He recognized the pivotal role of Bihari educators in shaping young minds, the dedication of artisans and laborers in developing Nagaland's infrastructure, and the entrepreneurial spirit of Bihari traders in

bolstering economic activity.

Governor Ganesan urged all stakeholders to create more platforms for dialogue and cultural integration. Reaffirming the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,' he called on citizens to cherish the nation's shared heritage and work collectively towards a prosperous and inclusive future. The celebration was attended by dignitaries, artists, and members of both communities, further strengthening the cultural and social ties between Nagaland and Bihar.

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY OBSERVED ACROSS THE STATE

World Tuberculosis Day 2025 was marked by a significant milestone in Kohima, as twelve villages were recognized for their outstanding efforts in combating Tuberculosis (TB), standing out among 58 villages in the region. With the vision of becoming the first 100% TB-free district, this achievement sets a strong example for others to follow.

Addressing the gathering at the event in Kohima on 24th March 2025, Deputy Commissioner, Kohima, B. Henok Buchem stated that the responsibility of eliminating TB does not rest solely on the Government or medical professionals, but is a collective effort in which every individual and every village has a role to play. He urged every village to take inspiration from the twelve recognized villages and commit to making their communities TB-free. He expressed his hope that by next year, more villages will join this fight and take the necessary steps to eliminate TB.

With the theme "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver," the event served as both a celebration of progress and a renewed

call to action. District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Chibenthung Kithan stressed the urgency of acting now, reminding everyone that TB remains the deadliest infectious disease but is entirely curable with timely intervention. He urged the community to join hands and work together to eliminate TB.

As part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, the Nikshay Mitra initiative encourages community support for TB patients through nutritional, vocational, or diagnostic assistance.

Under the TB Mukta Panchayat initiative, villages meeting specific TB-free criteria receive a certificate and a Mahatma Gandhi statue on World Tuberculosis Day, with the statue colors signifying the duration of TB-free status. This year, Seiyha Phesa was awarded the silver statue, while eleven other villages received the bronze statue in recognition of their efforts to eliminate TB.

The event, held at the DC's Office Conference Hall in Kohima, brought together various stakeholders, medical professionals, NGOs, and community leaders in the



Health & Family Welfare Department, Longleng observed World Tuberculosis Day at VCC & VDB Conference Hall, Longleng 24th March 2025.

shared mission to end TB. With continued commitment, investment, and action, the vision of a TB-free world by 2030 remains within reach.

World Tuberculosis Day was also observed in Dimapur, Tuensang, Noklak,

and Longleng, serving as a crucial reminder of the collective efforts needed to eliminate TB and improve public health. The event reinforced the commitment of the districts' health authorities and community leaders to achieving a TB-free future.

PM SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN NAGAGALAND

The first meeting of the Nagaland Solar Mission was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary Dr. J. Alam, at the

Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary's Office on 24th March 2025.

The scheme PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli



The first meeting of the Nagaland Solar Mission held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Dr. J. Alam was held at the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary's Office on 24th March 2025.

Yojana, for installation of rooftop solar in residential households in Nagaland, will be implemented under this Mission. It may be stated that the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had approved PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on 29th February 2024 for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for one crore households. Under this scheme, the consumers may benefit from RTS installation by importing lesser grid supply thereby reducing his/her monthly electricity bill. Further, to lighten the investment burden of the household for installing RTS system, the Government of India shall provide subsidies ranging from 60% to 54% for 1KW to 3KW of the RTS benchmark costs.

Hence to align with the national endeavours toward green energy transition,

the State Government has decided to supplement the Government of India subsidy by providing additional state subsidies from 36 % to 31% for 1KW to 3 kW respectively of the benchmark cost of RTS installation. An amount of Rs.10crore has been budgeted during the financial year 2025-26. Under this initiative of the GoI and State, Rooftop Solar will become affordable for the residents as the total subsidy will now range from 96% (up to 2KW) to 85% (up to 3 KW) of the benchmark cost.

For implementation of the scheme, a Solar Mission Team will be formed at the Directorate Level and a Solar Mission Cell at the Secretariat level.

The meeting was attended by Finance Commissioner, Secretary, Power, Engineer in-Chief, Power and other officials from the Power Department.

NAGALAND GOVERNOR, LA GANESAN VISITS TAMLU SUB-DIVISION

Nagaland Governor, La Ganesan made his official visit to Tamlu sub-division under Longleng district on 25th March 2025. A brief programme was held at Multi Training Centre Tamlu with the District Administration of Longleng and Tamlu, Heads of Offices of various departments and civil society organisations of Tamlu Headquarter.

The programme was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tamlu, T. Lankonsen Tsanglao, who also delivered the welcome address and presented an overview of the sub-division through a PowerPoint presentation.

Addressing the gathering, Governor La Ganesan expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and commended the dedication of government officials and civil

society members in fostering development in the region. He stated that his visit was guided by two core objectives - to assess the developmental initiatives in sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture, and infrastructure to ensure they align with the needs of the people, and to listen to the concerns of the community, understand their challenges, and incorporate their aspirations into policy-making. He urged the community leaders to foster peace through dialogue, mutual respect, and unity, and called upon the youth to embrace good citizenship, respect for the law, and pride in their cultural heritage while contributing to communal welfare.

The Governor also engaged in an interactive session with civil society

organizations and participants.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA B. Bangtick Phom highlighted the progress achieved in Tamlu over the past two years under the leadership of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. He credited the “opposition-less government” for various developmental strides in the region. However, the MLA also raised pressing concerns, particularly the long-standing border disputes between Namsang villages and Assam’s Ahom community. He urged the Governor to intervene in the issue of encroachment and the Ladigarh village dispute to ensure lasting peace and security for the people. Additionally, he sought the revival of key infrastructure projects in the region.

Other speakers at the event included President of PPC, Y.B. Angam Phom, W. Tingken Konyak, ‘K’ Khel Tamlu village, President of Namsang Citizen Union, Tongshauh and former President of PPC, P. Chingan Phom who shared their perspective on local issues. Earlier in the day, the Governor was accorded a warm welcome at the Tamlu Public Ground and received Guard of Honor at the ADC’s Office. The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Public Health Engineering and Power Department also presented their department activities undertaken in Tamlu sub-division. A security coordination meeting was also held with the district administration and the police officials.

NAGALAND MEDIA PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO SHILLONG PRESS CLUB

Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Nagaland along with the private media of Nagaland interacted with the officials and members of the Shillong Press Club (SPC) at Shillong during its courtesy visit to their office on 25th March 2025.

SPC President, Deimaia Lang Siangshai accorded a warm welcome and felicitated the 11-Member Media Team from Nagaland led by Nagaland Media Team Leader, Deputy Director, IPR, S. Hongpi Konyak,

who undertook the media exposure tour to Shillong and Guwahati. The media exposure tour was sponsored by DIPR, Government of Nagaland.

Both sides shared views on the mode of Journalist Pension Scheme and other welfare packages and logistic support being extended to the accredited journalists by the respective state governments. The members agreed to maintain good relations and to strengthen each other in media related activities.

FELICITATION PROGRAMME OF KAYAKALP AWARDEES HELD AT KOHIMA

Minister for Health & Family Welfare, P. Paiwang Konyak graced the felicitation programme of Kayakalp Awardees for the year 2023–24 and 2024-25 at the Conference Hall of Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Kohima on 25th March 2025.

In his address as the special guest, Paiwang stated that National Health Mission has always taken the responsibility and priority to support Kayakalp Award and assured that in the next Kayakalp Award, he would enhance and increase the

cash award so that it plays an important role in supporting the healthcare and to promote the hospital and health centres. He also assured that he would take up the matter for construction of CMO's Offices in districts which have no infrastructures. He said that the department is providing equipments to the hospitals and urged the doctors and officers of the department to take a bold step to bring about the change and transformation. He also highlighted on the shortage of manpower due to creation of sub-centres and upgradation of sub-centres into Primary Health Centres without doctors and nurses over the years.

Additional Secretary, S. Tainiu Khamniungan while appreciating the challenges the health workers have endured

to achieve the awards, said we celebrate the achievement of transformative initiatives impact on public health system in the state through Kayakalp. She added that the programme is being observed in the district hospital, sub-centres, community health centres through rigorous assessment, and also highlighted the important of Kayakalp.

During the programme, experience sharing through PowerPoint presentation, Kayakalp Award was highlighted by M.S. Zunheboto District Hospital, Eco-Friendly Award by SMO Changtongya CHC, Mokokchung and National Quality Assurance Standard Certification by Medical Officer, Kuhuboto Primary Health Center, Dimapur and CHO, Rusoma HWC-SC, Kohima.

NAGALAND SUPER LEAGUE PLAYOFF MATCH HELD AT CHUMOUKEDIMA

Nagaland Super League Playoff 1 was held on 24th March 2024 between Longterok FC Vs 27 United FC at Chumoukedima Football Stadium. During the playoff match, Longterok FC won the match and 27 United FC was placed at 4th place.

Speaking as a special guest at the NSL Playoff 1 Match, Minister of Rural Development, and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir

mentioned that football brings joy to fans as well as a shared sense of community. He pointed that promotion of sports and harnessing young talents and bringing them to the forefront is the priority of the Government of Nagaland and expressed hope that this platform will bring more young talents to participate in the near future.

Advisor, Industries & Commerce,



Minister, RD and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir, and Advisor, I&C, Hekani Jakhalu addressing before the NSL Playoff 1st Match held at Chumoukedima Football Ground on 24th March, 2025.

Hekani Jakhalu, while addressing as honoured guest at the NSL Playoff 1 Match, stated that with the creation of this fantastic ecosystem, it is just the beginning of many good things to come. She requested the public to give support and credit where it is due and follow a common approach to bring more positive changes. Jakhalu mentioned that sports unite each and everyone and hoped that this NSL will be another beautiful chapter for the State of Nagaland and for the boys to shine.

Other hosts present were Advisor, Department of Youth Resources & Sports, S. Keoshu Yimkhiung and Chairman, NSL, General Secretary, NFA & MLA, Government of Nagaland, Benei M. Lamthiu.

The much-anticipated Nagaland Super League (NSL) Playoff 2 was played between Barak FC and Nagaland United SC, with Barak FC winning the match by penalties, at the Chümoukedima Football Stadium on 26th March 2025. The event was graced by

Salhoutuonuo Kruse, Minister for Women Resource Development and Horticulture as the special guest and H. Sethrongkyu Sangtam, Advisor for Information Technology & Communication, Economics & Statistics, and Evaluation as the honoured guest.

