



THE WARRIOR

A DIPR MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Vol. 54 No. 10

ipr.nagaland.gov.in

January 2026



A glimpse of the inaugural programme of the 26th edition of the Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 1st December 2025.



Dr. Neiphiu Rio flagging-off sanitation vehicles for 10 Urban Local Bodies during the 63rd Statehood day celebration at Nagaland Civil Secretariate Plaza, Kohima on 1st December 2025



Secretary of MeitY, S.Krishnan, IAS, speaking at the Nagaland Digital Entrepreneurship & Startup Fest held at NIELIT, Kohima on 8th December 2025.



THE
WARRIOR
A DIPR MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Ruopfulenuo H. Mepfhüo

Sub Editor : Ikedalule

Published by:

Directorate of Information & Public Relations

Government of Nagaland

IPR Citadel, New Capital Complex

Kohima - 797001, Nagaland

© 2025, Government of Nagaland

Directorate of Information & Public Relations

email: iprnagaland@gmail.com

For advertisement: dipradvert@gmail.com

Views and opinions expressed in the contributed articles are not those of the Editor nor do these necessarily reflect the policies or views of the Government of Nagaland.



Designed & printed by:

artworks Nagaland-Kohima

C O N T E N T S

Regulars

Official Orders & Notifications 4

State Round Up 6

Districts Round Up 43

Development Activities 62

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

DoHE NOTIFIES NOTIFICATION ON GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF COACHING CENTRES

The Directorate of Higher Education has notified on the Guidelines for Registration and Regulation of Coaching Centres in the State of Nagaland approved by the Cabinet vide Letter No. HTE/CC/1-4/2020 Dated Kohima the 26th November 2025.

The objective of the guidelines is for regulation of coaching centres for better guidance and assistance to the students in any study programme, competitive examinations or academic support.

The guidelines will provide framework for Registration and Regulation of Coaching Centres, minimum standard requirements to run a coaching centre, to safeguard the interest of students enrolled in coaching centres, to advise coaching centres focused on curricular activities as well as for holistic development of students, and to provide career guidance and psychological counselling and mental well-being of the students.

The Department have informed to all the existing coaching centres to apply for registration through the Deputy Commissioner of their respective districts within a period of 3 (three) months from the date of notification. The guidelines are available in the website of the Department of Higher Education, <https://highereducation.nagaland.gov.in>.

For any queries, contact the Nodal Officer: Vetanule Demo, OSD Higher Education at (M) +918974870900

MP RAJYA SABHA, PHANGNON KONYAK, APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT NIFT

The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, C. P. Radhakrishnan, has issue an order dated Rajya Sabha Secretariat the 28th November 2025, appointing S. Phangnon Konyak, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Nagaland, as a Member of the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

RAJ BHAVAN RENAMED AS LOK BHAVAN

Commissioner & Secretary to the Governor of Nagaland, Thavaseelan K, IAS has informed that, in pursuance of the communication received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide Memo No.7/10/2025 (Part)-M&G dated 25th November, 2025 and as per the approval of the Governor of Nagaland, it has notified that the name of the institution “Raj Bhavan, Nagaland” has been modified and renamed as “Lok Bhavan, Nagaland”.

Raj Bhavan, Nagaland shall henceforth be referred to as “Lok Bhavan, Nagaland”. This notification comes into force with immediate effect.

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

PARA MEDICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE RENAMED NAGALAND INSTITUTE OF ALLIED & HEALTHCARE, KOHIMA

In pursuance to the administrative approval of the Government dated the Kohima the 11th Nov. 2025 and following the directive of the National Commission for Allied and Health Care Profession (NCAHP) Act 2021 under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India regarding the discontinuation of the Term 'Paramedical', the Department of Health & Family Welfare has issued the following directives for immediate compliance by all Departments and Stakeholders concerned.

The name of the Para Medical Training Institute is officially changed to Nagaland Institute of Allied & Healthcare, Kohima. Henceforth, the Institute shall be officially known and referred to only as "Nagaland Institute of Allied & Healthcare, Kohima" in all official records, deeds, writing, proceedings and transactions both Private and public.

All existing reference to the Para Medical Training Institute in departmental records and further correspondence must be updated to reflect the new official name 'Nagaland Institute of Allied & Healthcare, Kohima'.

NAGALAND NOTIFIES 19 LOCAL LANGUAGES FOR ENGAGEMENT OF GRAMIN DAK SEVAKS

The Government of Nagaland has officially notified 19 local languages and dialects spoken in the State for the purpose of engaging Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, Government of India.

The notification, issued by the Home Department dated December 16, states that the identification of local languages is in line with the requirements of the Department of Posts for certifying language proficiency among GDS applicants. The languages identified include Angami, Ao, Chang, Chakhesang, Konyak, Khiamniungan, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sumi, Sangtam, Tikhir, Yimkhiung, Zeliang, Garo, Mikir, Kuki and Kachari.

For the purpose of certification of proficiency in these languages and dialects, the Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts have been notified as the certifying authorities within their jurisdictions.

The notification will come into force from the date of its publication in the Nagaland Gazette.

NAGALAND CELEBRATES 63rd STATEHOOD DAY: CM HIGHLIGHTS PEACE EFFORTS, DEVELOPMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ROADMAP

Nagaland celebrated its 63rd Statehood Day with grandeur and a renewed call for unity, peace, and inclusive development at Secretariat Plaza, Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 1st December 2025.

It began with a Parade Review by Rupin Sharma, IPS, Director General of Police, Nagaland. The March Past included contingents from the 1st, 4th, 5th, 9th and 10th NAP Battalions, 15th NAP (IR) Battalion, Village Guards, NPTS Central Brass Band, Nagaland Police Auxiliary Brass Band, and the 15th NAP (IR) Mahila Pipe Band. Akihito X. Sumi, NPS, Dy. Commandant, 1st NAP Bn., served as the Parade Commander, while Zaren Yanthan, NPS, Asst. Commandant, 2nd NAP Bn., was the Second-in-Command.

Addressing the people of the State, the Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio extended his warm greetings and reflected on Nagaland's journey since Statehood, honouring the leaders and visionaries who laid the foundations for a progressive and resilient society.

Reiterating Commitment to Early Naga Political Solution, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to achieving an honourable and inclusive settlement to the Naga Political Issue. He said the efforts of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC), comprising Ministers, Advisors, representatives of all political parties and Members of Parliament, which met on 1st September 2025 and unanimously endorsed the Ungma Statement of 23rd August 2025. Dr. Rio emphasised the Committee's call for all Naga Political Groups, backed by Tribal Hohos, to converge on a common platform and pursue a shared political vision.

He also recalled the broad-based consultative meeting held on 12 September 2024 where stakeholders appealed to the Government of India to elevate the peace dialogue to the highest political level. The Chief Minister made a fresh appeal to the Naga Political Groups, the Government of India, and all stakeholders to "appreciate the pressing urgency" to reach a final settlement without further delay.

Government Reaffirms Commitment to Eastern Nagaland and acknowledging developmental gaps, the Chief Minister stated that the Government remains committed to addressing the aspirations of the people of Eastern Nagaland, particularly their demand for an arrangement under the Frontier Nagaland Territory Area (FNTA). Following tripartite talks in September 2025 involving the Government of India, the State Government and ENPO, and subsequent departmental consultations, the CM said the State is hopeful for an early and mutually acceptable resolution.

Dr. Rio stated that the 26th Hornbill Festival 2025 will open with the largest ever International Participation adding that the festival will welcome six Partner Countries including Austria, Malta, Switzerland, Ireland, France and the United Kingdom along with Arunachal Pradesh as the State Partner. He also announced that each partner nation will take part in dedicated roundtable sessions to explore cooperation in investment, culture, arts, agriculture, sports, education, and the creative economy.

Also highlighting on Youth-Centric Development and Sports Achievements, Chief

Minister reiterated that youth development remains at the core of the Government's policies. In this regard Rio announced that 31 indoor stadiums and 28 futsal grounds have been sanctioned and ₹23 lakh per Assembly Constituency has been earmarked as a "District Sports Fund" starting from 2025-26. He mentioned that the State has made remarkable progress in Sports as the State prepares to host the Asian Women's SepakTakraw Championship 2026 and has recently hosted the 69th National School Games Taekwondo Championship.

Dr. Rio said that to strengthen Higher Education, the Government has created 129 new Assistant Professor posts and four new Model Degree Colleges have been approved for Niuland, Shamator, Noklak and Tseminyu. He mentioned that a significant progress was reported in Technical Education, with the NEP 2020 curriculum in effect and an AI Lab established at ICIT Mokokchung under Intel India. He went on to say that the Nagaland Innovation Hub for Startups is also being set up at Chumoukedima to boost youth entrepreneurship. He also pointed out that major AI and future skill initiatives SAMARTH and the AI & Future Skills Centre of Excellence were inaugurated during the visit of the Union Finance Minister in November 2025. Highlighting the World Bank supported NECTAR Project he said that Lighthouse School Complexes were being constructed in 16 districts, while examination reforms and a new music education initiative with Yamaha India are underway.

CM also announced significant progress in transportation infrastructure and that on air connectivity, four strategic landing strips are proposed at Kohima (Ciethu), Mokokchung, Mon and Tuensang. Additionally, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

has identified Noune, Shilloi and Doyang Lake as inland waterway corridors for tourism and water sports, he added.

The State achieved a major upgrade with the Nagarjan Substation's capacity being raised to 350 MVA and a new 220/132/33kV substation at Tsitrongse is under construction to meet rising power demands, he added.

Rio mentioned that Urban Development saw notable progress with a two-day orientation for newly elected municipal councillors and the provision of sanitation vehicles to Urban Local Bodies. He also added that the inauguration of the Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco-Park built with support from Japan was a symbol of international friendship.

In healthcare, initiatives under the SwasthNari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan continue state-wide, while Nagaland achieved zero malaria cases in seven districts and a 400-bedded Medical College Hospital at NIMSR, Kohima, is being developed with JICA support, Rio added.

In Agriculture, Industry and Rural Livelihoods State continues to scale up agricultural initiatives under Agri. Stack, with machine-learning enabled analytics to boost productivity. He highlighted that Horticulture, Sericulture and Fisheries projects continue to expand, while Nagaland's coffee sector is emerging as a regional leader with exports to South Africa, the EU and the Middle East. The 219th Coffee Board of India Meeting, held in Kohima, was a landmark first for the Northeast, he added.

Dr. Rio also highlighted that the Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission now supports more than 1.36 lakh rural households across 15,434 SHGs, while MGNREGA provided work to 2.59 lakh households, with women contributing nearly 50% of person-days. He

said that Department of Underdeveloped Areas (DUDA) continues to strengthen infrastructure in remote regions through the UDAP and the Vibrant Village Programme and construction of the Konyak Heritage Complex in Mon district an important cultural landmark is nearing completion.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister remarked that Nagaland is the most peaceful state in the country without any incident of serious law and order situation and no major security challenge. While appreciating the Centre's decision to relax the PAP regime for the Hornbill Festival following the State's request, the Chief Minister has urged the Government of India to consider permanently withdrawing the PAP regime from Nagaland to boost tourism and economic growth. He also called upon citizens to work together to build a prosperous, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable future.

Other highlights of the programme included virtual inauguration of 120 'Children and Adolescents Libraries and Digital Infrastructure and the Nagaland

Scholarship Nodal Cell (NSNC), released of documented books (Phase 1) on Traditional Attires and Ornaments of 10 indigenous tribes of Nagaland, release of the DREAM Nagaland book, publications under PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launch of Nagaland Entrepreneurship & Impact Forum 2035, launch of StateSync App and 'Discover Kisama' App, distribution of tablet computers to accredited journalists, and the flag-off of 10 sanitation vehicles to Urban Local Bodies by the Chief Minister .

Cultural extravaganza showcased presentations by Meriema Cultural Troupe, Zhove Cultural Troupe, Shena Old Cultural Troupe and Sangpin Tah folk song & dance.

Dr. Rio also inaugurated a photo exhibition titled "Journey of Nagaland Down the Decades," organised by the Department of Information & Public Relations. The exhibition showcased a wide collection of photographs ranging from the pre-statehood period to contemporary developments in the State.

NH NEW DELHI CELEBRATES 63rd NAGALAND STATEHOOD DAY

Joint Resident Commissioner (JRC), Nagaland House New Delhi, Sharon Longchari unfurled the national flag to commemorate the special occasion at Nagaland House, 29-Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi on 1st December 2025.

Longchari addressing the gathering said that the day is marked to reflect and

appreciate on how far the State has come since its formation. Recounting how the state came to being, she stated that it has faced many challenges and though being a small state with a population of less than 2 million, the aspirations of the State is big, and added that it can be achieved with participation of all.

CM RIO DISTRIBUTES TABLETS TO JOURNALISTS TO BOOST DIGITAL REPORTING IN NAGALAND

In a significant move to strengthen digital journalism in Nagaland, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR)

distributed tablet computers to accredited journalists during the 63rd Statehood Day celebration held at Secretariat Plaza,

Nagaland Civil Secretariat on 1st December 2025.

Chief Minister Dr Neiphui Rio handed over the devices to the Presidents of the Kohima, Dimapur, and Mokokchung Press Clubs, marking the launch of the initiative. A total of 40 working journalists from across the state have been selected to receive the tablets under the scheme implemented by the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR).

The initiative stems from discussions with the Finance Commissioner during the 2025–26 Assembly Budget dinner, where the need to support journalists with digital tools was emphasised. The project aims to improve field-based reporting, enhance data-driven journalism, and bridge the digital gap among media professionals working in different parts of the state.

President of the Kohima Press Club, Alice Yhoshü, expressed appreciation to the state government, particularly acknowledging Chief Minister Dr Neiphui Rio, Chief Secretary Sentiyanger Imchen and Information & Public Relations Department (DIPR) for recognizing the importance of digital connectivity for journalists. She stated that access to tablets would enable media personnel to work more efficiently in the fast-evolving digital environment.

The DIPR noted that the initiative will foster stronger collaboration between the media and government by promoting accurate, technology based reporting and timely dissemination of public information. The department further emphasized that the programme represents a model for future journalist empowerment through technology in Nagaland.

HORBILL FESTIVAL 2025 HELD

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The 26th edition of the Hornbill Festival 2025 was held from 1st to 10th December at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima, celebrating the State's cultural heritage, unity, and identity. The festival was inaugurated by Governor of Nagaland and Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, with Chief Minister Dr. Neiphui Rio as the host and Tourism Minister Temjen Imna Along as festival host.

Governor of Nagaland & Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla in his address, highlighted the significance of the festival as a celebration of the state's cultural heritage, unity, and identity and noted that the festival stands as a testament to Nagaland's rich traditions, vibrant art forms, and enduring values and reflects the collective resilience of the people to preserve the legacy handed down by their ancestors. He noted its growth as a platform

for tourism, entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange, commending the government, tribal bodies, artists, and entrepreneurs for their contributions. He also stressed sustainable tourism, urging respect for local cultures and ensuring benefits reach



Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Chief Minister Dr. Neiphui Rio sounding the gong to mark the opening of the Hornbill Festival 2025 at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 1st December 2025.

grassroots communities.