Organized by the Nagaland Football Association (NFA) with support from the Nagaland Olympic Association and the Department of Youth Resources & Sports, the NSL has played a vital role in strengthening the State's sports culture.

Ahead of the match, a felicitation ceremony took place, followed by an energizing warm-up session titled "Rise Up." With sponsorships from Coca-Cola, Yukon Cement, Toyota, and Nagaland Post, the NSL Playoff 2 is shaping up to be a landmark event. The #TogetherWeSoar campaign continues to inspire young athletes, reinforcing the league's commitment to sportsmanship and talent development.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC HEALTH & WASH FOR NE STATES HELD AT CHUMOUKEDIMA

In collaboration with NITI Aayog and Government of Nagaland, a Regional Workshop on Public Health & WASH for North Eastern States, a NeVolution initiative was held on 26th March 2025 at Town Hall, Zone Niathu by the Park, Chumoukedima.

The Regional Workshop serves as a crucial platform for addressing the region's most pressing public health challenges related to water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management. By fostering cross-sectoral collaboration and community-driven solutions, the workshop aims to support efforts in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 - Universal access

to clean water and sanitation, and improving overall health outcomes across the region. To address these challenges, the Regional Workshop on WASH and Public Health in the North Eastern Region will focus on three key pillars - Swachh North East: Sanitation, Solid & Liquid Waste Management, Swajal North East: Water Quality, Biological & Chemical Contaminants; and Swasth North East: Public Health Implications of WASH. Percentage of households with tap water coverage in NE States till date - Arunachal Pradesh 100% coverage, Assam 81.46%, Manipur 79.59%, Meghalaya 82.01 %, Mizoram 100%, Nagaland 92.76%, Sikkim

91.03 %, and Tripura 85.42%.

Speaking as a special guest at the workshop, Minister, Public Health Engineering Department and Co-operation, Jacob Zhimomi highlighted that out of a total of 3,63,829 rural households in Nagaland, 3,37,498 households or 92.76 % have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) so far. The State has planned to saturate and provide water supply to the remaining 26,331 households by March 2025. The State has certified 643 or 62.25% villages as Har Ghar Jal, out of 1033 Har Ghar Jal villages reported. Certification for the rest is also in the process. JJM is also being implemented in convergence with Rural Development Department (RDD) under the 15th Finance Commission (15 FC) Tied Grant award. All funds under 15 FC Tied Grants are received and utilised by the Rural Development Department.

Zhimomi mentioned that the State plans to saturate all the remaining villages

in Nagaland in 2025-26 with Solid Waste Management arrangements in 549 villages, Grey Water Management arrangements in 518 villages, Plastic Waste Management Units in 16 Blocks and Faecal Sludge Management systems in 6 Blocks. The proposed Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for 2025-26 has a projected cost of Rs. 5566.27 lakh for SBMG, Rs. 3581.866 lakh for FFC Tied Grants and Rs. 5111.40 lakh for MGNREGS. The AIP for 2025-26 has been presented to and vetted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS).

Further, Zhimomi pointed that with regard to Aspirational Block Programme, out of 3 (three) Aspirational Blocks, Akuhaito Block in Zunheboto district has attained 100% ODF Plus status. Infrastructures in the other two Blocks have been built, but the progress appears rather low on the IMIS because of rigorous marking system in order to declare a village ODF Plus.



Minister, PHED and Co-operation, Jacob Zhimomi, Minister, Rural Development, Mestubo Jmair and other senior officials at the Regional Workshop on Public Health and WASH for NE States held at Niathu Resort, Chumoukedima on 26th March 2025.

Minister, Rural Development and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir in his address, highlighted the issues concerning the people of the State, where bottlenecks such as lack of adequate infrastructural facilities, poor resources base and general lack of technical know-how has handicapped the NE region, and in particular Nagaland State, in the developmental progress, consequently hampering the goal to achieve the desired level of all round development, especially in the rural areas. He also pointed that the national programmes for poverty alleviation should be responsive to the local needs and

regional peculiar requirements.

Highlights of the programme included the technical session where the key points discussed were Swachh North East: Sanitation, Solid & Liquid Waste Management, Swajal- Drinking water in NE: Water quality, Biological & Chemical Contaminants, Swasth NE: Public Health Implications of WASH. At the inaugural session, 'Accelerating Public Health (WASH) outcomes: a regional call for action in aspirational districts and blocks' was delivered by Programme Director, NITI Aayog, Yugal Joshi.

HATHKARGHA MELA STATE HANDLOOM EXPO

The Hathkargha Mela (SHE) State Handloom Expo, organised by the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Government of Nagaland and funded by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, under the National Handloom Development Program (NHDP) was officially inaugurated by P. Tokugha Sema, Director of Industries & Commerce at Kohima Village Ground, Kohima on 27th March 2025.

The expo, featuring an exhibit of indigenous textiles and handicrafts, is designed to promote the handloom and handicraft sector, bringing together artisans and weavers from across Nagaland and

other states to display their craftsmanship, market their products. The expo showcased products made from natural fibres such as stinging nettle, orange rhea, indigenous cotton and eri silk. It also has products of local handicraft made from cane, bamboo.

The expo aims to provide weavers with direct market access, helping them gain visibility and financial support. A total of 60 exhibitors participated, including 48 from handloom sector and 12 from the handicraft sector. Exhibitors represented all districts of Nagaland as well as states like Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, and Assam.

NAGALAND HOSTS 'NATIONAL IP YATRA 2025' TO EMPOWER INNOVATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

The National IP Yatra Nagaland 2025, a two-day event focused on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), commenced on 28th March 2025, at the Capital Convention Centre, Kohima.

Organized by the Investment Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) and the Patent Information Centre under

the Nagaland Science & Technology Council, the event aims to raise awareness about intellectual property protection among various sectors.

Advisor for the Department of Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan emphasized on the importance of sustainable farming practices and agricultural development while addressing a gathering of farmers, officials, and stakeholders. Yanthan acknowledged the critical role of the agricultural sector in ensuring food security and economic stability. He highlighted various government initiatives aimed at supporting farmers, improving productivity, and promoting modern farming techniques. Stressing the need for adopting sustainable agricultural practices, he encouraged farmers to integrate organic methods, soil conservation techniques, and efficient water management strategies.

Additionally, the Advisor highlighted the importance of collaboration between farmers, agricultural experts, and policymakers to address challenges such as climate change, pest infestations, and market fluctuations. He called for increased awareness and adoption of innovative farming technologies that can enhance productivity while maintaining ecological balance.

Delivering the welcome address, Joint Secretary, IDAN, Reny Wilfred, IAS emphasized that the IP Yatra shines a spotlight on the creativity, indigenous knowledge, and entrepreneurial spirit of the people of Nagaland. He mentioned that this programme is a moment to recognize, protect, and showcase the intellectual wealth that resides within the communities, artisans, and farmers. Ideas have value, and that value must be safeguarded, he stated. The initiative, launched by MoMSME, seeks

to enhance awareness about IPR, create synergies between government and private institutions, and encourage increased IP filings within India and internationally. Wilfred highlighted that the event is not just about legal registrations and trademarks but about fostering a sense of ownership over indigenous innovations.

The National IP Yatra 2025 in Nagaland is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping a robust intellectual property ecosystem in the region, empowering individuals and businesses to secure their innovations and contribute to economic growth.

Speaking at the event, Mission Director, Dr. Nesatalu Hiese highlighted the collaborative efforts of IDAN, the Patent Information Centre (PIC) – NASTEC, and Educentre in setting up Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (IPFC) in Kohima and Dimapur under the MSME Innovative Scheme. These centers aim to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in protecting their intellectual assets and navigating the complexities of IP registration.

The Mission Director stressed that many entrepreneurs, start-ups, and local businesses lack awareness of IP Rights, which can be crucial for securing patents, trademarks, and copyrights. The newly established centers will offer free professional services, including prior art searches, patent and trademark filing assistance, and commercialization strategies. She stated that this initiative is a step forward in safeguarding local innovations and ensuring that Nagaland's businesses can compete on a broader scale.

The event was attended by college students, entrepreneurs, agricultural experts, who welcomed the initiative, seeing it as a vital tool for economic empowerment in the region.

GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND, LA GANESAN VISITS MELURI DISTRICT

The Governor of Nagaland, La Ganesan, visited Meluri district on 28th March 2025. Addressing the people of Meluri, the Governor emphasized on the region's bright future and developmental potential.

"Meluri may be the youngest district of our state, but it holds immense promise for a bright future," the Governor remarked. He described the district as "the Land of Fortunes," highlighting its rich

mineral resources, biodiversity, tourism potential, and scenic beauty. The proposed inland waterway linking Myanmar's Chindwin River to Nagaland's Tizu River is a key development project. According to the Governor, this initiative is expected to serve as a strategic trade link with Southeast Asia, positioning Meluri as an international trade hub. Additionally, the International Trade Centre at Avangkhu will further strengthen the region's role as Nagaland's gateway to ASEAN nations.

Governor Ganesan also underscored the state government's commitment to enhancing road and transport infrastructure, particularly the connectivity between Meluri, the state capital, and Avangkhu, which borders Myanmar. These advancements, he stated, will pave the way for economic growth and better access to essential services. However, the Governor added that infrastructure alone cannot drive progress. "It



Governor La Ganesan being greeted by village elders during his visit to Meluri district on 28th March 2025.

is the people, their unity, and their collective spirit that turn vision into reality," he said. He urged citizens, government departments, and organizations to take an active role in ensuring the success of developmental initiatives. Emphasizing the importance of quality education and healthcare, he called for well-equipped hospitals and schools that would nurture future leaders and innovators.

During the Governor's visit, departmental reports were given by Health & Family Welfare, Public Health Engineering, Education, Agriculture and NHIDCL. A security coordination meeting at 39 Assam Rifles COB Meluri was also held.

Advisor for New & Renewable Energy, NSDMA, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe and President, Pochury Hoho also spoke at the programme. The welcome address and overview of the district was delivered by Deputy Commissioner, Meluri, Mhathung Tsanglao.

MEETING WITH POLITICAL PARTIES AT CEO LEVEL HELD AT KOHIMA

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Nagaland, Vyasan R, IAS along with his team of officers held a state level meeting with representatives from political parties at Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 28th March 2025.

The CEO Nagaland apprised the members present that the meeting was the culmination of meetings held at Electoral Registration Officers' and District Election Officers' level. He highlighted that the election machinery is primarily for the electors and the political parties and appealed for active co-operation and participation of the political parties. He also appealed to the

recognized political parties to appoint BLA (Booth Level Agents) at the polling stations.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Awa Lorin informed the political parties that the Election Commission of India is giving importance to political parties as one of the stakeholders in the electoral process. He also explained that there are no pending issues at the ERO and DEO levels in Nagaland.

IT related applications like Voters' Service Portal, NGRS, Saksham etc. were briefed by Ketousie-u Khruomo, AEO (MIS). The meeting was attended by representatives from 6 (six) political parties.

LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME HELD AT SURUHUTO

Zunheboto District Legal Services Authority (ZDLSA) organised a legal awareness programme at Town Hall, Suruhuto under Zunheboto district on 1st March 2025, incorporating fourteen (14) villages within its area. The participants and attendees for the awareness programme included Dobashis, GBs, village councils, church leaders, women association, student bodies and police personnel from Suruhoto Police Station.

In his welcome address, SDO (C) Suruhoto, Trongdiba Tongpi encouraged the participants to make use of the free services provided by the District Legal Services Authority and further lauded the ZDLSA for initiating such an event in the area.

Secretary, ZDLSA, Judicial Magistrate, Cheliam Khiamniungan highlighted on the activities of legal services and welfare

schemes including victim compensation scheme.

Deputy LADC, Tovi Z. Yeptho spoke on FIR and legal rights when arrested, while Retainer Lawyer, Easter H. Yephthomi elaborated on provisions of bail, and Assistant LADC, ZDLSA, Inolito K. Sumi spoke on NALSA (victim of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation) scheme 2015.

The programme concluded with an interactive session with active participation from O.C. Police, and the participants shared experiences and cleared their queries. The elders/leaders further expressed their needs and requested the authorities to set up Legal Aid Clinic at Suruhoto, so as to cater to the needs of the people including the neighbouring villages. Pamphlets/leaflets were later distributed to all the participants.



SDO (C), Suruhoto, Trongdiba Tongpi along with ZDLSA officials and participants during the legal awareness programme held at Town Hall, Suruhuto, Zunheboto on 1st March, 2025.

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS HELD AT SHAMATOR

Capacity Building Training for Frontline Health Workers (ASHA/AWW/ANM) on PCPNDT/MTP Act and association's roles and responsibilities in commemoration of 10 Years celebration of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), organized by the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with District Administration, Health & Family Welfare Department and District Child Protection Unit was held on 4th March 2025 at Cultural Hall, Shamator.

Medical Officer, CHC, Shamator, Dr. Mhathung shared on the topic 'Roles and responsibilities of the frontline workers.'

EAC, Shamator, Kudazo Swuro encouraged all the frontline workers, department officers and resource persons to be proactive and to organise such awareness camps and programme in the days to come.

Short speeches were also delivered by Senior Supervisor, Diethozo Sanchu and District Convenor (SEWA), Toshila.



Officials and resource persons with the participants during the Capacity Building Training for Frontline Health Workers on PCPNDT/MTP Act at Cultural Hall, Shamator on 4th March 2025.

CO-ORDINATION MEETING-CUM-WORKSHOP HELD AT TUENSANG

A Co-ordination Meeting-cum-Workshop was held at CBLT Conference Hall, Tuensang on 5th March 2025, organised by the District Administration Tuensang in collaboration with Eleutheris Christian Society (ECS) Tuensang.

The meeting adopted 3 (three) resolution: Community Alliance for Mental Health Problem, Consultation on waste Management and Drug Control forum.

Keynote address was delivered by Deputy Commissioner, Tuensang, Lithrongla

Tongpi Rutsa and a short speech was proposed by Superintendent of Police, Tuensang, Longpoksang Lemtur. Dr. Senilo Magh, Junior Specialist, District Hospital, Tuensang spoke on 'Drug Menace' and O. Akum Chang, Vice Principal, GHSS Hakushang spoke on 'Home Work on Tuensang.' Experience Sharing was presented by President, TCCI, Ebesola I Chang. During the interactive Session, the way forward was imparted by Chief Functionary, ECS, Rev. Dr. Chingmak Chang, and DPO, DAPCU, Tuensang,

Chongshen Chang shared on 'People Living with HIV (PLHIV).'

The workshop was attended by

government officials, church leaders, ward representatives, Private School Association and DBs & GBs from Tuensang town.

PEREN HOLDS DPDB MEETING

Peren held its District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting at Peren Government College on 6th March 2025 under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner & Vice Chairman, DPDB Peren, Hiazu Meru.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Hiazu Meru apprised the members that DPDB Peren has adopted Peren Government College, and highlighted the efforts made by various departments that contributed to the adoption of Peren Government College by the DPDB, and appealed for more departments to lend aid in any manner to help the college obtain NAAC Accreditation.

Key agenda such as adoption of Peren Government College, adoption of GPS, New Peren and Green Peren Outlet at Jalukie and Peren were discussed.

The board also discussed and approved the proposal for inclusion of infrastructure development of CHC Jalukie and proposal for modification of area for Peren Town Council.

ADPM (DDMU), Ruuvilie Kotsu gave a presentation on Village Reduction Poverty Plan. The meeting was also attended by teaching faculties and student community of Peren Government College.

TUENSANG DPDB MEETING HELD

The Tuensang District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) held its meeting on 7th March 2025 at Deputy Commissioner's Office Conference Hall, Tuensang with DC and Vice Chairman DPDB, Lithrongla Tongpi Rutsa chairing the meeting.

After reviewing the previous meeting minutes, the board approved and recommended the registration of Thrive Rural Society, Tuensang. The DC highlighted on the co-ordination meeting-cum-workshop held on 5th March 2025 at CBLT Conference Hall with the Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS), Government Officers, Ward Representatives,

TCCI, DBs and GBs on Drug Control, HIV and Waste Management at Tuensang town.

Principal of Sao Chang College, Dr. Lanurenla requested the concerned department to assist the students of Sao Chang College in their internship paper of the semester as they will be visiting and seeking assistances on skill learning programme, cybercrime, agriculture, fisheries and art & craft.

PowerPoint presentation on departmental activities was presented by ITI, Tuensang.

LONGLENG DPDB MEETING HELD

The Longleng District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting

was held on 7th March 2025, at the DPDB Conference Hall, Longleng under the

chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner & Vice Chairman, DPDB Longleng, W. Manpai Phom.

The chairman apprised the board that various government office buildings and institutional buildings such as Rural Development, Polytechnic, ITI, etc. in the district have been completed. However, these buildings have remained unoccupied even after completion and are deteriorating over the years. He therefore urged the concerned officers in charge to take keen interest in making the buildings functional and useful. He also instructed the board to identify any shortfalls in provisions, manpower, and infrastructure in the district offices for the district administration to take up the matter to the attention of the government.

ADC, Tamlu, T. Lankonsen Tsanglao informed the board to notify the officers of Tamlu Sub-Division regarding the implementation of various projects or

activities, enabling them to coordinate and provide logistical support to the departments. He also requested that Tamlu Sub-Division be included in the expansion of activities and programmes.

The DC informed that in many departmental activities, the district has been performing exceptionally well. Encouraging the Heads of Offices to render their efforts, he assured them of continuous coordination and cooperation in all activities. Referring to various committee meetings, the DC emphasized that representatives should not be sent in place of Heads of Offices. He appreciated the presence of many Heads of Offices at the meeting and further encouraged their active participation in the upcoming DPDB meetings and other official programmes.

The Department of Food & Civil Supplies presented its departmental activities.

EDUCONNECT: CAREER SENSITIVITY PROGRAMME HELD AT DIMAPUR

A two-day programme on 'EduConnect: Career sensitivity' commenced on 7th March 2025 at Christian Higher Secondary School, Dimapur.

Speaking as a special guest, EAC Dimapur, Litsenthung Kikon said the



EAC, Dimapur, Litsenthung Kikon addressing during the EduConnect-Career Sensitivity Programme held at CHSS, Dimapur on 7th March 2025.

programme is specially organised for the benefit of the students at large and the initiative has been taken up with different institutes to facilitate the admission procedure and guide them to choose the right career. It is also to let the students give light on the different career prospects that the young minds can undertake after completion of their basic degree studies.

Kikon urged the students to be attentive, utilize this opportunity especially on those facilities provided by the government in collaboration with the colleges and the institutes, to get a clear idea of choosing the right career or degrees.

Under Secretary, Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), I. Changsang in his opening remark, assured the students that the IDAN office will be

open for any kind of interactive session, and said that the recorded session will also help the far-flung districts to boost their initiatives. He asserted that the purpose of this programme is to bridge the gap between education and career choices, helping the students to make an informed decision, so that students can choose the right career.

Highlights of the session programme included a focused sharing session from representative colleges of Holy Grace Institute, Kerala, Sridevi Institute of Engineering & Technology, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Vellore Institute of Technology and COER University, Roorkee about their campus facilities, courses etc. The Pinnacle Skills-Skill Education and SBI-Education Loan also spoke at the session.

DPDB KOHIMA MEETING REVIEWS DEVELOPMENTAL SCHEMES

The monthly Kohima District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting was held at the DPDB Hall, Kohima, on 11th March 2025, with Vice- Chairman, DPDB and Deputy Commissioner Kohima, Kumar Ramnikant, IAS, chairing the programme.

The Board decided to approve and forward the Ex-Servicemen League Nagaland, Midland Kohima, to the higher authorities for society registration.

The General Manager of DIC Kohima, Ahunle Tep gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Industries & Commerce Department in Kohima district. She provided an overview of the general administrative setup and the various schemes implemented under DIC Kohima. She stated that the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit-linked subsidy scheme

launched by the Government of India to promote self-employment through the establishment of micro-enterprises. She added that online applications can be submitted at www.kviconline.gov.in.

Ahunle Tep also highlighted the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of micro food processing enterprises. Under this scheme, pickle production has been adopted in Kohima. Also, she provided insights into various other schemes, including Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative, Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM VIKAS) Scheme, Udyam Registration, and Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme.

BHANDARI SDPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly meeting of the Sub-Divisional District Planning and Development Board (SDPDB) Bhandari, Wokha was held at the Conference Hall of the Summer House-cum-Guest House, Bhandari with MLA and Chairman SDPDB, Bhandari, Achumbemo Kikon on the 10th of March 2025,

While reviewing the recent confrontation between the public of Old Ralan and the Central Reserved Police Force (CRPF) stationed at DAB Area, MLA Achumbemo Kikon stated that no one has the right to interfere or hinder the developmental activities undertaken within the ancestral land.