Chief Minister Rio described the festival as a living expression of Naga unity, traditions, and respect for ancestors, noting the participation of six partner countries Austria, Malta, France, Ireland, UK, Switzerland and partner state Arunachal Pradesh. He encouraged visitors to become ambassadors of Nagaland, sharing its culture and heritage globally. Emphasizing the significance of the Unity Plaza at the Main Arena of the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, the Chief Minister stated that it is a symbol of the Nagas' oneness and shared hopes for a peaceful and

prosperous future.

International dignitaries including the Ambassadors of Ireland, Switzerland, France, the Austrian Trade Commissioner, and representatives from the UK and British Council praised the festival as a bridge across generations, communities, and nations. They lauded Nagaland's cultural resilience, artistic creativity, and the festival's role in fostering global partnerships.

The inauguration featured traditional blessings from Tomwang, an 87-year-old elder from Longwa Village, Mon and invocation by Bishop Rev. Dr. James Thoppil.

VARIOUS GUEST GRACES CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA SESSIONS AT HORNBILL 2025

Cultural performances remain a central highlight of the Hornbill Festival showcasing traditional dances, folk songs, and other cultural expressions that celebrate the state's rich heritage. The 10-day-long Cultural Connect, held daily at Unity Plaza, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, included performances from all tribes of Nagaland and neighbouring communities, highlighting the unique identity and traditions of each community. The event offered visitors an immersive experience into the cultural richness, traditions, and storytelling heritage of the Naga tribes.

Day 2 of the Hornbill Festival 2025 witnessed a vibrant line-up of events from different tribes of the State. The event was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang and co-hosted by G. Ikuto Zhimomi, Advisor for Land Resources. Special guests included the Ambassador of France to India, Thierry Mathou, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Justice Ashutosh Kumar and other dignitaries.

Day 3 witnessed a vibrant array of

cultural presentations by various tribes of Nagaland. The Cultural Show was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister-in-charge of Home and Border Affairs, Yanthungo Patton and co-hosted by Advisor for Food & Civil Supplies and Legal Metrology, K. Tokugha Sukhalu. Distinguished guests included the Ambassador of Bhutan, Consul General H.E. Jigme Thinlye Namgyal, Air Marshal Surat Singh, SM, Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command, Indian Air Force, Lt. Gen. Mohit Wadhwa, GOC 101 Area, Simon Lee Broughton, Founding Editor of Songlines, and other dignitaries.

On Day 4, the cultural event was hosted by Metsubo Jamir, Minister for Rural Development & SIRD, and co-hosted by Mhathung Yanthan, Advisor for Agriculture. Special guests included Alope Singh, Managing Director of Air India Express, and Surabhi Varma Garg, IRS, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (NER), Guwahati.

Advisor for Minority Affairs and Sericulture, Imkongmar, hosted the Cultural

extravaganza on Day 5. Special guests in attendance included Lt. General Vikas Lakhera, AVSM, SM, Director General Assam Rifles, Suneel Sachdeva, Director NFSSA & BP, Ministry of Food & Public Distribution, among other dignitaries.

Day 6 of the celebration unfolded with a colourful array of traditional dances, songs, and cultural expressions, as tribes from across Nagaland and neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh showcased their rich heritage on the cultural stage. The cultural extravaganza was hosted by K.G. Kenye, Minister of Power & Parliamentary Affairs, and co-hosted by A. Pangjung Jamir, Advisor for Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, and attended by key dignitaries including NEC Secretary Mr. Satinder Kumar Bhalla, Lt. Gen. Abhijit S. Pendharkar (GOC, 3 Corps), and senior executives from the Bank of Baroda, Dr. Debadatta Chand and Beena Vaheed.

Day 7 of the Cultural connect was graced by Yanthungo Patton, Deputy Chief Minister, Home & Border Affairs as the Host and Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, Advisor School Education, SCERT as the Co- Host. The event also welcomed Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information technology S. Krishnan IAS, as the Special Guest along with other dignitaries. The cultural event was curated by North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur (NEZCC) which witnessed cultural performances embodied the rich cultural diversity and a celebration of spirit of harmony of the 8 North Eastern States.

On day 8, the event was hosted by Minister of Rural Development & SIRD, Metsubo Jamir, and co-hosted by Advisor for Tribal Affairs & Election, H. Tovihoto Ayemi. The programme was graced by Chief Guest, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communication and Rural

Development, and Special Guest, Chanchal Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER. Also present were M. Ragja Murugan, IPS, Managing Director, and U.J. Chamargore, Director (Technical)-II, NHIDCL, along with other dignitaries.



Chief Guest for the Day 8 Cultural extravaganza, Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communication and Rural Development arriving for the cultural programme on December 8th 2025.

On Day 9, The programme was hosted by P. Bashangmongba Chang, Minister for Housing & Mechanical Engineering, alongside co-host Zhaleo Rio, Advisor for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs. Also present were Air Chief Marshal, Amar Preet Singh, PVSM, AVSM, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), and Subhash Chandra Mynam, Territory Manager (Retail), Shillong, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, who graced the occasion as the Special Guest.

Marking the culmination of the 26th Edition of the Hornbill Festival 2025, the cultural event was hosted by Minister for Women Resource Development & Horticulture, Salhoutuonuo Kruse, and co-hosted by the Advisor for Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu. Special guests included the Managing Director, Centre Point Group Enterprise, Larsing L. D. Sawyan; Chairman, PFRDA, S. Ramann; Executive Director & State Head, Indian Oil AOD State Office, Guwahati; and other dignitaries.

MEDIA FACILITATION CENTRE INAUGURATED AT NAGA HERITAGE VILLAGE, KISAMA

Commissioner & Secretary, Orenthung Lotha inaugurated the Media Facilitation Centre (MFC) at the Handloom & Crafts Pavilion, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 1st December 2025 in the presence of Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Ramnikant, IAS and department officials.

The Centre is set up annually by the Department of IPR at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama during the Hornbill Festival to provide dedicated support and facilities to media personnel covering the festival. Equipped with high-speed internet connectivity and workstations the Centre enables journalists to efficiently transmit their reports, photographs and video content. It also provides a comfortable working environment with refreshments such as tea, coffee and snacks available throughout the day.

The MFC functions as the operational

base for leading national broadcasters including All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan and media teams from partner states, along with local and independent correspondents and media personnel from outside Nagaland and abroad.

The Centre is frequently visited by dignitaries, senior government officials including the Chief Minister to interact with the media during the course of the festival. These engagements reflect the importance attached by the Government of Nagaland to the role of the media in highlighting the significance of the Hornbill Festival and in projecting the rich cultural heritage of the state to the rest of the country and the world.

The Media Facilitation Centre has, over the years, become an indispensable part of the Hornbill Festival, ensuring that the event receives wide, timely and professional coverage.

LEGAL SERVICES STALL AT KISAMA

Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi, Judge of the Gauhati High Court and Executive Chairman of the Arunachal Pradesh Legal Services Authority, inaugurated the Legal Services Stall set up by the Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA) at Naga Heritage Village on 1st December 2025 during the 26th Hornbill Festival.

Justice Medhi emphasized that the stall aims to make legal services accessible to all, particularly those in need, and encouraged panel lawyers and para-legal volunteers to assist the public in claiming their rights, including Victim Compensation, which can now be claimed immediately. He praised NSLSA for its transparent and proactive

work in raising legal awareness and urged the continuation of such initiatives.

The special guest also handed over Victim Compensation cheques to District Legal Services Authorities, received on behalf of beneficiaries by Mezivolu T. Therieh, Chairperson of Kohima DLSA.

The 10-day stall, organized under the National Legal Services Authority, provided free legal services, consultations, and assistance on various legal matters, including Lok Adalats, mediation, legal aid, and early release of undertrial prisoners. Visitors can also access legal literature translated into local Naga dialects and Nagamese.

NAGA CRAFTSCAPE INAUGURATED AT KISAMA

The Commissioner & Secretary, Tourism, Dr. Zasekuolie Chusi, IAS inaugurated the Naga CraftScape at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 1st December 2025, organized by the Tribal Weave Nagaland in collaboration with Nagaland Tourism and Department of Art & Culture, where Naga Artisans demonstrated live demo craft.

The live demonstrations included Chang cotton spinning, Konyak gunsmithing, Phom earthen pottery, Khiamniungan nettle weaving, Pochury awathru (wind chime), Chang kongkin (jew's harp), Khiamniungan basketry, Konyak ornaments, and Chang wood carving.

MoU EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN TKM PVT LTD AND IDAN

The MoU Exchange Program between Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. and Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) was held at the Bamboo Hall, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 2nd December 2025. The MoU is to implement key Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the company, with the objective on strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure and improving educational facilities at Kohima and Dimapur.

Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio expressed gratitude to TKM for selecting Nagaland for its CSR initiatives, highlighting the partnership's potential to enhance public health services, educational empowerment,

and long-term social impact, particularly in view of the state's geographical challenges and limited healthcare facilities.

Director, Project SVP & CCO of TKM, Sudeep Santram Dalvi, emphasized Toyota's commitment to meaningful socio-economic development in the region, with a strong focus on community welfare, education, and health, noting that Nagaland is a key priority for the company.

The MoU was formally signed by Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio and Sudeep Santram Dalvi, marking the beginning of a collaborative effort to benefit families and children across Nagaland.

WORLD WAR II PEACE RALLY

A prize distribution ceremony was organized by the World War II Peace Rally to commemorate the battle of Kohima at the WW II Museum, Naga Heritage village, Kisama, Kohima on 2nd December 2025.

Festival Chief Host & Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio in his short address, said that this rally signifies to demonstrate 'Peace should prevail over warfare' and propagate the message of peace to every Nation. He mentioned that the rally honours and pays homage to the selfless sacrifices of the Naga's during the Kohima

Battle and also to reaffirm and commit to live in peace. He also conveyed his appreciation to the Nagaland Flat Fenders Club and the Nagaland Adventure & Motor Sports Association for organizing the programme which is a big contribution in demonstrating our histories.

Later in the programme prizes were awarded to the Most Original Vehicle to Dr. Andrew Ahuto; Best Maintained vehicle to T. John Longkumer; Best Uniformed Squad to Mhashevoto and Best Weaponry to R.T Chang.

HIPFEST 2025

The Hornbill International Photo Fest (HIPFEST) 2025 was inaugurated by the Special Guest, Ambassador of Switzerland, H.E. Mrs. Maya Tissafi at Naga Heritage village Kisama, Kohima on 2nd December 2025.

Speaking at the launch, H.E. Mrs. Maya Tissafi shared her admiration for the rich culture and diversity of the Naga people. Emphasizing the importance of skilled professionals for state development, she stressed that the quality of skilled individuals including photographers and artists plays a vital role in societal progress. She also expressed hope that the partnership with Nagaland would continue to grow in the coming years, opening more avenues for collaboration.

In his welcome address, the Commissioner & Secretary of Information and Public Relations and Co-operation, Orenthung Lotha noted that the festival provides a global platform for emerging photographers to showcase their talent and gain well-deserved recognition.

The 2025 edition saw participation from 97 photographers across the state, displaying 264 competition photographs under the theme 'Seasons of Nagaland.' Awards were presented to Pelevizo Meyase (first place), Tshetsholo Naro (second place), and Asakho Chase (third place). Category winners included Avimanyu Banerjee for Best Portrait, Moasunep Pongen for Best Landscape, and Atam Wangsa for Best Wildlife.

This year's HIPFEST exhibition was housed at the World War II Museum area, where visitors explored the showcased works from 2nd to 10th December and experienced the stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage

of Nagaland captured through the lenses of its photographers.

STILT BAMBOO RACE

The Naga traditional game of stilt bamboo race organised by the Department of Youth Resources & Sports was held at the Amphitheatre, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 2nd December 2025.

A total of 15 participants competed in the local category, showcasing balance, speed, and skill. After a closely contested race, Armon Sangma of the Garo community clinched the first position, followed by Künükhryüi Dozo of the Chakhesang community in second place and Birimong of the Yimkhiung community in third.

STATE LEVEL NAGA INDIGENOUS PRACTICES COMPETITION

A state-level competition on various Naga indigenous practices and games was held as part of the ongoing Hornbill Festival at NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima on 2nd and 6th December 2025 respectively.

The programme was organized in celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh during the Hornbill Festival by the Tribal Research Institute, Kohima under the Department of Tribal Affairs, and funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

In the Tribal Log Cutting Competition, Rengma Tribe secured the first position, while Chakhesang Tribe and Ao Tribe bagged the second and third positions respectively.

In the Tribal Cock Fight Competition, Angami Tribe emerged as the winner, followed by Zeliang Tribe in second place and Sumi Tribe in third place.

In the Tribal Arm-Wrestling



Participants of State Level Rice Husking Competition at NSF Solidarity Park Kohima on 6th December 2025.

Competition, Avilie Zuyie and Thejaketuo Talie, both from Angami Tribe, secured the first and second positions respectively, while Lunrito from Yimkhiung Tribe bagged the third position.

In the first edition of Bamboo Cutting Competition, Zeliang tribe emerged as the champion, while Lotha tribe and Pochury tribe secured second and third places, respectively. While in Banana Stem Cutting Competition, Chang tribe emerged as the winner, followed by Kuki tribe and Angami tribe, who secured second and third positions, respectively.

In the Catapult Competition, defending champion Shangtok Phom from the Phom

tribe emerged as the winner, while Zulutoshi from the Ao tribe and Jill Sangma from the Garo tribe secured the second and third positions respectively.

In the Spear Throw Competition, S. Buktok of the Phom tribe clinched the championship title, while Khiti Kath of the Rengma tribe and Zulutoshi of the Ao tribe bagged the second and third positions respectively.

In the State Level Rice Husking Competition, Rengma tribe emerged as the winner of the competition, while the Konyak tribe and Zeliang tribe secured the second and third positions respectively. (photo 3)

MYKIFEST 2025

The 7th edition of Hornbill cum MykiFest 2025 organized by the Department of Women Resource Development was held at the Directorate of Women Resource Development, Kohima on 2nd December 2025. It was officially inaugurated by Zhothisa Dawhuo, IAS, Secretary, Department of Women Resource Development.

Dawhuo in his address stated that the festival aims at breaking barriers, lifting the

strengths and potential of every woman, and recognising their talents. He further assured that the department will extend all possible support to uplift women across the State. He also announced that a bigger and better event would be organised at Kisama in the coming years to showcase products made by women, and affirmed that every woman across the State will be given opportunities through such event.

This year's event featured micro-stalls showcasing products from the apparel and accessories programme, the Food Processing and Resource Centre, and creations from trainees of the Myki training centres in Kohima and Dimapur.

As part of the festival, the DWRD also organized "Her Stories: Celebrating Women Narratives" on 6th December 2025, highlighting literary contributions of women from across Nagaland.

The literary event featured "Women, Words and the World," a conversation with authors Vishü Rita Krocha and Avinuo Kire, moderated by Vizovono Elizabeth. Readings were presented from Homegrown – Anthology of New Writings from Nagaland, showcasing emerging writers including Sentinaro, Adenuo Shirat Luikham, Imlikokla Jamir, Elongshila Jamir, Vishü Rita Krocha, Avinuo Kire, Vizovono Elizabeth, and Kemya Yanlem. Musical performances included the song "Rise Up" by Messilemla Chang.