Border Magistrate of Uriamghat, Tsenthungo E. Ngullie highlighted to the board that tension arose when the CRPF tried to stop installation of solar panel by the IOCL technical experts, maintaining that the petrol pump is within the ancestral land of Old Ralan village. The Border Magistrate further stressed that the Oil Station at Old Ralan village is the only one in the area and was commissioned by the IOCL, fulfilling the long felt need of the public after years of struggle.

Upon deliberation on the progress of the ongoing road construction work under Foothill Road Project, PWD (R&B) Baghty Division informed the board that pertaining to Pangtong VR Junction to Merapani stretch, realignment may be initiated due to natural factors, and suggested that the road could be constructed along the upstream of Yangri river which would require fresh cutting of about 800 meters, and widening of existing road of around 1200 meters length, and construction of a bridge across the Yangri river thereof. In this regard, MLA

Kikon stressed that road construction should be carried out by adhering to prescribed specification and work should be expedited for completion before the monsoon.

SDEO Bhandari informed the board that transferring out teachers from the establishment of SDEO Bhandari has faced challenges for the schools, as some schools are being manned by one or two teachers, while some schools have acute shortage of teachers.

While highlighting the departmental activities of the Power Department, JE, Power stated that work has been going on for installation of 1.6 MVA power transformers.

Assistant Conservator of Forest, Baghty Range also apprised that board that the critically endangered species of Soft Shell Black Turtle found at its natural habitat of Akuk and Mekukla area, is further endangered due to mining activities in the area, and said that while planning is underway for its protection and preservation, rejuvenation of soil conservation for wildlife preservation is equally important.

After the Planning Board meeting, MLA Achumbemo inaugurated the newly constructed APMC Office, Bhandari and Lotha Morung (Chumpo) constructed under State Plan 2023-24, Department of Arts & Culture, Government of Nagaland. He also flagged off the 5th Edition of the Departmental Sports Week, Bhandari as the special inaugural guest.

PHEK DPDB MEETING HELD

Phek District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chairman, DPDB Phek and Advisor, New & Renewal Energy, NSDMA,

Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe at DPDB Hall, Phek on 11th March 2025.

The board discussed on registration of society in respect of Ruzazhomi Students' Union of Ruzazho village, duly verified by the concerned administrative authority, to which the board recommended it to higher authority for approval.

Presenting the department activities, Deputy CVO & CVO i/c Phek, Dr. Esther Krocha shared on current activities of the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department in detail. She highlighted about their assigned jobs and responsibilities on

caring of animals for food production.

Activities of PWD (Housing) Phek Division was highlighted by Junior Engineer (Housing) Phek Division, Julia Kajiri, with Government plans for construction of new buildings in the Phek Division being highlighted in her presentation.

Advisor, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe commenting on the initiatives taken by PWD (Housing) for construction of new buildings, also said that it is high time for the people of Nagaland to realise the problem of landownership which is the main obstruction of development and progress in the State.

HRDP PROJECT LAUNCHED IN MON FOR HOLISTIC RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP), sponsored by HDFC under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative and implemented by AROH Foundation in collaboration with the District Administration, was inaugurated by Advisor for Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak on 11th March 2025.

The inauguration began with the opening of a Smart Classroom at Government High School (GHS), Mon with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This was followed by the official inaugural programme at the Council Hall of Mon village.

Advisor Wangpang Konyak, in his address, emphasized that HRDP is more



Advisor, Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak with DC, Mon, Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS and team from AROH Foundation, Noida during the inauguration of the Holistic Rural Development Programme held at Mon village on 11th March 2025.

than a project - it is a vehicle for social and economic transformation. He expressed gratitude to HDFC and AROH Foundation for their commitment to inclusive development and urged the 15 Village Council Chairpersons (VCCs) and residents to maintain the newly developed infrastructure responsibly.

Deputy Commissioner, Mon, Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS explained the project's vision of adopting villages for complete transformation. He urged the AROH Foundation to prioritize basic infrastructure development in the next action plan, as the district still lags in essential facilities. He also extended heartfelt appreciation to HDFC for its efforts in bringing change to one of

the most remote regions of the country. Special recognition was given to elected representatives from Mon district for their continuous support in driving development initiatives.

Angin Konyak providing a detailed overview of the HRDP project, highlighted that the project is designed to bring comprehensive improvements across multiple sectors, ensuring holistic development in the selected villages.

The event was also graced by government officials, AROH Foundation officials and the people of Mon district. The initiative aims to transform 15 villages across Mon, Tizit, and Chen blocks over the next three years.

5th INTER-DEPARTMENT SPORTS MEET HELD AT BHANDARI

The 5th Edition of Inter-Departmental Sports Meet 2025 under Bhandari Sub-division began on 10th March 2025 at the Local Ground Bhandari with MLA and Chairman, SDPDB Bhandari, Achumbemo Kikon as special guest.

Achumbemo appreciated the District Administration and government officials for organising the Inter-Departmental Sports Meet, and stated that such sporting platform allows exhibiting one's talent and promote physical fitness. Urging the participants to

exhibit and promote discipline, friendship and team spirit, he called upon the players to build working relationship with one another. At the same time, Kikon also urged the officials to serve the people sincerely adhering to their assigned duties and responsibilities.

The Departmental Sports Week 2025 concluded on 12th March 2025 at Bhandari, Wokha. Altogether, 24 Departments under the sub-division participated in the tournament.



MLA, Achumbemo Kikon addressing the inaugural of the 5th Edition of Inter-Departmental Sports Meet 2025 under Bhandari Sub-division at the Local Ground, Bhandari on 10th March 2025.

NSCPCR AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON CHILD RIGHTS HELD

MEDZIPHEMA:

A one-day awareness programme on child rights, organised by the Nagaland State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NSCPCR) was held at the Conference Hall, Medziphema City Centre, Chumuokedima on 12th March 2025.

Chairman, NSCPCR, Alun Hangsing in his keynote address, highlighted the significance of the awareness programme on child rights, history of child rights and how it came into being, and why child rights are important. He said children are the backbone of the society and the future lies with them. Hangsing also emphasized on NSCPCR policies, laws, programmes and activities pertaining to children. He highlighted on how NSCPCR fights for child rights and shared different important child rights protection acts ensuring the safety of children.

Aying Wangsha, Member, NSCPCR highlighted the rights of children with regard to Rights to Education (RTE). Akumla Longchar, Member, NSCPCR gave an insight on understanding the POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses) and IIS implementation. She shared how the POCSO Act was enacted to protect from offense of sexual assault and protection of children. Lichani Murry, Legal Consultant, NSCPCR gave an overview on the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

An interactive session was conducted wherein queries and suggestions were taken up and were answered by the members of the Commission. Heads of Offices under Medziphema Sub-Division, MTC Town Councillors, VCC/Head GBs, representatives from schools, churches and CSOs attended the programme.

WOKHA:

Nagaland State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NSCPCR) organised a one-day awareness programme on 'Child Rights' on 19th March 2025 at Tiyi Hall, Wokha.

Chairman, NSCPCR, Alun Hansing highlighted the power vested upon the Commission for the safety and protection of child rights such as, Right to Survival, Right to Education, Right to Protection, Right to Participation, Right to Development, Right to Health and Wellbeing, Right against Discrimination.

Deputy Commissioner, Vineet Kumar, IAS said if any cases relating to violation and protection of child rights arises, the District Administration, Police and concerned department will step in to address such issues, to ensure that the rights of the child is protected. He also urged the public to report any such matters at the earliest so that action is initiated.

Resources persons of the programme, Lichani Murry, Legal Consultant, NSCPCR, Aying Wangsha, Member, NSCPCR, Akumla Longchari, Member, NSCPCR and Lanuchuba, Protection Officer (IC) DCPU, Wokha gave PowerPoint presentation on various topics.

JALUKIE:

In a significant initiative to bring all stakeholders together for creating awareness and for taking a well-informed action on various issues related to child rights and protection, a one day 'Awareness Programme on Child Rights' was organized by the Nagaland State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NSCPCR) at St. Xavier Parish Jubilee Hall, Jalukie, Peren on 26th

March 2025.

Chairman, NSCPCR, Alun Hangsing in his keynote address, explained the history behind how the Commission for Protection of Child Rights came into being, and also highlighted the importance of Child Rights. He stated that the Commission is an autonomous statutory body and its purpose is to monitor and ensure that all the laws, policies and programmes of the Government are in consonant with the rights of the child. He further elaborated on the ten fundamentals of Rights of Children which includes Right to Survival, Right to Education, Right to Protection, Right to Participation, Right to Development, Right to Health & Well Being, Right to Identity, Right to Expression, Right against Discrimination and Right to Safe Environment.

ADC, Jalukie, T. L. Kiusumong Tikhir in his short speech, thanked the State Commission headed by the Chairman for organizing the programme in Jalukie, which shows their commitment to protect child rights in the state. Stating that childhood time is the most important and memorable period in a person's life, he said it is the responsibility of all the stakeholders to create a safe and healthy ambience for the children.

Speaking on the 'Overview of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,' Lichani Murry, Legal Consultant, NSCPCR said this Act seeks to provide care/protection to children by catering to a child's development needs, adopting a child friendly atmosphere and approach, for adjudication of cases related to juveniles, keeping the child's 'best interest' in mind and rehabilitation to the child as a goal. She also highlighted that this Act places children/juveniles in two categories, namely juvenile in 'conflict with the laws handled by

the State Government/Juvenile Boards' and children in need of 'care and protection' to be looked after by State Governments/Child Welfare Committees.'

Akumla Longchari, Member, NSCPCR while giving presentation on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, said this act covers children below 18 years of age, who are victims of sexual offences. She also added, stopping child sexual abuse is essential and it is not only the responsibility of the Government to keep children safe and secure, but it is also the responsibility of all to ensure a safe and protected environment for our children to enable them to live with dignity and free from any harm of violence.

Aying Wangsha, Member, NSCPCR spoke on the topic 'Rights of children with regard to education vis-a-vis Right to Education (RTE). She said it is an Act to provide free and compulsory education to all the children of the age of 6 to 14 years till completion of elementary education. In her presentation, she also explained the key points of the RTI Act 2009, the duties of the appropriate government, duties of local authorities, duty for parents & guardians, role of School Management Committee (SMC) and role of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR).