BUYERS AND SUPPLIERS MEET 2025

The Department of Industries & Commerce, in association with the Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC), launched the Buyers & Suppliers Meet 2025 on 4th December 2025 at Bamboo Hall, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima. The two-day meet was inaugurated by Advisor for Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu, as Special Guest, under the RAMP Project of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

Speaking at the launch, Hekani Jakhalu highlighted the Meet as a platform for collaboration and long-term partnerships, bringing together 24 buyers from across India and 22 MSMEs from Nagaland. She emphasised Nagaland's strengths in

handloom, handicrafts, food processing, herbal and organic products, and eco-friendly enterprises, and stressed the importance of market linkages in transforming cultural richness into sustainable livelihoods.

Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Ramnikant Kumar, IAS, in his keynote address, described the Meet as a strategic initiative to convert policy into partnerships and strengthen market access for Nagaland's MSMEs. He underlined the need for sustainable buyer-supplier relationships, innovation, and integration into national value chains.

Director of Industries & Commerce, P. Tokugha Sema, acknowledged the participation of reputed buyers and local MSMEs, noting that the Meet provided opportunities for product evaluation, market alignment, and long-term networking.

The two-day event featured panel discussions, sector pitch sessions, and B2B meetings, aimed at enhancing competitiveness and fostering enduring partnerships for the growth of Nagaland's MSME sector.

BLOWING OF HORN AND YELLING 'WAR CRY' COMPETITION

The 3rd edition of blowing of Horn and Yelling (Warcry) competition organized by the Tribal Vision sponsored by the Department of Youth Resources & Sports was held at Naga Heritage village, Kisama, Kohima on 4th December 2025.

In the 'Blowing of Horn' competition held at Sumi Morung, Lhuvepra Veryo from Chakhesang tribe, Vizoseito Vüpru from Angami tribe and Ketwapeusing Haikam (13 years of age) from Zeliang tribe, the youngest

contestant among the 16 participants bagged the first, second and third position respectively.

Meanwhile in the Yelling 'Warcry' competition held at the Unity Plaza, of the 17 tribes that participated, Sumi tribe, Tikhir tribe and Chakhesang tribe were placed first, second and third respectively.

STONE PULLING CEREMONY HELD AT TOUPHEMA VILLAGE

The Stone Pulling Ceremony, a key highlight of Nagaland's cultural calendar, was hosted by the Chief Minister of Nagaland in collaboration with the Department of Tourism on 5th December 2025 at ToupHEMA Village, Kohima. The event was graced by Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, as the Chief Guest, alongside Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio.

In his address, Scindia stated that the Stone Pulling Ceremony is not merely a physical task but represents the union of body, mind, soul, heart, and spirit. He expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio and the people of Nagaland for inviting him to participate in what he called one of the most significant ceremonies of the State, describing it as a day filled with culture and emotion that resonates across India.

To commemorate the Hornbill Stone Pulling, a cultural extravaganza was organised at Touphe Phezou Resort, where the organisers extended warm greetings to the Union Minister and thanked him for being part of the festival. The ceremony also included ritual blessings offered by Kevikhe Serie, GB of ToupHEMA Village, marking the occasion with tradition and spirituality.

FIRST HORNBILL DOG SHOW

As part of the 26th Edition of Hornbill Festival 2025 the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services hosted the inaugural Hornbill Dog Show at Pony Farm, Kigwema, Kohima, on December 5, 2025 with Advisor for Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Kazheto Kinimi as the Special Guest.

Held at the foothills of the picturesque Mt. Japfü, the competition featured categories for pure breeds, mixed and local breeds, and a best performing duo segment, which included both talent and costume rounds. Dogs were judged on physical appearance, temperament, health, crowd response, and other criteria.

Winners in each category received Rs. 50,000/-, while second and third places were awarded Rs. 35,000/- and Rs. 20,000/- respectively. Consolation prize winners received Rs. 6,000/- along with certificates and feed. All the other participants were also given gift hampers.

A total of 35 dogs participated in the event, including 22 pure breeds and 13 mixed and local breeds. The lineup featured canines of all sizes, from small Shih Tzus to giant Saint Bernards and various breeds ranging from indigenous dogs to the exotic Alaskan Husky. Notably, a deaf dog also competed.

The dog squad of the 78th CRPF Battalion, Zubza presented a special demonstration showcasing IED search and tackling techniques.

Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Dr. Imomanen Tzudir, highlighted the deep bond between humans and dogs in his address. He emphasized the role of canine companions in contemporary society and stated that the dog show aims

to promote awareness of responsible pet ownership and the human-canine relationship.

Various livestock, such as different breeds of sheep, goats, turkeys and quails, were also exhibited at the venue. It was announced that the Hornbill Dog Show will now be an annual event during future Hornbill Festivals.

MITHUN SHOW HELD AT KISAMA

As part of the 26th Hornbill Festival 2025, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Nagaland, in collaboration with the Nagaland Mithun Farmers Federation and HIT's-Chikhu Ghakhu Farmers Society, organized a Mithun Show on 5 December 2025 at the Amphitheatre, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima. The event aimed to showcase, promote, and revive Mithun farming, highlighting the animal as the "Pride of Nagaland."

Dr. H. Inato Jimomi, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, noted that Mithun populations have drastically declined due to deforestation and habitat loss, prompting many farmers to shift to agriculture or sell their livestock. He emphasized the importance of economic sustainability through Mithun rearing and encouraged farmers and youth to take up Mithun farming as a valuable asset.

The event also highlighted initiatives by ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun, Medziphema, to support population growth of the state animal.

THE GREAT HORNBILL RUN 2025

The 5th edition of the Nagaland 10K -The Great Hornbill Run was conducted on 5th December, 2025 at RCSE Sovima, Chumoukedima witnessing participation from 126 runners representing diverse states and age groups. The event, organized by the Nagaland Athletics Association and supported by the Department of Tourism, highlighted the growing popularity of distance running and athletics in the region.

In the men's category, Kamal Kumar from Uttar Pradesh clinched the top spot, followed by Nitish Kumar and Nagaland's Kengimlungsieng.

In the women's category, Anamika Devi of Uttar Pradesh secured first place, while Madhya Pradesh's Anjali Pratidar and Nagaland's Tsuchoi T finished second and third respectively.

The Hornbill Run continues to be a major attraction during the Hornbill Festival season, encouraging fitness, discipline, and community participation.

CINEFEST 2025

The three-day Nagaland CineFest 2025 organized by the Department of Information & Public Relations in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), was held from 6th to 8th December 2025 at Bamboo Hall, Kisama, Kohima, under the theme "Celebrating Stories, Inspiring Minds."

Secretary, North Eastern Council, Satinder Kumar Bhalla inaugurated the festival, highlighting cinema as a platform for storytelling, emotional expression, and responsible social messaging.

The event featured masterclasses on

Film Appreciation by writer-director Niyaz Mujawar and Smartphone Filmmaking by filmmaker and strategist Adarsh Jain. It also screened short films by emerging filmmakers, including *The Last Catch*, *Feeling from the Past*, *Sabotage*, *Ground Zero*, *Bloody Heist*, *The Mist*, *Lentina Ao: A Light at the Eastern Horizon*, and *The Missing Tourist*, showcasing the talent of local creators. In addition, discussions and competitions were organized to nurture Nagaland's creative talent.

Advisor to the Chief Minister and Chairman, IDAN, Abu Metha, graced the valedictory session, he emphasized the need to tell Nagaland's stories globally through films and creative content, and encouraged filmmakers to use modern technology to enhance their reach. He also commended Dreamz Unlimited team for their contribution to the for their contribution to the film industry in Nagaland and for being an excellent ambassador for Nagaland and its people.

Special awards and recognitions were also presented during the festival, including the Special Jury Award to Kivini Shohe.

The three-day CineFest served as a celebration of films, creativity, and cultural expression, providing a platform to promote cinematic talent, support local storytellers, and foster appreciation of cinema as an art form, educational tool, and medium for social reflection.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT KISAMA

Kisama Heritage hosted the Advent Christmas Devotional Service on December 7, 2025, organised by the Nagaland Legislators Christian Fellowship in collaboration with the Nagaland Joint Christian Forum. Centered

on the theme "Born of God..." (John 1:9-13).

The Deputy Chief Minister, T. R Zeliang, shared a message centered on unity, hope, and the collective responsibility of the people of Nagaland during challenging times. Emphasizing that the season of Christmas reminds everyone of the strength found in togetherness. He expressed concern over growing divisions in the State and called for harmony, forgiveness, and understanding to ensure peace and progress.

Rev. Moses Murry, Secretary of the NJCF, stressed the need for spiritual revival in Nagaland, noting that such renewal can foster peace, unity, and a deeper sense of joy among the people. Emphasizing that Christmas is the greatest gift to humanity, he encouraged individuals to reflect on their own hearts and their commitment to Jesus.

Rev. Izieteilung Tering led the service, with musical performances by pianist Arolu Phesao, cantor Akhrou Veswuh, Bethesda Higher Secondary School, and local soloists.

SDG ONE STOP DESTINATION SPOTLIGHTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT HORNBILL FESTIVAL 2025

The SDG Coordination Centre (SDGCC), under the Planning & Transformation Department, Government of Nagaland, in its continued effort to localise the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), hosted the fifth edition of the SDG Pavilion at the Hornbill Festival 2025. Running from December 1st to 10th at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, the 'SDG One Stop Destination' offered an immersive experience that connected the SDGs with the unique cultural heritage, aspirations, and development priorities of Nagaland.

Designed to inform, engage, and inspire visitors of all ages, the pavilion featured a wide array of interactive and educational activities. Among the key highlights were SDG Pledges, SDG Quiz & Games, a Sustainable Art Corner, an SDG Photo Booth, the popular SDG Mascot, and the symbolic SDG Tree of Hope. A dedicated Local Voices Wall for Viksit Nagaland 2047 also provided a space for attendees to share ideas and aspirations for the state's future.

Attractive prizes, eco-friendly goodies, and exclusive SDG merchandise awaited participants who took part in quizzes, competitions, and interactive sessions. The initiative underscored Nagaland's commitment to localising the SDGs and advancing toward Viksit Nagaland @2047, envisioning a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for the state.

HORNBILL BAMBOO CARNIVAL 2025

The Hornbill Bamboo Carnival 2025 commenced on 7th December at the Nagaland Bamboo Resource Centre, Sovima, Chumoukedima, and ran for three days. Organized by the Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency (NBDA) as part of the Hornbill Festival, the carnival celebrated Nagaland's bamboo-based sector.

The inaugural program was chaired by NBDA member Mhonlumi Patton, with Chairman Nuzota Swuro attending as the Special Guest. Swuro highlighted the State Government's vision to promote bamboo as "Green Gold" and outlined NBDA's achievements, including extensive bamboo plantations, nursery propagation, market infrastructure development, training for farmers and artisans, and participation in domestic and international trade fairs. He

also announced plans for a Bamboo Research & Training Centre.

A coffee table book documenting NBDA's 20-year journey, celebrating 20 Years of Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency: Fostering a Sustainable Future, was launched during the event. The carnival featured exhibition stalls, crafts, and demonstrations, showcasing bamboo's potential in construction, crafts, and creativity.

TRIBAL CULTURAL MOSAIC CELEBRATED IN KOHIMA

A vibrant Tribal Cultural Mosaic was held on 6th December 2025 at NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima, organised by the Department of Tribal Affairs during the 26th edition of Hornbill festival on the occasion of the Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh celebration. The event was graced by the Minister for Forest, Environment, Climate Change & Village Guards, C.L. John, as the Special Guest.

In his address, C.L. John highlighted that although Nagaland boasts a rich cultural tapestry of languages, traditions, and rituals, unity among the people continues to be a challenge. He cautioned that divisions and "isms" within Naga society remains a barrier to true peace, stating that only when these divisions are overcome, we can coexist with harmony. Reflecting on the "Festival of Festivals," he lauded the vision of the Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio, adding that the Hornbill Festival has enabled the world to recognize the Naga identity and its unique culture on the global stage.

Advisor for Tribal Affairs and Elections, H. Tovihoto Ayemi, who was the Chief Host of the event, expressed gratitude to the Department of Tribal Affairs for providing a

platform to showcase the rich art and culture of the Nagas. He underscored the significance of the Hornbill Festival in fostering unity and guiding Naga society toward a harmonious and progressive future. Ayemi further appreciated the participants coming from various Districts across the State to display their creativity and talent.

Earlier, Secretary, Department of Tribal Affairs, Angelina Tajen (IAS) delivered the welcome address while vote of thanks was proposed by TL. Kiusumong (NCS), Joint Secretary, Department of Tribal Affairs.

Altogether, 15 tribes participated in the Tribal Cultural Mosaic, celebrating unity through the richness of Naga traditions.

JOTSOMA EXPERIENCE 2025

The scenic Puliebadze ridge in Jotsoma, just 8 kilometres from Kohima, came alive as it hosted the much-anticipated 'Jotsoma Experience 2025'. Organised by the Jotsoma Nature Conservation and Eco Tourism (JNCET) in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland, and held as part of the Hornbill Festival 2025, the ten-day event offered visitors an immersive journey into local culture, adventure, and eco-tourism.

Visitors explored dawn-lit mountain trails, engaged with indigenous customs, and experienced community-led ways of life. Situated on the foothills of Puliebadze peak, the festival featured trekking, camping, rope swings, and stunning viewpoints for sunrise and sunset. Cultural attractions included a mini traditional museum, costume photo booths, and live demonstrations of rice pounding and weaving.

Food stalls offered traditional Naga cuisine, and unique competitions such as snail-eating contests and the first-ever Catapult

Slingshot Competition on December 6 drew large crowds, with cash prizes of ₹20,000, ₹10,000, and ₹5,000. A traditional Naga buffet was held on December 6 and 7, providing visitors a taste of local culinary heritage.

Beyond entertainment, the festival highlighted Jotsoma Village's commitment to sustainable tourism and environmental conservation, showcasing eco-friendly practices and the region's rich biodiversity.

STARTUP INNOVATION CHALLENGE COMPETITION 2025

Startup Innovation Challenge Competition 2025 organised by Educentre School of Business under the theme "Innovate, Build and Pitch." was held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 8th December 2025. The initiative aimed to inspire students to build creative prototypes and explore their entrepreneurial potential.

Speaking at the event, P. Tokugha Sema, Director, Industries and Commerce, Government of Nagaland, emphasized the importance of building a strong vision among aspiring entrepreneurs and young people. He encouraged youth to focus on growth, stating that success is achieved by striving to improve every day. He also stated that the department is committed to promote innovation and encourage the establishment of Innovation Centres across all districts, ensuring that young people have access to opportunities, mentorship, and the right platforms to develop and transform their ideas.

Sole Buddy (Aston) from Kohima College emerged as the Winner, while Skill Lancing from St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Jakhama and Solution Centre from C-Edge College were awarded 1stand 2nd Runner-up respectively.

11th NAGA LOINLOOM FESTIVAL

The 11th edition of the Naga Loinloom Festival organised by the Exotic Echo Society in partnership with Nagaland Tourism as part of the Hornbill festival was held at Weavers Place, Diezephe village, Chumoukedima on December 9, 2025.

Gracing the event Advisor, Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu stated that the Department of Industries was committed to supporting weavers with better marketing and exposure, and encouraged artisans to expand their products beyond Nagaland. She informed that the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has

constituted a high-level task force to boost the handloom and handicraft sectors across the region and said that this initiative aims to create a more structured support system to promote traditional crafts in Nagaland.

The two-day festival featured folk dances, folk songs, a craft workshop, live weaving demonstrations, a weaving and warping competition, organic cotton weaving, and an exhibition-cum-sale of traditional handwoven products. The event celebrated the enduring cultural art of loinloom weaving, a craft deeply embedded in the identity and livelihood of Naga communities.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony on 10th December was marked by spectacular performances at the Unity Plaza. Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Planning & Transformation, T.R. Zeliang in his festival message highlighted the festival's significance as the "Festival of Festivals," emphasizing its role in showcasing Naga culture, traditions, cuisine, and talents while fostering unity, cultural exchange, and global recognition for Nagaland. He noted that the festival has become a powerful cultural soft power, dispelling misconceptions and leaving visitors with lasting goodwill.

Festival host and Tourism Minister Temjen Imna Along thanked visitors, artists, partners, and participating states, especially Arunachal Pradesh, for their contributions. He praised the performers and emphasized the festival's role in uniting Naga tribes and blending tradition with contemporary expression, describing it as a global stage for Naga culture.

Special guest Pasang Dorjee Sona,

Minister from Arunachal Pradesh, lauded the festival for giving the world insight into the Northeast and announced strengthened partnerships between Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh across various sectors.



T.R. Zeliang and other dignitaries lighting the Bon Fire, marking the formal closure of the Hornbill Festival 2025 at Unity plaza, Kisama on 10th December 2025.

International partners also shared warm messages. Ireland's Deputy Ambassador Raymond Mullen expressed pride in being a partner country and looked forward to

deeper collaboration, while Malta's High Commissioner Reuben Gauci highlighted cultural similarities and hoped for continued participation.

The festival concluded with TaFMA performances and the lighting of the bonfire by Miss Nagaland 2025, Linoka K. Achumi,

symbolizing unity and celebration of Nagaland's rich heritage.

The ten-day festival showcased a vibrant mix of folk music, dance, handicrafts, culinary arts, and traditional games, alongside contemporary performances, exhibitions, and networking opportunities.

CHIEF MINISTER OF NAGALAND LAUNCHES TWO DOCUMENTS UNDER PM VISHWAKARMA TO ENHANCE ARTISAN ECONOMY

In a significant step towards promoting the artisanal economy in Nagaland, the Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio, officially launched two pivotal documents on 2nd December 2025 namely the «PM Vishwakarma Nagaland Product Catalogue» and the report titled «Crafting Cultural Futures - A Study on the Artisanal Economy in Nagaland under PM Vishwakarma.» The launch was done in the presence of Hekani Jakhalu, Advisor for Industries and Commerce, Kumar Ramnikant, IAS, Secretary of Industries and Commerce, and P. Tokugha Sema, Director of Industries and Commerce.

The PM Vishwakarma Nagaland Product Catalogue, developed by the Department of Industries and Commerce, is the first-of-its-kind compilation showcasing handcrafted products made by artisans trained under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

The catalogue features a diverse range of items across trades such as carpentry, basket weaving, doll and toy, and tailoring. Created to enhance market visibility, the catalogue serves as a bridge between artisans and buyers encouraging retail purchases, institutional sourcing, and customised or bulk orders. It underscores the State's commitment to accelerating the craft economy by promoting traditional

skills, supporting artisan entrepreneurship, and highlighting Naga craftsmanship in both local and wider markets.

The second document, «Crafting Cultural Futures – A Study on the Artisanal Economy in Nagaland under PM Vishwakarma,» provides a comprehensive analysis of the artisanal economy under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. This report examines the status and experiences of trained artisans, captures customer preferences for handicraft products, and reviews the existing institutional support and market channels available across the State.

Highlighting the rich cultural foundations of Naga craftsmanship, the report identifies structural challenges faced by artisans, including gaps in product design, branding, packaging, digital literacy, and access to formal marketplaces and e-commerce platforms. It also presents insights into consumer behaviour, noting an increasing preference for visually appealing, meaningful, and locally crafted items, especially gifting. Drawing on field-level data from artisans, customers, and institutions, the study outlines a set of forward-looking recommendations aimed at strengthening product development, expanding market access, improving quality assurance, and enhancing convergence

among relevant departments.

The launch of these documents marks a significant milestone in the journey

towards empowering artisans in Nagaland and building a vibrant craft economy that honors the State's rich cultural heritage.

STATE HANDLOOM EXPO 'HATHKARGHA MELA', CHUMOUKEDIMA

The State Handloom Expo (Hathkargha Mela) was inaugurated on 2nd December 2025 at CT Square, Chumoukedima, by Director of Industries and Commerce P. Tokugha Sema, in the presence of local town council leaders.

Organised by the Directorate of Industries & Commerce and supported by the Ministry of Textiles, the expo showcased traditional handloom and handicraft products from Nagaland and Assam to promote local weavers and indigenous crafts.

The expo featured 60 stalls, including 48 handloom and 12 handicraft stalls, with artisans from Nagaland and Assam showcasing traditional textiles, ornaments, and eco-friendly products such as mekhelas, banana fibre crafts, cane items, eri silk, and jute bags. Open from 2 to 15 December, the expo aimed to strengthen market opportunities and raise awareness of traditional textiles and sustainable craft practices.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OBSERVED ACROSS NAGALAND

Nagaland joined the global celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2025, under the theme "Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress".

KOHIMA

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 was observed, as part of the ongoing Hornbill Festival 2025, at Heritage Bamboo Hall, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima

Special Guest Wangpang Konyak highlighted the unique abilities of persons with disabilities and stressed the need to remove barriers like inaccessible infrastructure and limiting social attitudes. He outlined government initiatives to make public spaces, schools, and transport hubs accessible, enforce inclusive education, provide assistive devices, and promote job reservations for empowerment rather than charity. The ₹1 Crore CM Corpus Fund for PwDs was cited as

supporting entrepreneurship and economic independence. During the event, financial assistance of ₹200,000 each under the Chief Minister's Corpus Fund for Persons with Disabilities was awarded to five beneficiaries from various districts.

Secretary Limawabang Jamir emphasized that inclusion is essential for social progress, and appreciation was extended to organizations and caregivers supporting persons with disabilities.

The day also included a Disability Pride Fair, where stalls were set up and services such as Aadhaar registration, Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme enrollment, and Unique Disability ID registration were made available to the PwDs and caregivers.

WOKHA

In Wokha, the celebration was graced by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Vineet Kumar, IAS, who commended the resilience and determination of PwDs and distributed

blankets as a gesture of appreciation. The welcome address was delivered by District Welfare Officer, C. James Ezung and the program was coordinated by Extra Assistant Commissioner (EAC), Sangmou Khamniungan,

TSEMINYU

In Tseminyu, the program was organized by the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the District Administration and Disabled People's Organization at DC conference hall Tseminyu.

DC Japheth Woch welcomed the differently-abled participants and suggested renaming the local union to "Differently Aabled Union". A special people's cell was announced at the DC office for providing free certificates. Welfare Inspector, Zahebeituo Kire and Centre Administrator, Kenyuhule Thong highlighted government schemes and facilities for PwDs, while EAC Molosangla Ozukum chaired the program.

KIPHIRE

In Kiphire, the celebration was organized by the District Administration in collaboration with the District Disabled People's Organisation and the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at DPDB's Conference Hall, Kiphire.

Yokhase Sangtam, President Kiphire District Disability Association, emphasized the need for collaborative efforts across departments to ensure that disability rights are upheld in all departmental initiatives.

Special Invitees Sienotho, CDPO Kiphire and Dr. Tiakumzuk, MD Pathology, District Hospital Kiphire encouraged continued advocacy and highlighted scholarships and benefits available to PwDs

EAC Zhavito urged the public to support the disabled community, while Pisangla, KDDA member, showcased the reach of various schemes.

SHAMATOR

In Shamator, the celebration was graced by DC Shamator, NCS, who appreciated the contributions of PwDs to the district's development and emphasized equal rights, dignity, and opportunities. The District Programme Officer, Social Welfare, presented certificates to PwDs, while K. Yinsoba Yimkhiung called for establishing an inclusive school. Stakeholders pledged to collectively work towards a more inclusive society.

PHEK

In Phek, the event at the DC's Conference Hall was organized by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in



Participants during the International Day of Person with Disabilities 2025 observed at DPDB's Conference Hall, Kiphire on 3rd December 2025.

collaboration with the District Administration.

DC Rhosietho Nguori, NCS, urged the community to treat PwDs equally and not as a burden, while Dr. Temsulong Pongener, Psychiatrist, emphasized community support for both physical and mental disabilities.

Additionally, the District Education Mission Society Samagra Shiksha Phek observed the day at Children's Park, where DEO Rentsamo Kikon highlighted the importance of accessibility and support for PwDs in advancing societal progress.

DOHE LAUNCHES NAGALAND SCHOLARSHIP NODAL CELL

The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio has launched the Nagaland Scholarship Nodal Cell (NSNC) on 1st December 2025. It has established the Nagaland Scholarship Nodal Cell (NSNC) at the Directorate of Higher Education, Kohima, as the centralized authority for all scholarship schemes in the state. This initiative stems from the Cabinet decision of June 12, 2019 and was reaffirmed during the consultative meeting held with the Chief Secretary, Nagaland on September 10, 2025.

The Nagaland Scholarship Nodal Cell has been envisioned as the single, centralized authority for coordination, implementation, monitoring and redressal of all scholarship programmes, including State, Central Sector, and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The Scholarship Nodal Cell is composed of nominated officials from all the Scholarship Implementing Departments including a designated Nodal Officer from the Scholarship Section of the Directorate of Higher Education who serves as the in-charge under the Director, Higher Education.

The launch of the Nagaland Scholarship Nodal Cell marks a significant milestone towards fostering interdepartmental coordination and building public trusts in scholarship administration. Positioned as the single point of contact for all scholarship matters, the cell is expected to transform the scholarship ecosystem in Nagaland by making it more accessible and student centric.

GAUHATI HIGH COURT KOHIMA BENCH LAUNCHES OFFICIAL MOBILE APPLICATION

The Gauhati High Court, Kohima Bench, launched its official mobile application GHCKB App on 3rd December 2025, aimed at making justice delivery more accessible, transparent, and citizen-friendly. The application was formally launched by Justice Ashutosh Kumar, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, in the presence of Justice Sanjay Kumar Medhi and Justice Arun Dev Choudhury, Judges of the Gauhati High Court at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Bar Room, Kohima.

Delivering the inaugural address, Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar said the Gauhati High Court Kohima Bench is the first High Court in the Northeast to launch such an application, emphasising that it was developed entirely in-house. He commended the ICT team for their work and noted that the Bench has adapted well to IT-driven systems.

Calling the application "citizen-friendly," he said it provides real-time information, ease of tracking cases, and

convenience for both lawyers and litigants. The Chief Justice highlighted that the app promotes transparency and allows people even from remote locations to stay informed about court proceedings. He remarked on the importance of the Bar using the app to its fullest potential, stating that technology becomes meaningful only when adopted regularly. He also noted that the app is backward-compatible and can be used across most devices.

In his welcome address, Ajongba Imchen, NJS, Registrar, Kohima Bench, described the launch as a momentous occasion, stating that the mobile application would serve as a bridge between the Bench, the Bar, and litigants by making essential information easily available. He added that the initiative brings case details, orders, cause lists, and other court updates into a unified platform, strengthening transparency and empowering citizens.

Delivering the opening remarks, Boduve Peter Resu, NJS, Joint Registrar (Judicial) & CPC eCourts Project, described the launch as a significant step towards a more accessible and transparent justice system for the people of Nagaland. He informed that the



Chief Justice, Ashutosh Kumar speaking at the launching of the GHCKB Mobile Application at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Bar Room, Kohima on 3rd December 2025.

application had been developed entirely in-house by the Kohima Bench ICT team. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice and Judges for their presence and acknowledged the dedicated team behind the project.

A short video presentation was made demonstrating the key features of the app. The GHCKB App offers features such as daily cause lists, live-streaming of court proceedings, court display boards, real-time case status, access to both High Court and district court websites, a notice board, and a WhatsApp channel for updates. The app is currently available on the Google Play Store.

UNION MINISTER SCINDIA LAUNCHES ₹646.39 CRORE DEVELOPMENT PUSH IN NAGALAND

A series of development initiatives under the Ministry of DoNER were inaugurated and foundation stones laid at the Multipurpose Hall, Phezou Resort, Tuophema on 5th December 2025. Union Minister for Communications and DoNER, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, launched projects worth ₹646.39 crore across multiple departments, marking a major push to enhance infrastructure, connectivity, and public services, and drive

regional transformation in the state.

Five projects were inaugurated across the Power, School Education, and PWD (R&B) departments. Under the Power Department, the up-gradation of the 132 kV sub-station at Nagarjan, Dimapur, funded at ₹24.46 crore, has been completed to enhance power transformation capacity. Under the School Education Department, two projects were inaugurated- the In-Service Teachers

Training-cum-Examination Centre with residential facilities costing ₹20 crore, and the implementation of IT infrastructure in 190 schools across Nagaland at a cost of ₹18.95 crore. Under PWD (R&B), two major road projects were completed: the upgradation of the Chendang Saddle–Noklak Road at ₹45.59 crore and the improvement of AT Road from Tsusangra to Impur Junction, including bridges, at a cost of ₹93.98 crore.

Foundation stones of eleven new projects were also laid across the Health & Family Welfare, Youth Resources & Sports, IT & Communication, Power, and PWD (R&B) departments. Under Health & Family Welfare, foundation stones were laid for the Multi-speciality Hospital at Chümoukedima costing ₹58.72 crore and the 50-bedded hospital at the new Peren District Headquarters at ₹44.65 crore. Under Youth Resources & Sports, the Kohima Multi-disciplinary Sports Centre at the IG Stadium complex will be constructed at a cost of ₹72.59 crore. Under IT & Communication, the Nagaland Innovation Hub for Startups, sanctioned at ₹19.57 crore, aims to boost entrepreneurship and digital innovation. Under the Power Department, the 1.5 MW Dzuna Small Hydro Project, costing ₹22.80 crore, will enhance renewable energy capacity. Under PWD (R&B), seven major road projects totalling over ₹225 crore were launched, including those connecting Jalukie to the New DC Complex Township, Old Peren via Chalkot Junction, Phomching HQ to Longding HQ, Thizama to Chiethu Airport, Khonoma to NH-29, and Coco Road Emlomi to Ghukiye Junction.

Union Minister, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia addressing a public programme in Tuophema, described his visit to Nagaland as both official and deeply personal, recalling

his late father's visit in 1992 and expressing emotional connection after being dressed in Naga attire by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. He thanked the people of Nagaland for their warmth and highlighted the Northeast as India's "first frontier" and gateway to Southeast Asia with strong economic and tourism potential.

Highlighting transformative development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Minister mentioned increase in airports from 9 to 17, growth in air traffic from 900 to over 2000, ₹6.02 lakh crore in investments across the region through 52 Union ministries, Rise in State tax devolution from ₹5,505 crore to ₹37,000 crore, and grant-in-aid has nearly doubled to ₹65,000 crore. Describing the Northeast as the engine of India, Scindia said the region is growing at 10 to 13 percent annually, well above the national average, due to stable leadership across the states. He also announced the formation of eight high-level task forces, each chaired by a Chief Minister or Governor, to prepare a unified vision for the region.

Scindia further announced plans to work with Nagaland on the Dimapur-Kohima-Kisama-Dzükou tourism circuit, praised the rising success of Naga Coffee and reaffirmed the central government commitment to stand with Nagaland and the Northeast to build a bright future for all.

Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio said the event symbolized both the launch of new projects and the progress achieved under flagship schemes like NESIDS-OTRI, NESIDS-Roads and PM-DevINE, which have improved infrastructure, connectivity, essential services and livelihoods in the state. He thanked the Union Minister for establishing High-Level Task Forces

for the Northeast and expressed pride in being appointed Convenor of the Task Force on Handlooms and Handicrafts, noting that the focused approach would accelerate holistic regional development. Dr. Rio highlighted the global recognition of Naga Coffee, with exports to markets such as South Africa, the EU and the Middle East, driven largely by young entrepreneurs. He reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to fast-tracking pending projects, strengthening monitoring systems

and ensuring timely completion of all DoNER-supported development works.

Also inaugurated during the occasion, was the Regional Craft and Resource Centre at Tuophema by Union Minister, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, in the presence of Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio. Deputy Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang delivered the welcome address, while Chief Secretary, Sentiyanger Imchen, IAS, chaired the programme. A host of Ministers, Advisors and other dignitaries attended the programme.

STATE-LEVEL CAMPAIGN ON PROMOTION OF APPRENTICESHIP UNDER PM-NAPS HELD IN KOHIMA



Advisor, Labour & Employment, Moatoshi Longkumer addressing the State Level Campaign on Promotion of Apprenticeship under PM-NAPS at Capital Cultural Hall, Kohima on 5th December 2025.

The Department of Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of Nagaland, organised the State Level Campaign on Promotion of Apprenticeship under the PM-National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS) on 5th December 2025 at the Capital Cultural Hall, Kohima.

“Nagaland has no shortage of talent but needs structured opportunities.

Apprenticeship bridges this gap” said Moatoshi Longkumer, MLA & Advisor, Labour & Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Excise in his speech during the programme. He stressed the need for convergence across Government departments, industry bodies, Sector Skill Councils and training providers to ensure policy alignment, training relevance, and larger participation. He urged the youth

to treat their training seriously, learn continuously, and understand that their first apprenticeship can shape the next decade of their career.

Delivering the welcome address, Sotsula, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Labour & Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, stated that the day marked a significant step in strengthening skill development. She highlighted that PM-NAPS serves to enable young people to gain industry-ready skills through structured apprenticeship training.

Officials from RDSDE, Assam, presented key aspects of PM-NAPS, including benefits, policy amendments, virtual training, degree apprenticeships, NER incentives, and the unified Apprenticeship Portal.

Speaking on “Apprenticeship:

Importance of Convergence and the Way Ahead,” the resource person from IIE, Guwahati noted interest from industries outside the Northeast and highlighted that the Government of India has introduced a special Northeast incentive of ₹1,500 per month for apprentices who undergo training outside their home state.

This was followed by a networking session with Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and Third Party Aggregators (TPAs), during which stakeholders discussed candidate registration, apprenticeship opportunities and establishment participation.

An open discussion and interaction session with officials from RDSDE, IIE and other departments was also held, allowing participants to raise queries and share concerns.

NBHM CELEBRATES 7th HONEY BEE DAY

The Nagaland Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) observed the 7th Nagaland Honey Bee Day on 5th December 2025 at the NBHM’s Multi Utility Center, 6th Mile Sovima, Chümoukedima, under the theme “Securing the future of Honey Enterprises through financial literacy.”

Special Guest Obed Quinker, Chairman of NBHM, appreciated the dedication of beekeepers and the efforts of the Nagaland Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) in promoting the state’s honey industry. He highlighted Nagaland’s ecological advantage and growing interest of youth in apiculture as promising for rural entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods. He encouraged the adoption of scientific beekeeping, emphasized branding and quality assurance, and urged young entrepreneurs to showcase Nagaland’s natural uniqueness in their products for a competitive edge.

Earlier, Er. Khuvozoyi Vese, Deputy Team Leader, NBHM, delivered the keynote address, stressing the importance of financial literacy for strengthening honey enterprises. He shared that Nagaland’s honey consumption - 192 grams per capita annually, far higher than the national average - creates strong market potential for developing niche honey products. He urged participants to adopt entrepreneurship skills, improved beekeeping practices and long-term investment planning.

A key highlight of the event was the Technical Session on Financial Literacy, held in collaboration with ICICI Foundation. Resource person P. Motu, Branch Manager, ICICI Bank, spoke on various investment schemes suitable for small entrepreneurs and conducted an awareness session on cyber fraud and safe digital banking.

This was followed by an interaction session.

NAGALAND FLAGS OFF ZANTHOXYLUM CONSIGNMENT

The Nagaland Bio-Resource Mission flagged off its first consignment of Zanthoxylum (Michinga/Tomar) seeds to Dabur India Limited (North East Unit), Tezpur, Assam, at a ceremony held at the SIRD Office Complex, Kohima on 6th December 2025.

Chief Secretary Sentiyanger Imchen, IAS described the initiative as a tangible and results-oriented programme, highlighting Nagaland's rich potential in medicinal plants and herbs. Highlighting the MoU with Dabur India under a buy-back arrangement, he pointed out that Zanthoxylum, already partially commercialized in Nagaland, has strong potential for large-scale trade. He noted that although Dabur had requested 10 tonnes, only 1.5 tonnes could be supplied initially, underscoring the need to increase production volumes. He encouraged farmers and entrepreneurs to adopt scientific cultivation, ensure quality, and scale up output to meet market demand.

Narayanan Renganathan, Head of Central Procurement and Planning Division, Dabur India Limited, appreciated the state's

efforts to organize the medicinal herb sector and assured Dabur's support through planting materials, training, and marketing. He expressed optimism about scaling up supplies from Nagaland and highlighted future collaboration opportunities in medicinal herbs, spices, and pineapple processing.

Team Leader Dr. Kruolalie Tsúrho outlined the journey of the Bio-Resource Mission toward commercialization. Following the flagged off program a Stakeholder Conclave was held at the SIRD Conference Hall, Kohima, where Dabur India Limited officials interacted with government departments, farmer groups, and mission partners discussed quality standards, supply chains, pricing, and long-term procurement plans.

The initiative is expected to enhance farmers' incomes, promote commercial cultivation, and build a sustainable bio-resource value chain, positioning Nagaland as a potential supplier of premium herbal raw materials.

INDIA SKILLS NAGALAND 2025 HELD

The India Skills Nagaland Competition 2025 was held from 6th –10th December 2025 at the Directorate of Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (ESDE), Kohima, and concluded with a prize distribution and closing ceremony.

Addressing the programme, Phuleshe K. Yepthomi, NCS, Joint Secretary, Labour & ESDE, appreciated the department for organizing the competition and urged that it be conducted annually to strengthen the state's skill ecosystem. He encouraged the

expansion of skill categories to provide more opportunities for youth, emphasizing that participation itself reflected confidence and a desire for growth. He stressed the importance of continuous training and skill upgradation, and encouraged participants to motivate others to take part in such platforms.

Presenting the competition summary, Menguzelie Suohu, APO, stated that Nagaland completed its state-level selections under the national India Skills initiative, with 22 candidates qualifying

for the next stage. The state participated in four skill categories—Restaurant Service, Fashion Technology, Graphic Design Technology, and Free Skills—with support from academic partners including SIHM Dimapur, Government Polytechnic Kohima, Government ITI Kohima, and NIELIT Kohima. Out of 57 registered candidates, 22 competed at the state level. The selected candidates were set to undergo intensive boot camps before the Regional Competition in Goa (February–March 2026), followed by the National Skill Competition in May 2026 and the World Skills Competition in Shanghai in September 2026, with all expenses borne by the government.

Jury member Ruth Jamir from the State Institute of Hotel Management encouraged youth to actively engage in skill development, noting that vocational skills create alternative career pathways beyond government jobs. Insights from the competition were also shared by Imtisangla (SIHM Dimapur) and Keneilhoukhono Meru (Government

Polytechnic Kohima).

In the Restaurant Service category, Imtisangla Kangshou (SIHM Dimapur) won first prize, while Ngvuhilo Kent (SIHM Dimapur) and Alo Zhimo (Govt. Higher Secondary School, Purana Bazar, Dimapur) secured second and third prizes respectively. In Fashion Technology, the winners were Vimeneno Phira (International University Nagaland, Dimapur), Tonikali Yeptho (Government ITI), and Keneilhoukhono Meru (Government Polytechnic Kohima). Certificates of participation and medals were distributed to all winners.

Concluding the event, Savio Visa, Director, ESDE, acknowledged the efforts of participants, jury members, officials, and technical teams. The India Skills competition, a biennial national platform, was held this year in Graphic Design, Fashion Design Technology, and Restaurant Service, with participation from ITIs, Polytechnic Institutes, and SIHM Dimapur across the state.

MEITY SECRETARY ASSURES SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN STATE'S IT INFRASTRUCTURE

Advisor for Information Technology & Communication, Economics & Statistics and Evaluation, H. Sethrongkyu Sangtam and Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, S. Krishnan IAS, held a productive meeting on 7th December 2025 at Hotel Vivor, Kohima.

The meeting provided a platform for discussing Nagaland's digital transformation, progress of ongoing initiatives, capacity-building efforts, and challenges faced in delivering technology-driven governance across the State.

During the meeting, the Minister presented several flagship technological initiatives envisioned by the State Government to build a resilient and future-ready digital governance infrastructure. These included the AI-powered State Data Centre, designed to serve as a center for hosting critical government applications and enabling data-driven decision-making; the State Cyber Security Operations Centre (SC-SOC) designed to protect Government's digital assets through enhance monitoring and coordinated incident response; and NagaChain, a blockchain-based immutable

identity ledger to provide a secure digital identity framework for the people of Nagaland.

The MeitY Secretary commended the Government for its proactive, innovative and impactful initiatives in the IT sector. He noted that the projects highlighted were consistent with national goals concerning Cyber security, Data Governance and Inclusive Digital Identity frameworks

frameworks and emphasized the need for sustained State-Centre collaboration to ensure successful implementation of such transformative programmes.

The Secretary also reaffirmed the Government's commitment, and assured to support the State in strengthening its IT infrastructure and advancing the new generation of strategic technology initiatives outlined by the State.

NAGALAND DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP & STARTUP FEST HELD; DIGITAL STARTUP AWARDS 2025 PRESENTED

The Nagaland Digital Entrepreneurship & Startup Fest, jointly organized by the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) Kohima and the Department of Information Technology & Communication, was held at NIELIT, Kohima on 8th December 2025.

Krishnan highlighted Nagaland's historical significance, the rapid growth of India's digital economy, and the strong potential of Naga youth, particularly in creativity and English proficiency. He emphasized the role of NIELIT in skill development, cyber security, and digital innovation, praising NIELIT Kohima's advanced Cyber Security Lab and its contribution to cyber policing. He stressed the importance of self-reliance in cyber security technologies and the critical role of startups in job creation, encouraging greater collaboration, private investment,

and service-sector growth, including the possibility of setting up a Software Park.

During the event, Krishnan launched the Digital Learning and Simulation Hub, Digital Delivery of Statutory Services, and the Pulse App, an AI-powered news platform, and released the NCCDFI 2025 Conference Report. He also presented the Nagaland Digital Startup Awards 2025, with winners including Ahibi, Kikonik Tech, JoldiPabo, and 87T Entertainment across various startup categories.

Commissioner & Secretary Mohammed Ali Shihab, IAS, acknowledged the importance of institutions like NIELIT in Nagaland's development.

The programme featured technical sessions, mentor talks, startup experience sharing, and a panel discussion on scaling digital opportunities in Nagaland.

FILMMAKER KIVINI SHOHE'S DOCUMENTARY: UNDER THE LONGFURU SKY SCREEN AT INDIGENOUS CINEMA IN NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Filmmaker Kivini Shohe participated in the Indigenous Cinema: South Asian Perspectives, a three-day international gathering that brought together filmmakers,

scholars, and artists to explore the cinematic traditions of South Asia. The event was held from 8–10 December 2025 at New York University Abu Dhabi, organised by the

Rights and Representation Research Forum in collaboration with the NYUAD Film and New Media Programme and the Indigenous Film and Media Alliance South Asia.

The programme also showcased a curated selection of films from Northeast India, presenting a diverse range of short films, documentaries, and feature films. These screenings were complemented by panel discussions on identity, land, memory, resistance, and the evolving politics of Indigenous representation

Kivini Shohe delivered an artist talk and screened her documentary *Under the Longfuru Sky*, a film that offers an honest portrayal of a remote community negotiating the tension between ancestral traditions and modernity. In her talk, she reflected on her personal journey as a filmmaker, the challenges of shooting in a place like Nagaland, and her commitment to

observational filmmaking. She emphasized that for communities like hers, cinema becomes one of the few remaining ways to archive knowledge, cultural memory, and traditions that are rapidly disappearing.

Rashmi Sawhney Associate Program Head of Film and New Media; Associate Arts Professor of Film and New Media: NYU Abu Dhabi commented that Kivini Shohe's films add a rich perspective on the culture of Nagaland and Naga people, revealing the huge diversity of the state and throwing light on important contemporary issues. It is particularly important to establish a cross-regional dialogue among indigenous communities across different states of India and south east Asia, and her films and her work more broadly in the cultural sector makes a tremendous contribution towards this.

STATE-LEVEL WATERSHED MAHOTSAV 2025 LAUNCHED AT KOHIMA

The State-Level Launching Programme of Watershed Mahotsav 2025 was held at Naga Solidarity Park, Kohima on 8th December 2025, organised by the State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA), Department of Land Resources, Government of Nagaland.

The event was graced by Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State, Ministry of Rural Development and Communications, Government of India, as the Guest of Honour. In his address, Dr. Sekhar highlighted the importance of watershed development in strengthening rural livelihoods, promoting sustainable resource management, and ensuring long-term ecological security. He emphasized that integrated watershed management plays a vital role in enhancing water conservation, soil health, and

community development.

Advisor, for Department of Land Resources, G.IkutoZhimomi served as the Host of the programme. He stated that Watershed Mahotsav 2025 is a platform to reinforce collaborative efforts among government agencies, communities, and stakeholders to conserve natural resources and promote climate-resilient livelihoods.

The programme was chaired by Dr. G. Hukugha Sema, IRS, Chairman, SLNA and Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Land Resources, while Albert Ngullie CEO,SLNA & Director, Land Resources, presented a briefed note on Watershed Mahotsav and vote of thanks was proposed by Hekato N Addl. CEO,SLNA & Addl. Director, Land Resources.

Officials from the Government of India and Nagaland, representatives from various districts, community leaders, and stakeholders attended the event.

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA NAGALAND CONDUCTS STATE RESOURCE GROUP TRAINING ON SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Samagra Shiksha Nagaland, in collaboration with Dream a Dream, successfully conducted a three-day State Resource Group (SRG) Training on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for EBRC ToT DIET faculty from December 10 to 12, 2025 at the DAN, Chekiye, Chumukidema. The training is part of a larger initiative to build a dedicated team of State Resource Personnel who will lead and support the rollout of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) across schools in Nagaland.

A total of 27 EBRC ToT and 2 DIET faculty nominated as SRG participants underwent intensive sessions designed to help them understand SEL as an approach to teaching and learning, and to prepare them to train teachers and support SEL implementation at scale. The training focused on four key areas: developing self-awareness, creating supportive learning communities, contextualising SEL within local realities, and building a joyful, inclusive learning environment.