Asungbe, Legal-cum-Probation Officer, DCPU, Peren delivered a presentation on status of child issues in Peren district.

The programme was attended by various Heads of Offices under Jalukie Sub-Division, Councillors of Jalukie Town Councils, representatives from Schools & Churches, Tribal Hohos, Student leaders, Youth Organisation leaders, VCCs and Dobashis.

3rd INTER-DEPARTMENTAL SPORTS MEET AT KIPHIRE

Deputy Commissioner, Kiphire, Temsuwati Longkumer graced the inaugural programme of the 3rd Inter-Departmental Sports Meet 2025 under the theme 'Unity in Service, Strength in Solidarity' organised by the Officers' Club, Kiphire was held at 14th IRB Camp, Kiphire on 13th March 2025.

In his speech, the DC said such an event brings employees from different departments together, irrespective of their designation and create an atmosphere to interact in a casual setting. He also urged all the participants to

take this opportunity to forge friendship in the event so that better coordination can be maintained between various departments for the betterment of the district.

The Inter-Departmental Sports Meet, Kiphire culminated on 14th March 2025 at IR Stadium and Local Ground, Kiphire, with Commandant, 14th NAP (IR), Khrousutho gracing the closing programme as special guest. Altogether 44 departments participated in the Inter - Departmental Tournament 2025.

AWARENESS & DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME OF HSS ITEMS HELD AT DIMAPUR

An Awareness & Distribution Programme of Handloom Sector Support (HSS) items including looms, accessories, and lighting units under the Small Cluster Development Programme (SCDP), was held on Thursday at ICM Hall, Toluvi, Dimapur on 13th March 2025.

Er. Asenla Walling, Executive Engineer (Industries & Commerce) briefed the gathering on the objectives and implementation of the scheme, and highlighted the Special Cluster Development Programme (SCDP) under NHDP, funded by the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), which aimed at the holistic development of weavers in Dimapur. The initiative covers four villages - Baman Pukhri A, Baman Pukhri B, Darogajan, and Kushiabil, benefiting over 200 weavers.

Under the programme, weavers will receive looms (frame looms and loin looms), solar lighting units, warping drums, and other essential equipment to boost production. Key interventions include skill

upgradation, product development, exposure visits, and financial assistance for work-sheds and lighting units. The scheme also mandates Aadhaar authentication, during the enrollment for beneficiaries.

Speaking at the launch of the Special Cluster Development Programme (SCDP) under NHDP in Dimapur, Advisor, Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu called the initiative the beginning of a larger effort to empower women weavers in Nagaland. She emphasized that the government's role is to serve the people, and through this training and distribution of equipment, it aims to equip weavers with the skills needed to sustain themselves.

Jakhalu also revealed that the department is working on developing a swaddle wrap designed and made in Nagaland as a unique brand. She encouraged weavers to be ready for this opportunity and to put in their best efforts. Expressing hope that the Dimapur cluster would set an example for other clusters, she motivated weavers to take

full advantage of the support provided and elevate their craft to new heights.

During the event, frame looms and loin looms, solar lighting units, warping drums, and other essential equipments and certificates were also included in the

distribution of HSS items.

Short speeches were also delivered by Sarbeswar Das, Assistant Director (P) & HOO, Weavers Service Centre, Dimapur, and P. Tokugha Sema, Director of Industries & Commerce.

ZUNHEBOTO DPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting of Zunheboto was held at Deputy Commissioner's Office on 13th March 2025 under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and Vice Chairman, DPDB, Rahul Bhanudas Mali, IAS.

The board deliberated on the agenda for registration of Chophimi Kuposhukulu Naghuto Old & New Society, which was approved and forwarded to the concerned authority for final approval. The ADC, Atoizu, Nukutulu Venuh through the EAC Atoizu, Dr. Samuel Akho Konyak resubmitted proposal for the construction EAC quarter at Atoizu. Supplementing to the proposal, the

EAC highlighted the board members of the deplorable conditions of other government buildings as well, which cannot be utilized, and the hardship faced by the officers posted there. The DPDB members approved the proposal with priority for further procedures.

ADC, Zunheboto, Japhet Woch while reiterating his previous address to the board, encouraged the board members to be more sincere towards the highest decision making meeting for the district. He further appealed to all the Heads of Offices to be personally present for the meeting and refrain from sending a representative, who is not technically entitled to attend DPDB meeting, he stated.

SPEAR CORPS FLAGS OFF SECOND LEG OF 3,900 KM BIKE RALLY AT RANGAPAHAR

Lt. General, Abhijit S Pendharkar, AVSM, YSM, General Commanding Officer, Spear Corps flagged the second leg of the 3,900 Km bike rally from Ranagapahar Military Station, Dimapur, Nagaland on 15th of March 2025.

The 15-day mega bike rally which commenced its journey from Vijaynagar, Arunachal Pradesh is travelling through nine states and will reach the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat on 23rd March 2025. The rally has travelled through two states, covered 550 Km, and also interacted with over 200 Ex-

Servicemen enroute. The bikers felicitated Mintu Tikhak, grandson of Late Rfn Lamtu Tikhak, first individual to join the Assam Rifles from Tangsa community.

12 (twelve) bike riding enthusiasts from Indian Army, Assam Rifles and locals from Arunachal Pradesh will continue to interact with Ex-Servicemen and thank them for their service and their continued contribution to nation building. The bikers will also interact with school children and motivate them to join the Indian Armed Forces.

DPDB, KIPHIRE LAUNCHES 'SHIKSHA SATHI' (EDUCATION COMPANION INITIATIVE)

The monthly District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting of Kiphire was held on 15th March 2025 with Deputy Commissioner, Kiphire, Temsuwati Longkumer chairing the meeting.

Implementation plan for 'Shiksha Sathi (Education Companion) Initiative was launched with an objective to improve academic performance, conference, and retention of underprivileged girl students in Kiphire district, by pairing them with academically strong students for peer learning, and mentorship

The board members also deliberated on a proposal for collaboration with the

District Skills Development Committee for the benefit of college students. In this regard, Principal, Zisaji Presidency College has been directed to organise a seminar with the concerned departments.

Reviewing the previous meeting minutes, the board members discussed the proposal for construction of Amahator EAC's Office building, and decided to forward to the higher authority for final approval.

During the meeting, DC, Kiphire also gave away the prizes to winners of the 3rd Inter-Departmental Sports Meet 2025, organised by the Officers' Club, Kiphire.

HEALTH MELA HELD AT NOKLAK

The District Health Society Noklak under Chief Medical Officer conducted a Health Mela at Nokhu SC, Noklak on 16th March 2025 providing free health care services to the local community covering a population of above 3200.

District Programme Manager (DPM), C. Hosea stated that the Health Mela offers a range of services including free consultation, immunization, diagnostics test including blood pressure, sugar, widal test, scrub typhus, HIV-TB and FGD for adolescent, family planning and maternal health.

The team provided free services to over 250 patients who attended the Mela. In an introductory note, Chief Medical Officer

(CMO), Dr. N. C. Victor said that the Health Mela is organized with the aim of providing accessible and affordable healthcare services to the rural population and to raise awareness about the importance of health and hygiene. He also brought to the knowledge about the rise in cases of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) under Noklak district, for which free NCD screening was given during the Health Mela.

The Mela was attended by Medical Officers and staff of District Hospital. The District Health Society Noklak expressed its gratitude to the local authorities, healthcare workers and volunteers who contributed to the successful conduct of the Mela.

WOKHA DPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly Wokha District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting was convened on 20th March 2025. Deputy

Commissioner, Wokha, also the Vice-Chairman, DPDB Wokha, Vineet Kumar IAS, who chaired the meeting.

Vineet Kumar expressed appreciation to all the frontline workers, volunteers from theological college, villages, civil society organisations, government departments for their services rendered in mitigating the forest fire that broke out on 17th March 2025. He looked forward to such collaborative efforts even in the days to come.

Reviewing the previous DPDB meeting minutes, the DC, Wokha reminded the departments which are yet to send their office land status to expedite the process. Those land without legal issues and with outright purchase were informed to initiate for acquiring land patta. He also said that request has been sent to the Government for purchase of smaller fire tenders. The DC also lauded the Health & Family Welfare Department for completing 100 days of TB Campaign.

With regard to the ice plant at Doyang constructed in the year 2012, the concerned department official informed that the plant requires constant power supply, however, due to factors like distance, the required

power supply could not work out. On 6th May 2013, the plant was outsourced to a society, but it could not materialise. Hence, the board has decided to take up the matter to the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary, Nagaland, added the official.

Other agenda of the day included approval for establishment of Joyingo village under Sanis sub-division, improvement of football ground and construction of rostrum at Bailey Baptist College Wokha, construction of Bailey Bridge at Lanchuju river, Riphyim village and formation of Advisory Youth Council.

HIV/AIDS scenario of Wokha district was highlighted by an official who informed that presently there are 395 HIV positive cases registered in ART, out of which, 356 are on ART drugs. SDO (C), Wokha gave a brief outline on human rights, while Soil & Water Conservation and Land Resource Departments delivered PowerPoint presentations highlighting the departments' ongoing activities and way forward.

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY 2025 OBSERVED AT GMS MERHIILIETSA, KOHIMA

World Oral Health Day 2025 was observed at Government Middle School (GMS) Merhiilietsa, Kohima on 20th March 2025, under the theme "A happy mouth is a happy mind." The event was organized under the banner of the National Oral Health Programme by the Dental Department of Naga Hospital Authority Kohima (NHAK).

Dr. Neingutuonuo Angami, the resource person for the event, highlighted the importance of good oral hygiene and its impact on mental well-being. She emphasized that maintaining oral health contributes to overall happiness and encouraged students

to adopt healthy dental habits.

As part of the celebration, an essay writing competition and a poster-making competition were conducted for the students. Winners were awarded cash prizes along with certificates, which were presented by Dr. Mhonsenli.

The event concluded with a pledge-taking ceremony led by Dr. Neiphrezo Soriinuo. A total of 100 students and staff participated in the programme, and all attendees received free oral health kits as part of the awareness initiative.

DPDB DIMAPUR DISCUSSES KEY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, EMPHASIZES WORKPLACE SAFETY AWARENESS

The District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) Dimapur held its monthly meeting at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office on 20th March 2025 with Deputy Commissioner of Dimapur, Dr. Tinojungshi Chang chairing the programme.