Over the three days, participants engaged in experiential activities such as Big Ideas, Beautiful You, Theatre, River of Life, Listen Not Listening, and Poetry Process, all aimed at deepening emotional awareness, empathy, creativity, and reflective thinking.

Resource persons from Dream a Dream facilitated the sessions, emphasising the role of SEL in improving student well-being, strengthening relationships in classrooms, and enhancing the overall learning experience.

Officials from Department of School Education and Samagra Shiksha noted that the SRG training is a crucial step toward integrating SEL into teacher education and classroom practices. The trained SRG members will play a key role in future phases of teacher training and in supporting schools during SEL rollout.

The programme concluded with a session on contextualising SEL for Nagaland's education system.

MAHARASHTRA LIFTS DR. T. AO JUNIOR GIRLS NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Dr. T. Ao Junior Girls National Football Championship 2025–26 (Tier-2) concluded with a grand closing ceremony on 11th December, 2025 at the Chümoukedima Football Stadium, Police Complex, with Advisor for Youth Resources & Sports, S. Keoshu Yimchunger as the Chief Guest.

Yimchunger addressing the gathering expressed his deep appreciation for the remarkable coordination and commitment

displayed by coaches, referees, volunteers, medical staff, and all individuals involved in ensuring the smooth conduct of the championship. He mentioned that championship, showcased extraordinary displays of talent, discipline, sportsmanship, and team spirit by young girls from various states and also noted that the tournament upheld the ideals of the legendary Dr. T. Ao, inspiring a new generation of young athletes

across the country.

Also, reflecting on the unity displayed throughout the tournament, Yimkhiung noted that players from diverse states and cultures stood united by their shared love of football. The message underscored that true strength lies not only in victory but also in accepting defeat with grace.

Chairman of the Changki Village Council, Tsupongtsungba in his official appreciation note expressed deep gratitude to Neibu Sekhose, President of the Nagaland Football Association, and his team for their persistent efforts in successfully pursuing and securing the renaming of the Junior

Girls' National Football Championship to the "Dr. Talimeren Ao Junior Girls" National Football Champions".

Special acknowledgment was given to the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio, for championing the initiative and ensuring its successful implementation and hosting.

In the final match, the title clash featured Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, represented by WIFA and UPFS, where Maharashtra lifts the championship title by defeating Uttar Pradesh and took home the trophy. The final score stood Maharashtra with 4 goals and Uttar Pradesh with 1 goal.

STATE LEVEL JOB FAIR 2025 HELD AT KOHIMA

A State Level Job Fair 2025, organised by the Samagra Shiksha Nagaland, Department of School Education Nagaland was held at T.M Government Higher Secondary School, Kohima on 12th December 2025, to empowered students by providing employability skills through vocational education.

State Mission Director L. Jamithung Lotha said the department is up-skilling government school students through Sector Skills Council training and assessment, in line with NEP 2020, which mandates skilling for all students. He also stated that the objective of the Job Fair was to facilitate job placements, apprenticeships and internships, provide platforms for employers, strengthen industrial linkages, create awareness of career and security options.

Joint Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Nagaland, Dr. Chumbeni Kikon in her introductory speech said it was first time for Samagra Shiksha Nagaland to organize a

State Fair for vocational students and alumni to provide employment opportunities . She highlighted that the Job Fair aims to provide Career Counselling to the students, as well as School Level implementation of the 'My Career Advisor App' a program by the Ministry of Education Government of India and called upon the students of class IX to class XII to avail the opportunity. Dr. Kikon also noted that vocational students have demonstrated innovation beyond skill training, with exhibition stalls set up by 22 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya hostels and 13 residential hostels across Nagaland to showcase their finished products.

The Samagra Shiksha Job Fair provided Vocational Education in the following trades- Tourism and Hospitality, Automotive, Beauty and Wellness, Electronics and Hardware, Multi-skilling, Retail, Healthcare, Plumbing, Information Technology/IT enable services and Agriculture.

NAGALAND SECRETARIAT SERVICE ASSOCIATION TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD

The Nagaland Secretariat Service Association (NSSA) Triennial Conference 2025 was held on 12 December 2025 at the Capital Convention Centre, Kohima, under the theme “Public Service: More than a Job, a Calling.” The event brought together serving and retired officials, alumni, and association members.

Commissioner & Secretary to the Chief Minister, Works & Housing and Finance Commissioner, Kesonyu Yhome, IAS, attended as Special Guest. He emphasized the vital role of the NSSA in the State’s administrative system, describing it as the “engine” of governance and the institutional memory of Nagaland. He urged members to revive strong work culture, actively participate in policy formulation, adopt solution-oriented approaches, and take initiative rather than waiting for directives. Yhome also highlighted challenges such as restrictive land laws, revenue generation, and the need for government employees to uphold moral responsibility and efficiency, given the high expenditure on salaries.

Theme speaker H. Lungalang, Addl. Secretary (Retd.) and former NSSA President,

spoke on work culture, discipline, and dedication to public service. He reminded members of the privilege and responsibility of their positions, stressed sincerity in daily duties, and encouraged introspection to ensure meaningful service before retirement.

In her Presidential Address, Chubasangla Longkumer highlighted the growth, professionalism, and achievements of the NSSA, acknowledging close collaboration with IAS and NCS officers. She emphasized integrity, higher responsibility, mentorship from retired officers, welfare initiatives, women’s participation, and personal development through various association clubs. She also announced government approval for land for NSSA residential quarters and recreational facilities.

The event featured felicitation of NSSA achievers, including awardees of the Governor’s Gold Medal and Governor’s Commendation Certificates, cultural presentations, and musical tributes. The conference concluded with a business session and the selection of new NSSA office bearers, followed by a vote of thanks by General Secretary Benito K. Swu.

STATE ADVENT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED AT KOHIMA

The State Advent Christmas was celebrated at the State Banquet Hall, Kohima on 12th December, 2025 under the theme Immanuel: God with us in our service.

Reflecting on the theme of the celebration, Chief Secretary, Sentiyanger Imchen, IAS, reminded the legislators and senior government officials present that they have been entrusted with a great responsibility to serve the people through

the positions and authority granted to them. Citing the example of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper, he urged the gathering to draw inspiration from Christ’s life of service. Quoting Woodrow Wilson “There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed”, he expressed hope that the Season would motivate every public servant to work with dedication rooted in ethical



AHoDs & HoDs presenting a special song during the State Advent Christmas celebration at State Banquet Hall, Kohima on 12th September 2025.

governance, compassionate administration, and people-centred leadership.

The Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphu Rio urged legislators and government officials to serve with dedication and humility in order to build a society grounded in justice, harmony, and mutual respect. He added that sincere and dedicated service brings blessings not only to individuals but also to families and to the State as a whole. He conveyed gratitude to fellow legislators, government officials, and the administration for their continued support and cooperation. Encouraging everyone to prepare their hearts during the Christmas season, he urged them to renew their spiritual lives, inspire one another, and uphold the virtues of compassion, humanity, and service - the true essence of Christmas.

The Speaker, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, remarked that Christmas being the busiest period of the year, people must take

care not to become so preoccupied that they “miss Christ,” turning Christmas into “Christ-miss.” Introducing the acronym JOY—J for Jesus, O for Others, and Y for Yourself—he explained that true joy comes when we give Jesus the first place, care for others, and then ourselves. Referring to Revelation 3:20, he reminded the audience that every Christmas is Christ knocking at the door of our hearts, seeking to transform our lives. He urged everyone to make space for Jesus this Christmas and to live out His teachings and values to experience deeper joy, peace, and the true meaning of the season. As all are called to serve their fellow beings, he appealed to everyone to strive to be more like Jesus.

The programme was chaired by State chaplain, Rev. Izietlung Terieng. Special Christmas songs were presented by AHoDs/HoDs and Angami Christian Revival Church.

E-CHALLAN SERVICE INTRODUCED IN NAGALAND

In a move towards digital governance and improved traffic management, the Motor Vehicles Department, Nagaland, launched the E-Challan service in the State on December 15th at the District Transport Office, Dimapur. The E-Challan service

was formally launched by the special guest, Commissioner & Secretary, Transport Department, Robert Longchari who also addressed the gathering.

He expressed his appreciation to the Traffic Police, Home Department and the

National Informatics Centre (NIC) for their close coordination and partnership in implementing the E-Challan platform in Nagaland. Highlighting the benefits of the E-Challan service, he said that the digital platform will enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability, while also providing greater convenience to citizens through integrated and technology-enabled enforcement mechanisms. The platform is expected to promote responsible driving and better compliance with traffic rules..

He informed that the government plans to expand E-Challan to all districts, integrate automatic cameras, and strengthen data collection to support evidence-based policies in the transport sector. He also added that the initiative would bring in revenue for the state, enhance digital transport governance, make the system more citizen-friendly and contribute towards fulfilling the vision of

“Viksit Nagaland.”

Senior Technical Director and State Informatics Officer, NIC, Lanusungkum Aier, Lanusungkum Aier, highlighted the two-decade evolution of transport digitisation in India, from the Sarathi and Vahan applications to an integrated digital platform. He noted that the E-Challan system, started in 2015, is now operational in 34 states, including Nagaland. Developed by NIC under CMV Rules 1989 and Acts 1988, the system provides a comprehensive digital solution for transport enforcement officers, issuing electronic fines for traffic violations and replacing the traditional paper challan process.

The launching program was chaired by Deputy Transport Commissioner, Yaongsanglee Chang. Vote of thanks was proposed by Transport Commissioner, Nagaland, Elias T Lotha.

NAGALAND LAUNCHES INDUSIND HEALTH MITRA (IHM)

The Nagaland Health Protection Society (NHPS), in partnership with Reliance General Insurance Company Limited (RGICL), on 16th December, 2025 announced the official launch of IndusInd Health Mitra (IHM), a mobile- and web-based digital health consultation platform.

The service will be available free of cost for an initial period of three months to all eligible beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS) in Nagaland.

This marks a significant step towards strengthening access to quality healthcare across the state, particularly for communities residing in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Through the platform, beneficiaries can consult qualified doctors and specialists from across India via secure video and audio consultation, eliminating the need for travel or physical hospital visits for routine medical advice.

The platform is designed to complement existing healthcare services by providing timely guidance, follow-up consultations, and second opinions. It aims to support early diagnosis, ensure prompt medical care, and reduce unnecessary hospital admissions, ultimately improving overall health outcomes.

The app is available for both Android and iOS devices.

H&FW NAGALAND COLLABORATE WITH HLL LIFECARE LTD TO OFFER AFFORDABLE MEDICINE AND RELIABLE IMPLANTS FOR TREATMENT THROUGH AMRIT PHARMACY

The Directorate of Health & Family Welfare signed an MOU on 17th December 2025 with the HLL Lifecare Limited a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt. of India to start AMRIT (Affordable Medicine and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy in the State.

The initiative aims to provide affordable medicines, surgical items, consumables, and implants for the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular, and other diseases, reducing overall treatment costs. HLL Lifecare will

establish a warehouse at the State Family Welfare Training Institute, Chumoukedima, to supply Citizen Welfare Pharmacies in public hospitals, and open AMRIT Pharmacy outlets as needed. The programme enables citizens to access quality medical supplies at discounted prices.

The MOU was signed by Principal Director, Dr. Mereninla Senlem for the department and Senior Manager (RBD-North East), Dilip Kumar Mishra for HLL Lifecare Ltd.



Principal Director Health & Family Welfare , Dr. Mereninla Senlem and Senior Manager (RBD-NORTH East) Dilip Kumar Mishra for HLL Lifecare Ltd. with officials during the MOU signing event at the Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Kohima on 17th December 2025.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME IN HEAVY VEHICLE OPERATION AND MACHINERY HELD

The Nagaland Skill & Entrepreneurship Development Mission (NSEDMD), under IDAN, launched a Heavy Vehicle Operation

and Machinery Training Programme in collaboration with the Modern Mechanical and Workshop Training Centre (MMWTC),

PWD, at Shokuvi, Chümoukedima.

The first phase trained 45 candidates from across Nagaland in roles such as Backhoe Loader Operator, Track Excavator Operator, Tipper Truck Driver, Tandem Road Roller Operator, and Heavy Machinery Mechanic through one- to two-month courses combining classroom instruction and hands-on practical experience.

The certification ceremony was held on 18th December 2025, with officials from NSEDMD and PWD acknowledging the initiative as the first of its kind in Nagaland. The programme aimed to address local

manpower shortages, upskill Naga youth, and create employment opportunities. Trainees expressed satisfaction with the learning experience, noting expanded technical knowledge and fulfillment of long-standing career aspirations.

The curriculum included theoretical lessons, simulations, and practical training, with certification based on discipline, technical knowledge, skill proficiency, and performance. NSEDMD encouraged construction sector stakeholders to engage the trained workforce, promoting sustainable employment linkages for Naga youth.

DoLR AND NEPED SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENTS

The Government of Nagaland signed Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) with the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) and the Nagaland Environmental Protection and Economic Development Society (NEPED) under the ELEMENT Project, at the Chief Secretary's Conference Hall, Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 18th December 2025. The project, supported by the World Bank and Government of India, aims to enhance livelihoods, restore degraded landscapes, and build climate resilience across 225 villages in 16 districts over five years (2025–2030), with a total cost of ₹574.63 crore.

Under the MoA, DoLR has been designated as the State Technical Partner for Springshed Development and Coffee Development. The initial engagement is for one year with provision for annual renewal based on performance, which will be reviewed biannually by the State Project Management Unit (SPMU).

As part of this partnership, DoLR will provide comprehensive technical

support, including resource mapping, spatial analysis, preparation of Detailed Technical Reports (DTRs), implementation planning, monitoring, and capacity building. Key interventions will focus on spring rejuvenation, sustainable coffee plantation planning, and installation of Customized Automatic Weather Stations (CAWS). Hydrological and climate data generated under the project will be integrated into the ELEMENT Decision Support System (DSS) and ERP platforms to support informed planning and decision-making.

At the village level, project activities will be implemented through Village Management Committees (VMCs) with support from Project Facilitating Agencies (PFAs) and Zonal Management Units (ZMUs), under the technical guidance of DoLR. Community members and village animators will be trained to ensure local ownership, sustainability, and long-term impact.

The ELEMENT Project-SPMU will oversee coordination, approvals,

procurement, monitoring, and compliance with World Bank fiduciary and environmental and social safeguard requirements. All data and outputs generated under this collaboration will remain the property of the Government of Nagaland and the ELEMENT Project.

As part of this initiative, the Nagaland Empowerment of People through Economic Development (NEPED), through its Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy Studies (CERES), has been engaged as a State Technical Partner for research, innovation, and technology development. The partnership will run for 18 months with scope for extension based on performance.

The collaboration focuses on designing, fabricating, and deploying low-energy, indigenous technologies tailored to Nagaland's hill ecosystems. These include zero-energy cold storage systems, hybrid dryers, micro-hydro units, sustainable waste-management solutions, and low-

energy agricultural machinery aimed at reducing post-harvest losses, improving rural incomes, and enhancing climate resilience.

A key component of the initiative is the revival and strengthening of CERES as a state-owned hub for research and development, fabrication, skills training, and enterprise incubation. Local youth, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and village institutions will be trained to adopt and manage these technologies, ensuring community ownership and long-term sustainability.

The technologies will be piloted, scientifically validated, and scaled up through community institutions and local entrepreneurs, contributing to livelihood diversification, value-chain strengthening, and environmentally sustainable practices. All activities will follow World Bank environmental and social safeguards.

The total Project Cost stands at ₹ 574.63 crore covering 225 village under 16 district. The Project duration will be for 5 years.



WORLD AIDS DAY 2025 OBSERVED AT KIPHIRE

World Aids Day 2025 was observed under the Theme: “Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response”, at DPDB Hall, Kiphire on 1st December 2025.

Deputy Commissioner Kiphire, Temsuwati Longkumer NCS, graced the program as the Special Guest. He said the World Aids Day is observed annually on 1st December to raise global awareness about HIV/AIDS, honour those affected, and to promote prevention, treatment, and solidarity. Appealing everyone to transform and response with innovation, and ensure that no one is left behind especially the most vulnerable one, the DC emphasized on the need for all the people to come together and

step forward and help fight the HIV epidemic together.

Program Speaker, Dr. Holiba A Anar, Medical Officer ARTC emphasized on World Aids Day, History, Significance and on the Theme of the day’s program. He stated the despite making progress in educating people, social stigma and taboo still exists and the day becomes significant for raising awareness about HIV/ AIDS and support those living with the virus, and also to remember those who have lost their lives with the disease.

While proposing short speech, DLN Kiphire spoke on awareness about Mission Shakti and the schemes available under Government Schemes.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE HELD AT NIULAND

The District Administration Niuland, in collaboration with the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP), One Stop Centre (Sakhi) organized a programme on 16 Days of Gender-Based Violence Activism at Tribal Hostel NDO Nikhekhu, Niuland on 2nd Dec 2025. The event aimed to raise awareness on preventing gender-based violence and to promote safer, more respectful environments for women and children.

A key session on Respecting

Boundaries & Teaching Good and Bad Touch was delivered by Nitokali I. Awomi, Psychosocial Counsellor, One Stop Centre (OSC). She emphasized early education, open communication, and community vigilance as essential tools in ensuring children’s safety and empowerment.

A short address from Avonuo Kire, SDO (Civil), Niuland, who highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in ending gender-based violence.

LBSNAA DIRECTOR SRIRAM TARANIKANTI CONCLUDES TWO-DAY MOKOKCHUNG VISIT

Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, Sriram Taranikanti, IAS, wrapped up a comprehensive two-day official visit to Mokokchung district of

Nagaland on 3rd December 2025, emphasizing the critical need for effective public service, strong leadership, and cultural preservation in the region.

Accompanied by his daughter, Dr. Sai



DC Mokokchung, Ajit Kumar Verma with Director of LBSNAA Mussoorie, Sriram Taranikanti during his two-day official visit to Mokokchung, Nagaland on 3rd December 2025.

Shriya Taranikanti, the Director received a warm welcome upon arrival at the Commissioner Guest House Mokokchung by local district officials.

The visit commenced with cordial interactions involving the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, other key district functionaries, and representatives from various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

On the first day, Taranikanti engaged actively with local institutions. He toured the District Hospital, and interacted with medical staff on enhancing hospital management and improving biomedical waste disposal practices. He then visited a seed funding project operating under

the Centre for Cooperative & Livelihood (CCL), LBSNAA, offering valuable inputs on marketing strategies to the staff.

Later, he visited the District Museum in the District Culture Office Complex, where he underscored his message on the urgent necessity of preserving and promoting the area's rich cultural heritage.

The highlight of the engagement was a meeting held at the DC's conference hall. The Director delivered a keynote address that highlighted the pivotal roles and responsibilities of public servants. He shared extensive insights on the nuances of good governance and leadership during an interactive session with assembled officials.

Earlier in the meeting, Ajay Moktan, IAS Assistant Commissioner, Mokokchung, provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation offering an overview of the Mokokchung district and Nagaland, sharing observations and key learning from his career in the state.

The Director's tour concluded on the final day with visits to several villages in the district. He held an interaction session with village leaders and elders at the Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM) complex in Impur and made a final stop at the notable Mopungchuket village before departing for Sivasagar, Assam.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON VECTOR BORNE DISEASES HELD AT TIZIT

Having concern over the rising cases of vector-borne diseases in the district, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Mon organised an awareness programme at the ADC conference hall, Tizit on 3rd December 2025.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC Tizit, Relise Sangtam, reminded the public of the importance of properly clearing drains,

preventing water logging where mosquitoes breed and keeping the surroundings clean.

Deputy Director, NVBDCP, Dr. Tinurenla Anichari, reported 51 dengue cases in the district between mid-November and 2nd December. She urged the public to stay alert, follow precautions, and adhere to prescribed medication. She informed

that contact testing is conducted around positive cases, with treatment and preventive guidance provided, and emphasized that all cases are reported to the Government of India, as even a single case is treated as a serious community concern.

Assistant Director, UVBDS Dimapur, Kikohul and District Vector Borne Officer, CMO Mon, Dr. Abenthung Murry, also

sensitised the gathering on vector borne diseases.

The medical team included PH & Training Consultant, NVBDCP, Imsubenla, DVBD, CMO Mon, N. Nokman, and Insect Collector, Dimapur, Tsukote.

All ward chairmen, GBs representatives from various unions of Tizit Town attended the programme.

KOHIMA COLLEGE HOSTS INTERNATIONAL LECTURE ON IRELAND'S COMPLEX IMPERIAL HISTORY

Kohima College organized an international public lecture on Ireland and the Empire, bringing together scholars, students, and dignitaries for an insightful academic exchange at Kohima College, Kohima on 3rd December 2025. The event, hosted by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell in collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland, featured Professor Jane Ohlmeyer of Trinity College Dublin as the resource person. Advisor for School Education & SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome graced the occasion.

Irish Ambassador to India Kevin Kelly, who attended the lecture, thanked the people of Nagaland for their warm welcome during the Hornbill Festival and highlighted Ireland's cultural engagements, including performances by an Irish group and the installation of the Celtic statue Danu. He added that Nagas, like the Irish, seek peaceful solutions today. Addressing recent attacks on Indian nationals in Ireland, he condemned the incidents as shocking and

unrepresentative, reaffirming Ireland's commitment to the safety and dignity of its Indian community.

In her lecture, Professor Ohlmeyer explored Ireland's historical relationship with the British Empire, describing it as both a colony and a contributor to imperial expansion. She discussed how Ireland became a "laboratory of empire," influencing colonial practices later applied in India, and highlighted the significant presence of Irish administrators and soldiers in British India. She also traced connections between Irish and Indian nationalist movements, noting how strategies such as boycotts influenced Mahatma Gandhi. Further, she expressed hope that the collaboration between Ireland and Nagaland would grow more in future.

Principal Dr. Vitsosie Vüprü thanked the Embassy for its collaboration and shared the history of the college and the courses it offers. The programme concluded with a short interaction session.

CSIR-NEIST, ICAR-KVK AND WOKHA ADMINISTRATION LAUNCH CLUSTER DRIVE FOR HIGH-VALUE CROPS

The Wokha District Administration in collaboration with the North East Institute of Science & Technology (CSIR-

NEIST), Jorhat, Assam, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (ICAR-KVK), Wokha, successfully conducted a preliminary workshop on

Cluster Development of Medicinal, Aromatic and Floriculture Plants on 4th December 2025, at the ICAR–KVK Conference Hall, Wokha.

During the programme, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the District Administration, Wokha, and CSIR–NEIST, Jorhat. The initiative aims to promote scientific cultivation and commercial-scale farming of high-value crops across the district.

The programme brought together farmers, district officials, and scientists for an in-depth orientation on the potential of medicinal, aromatic, and floriculture crops. Principal Scientist, CSIR–NEIST, Mantu Bhuyan spoke on scientific beekeeping, highlighting its role in pollination, honey production, and livelihood diversification. Principal Scientist, CSIR–NEIST, Mohan Lal briefed participants on aromatic crop cultivation, focusing on species viable for Wokha's agro-climatic conditions and their market potential.

Senior Scientist & Head, ICAR–KVK

Wokha, Sandeep Deshmukh, along with SMS (Agricultural Extension), ICAR–KVK Wokha, B. L. Mhalo Tungoe, attended the programme and interacted with the growers. Project Manager, District Administration, Wokha, Anuranjan Singh facilitated the discussions, addressed queries, and guided farmers on the next steps for cluster formation and field-level implementation.

During the interaction, it was collectively agreed to priorities Chamomile for large-scale plantation under the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants initiative. Gladiolus was also identified as a promising crop for commercial floriculture due to its strong market demand and adaptability to local conditions. More than twenty growers participated in the workshop and expressed their willingness to collaborate in the district-wide cluster rollout.

To support early adoption, Quality Planting Materials (QPM) of medicinal, aromatic, and floriculture crops under the CSIR Aroma Mission Phase III were distributed to participating farmers.

UNITY MINI HORNBILL FESTIVAL AT PEREN

On the sidelines of the Hornbill Festival 2025, the Unity Mini Hornbill Festival was held at the DC's Office Complex, Peren, from 4th to 6th December 2025. The inaugural programme was graced by Som Kamei, IPoS, Planning Adviser, North Eastern Council Secretariat, Ministry of DoNER, as the Special Guest, and Zandi Domta, President of NZPO, as the Chief Host.

In his address, Som Kamei emphasized the importance of unity, urging stronger bonds among the Zeliangrong communities and the Kuki people of Peren district. He stressed that unity is vital for protecting

cultural, social, and land rights and for the collective development of society, the State, and the Nation. He further highlighted that harmony must be grounded in mutual understanding, respect, and accommodation, without infringing upon each other's rights.

The three-day festival culminated with a Pre-Christmas celebration on 6 December 2025 at the DC's Office Complex, with Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang as the Special Guest. In his address, he reinforced the message of unity, describing Peren as "One District, One People, One Family," and encouraged the community to reject divisive

narratives. He also urged participants to embrace renewal, forgiveness, and reconciliation while entering 2026 with a positive outlook for personal, professional, and community growth. Short speeches were delivered by L. Singsit, IPS (Retd.), and Rev. Mathiuthai Gonmei, Executive Secretary of

RBCAN.

The festival featured exhibition stalls showcasing locally made handicrafts and organic produce from across the district, cultural performances, indigenous games, and competitions including a Flower Show and Air Gun Shooting.

DISTRICT TASK FORCE ON IMMUNIZATION MEETING HELD AT LONGLENG

The District Task Force on Immunization meeting was held on 4th December 2025, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Longleng, W. Manpai Phom NCS, at DPDB hall, Longleng.

Surveillance Medical Officer, National Public Health Surveillance (NPSE) Dr. Mohammad Abdul Haleem Azhar from Mokochung, delivered a detailed report on AFP surveillance update in Longleng District. He also showed the ways forward to focus on VPD Surveillance and MR elimination through PowerPoint - ensure all blocks have achieved MKI and MR, regular sharing of feedback to District and Blocks, regular field visits along with Block and District Officials.

UIP/RCH, Dr. Imtjungshi delivered a detailed report on Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (HPV). He also spoke about cervical cancer and mentioned that the vaccination has been given in 155 countries around the globe to ensure safety and effectiveness.



DC Longleng, W. Manpai Phom chairing the District Task Force on Immunization meeting at DPDB's hall, Longleng on 4th December 2025.

In conclusion, the chairman urged the gathering to prepare at the ground level, so that the launching of vaccination will be smooth with higher percentage of vaccination. He also mentioned the achievements of the district on registration of CMHIS and Ayushman Bharat, and requested the students' community to encourage their parents and localities for registration to avail the benefit provided by the government.

NIULAND DPDB MEETING HELD

The Niuland District Planning & Development Board (DPDB) meeting was held on 5th Dec 2025 at DC's Conference Hall, Niuland with Deputy Commissioner and Vice Chairman DPDB Niuland, Sara S Jamir chairing the meeting.

The DC said the invitation of GBs and leaders of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for the board meeting specifically was to share their views and opinion in regards to the adoption of National Highway Act 1956 in the state. In this regard, Akumdong,

SDO PWD (NH) Dimapur gave a detailed presentation on adoption of National Highway act 1956 and its implications on article 371(A).

Toshijungla Lemtur, from White Hope Education Society (Residential School - Minority Affairs) also gave a brief presentation on the objectives and activities of the society. In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner assigned her for more specific

information on their implementation and undertaking activities to present in the next DPDB meeting.

The board also deliberated on Society Registration of Aghunaqa Area Students Union and Aghunaqa Area Sports Association and agreed to forward the case to the concerned department for further necessary action.

HORNBILL EXTENSION AT ZUNHEBOTO

The 2nd Edition of the Hornbill Festival Extension 2025 was held at Zunheboto from 4th to 6th December 2025, inaugurated by Minister for Forest, Environment & Climate Change and Village Guards, C.L. John, with MLA Picto Shohe also present.

In his address, C.L. John underscored the importance of unity among Naga communities, promoting Nagamese as a common dialect, and fostering harmony across tribes. He clarified misconceptions about the Hornbill Festival, emphasizing its role as a unifying celebration that represents all Naga festivals collectively.

Advisor to the Chief Minister and Chairman of IDAN, Abu Metha, graced the second day of the festival as Special Guest. He commended the Sumi community for their contributions to Naga history and highlighted achievements of Naga personalities, including Paralympian Hokato Hotozhe Sema. Metha emphasized the festival's role in promoting unity, cultural pride, and international recognition for Nagaland, urging youth to rise above

tribalism and contribute to the state and nation.

The third day included a visit to the Sumi Naga Native Christian Heritage at Aizuto, graced by Advisor for Food & Civil Supply, K. Tokugha Sukhalu, IAS (Retd.), and culminated with Hornbill Music Festival.

The festival also included a free health services stall, set up by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer and District Hospital, Zunheboto, providing screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, malaria, and HIV, along with emergency care for injuries sustained during traditional games.

The three-day festival showcased the rich cultural heritage of the Naga people through traditional performances, indigenous games, handicraft exhibitions, and competitions such as Apukhu Kiti, Street Arm Wrestling, and the Sümi Love Song Competition.

The Hornbill Extension Festival 2025 concluded successfully, celebrating Naga heritage, fostering unity, and promoting health and safety for all participants.

HORNBILL ANGLING FESTIVAL AT MELURI



DC Meluri, Mhathung Tsanglao speaking at the inaugural programme of the 7th Hornbill Festival at Tekumle, Tizu river on 5th December 2025.

The two-day 7th Hornbill Angling Festival, themed “Save Mahseer,” was held from 5th to 6th December 2025 at Tekümle along the Tizu River in Meluri district. The festival aimed to promote sustainable tourism, conserve river biodiversity, and raise awareness about Nagaland’s state fish, the mahseer.

At the inauguration, Deputy Commissioner of Meluri, Mhathung Tsanglao, stressed the importance of protecting spawning habitats, regulating fish size, and promoting catch-and-release angling to ensure long-term conservation. He called on anglers, communities, authorities, and visitors to work together to safeguard aquatic life and foster environmental stewardship.

Advisor for New & Renewable Energy and Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Nyusietho Nyuthe, graced the second day, appreciating the Anglers’ Association Nagaland (AAN) for promoting responsible angling and conservation awareness. During the event, the Meluri District Anglers Association was officially launched, and a magazine documenting AAN’s activities from 2013 to 2025 was released.