Dr. Chang urged all the officers to work collaboratively for the district's overall development. Emphasizing workplace safety, he directed all the departments to display

posters on the implementation of Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act within the office premises to enhance awareness.

Among the key agenda items discussed, the board deliberated on the change of nomenclature for certain schools and the registration of societies, which were recommended to the State Government for approval.

NOKLAK DPDB MEETING HELD

The Noklak District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) convened its monthly meeting on 21st March 2025 at Deputy Commissioner's Office Conference Hall, Noklak under the chairmanship of DC & Vice Chairman, DPDB, Noklak, Arikumba.

The following agenda were discussed and approved - (1) Adoption of two villages under Noklak district - Kingpao village under 56th AC Noklak and Jejeikng village under 57th AC Thonoknyu, (2) The proposal of Noklak District Athletic Association was approved,

(3) Proposal for approval of Noklak Agri-Fed Producer Company was approved, (4) Upgradation of Government Middle School Noklak Station to Government High School Noklak, (5) Construction of Primary Health Centre Building at Peshu village under Thonoknyu Sub-Division Aspiration Block. Adoption of TB patients for supplementation nutrition was also discussed.

The Departmental PowerPoint presentation was made by Er. Daniel, EE, PWD (R&B) Noklak.

WORKSHOP ON PICKLE MAKING AND BAKING HELD AT TSEMINYU

The District Administration & SANKALP, the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) Tsemnyu under Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare organised a one-day workshop on pickle making and baking at Tsemnyu Town Hall on 22nd March 2025.

During the workshop, experts/entrepreneurs from 'Eja pickle' and 'The Touch' Tsemnyu imparted training in making bitter gourd pickle, eggplant pickle,



District Administration and SANKALP-DHEW organised a one-day workshop on pickle making and baking at Tsemnyu Town Hall on 22nd March 2025.

green chilli pickle, butter cake, butter cookies and banana cake.

EAC, Tseminyu, Ruokuosetuo Tetso,

CDPO Tseminyu, Menokhrielie and Mission Coordinator, Victoria Kent also graced the workshop.

CM-MOT CAMP HELD AT NOKLAK

Chief Minister's Mobile Operation Theatre (CM-MOT) camp, headed by MLA, Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso was held at Noklak on 24th and 25th March 2025.

Speaking at the launching programme, Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso said that CMOT is a programme to reach to all who are in need of medical help, even in the most remote parts of the state. He stated that many patients from the remote areas are unable to get access

to good medical facilities due to financial problems and other reasons. Therefore, the CMOT was initiated with the sponsorship of Chief Minister, Nagaland.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Noklak, Arikumba, GBs, Khiamniungan Tribal Council, KMH, KSU and medical staff. During the camp, a total of 26 surgeries were conducted, with 21 major surgeries and 5 minor surgeries.

SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT HELD AT DIMAPUR

The Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dimapur held a sensitization programme to discuss the 'Implementation of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013' on 24th March 2025.

Chairing the programme, Litsenthung Kikon, EAC, Dimapur acknowledged that cases of workplace sexual harassment often go unreported in Naga society due to discomfort and lack of awareness. However, he noted that significant progress has been made in implementing the Act at the district level. He informed that letters have been sent to departments, urging them to establish Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) to monitor and address instances of sexual harassment in the workplace. He explained that the ICC must be headed by a woman president, with three additional members, of which half the membership should be women. The committee members will serve

for a tenure of three years from the date of their nomination.

Kikon stated that while the Act was passed in 2013, its implementation in the region is still in its early stages. However, efforts like this sensitization programme mark a major step forward in enforcing the law and educating employees about their rights.

Speaking on the issue, Moanenla Yaden, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Dimapur, Elizabeth Humtsoe, Lecturer at City Law College, Dimapur, and Alomi Sumi, Child Helpline Project Coordinator stressed that many women remain unaware of their rights under the Act. "Unless we educate them about their rights, they will not know how to seek justice," they stated. They informed that the Act defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome sexually defined behavior that creates an intimidating, hostile, or

offensive working environment. It applies to both organized and unorganized sectors, covering government offices, private and public sector organizations, NGOs, and other institutions. The Act covers a broad range of misconduct, including physical contact, sexually suggestive remarks, demands for sexual favors, and displaying pornography. It aims to prevent and redress workplace sexual harassment, ensuring that women work in an environment free from discrimination and intimidation, they added.

The speakers called for strict enforcement of the law and regular awareness programmes to empower women to report cases of harassment without fear. The programme served as a platform for open discussions and collective strategies to prevent, prohibit, and redress cases of workplace harassment across different sectors in Dimapur and was attended by officials from different departments and representatives from different organizations.

LONGKHIM SDPDB MEETING HELD

Longkhim Sub-Division District Planning and Development Board (SDPDB) meeting was held on 25th March 2025 at DUDA Hall, Longkhim, Tuensang under the chairmanship of ADC & Vice Chairman, SDPDB, Anoka H Assumi.

Assumi urged the members to be in the station as to serve the public in every possible ways. The members deliberated on the agenda of constitution of Urban Station Committee for Chare town, construction of separate building for OST Centre at Longkhim, upgradation of OC Post to SDPO Post at Longkhim, and construction of Multi-Purpose building at Longkhitpe Village under Chare block.



ADC, Longkhim, Anoka H Assumi chairing the SDPDB meeting held at DUDA Hall, Longkhim, Tuensang on 25th March 2025.

INTER-DISTRICT GHSS & GHS TOURNAMENT HELD AT MEDZIPHEMA

Inaugural programme of the Inter-District Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) and Government High School (GHS) Tournament 2025, funded by Samagra Shiksha Nagaland was held at Local Ground, Medziphema, Chumoukedima on 25th March, 2025 with Advisor, School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie

Yhome as the chief guest.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Yhome encouraged the students on how sports promote fitness and healthy lifestyle, and develop individual talents. He highlighted the objectives of Khelo India and stated there are 32 centres in Nagaland which will facilitate the students in all areas

of sports.

Dr. Yhome urged the students to make use of this event and opportunity to excel and develop their talents. He was also hopeful that this event will include all private and central schools in the near future.

Participants from all 16 districts took take part in the three-day event programme which was played in three locations - Local Ground, Government Higher Secondary

School Ground and Indoor Stadium Medziphema in 14 disciplines.

The Chief Guest was accompanied by Commissioner & Secretary, School Education and SCERT, Kevileno Angami, State Mission Director, Samagra Shisha and Commissioner & Secretary, Information & Public Relations, Temsunaro Aier, Principal Director, School Education and Commissioner & Secretary, Rural Development, Thavaseelan K, IAS.

MULTI- SPECIALITY HEALTH CAMP HELD AT THONOKNYU

A two-day multi-speciality health camp was organised at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Thonoknyu sub-division under Noklak district on 26th and 27th March 2025. The camp was led by Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso

(MLA) from Kohima.

During the camp, hundreds of residents from surrounding areas were given free medical consultations and medicines.

IRCS NIULAND BRANCH LAUNCHED

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Niuland Branch was launched at Deputy Commissioner's Office Conference Hall, Niuland on 27th March 2025.

DC & President of the District Red Cross Society, Niuland Sara S Jamir stated that the launching programme which was supposed to be held in 2023, was delayed due to various problems. Recalling the tremendous work of

the IRCS team during the massive Dimapur flood crisis in 2017, the DC said Niuland being a new district, will require help from the IRCS in case of any natural calamities/ disaster. The DC urged all the members of the District IRCS to be responsible and be prepared for any unforeseen disaster in the district.

WORLD ORAL HEALTH MONTH OBSERVED AT DIMAPUR

In commemoration of World Health Day 2025, Community Health Center, Dhansiripar, Dimapur led by Dr. Weri Mero, Dental Surgeon, CHC Dhansiripar observed World Oral Health Month throughout the month of March 2025 under the theme "A happy mouth is a happy mind".

During the month-long observation, Dr. Weri Mero and his team organized oral

health care awareness camps by visiting schools under Dhansiripar Blocks. Addition to dental examination, fluoride treatment to prevent cavities, tooth extraction, and temporary fillings were also performed.

During the camps, Dr. Mero emphasized the importance of dental hygiene in maintaining overall health. He highlighted the harmful effects of tobacco products

particularly smoking and chewing gutkha. A demonstration on proper teeth-brushing techniques was also conducted.

The Oral Health Camps were organized to educate the public and schools about the value of maintaining good oral hygiene, with the understanding that gum disease in particular can raise the risk of major health

issues. Additionally, a Painting Competition and Slogan Writing Competition were also held for the students.

The team visited three schools and conducted awareness camps for ASHAs, Community Health Officers, and the communities under Dhansiripar Block.

DLCC HOLDS REVIEW MEETING ON NTCP IN DIMAPUR

The District-Level Co-ordination Committee (DLCC) of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) conducted a review meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Office Conference Hall, Dimapur on 28th March 2025. The session focused on key issues concerning tobacco control initiatives in the district and reviewed progress made in the last two quarters.

Dr. N. Moa Jamir, District Nodal Officer

highlighted the COTPA Act 2003 and various tobacco control laws and penalties enforced in the State. He also emphasized the importance of tobacco cessation support, urging individuals to seek help at District Hospitals or CIHSR, Dimapur, or call the national helpline 1800-11-235.

A PowerPoint presentation outlined the achievements and challenges of the NTCP over the past two quarters. The 3rd and 4th Quarter Activity Report was presented, showcasing initiatives such as launch of

60 Days Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 2.0, 10 School Awareness Programmes, 9 Community Awareness Programmes, 2 COTPA Enforcement Drives and 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on ToFEI Guidelines with teachers.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the declaration and distribution of Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (ToFEI) certificates to schools and colleges that have successfully implemented tobacco-free policies. The meeting also included



ToFEI certificates were distributed during the NTCP review meeting at the DC's Office Conference Hall, Dimapur on 28th March 2025.

discussions on the challenges in implementing the NTCP, with representatives from student unions and social organizations sharing insights on enforcement, public awareness, and policy execution. Future NTCP initiatives were also deliberated upon.

The meeting reaffirmed the District

Administration's commitment to strengthening tobacco control measures and ensuring stricter enforcement of regulations. It was attended by various student organizations, representatives from social organizations and representatives from district offices.

DC PEREN VISITS NGWALWA, ENGAGES WITH VC, PROMOTES GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Deputy Commissioner, Peren, Hiazu Meru along with the District Officials visited EAC's Office, Ngwalwa and interacted with the Village Council on 28th March 2025. During the visit, various activities were conducted including Aadhaar Enrolment, PMMVY awareness and registration, entrepreneurship awareness and financial literacy camp, medical camp and CMHIS/CMLIS registration.

The Health & Family Welfare Department also organised a free medical camp at Ngwalwa headquarter where villagers, both young and old, received medical treatment, free of cost.

Addressing the gathering, DC Peren stated that the purpose of his visit was to facilitate better transparency between government departments and villagers. He urged the residents to take advantage of the government schemes and services available to them. Reflecting on his tenure as EAC at Ngwalwa, he expressed happiness over the progress made in various sectors.

During a meeting with the Village

Council, DC Meru emphasized the importance of education and hard work for economic development at the village and district levels. He highlighted the region's potential for agriculture, encouraging villagers to cultivate vegetables and plants for commercial purposes to boost their economic status.

As part of his visit, DC Peren also inspected Ngwalwa Government High School, where he interacted with students and faculty. He motivated the students to excel in their studies and urged the teachers to continue their dedicated efforts for the betterment of the children's future. He also called upon the villagers to cooperate with the government in implementing developmental projects in their jurisdiction in order to bring fast developmental activities in the district.

Officials from various departments, including Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Electricity, DRDA, Health & Family Welfare, and Land Resources educated the villagers on the benefits of government schemes.

TRAINING ON SUSTAINABLE FARMING TECHNIQUES IN PIGGERY & POULTRY HELD AT WOKHA

The Wokha District Administration, Department of Social Welfare and District

Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

in convergence with Tepzen Agro-food FarmTech organized a one-day training on sustainable farming techniques in piggery and poultry for local women farmers on 28th March 2025 at Deputy Commissioner's Office, Wokha. Dr. Gwazenlo Tep, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Wokha and Dr. Joshua Kath, CEO & Marketing Executive, Tepzen Agro-food & FarmTech were the resource persons.

Dr. Gwazenlo Tep speaking on sustainable farming techniques, said piggery and poultry farming is considered as one of the most sustainable livestock based business in attaining economic stability, and the government is also supporting the farmers, unemployed youths and local entrepreneurs by ways of giving loans and

subsidies. He urged the trainees to avail the opportunity and also to implement the projects effectively.

Dr. Joshua Kath, CEO & Marketing Executive, Tepzen Agro-Food & FarmTech dwelling on the topic 'Feeds and general management of poultry and piggery,' highlighted on key points like balanced diets including grains, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals and other nutrient requirements to meet the specific needs of different stages of growth. He also highlighted on maintaining proper housing and hygiene to prevent the animals from various diseases, and to maintain optimal temperatures and humidity levels and adequate lighting facilities for chicks.

TRAINING ON ARCHIVAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT HELD AT BENREU

A one-day training on Archival Records Management was conducted at Benreu village, Peren, organised by the Art & Culture Department, on 28th March 2025, with resource persons of the training, Research Officer, Art & Culture, Lanukaba Imchen and Record Keeper, Thonyi Krocha.

The resource persons shared about the importance of archiving documents and how important records or documents can be archived and stored in a proper and systematic manner. They also gave inputs to the trainees on how to safely maintain and improve on archiving church and village records more systemically.

The training was attended by village council members, church leaders and others. During the practical session, the resource persons also visited the church



Officials with participants during the one-day training on Archival Record Management held at Benreu, Peren on 28th March 2025.

archive section and gave their inputs and suggestions for more systematic archival managements.

RAMP DEDICATED WORKSHOP ON PACKAGING, BRANDING AND MARKETING HELD

The Department of Industries & Commerce and Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (NIDC) successfully organized a two-day workshop on “Dedicated Workshop on Packaging, Branding and Marketing with the Experts” under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme held on 27th and 28th March 2025, at Tetso College, Chumoukedima, equipping 107 trainees on Day 1 and 72 trainees on Day 2.

The workshop aimed at equipping enterprises from Nagaland with the essentials skills and ideas on packaging, branding and marketing, by bringing in industry experts for a thorough workshop. The experts present were Sasha Keneivonuo, Branding and Marketing Consultant, Ex AVP Marketing Lenskart, Ex Head of Digital Strategy, Good Glamm Group to teach on the Branding Modules, Neha Kumari, Marketing & Social Media Consultant, Ex Social Media Marketing & Growth Lead at Lenskart to teach the Marketing Modules, and Vinay Gupta, Founder, Dots & Squares Design to teach on the Packaging Modules.

K. Francis Hekavi, Joint Director, Industries & Commerce graced the occasion as the special guest, encouraging the attendees to maximize the benefits of such workshops, emphasizing the pivotal role

of branding, packaging, and marketing as catalysts for business growth. Highlighting the importance of packaging and branding, he stated that these elements are crucial for creating a lasting first impression, which often determines the success of an enterprise’s product in the market.

Sasha Keneivonuo taught lessons on personal branding, brand storytelling and exercises on developing personal brand frameworks. Vinay Gupta led sessions on impactful packaging design, focusing on logos, taglines, and sustainable packaging solutions. Neha Kumari guided discussions on consumer insights, digital marketing, social media engagement, and influencer marketing.

The two-day session was full of interactive sessions, expert Q&As, group activities and collaborative discussions, empowering participants to enhance their business growth, improve brand positioning, and stay competitive in today’s market.

RAMP is a World Bank-supported scheme of the Government of India aimed at improving access to the market, access to credit, capacity building of MSMEs, etc. As MSMEs in Nagaland continue to expand, aspects such as Packaging, Branding and Marketing are crucial for maintaining competitiveness.

Officials with participants during the two-day ‘Dedicated workshop on packaging, branding and marketing with the experts,’ under the RAMP scheme held at Tetso College, Chumoukedima on 27th March 2025.



NTPC FUNDS TWO ALS AMBULANCES AND TWO HEARSE VANS TO DISTRICT HOSPITAL MON

In a significant step towards enhancing healthcare services in Mon, two Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulances and two Hearse Vans funded by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) under CSR initiative were inaugurated by Deputy commissioner, Mon Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS, and HOP, NTPC-Bongaigaon Arnab Maitra in an event held at the District Hospital, Mon.

DC, Mon, Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the NTPC team for their valuable contribution to the health sector. He particularly emphasized the longstanding necessity for hearse vans, which will now enable dignified and respectful transportation of the deceased.

HOP, Bongaigaon, Arnab Maitra

speaking on behalf of NTPC, expressed his pride on being part of this noble initiative. The KU President also addressed the gathering, extending his gratitude to NTPC for their support.

The event was graced by the presence of the Superintendent of Police, District Welfare Officer, Medical Officers, and key stakeholders from the district administration and healthcare sector.

On 11th March 2025. Advisor for Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak, handed over two Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulances to District Hospital, Mon at Mon. He lauded NTPC's initiative, stating that these life-saving ambulances would significantly aid critically patients in the district.

MINISTER BASHANGMONGBA CHANG INAUGURATES PWD OFFICE COMPLEX AT MOKOKCHUNG

Minister for Housing & Mechanical Engineering, P. Bashangmongba Chang formally inaugurated the Public Works Department (PWD) Office Complex at Tongdentsuyong ward, Mokokchung on 12th March 2025.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister maintained that the new complex stands as a symbol of progress and development for Mokokchung district and beyond, a facility designed to provide a conducive working environment for the employees, enhancing efficiency of the department to provide better services to the public. While reiterating that PWD is one of the most crucial departments in the State, directly responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, buildings and other essential infrastructures, the addition of the complex will undoubtedly improve the department's capacity to deliver timely and quality services to the people. He



Minister, Housing and Mechanical Engineering, P. Bashangmongba Chang addressing the gathering during the inaugural programme of PWD Office Complex at Tongdentsuyong Ward, Mokokchung on 12th March 2025.

also encouraged all the officers and staff to uphold the values of integrity, commitment and service to the people.

Short speeches were delivered by CE, PWD(H), Er. Hozheto Shikhu, and Tongdentsuyong Ward Chairman, Imti Ozukum. JE, PWD(H) Mokokchung Division, Er. Talitemjen Jamir presented the technical report.

TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE FOR PUGHOBOTO FPC UNDER MOVCD-NER FLAGGED OFF AT PUGHOBOTO

The Annual General Meeting (AGM)-cum-Workshop for the Farmers' Producer Company (FPC), in collaboration with the Service Provider under the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER), was successfully held on 13th March 2025 at the VDB Hall, Pughoboto.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Sukhato A Sema, MLA of 13th Pughoboto Assembly Constituency, and the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Pughoboto, Tiameren Chang. The event marked an

important milestone for the Pughoboto FPC as it was inaugurated with the flag-off ceremony of the Transportation Vehicle allotted to the FPC under the MOVCD-NER scheme, officiated by the MLA, Dr. Sukhato A Sema.

The flag-off ceremony symbolized a significant step toward improving the logistics and transportation capabilities of the Pughoboto FPC, facilitating better access to markets and enhancing the overall effectiveness of the initiative.

OFFICE OF MSME PROMOTION COUNCIL OF INDIA LAUNCHED IN SHAMATOR

The launching programme of the Office of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Promotion Council of India was held at Cultural Hall, Shamator town on 20th March 2025.

The State Chairman of MSME, PCI, Nagaland in his speech said that the district office will pave the way to development and will make channels between farmers and public. He urged the village authority to co-operate with the district office highlighting that the main objective of the office is to provide unemployed youth to get job opportunities through schemes and loans.

Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Promotion Council of India Office & Training Centre was also launched at St. John Sector A, Tuensang on 22nd March 2025 with Deputy Commissioner, Tuensang, Lithrongla Tongpi Rutsa as the special guest of the launching programme.

Speaking on the programme, the special guest stated that there are many

entrepreneurs in the district who have good craftsmanship and skills but are not registered, leading to failure in government and financial institutions' aid. She encouraged the ward coordinator and village coordinators to play an important role in materializing the MSME PCI objectives in facilitating those who are not aware. The DC encouraged the gathering to make use of the office and also advised who will be manning the office to work passionately towards disseminating the information to the max for the benefit of the mass.

State Chairman, MSME PCI Nagaland, Lanuakum Jamir, highlighting the objective of MSME PCI, remarked that MSME is the backbone of the State's economy where 30% of the GDP comes for the sector. He also shared that the objective behind is to promote inclusive growth, job creations and entrepreneurship, while also reducing regional imbalances and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship.

VAMUZO MEMORIAL VDB MUSEUM-CUM RESEARCH CENTRE INAUGURATED AT TÜKHOBÄ, YORÜBA VILLAGE

Dr. Shürhozelie Liezietsü, former Chief Minister of Nagaland inaugurated the Vamuzo Memorial VDB Museum-cum Research Centre at Tükhoba, Yorüba Village (native village of Vamuzo, former Chef Minister of Nagaland) under Phek district on 22nd March 2025.

The programme was organised under the aegis of Vamuzo Memorial Trust and Chozuba Range Public Organisation. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Former MLA, Thenucho, Sano Vamuzo (wife of Late Vamuzo), government officials and public leaders from different villages.



Dr. Shürhozelie Liezietsü and others at the inauguration of the Vamuzo Memorial VDB Museum-cum-Research Centre at Tükhoba, Yorüba village, Phek on 22nd March 2025.

MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT FOR KIPHIRE DISTRICT LAUNCHED

The Government of Nagaland - Swasti State Dissemination meeting on Social Protection & Mobile Medical Unit Interventions, supported by TATA AIG General Insurance Company-cum-Launching of Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) for Kiphire was held at the Nagaland Health Protection Society Conference Hall, Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Kohima Nagaland on 26th March 2025.

Principal Director, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. E. Motsuthung Patton who was the special guest, said the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) was started with a vision to reach the populations living in remote, difficult areas and those communities cut off from main health services due to geography and climatic condition and that MMU represent significance made by the MoHFW to reach such marginalized population to achieve the



Principal Director, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. E. Motsuthung Patton handing over the Mobile Medical Unit Vehicle key to CMO, Kiphire, Dr. R Wapang Imchen during the launching of Mobile Medical Unit for Kiphire at the Directorate of H&FW, Kohima on 26th March 2025.

universal health coverage, proper planning and strategy of MMU services will go along in meeting the challenges.

Dr. E. Motsuthung said there are 11 functional MMUs in the State of Nagaland provided with MMU Gypsy, manpower, doctors and at present, there are 5 Mos operating in Kohima, Mokokchung, Dimapur, Wokha and Zunheboto. He stated that each MMU is directed to conduct minimum 12 camps in a month, and the deployment of MMU should be prioritized in those area or village where there is no functional health facility. The ASHAs and VHSNC should carry out the function of community mobilization, ensuring that people who needs services are informed of the MMU schedule, he urged.

Dr. E. Motsuthung highlighted that the Department of H&FW has signed a MoU with Swasti and TATA AIG for implementing the MMU activities in Zunheboto district and in a similar way, the Swasti and TATA AIG group will be carrying out similar activities

at Kiphire district by providing MMU vehicle and work in collaboration with the MMU Kiphire team. He requested the CMO, Kiphire to coordinate the planning and scheduling the MMU

PowerPoint presentation on TATA AIG CSR initiatives was given by Deputy Vice President & Lead CSR & Sustainability, TATA AIG General Insurance Company Ltd. SP & MMU Intervention accomplishments by Rambabu from Swasti the Health Catalyst. An overview of MMU Programme in Nagaland was also highlighted by Mission Director, NHM, DoHFW, Nagaland, Dr. Akuo Sorhie and the field experience sharing by the project team and beneficiaries were shared by Neikule and Manpang both from the Entrepreneurs Associates (tEA).

The Ceremonial Launch of Mobile Medical Unit for Kiphire District was conducted by Principal Director, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. E. Motsuthung Patton.

PHED KOHIMA RURAL DIVISION INAUGURATES PWMU AT TSEMINYU

The Public Health Engineering Department Kohima Rural Division, organised a brief inaugural programme for Plastic Waste Management Unit at Chunlikha Village, Tseminyu on 27th March 2025.

The Unit was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tseminyu, Kikumsangla Jamir, who emphasized the urgent need for environment responsibility, stating environment is facing severe destruction and one must act now to protect it for future generations. She also urged

the Village Council, WATSAN Committees, GBs and other stakeholders to actively participate in waste reduction efforts by adopting sustainable behavioural change, and encouraged village leaders to take ownership of government assets installed in their villages and across the Block to ensure their proper maintenance and longevity.

The programme attended by WATSAN Committee Members, Village Council representative and GBs from 13 villages under Chunlikha Block, Tseminyu district.

CINEMA AS A CATALYST: UNLOCKING NAGALAND'S POTENTIAL IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

Cinema has always been more than just entertainment - it is a powerful medium for storytelling, cultural preservation, and economic transformation. In a land as rich in heritage as Nagaland, film presents an incredible opportunity to showcase its narratives, history, and traditions to a global audience.

The Nagaland CineFest 2025, organized by the Department of Information & Public Relations in collaboration with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, is a significant step toward nurturing cinematic talent and fostering a vibrant film industry in the State. This festival serves as a platform to recognize emerging filmmakers, celebrate storytelling, and highlight the vast creative potential that Nagaland has to offer.

The festival also broadens the opportunities for networking, collaborations, exposure and a platform for locals and visitors to appreciate different cultures, techniques and talents. As participants, we must experience these remarkable films and embrace the passion, dedication, and artistry that breathe life into each frame. Importantly we must acknowledge the immense hard work and dedication that is required in filmmaking.

The Power of Cinema in Cultural Identity and Soft Power

Cinema has the unique ability to transcend boundaries, connect cultures, and bring untold stories to the forefront. More crucially, it nurtures the human spirit by fostering imagination, innovation, and the relentless pursuit of creative expression. It is through



cinema that we dream beyond the ordinary, challenge perspectives, and capture the essence of our time. Cinema is not just about visual storytelling; it is a reflection of people, places, and perspectives.

For a region as diverse and culturally rich as Nagaland, film offers an avenue to share its stories with the world—challenging stereotypes, bridging communities, reinforcing Naga Soft Power and pushing Brand Nagaland. Through well-crafted narratives, the essence of Nagaland can reach far beyond its borders, strengthening its identity and elevating its presence on the global stage.

Nagaland's Untapped Potential in the Film Industry

While the film industry in Nagaland is still in its nascent stages, the possibilities are vast. However, to fully harness these opportunities,

there is a pressing need to understand the industry's dynamics—its economic potential, job prospects, and the various verticals it encompasses. This knowledge will allow the State Government and Department of Information & Public Relations to formulate policies that support filmmakers, encourage investment, and create pathways for youth to explore careers in this sector.

The Rise of Regional Cinema and Digital Platforms

India is home to the largest film industry in the world, and it is no longer just about Bollywood. Regional cinema has witnessed immense growth, proving that authentic, locally rooted stories resonate with audiences far and wide. The success of small-budget films, the rise of OTT platforms, and the explosion of social media content creation have democratized the industry, making it more accessible than ever before.

This shift presents an unprecedented opportunity for Nagaland. With the right resources, infrastructure, and support, filmmakers from the state can carve out a space in the industry, bringing fresh perspectives and unique narratives to audiences worldwide.

A Call to Action: Building a Cinematic Future for Nagaland

For Nagaland to thrive in the film industry, there must be a concerted effort to develop talent, provide training, and create an ecosystem that nurtures creativity. Initiatives such as film education programmes, skill

development workshops, production incentives, and industry collaborations will be crucial in shaping the next generation of Naga filmmakers.

The Nagaland CineFest 2025 is more than just a celebration of cinema - it is a stepping stone toward a future where storytelling from Nagaland is recognized on a national and global scale. The filmmakers, storytellers, and artists participating in this festival are not just creating films; they are preserving culture, inspiring communities, and shaping the future of Nagaland's creative economy. The world is ready to listen. We must take policy interventions and program initiatives that unlock the doors for stories of Nagaland to unfold. As we embark on this journey, let us collectively work towards making Nagaland a hub for storytelling, a destination for filmmakers, and a beacon of cultural and cinematic excellence.

To all the filmmakers, storytellers, and artists - your work is a testament to the ever-evolving cinematic landscape. The stories you tell today will echo through time, preserving our history and culture for future generations. Your imagination serves as both a document of our present and a gift to those who will come after us.

Hopefully Nagaland CineFest 2025 will inspire, ignite conversations, and pave the way for new voices in cinema and must become the beginning of a new transformative journey for Nagaland in the film industry.

(The writer, Abu Metha, is the Advisor to the Chief Minister and the Chairman of the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) and the Founding Editor of the Eastern Mirror)



Project Director, Task Force for Music & Arts (TaFMA), Dr. Hovithal Sothu with officials and trainees during the valedictory function of Foundational Music Production Workshop held at Centre of Excellence in Music and Arts (CEMA), Kohima on 8th March 2025.



Minister, Tourism and Higher Education, Temjen Imna Along with officials and graduating students during the 38th Convocation Ceremony of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Regional Centre, Kohima held at Capital Convention Centre, Kohima on 5th March 2025.



Minister, Health & Family Welfare (H&FW), Paiwang Konyak with officials and awardees during the felicitation programme of 'Kayakalp Awardees for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25,' held at the Directorate of H&FW, Kohima on 25th March 2025.



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STATE ROUND-UP



EAC, Kiphire, Takatamjen Pongen with officials and participants during the International Women's Day celebrated at Agape School Auditorium, Kiphire on 8th March 2025.



Officials and participants at the one-day block level community mobilization for School Management Committees (SMCs) and School Management and Development Committees (SMDCs) held at Changtongya, Mokokchung on 25th March 2025.

STATE ROUND-UP



Nagaland Media Team along with the Press Club of Shillong during the media exposure tour at the Conference Hall of the Shillong Press Club on 25th March 2025.



Deputy Commissioner, Noklak, Arikumba with other officials and participants during the World Tuberculosis Day observed at Noklak on 24th March 2025.

DISTRICTS ROUND-UP



Officials from Nagaland State Commission for Protection of Child Rights with the participants at the one-day awareness programme on 'Child Rights' held at St. Xavier Parish Jubilee Hall, Jalukie, Peren on 26th March 2025.



The Chief Minister's Mobile Operation Theatre (CM-MOT) camp, headed by MLA. Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso, was held at Noklak on 24th March 2025.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



ADC, Tseminyu, Kikumsangla Jamir and officials during the inauguration of Plastic Waste Management Unit at Chunlikha village, Tseminyu on 27th March 2025.



Deputy Commissioner, Mon, Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS and MS, DHM, Dr. Aman Konyak receiving two Advance Life Support Ambulances and two Mortuary Vans from HOP, NTPC Bongaigaon, Arnab Maitra during the handover ceremony held at District Hospital, Mon on 4th March 2025.