The festival featured angling competitions, with Gagan Rai winning first prize, followed by Siechutho and B. Imnachiba in second and third places respectively, alongside awareness initiatives to encourage eco-friendly practices and sustainable river management.

1st EDITION OF TARO FESTIVAL HELD AT PONGO VILLAGE

The 1st edition of the Taro Festival, a two-day celebration, was successfully held at Pongo Village, Longleng District, on 5th and 6th December 2025. The festival, organized by the Department of Horticulture, was conducted under the theme “Rooted in Culture, a Journey of Heritage” and aimed to

celebrate Pongo Village’s rich taro heritage while promoting sustainable agriculture, value addition, and market linkages for farmers.

The inaugural day of the Taro Festival at Pongo was graced by MLA A. Pongshi Phom, who appreciated the organizers for hosting

the first-ever Taro Festival in Longleng. He highlighted various agricultural festivals in Nagaland and stressed the importance of taro as a staple food, praising Pongo Village for producing high-quality taro consumed across the state. He expressed hope that the festival would boost socio-economic development and announced initiatives including marketing and storage facilities, tools and equipment, farmer healthcare, scientific cultivation, subsidies, and inaugurated the Horticulture Marketing Shed.

DC Longleng, W. Manpai Phom, NCS, also addressed the gathering, congratulating the organizing team and the Department of Horticulture for their efforts. He also highlighted Pongo Village's historical significance and its designation as a tourist village, urging youths to explore avenues to promote tourism.

District Horticulture Officer Longleng, Talimeran, congratulated the farmers, acknowledging their hard work as central to the festival's success. Greetings were also delivered by Y.B. Angam, President of the Phom People's Council, and T. Lakba Keikung, Council Chairman of Pongo Village.

The culmination of the festival on 6th December was graced by District Agricultural Officer Longleng, Maongsangla, as the Special Guest. She congratulated the organizers and residents of Pongo Village, stating that the festival had successfully put taro cultivation on the district map. She encouraged farmers to increase taro productivity, expand cultivation, and explore value addition and marketing opportunities, highlighting the crop's climate resilience and potential for income generation. She also informed that Pongo Village would serve as a central hub for agricultural development in the district, where various agri- and allied departments would monitor and support farmer activities.

The culmination program included a technical session conducted by senior scientists from KVK ICAR, Longleng, imparting knowledge on scientific farming methods. The festival aimed not only to preserve cultural heritage but also to enhance farmer livelihoods, encourage youth participation in agri-entrepreneurship, and promote "Pongo Doong" (taro) as a unique regional brand at state and national levels.

PEREN DPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly meeting of the Peren District Planning & Development Board (DPDB) was held on 6th December 2025 at DC's Conference Hall, Peren. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister and DPDB Chairman, Peren, T.R. Zeliang.

Deputy Chief Minister and DPDB Chairman, T.R. Zeliang, praised the DC Peren for initiatives to develop the district headquarters, regular mass social work, and the successful organization of the Unity Mini

Hornbill Festival. He also congratulated the organizers of the 11th Inter-Departmental Tournament for enhancing inter-departmental coordination. Emphasizing the vital role of the IPR Department, he stressed the importance of documentation in preserving district history and suggested compiling records of notable personalities. Appreciating departmental cooperation and collective progress, he urged continued unity and extended Merry Christmas and New Year

greetings to all. Welcoming the members, Deputy Commissioner, Peren, Hiazu Meru expressed sincere gratitude to the Deputy Chief Minister for taking the initiative to renovate the DC's Office Building and Conference Hall. He also congratulated Dr. Namsui Thou, Chief Veterinary Officer, Peren, on his promotion to Additional Director.

The DC reviewed the Unity Mini Hornbill Festival, noting its successful conduct and role in promoting unity and the 'Green Peren' brand. He urged geo-tagging of agricultural

products and maintaining authentic data. Observing low participation from subordinate staff and the public, he called for mandatory involvement in major programmes and announced departmental stalls for Republic Day, appealing for sincerity and regularity in duties.

During the review, ADC Peren, D. Robin, presented a brief report on the 11th Inter-Departmental Tournament, held from 12th–14th November at Jalukie Town.

MELURI DPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly meeting of District Planning Development Board for Meluri District was held at DB's Court Meluri, on 8th December 2025.

Advisor N&RE and NSDMA, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, welcomed all the members present in the meeting. After reviewing the last meeting minutes, he emphasized

on the Upgradation of Sub- Health Centre Phokhungri to PHC.

The Power Point presentation was presented by the Department of Soil & Water Conservation Department. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by the Chairman.

INTERNATIONAL HORNBILL FESTIVAL MON EDITION

The three-day Mon Edition of the International Hornbill Festival 2025 was held from 8th to 10th December at the Konyak Heritage Complex, Mon, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and unity of the Konyak community. The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Dr. Neiphu Rio, with Advisor K. Konngam Konyak and Advisor W. Chingang Konyak as co-hosts. The event was virtually graced by Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The festival opened with traditional blessings, blowing of trumpets, firing of muzzle-loading guns, and the sounding of the gong by the Chief Minister. Various government departments and local

organizations set up stalls showcasing traditional and modern ethnic wear, handicrafts, culinary items, and other cultural exhibits.

Cultural programs included performances of folk music and dance, while the Department of DUDA organized Indigenous Games under the theme "Heritage Challenge", featuring Bamboo Stilt Race, Dao (Machete) Chopping, and Wool Spinning competitions.

The festival also welcomed international dignitaries, including the Deputy Ambassador of Ireland, Raymond Mullen, and on the final day, Gabriel Denwang Wangsu, Minister from Arunachal Pradesh, attended as Guest of Honour.

In his closing remarks at the Evening Gala, Deputy Commissioner Mon, Wennyei Konyak, lauded the Chief Minister and the government for promoting cultural heritage and inclusive development. He emphasized the festival's role in celebrating unity, identity, and ancestral spirit, urging citizens to preserve traditions, cooperate, and extend

hospitality to visitors.

The Mon Edition of the International Hornbill Festival successfully blended heritage, music, sports, and community participation, reinforcing the cultural pride and unity of the Konyak people while leaving a lasting impression on participants and visitors from across the state and beyond.

DWSM MEETING HELD AT NIULAND



DC Niuland, Sara S Jamir and officials after the District Water and Sanitation Mission meeting at DC's office, Niuland on 8th December 2025.

Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) Niuland, Sara S Jamir convened the DWSM meeting on 8th December 2025 at DC's Conference Hall, Niuland.

During the meeting Executive Engineer PHED, Nirie - e Nisa, Highlighted the purpose and objectives of the "HAMARA

SHAUCHALAY- HAMARA BHAVISHYA" (Our Toilet our future).

DC, Sara reviewed Jal Jeevan Mission & Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin phase 2.0 for Hovishe and Viyito village.

The DC also inaugurated the newly constructed toilet at DC's office premise in commemoration of the World Toilet Day.

BICYCLE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME BOOSTS GIRL EDUCATION IN MOKOKCHUNG DISTRICT

In a significant initiative to promote female education and ease commuting challenges, the District Administration, Mokokchung conducted bicycle distribution programmes across Tuli Sub-Division and Tzurangkong on 9th and 10th December 2025.

Under the programme titled "Pedaling Towards a Brighter Future," bicycles were distributed to girl students from economically weaker sections to support regular school attendance and reduce transportation difficulties. The initiative was implemented

under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme of the State Bank of India (SBI) titled “Empowering Education.”

On 9th December, the programme was held at Tuli Sub-Division, where bicycles were distributed to girl students of Government High School (GHS) Tuli and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Tzudikong, Tuli. Officials from the District Administration expressed their sincere appreciation to SBI, particularly the Guwahati CSR team led by the AGM (CSR) and the Regional Manager, RBO Mokokchung, for their generous support and collaboration.

The initiative continued on 10th December 2025 at the Office of the Border Magistrate, Tzurangkong, where 20 bicycles were distributed to 20 girl students of GHS Tzurangkong. Selection criteria included distance from school, academic performance in the previous examination, and socio-economic background. The programme

was undertaken by Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner Mokokchung, in coordination with the AGM (CSR) and Regional Manager, RBO Mokokchung, with the objective of supporting education in remote and underdeveloped areas of the district.

The initiative received widespread appreciation from the local community. Representatives of Tzurangkong Senso Mungdang (TKM), faculty and teachers of GHS Tzurangkong, along with students and parents, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner Mokokchung for prioritising the educational needs of girl students in the remote Tzurangkong range.

The District Administration reiterated the need for collective cooperation to build an inclusive society where no child is hindered by lack of resources, and where every young person is given the opportunity to move forward.

ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS DAY HELD IN KIPHIRE & MELURI DISTRICT

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Day 2025 were observed in Kiphire District on 10th December under the theme “Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials.” Organized by the District Administration with Mission Shakti and Sakhi-OSC, the events aimed to raise awareness, strengthen community responsibility, and prevent violence.

In Kiphire town, a panel discussion on preventing violence against women and girls was held, featuring representatives from NSRLM, Lihpikihna Org, and local

education institutions. EAC Takatemjen Pongen delivered the welcome address, and a pledge against gender-based violence was administered.

The Meluri culmination programme featured SDPO Dr. T. Desela Sangtam, who highlighted the importance of human rights and encouraged reporting abuse. Sakhi-OSC representatives briefed on their services and legal provisions under the POCSO Act, while students and teachers from local schools participated in a pledge against child marriage.

TSEMINYU DPDB MEETING CUM ADVENT CHRISTMAS HELD

The Tseminyu District Development & Planning Board cum Advent Christmas was celebrated at DC conference hall, Tseminyu on 11th December 2025. The program was chaired by Mhomo Tungoe. ADC Tseminyu. In his welcome address, MLA & Chairman DPDB Tseminyu, Jwenga Seb said the main purpose of the board is to serve the people and urged the members of the board to discharge their duties with dedication and commitment.

DC Tseminyu highlighted the last meeting minutes and declaration of Tobacco Free zone offices in all the government departments under the district. Informing that fishing, hunting and liquor are being banned, he said it can only be achieved through the church and people's participation.

The program culminated with a vote of thanks pronounced by Meyikokba Jamir DPO & member secretary DPDB, Tseminyu.

NOKLAK DPDB MEETING HELD



DC Noklak, P.Mono Khamniungan speaking at the DPDB meeting cum Pre-Christmas programme at DC's Conference Hall, Noklak on 11th December 2025.

The Noklak DPDB meeting was held on 11th December 2025 at DC's Conference Hall, Noklak under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, P. Mono Khamniungan.

The meeting began by reviewing the last meeting minutes and deliberated on the following agendas. The board constituted a Verification Committee for LADF 2025-25 under 56 Assembly Constituency, Noklak and 57 Thonoknyu Assembly Constituency respectively. The committee members include, SDO, Civil, Noklak as the Convener,

EAC Nokhu as Member/Secretary and EE PWD (R&B) as Member for 56 Noklak A/C.

The committee members for the 57 Thonoknyu Assembly Constituency includes - SDO Civil, Thonoknyu as Convener, EAC (Panso) as Member Secretary and SDO PWD (R&B) as Member.

The board also discussed the proposal for creation of Government Primary School at Thangoun village and at Jejeiking village submitted by the respective Villages Council Chairmen. After a brief deliberation by the members and verified by the SDEO of the Education Department, Noklak, the board forwarded the proposal to the higher authority for necessary action.

The Proposal for creation of Sub-Centre at Thangoun village, submitted by the CMO Noklak was also discussed and forwarded to the department for consideration.

The Elements Project Nagaland presented their departmental activities during the meeting. This was followed by the Pre-Christmas programme.

ZUNHEBOTO DPDB MEETING HELD

The Zunheboto District Planning & Development Board (DPDB) meeting was held on 12th December 2025 at Deputy Commissioner's conference hall, Zunheboto under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Dharam Raj, IAS.

Discussing on the agenda forwarded by the Deputy Commissioner on Students' Internship Programme, the board thoroughly deliberated over focusing on official launch of the initiative including all the line departments in the district, while aligning Zunheboto district to be the first district to introduce such an initiative for college students, for whom internships have become mandatory.

DC, Dharam Raj mentioned that the initiative wouldn't stretch departments any significant resources beyond providing interns with basic seating arrangements in offices. "With the implementation of NEP 2020, internships are now compulsory. We

all know there is a shortage of manpower, and having interns will provide an additional helping hand and bring innovation. It's a win-win situation for everyone." the DC added.

He further included that since internships are required for college students' now; other departments could also be included in the programme.

Dy. CMO, Zunheboto, Dr. Antoly Swu and District Programme Officer, DISHA Zunheboto, Hokishe Chophy while appealing to the departments, emphasised the need to involve medical department in their respective programmes in order to spread awareness on key issues like rampant surge of HIV/AIDS positive cases, tobacco hazards etc. in the district.

Earlier, the meeting began with the introduction of new board members and review of the previous sitting from District Planning Officer, David Sema.

LONGLENG DPDB MEETING CUM ADVENT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED

The Longleng District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting cum Advent Christmas celebration was held on 12th December 2025 under the chairmanship of MLA and Chairman, DPDB Longleng, A. Pongshi Phom, at the Yungmon River (Yongnyah).

After reviewing the minutes of the previous meeting, the agenda taken up for discussion was the construction of an approach road near the 132 kV sub-station at Pongo village, forwarded by the MLA of 50 AC. On the matter, the Deputy Commissioner informed the house that, in consultation with

the Power Department, a detailed DPR had been submitted, and the house agreed to forward the matter to the higher authority.

The Advent Christmas programme began with an invocation pronounced by Pastor Pongkap of Yongnyah Town Baptist Church, followed by the hymn "Joy to the World".

In his welcome address, the Deputy Commissioner and Vice Chairman, DPDB Longleng, W. Manpai Phom, NCS, expressed his gratitude to all the members present and acknowledged the council members of Yongnyah village for their support towards

the success of the programme. He stated that organising the programme at different locations provides a time for relaxation and an opportunity to welcome the joy of the Christmas season. He mentioned that the district is blessed with the leadership of two elected members and appealed to officers to further strengthen cooperation for the upliftment and progress of the district.

MLA A. Pongshi Phom, in his Christmas greetings, conveyed Advent Christmas wishes to everyone present on behalf of his family and the Government of Nagaland. He said that the meeting was a time to reflect on the guidance, wisdom, and the many blessings that God has bestowed upon everyone over the past eleven months and for sustaining them thus far. He thanked all district Heads of Departments, office staff led by the Deputy Commissioner, the Superintendent of Police, civil society organisations, and the general

public for their cooperation and dedication.

He further informed the gathering that Orangkong Baptist Church will be celebrating its 75th Platinum Jubilee from 26th to 28th December 2025, and requested all members to uphold the programme in prayer for the success of the event.

ADC Tamlu, Lankonsen Tsanglao, in his greetings, said that Christ came into the world not to adjust to it, but to make amends to its current state by challenging what is wrong. He added that Christ questioned injustice, and likewise, individuals and society should question the government when it does not function as it should. He observed that only a few people have the courage to question and challenge the system.

The Christmas message was shared by the Pastor of Tamlu Town Baptist Church, and a special song was presented by District Hospital Longleng.

KIPIHIRE DPDB MEETING CUM ADVENT CHRISTMAS HELD

The Kiphire District Planning & Development Board meeting cum Advent Christmas was held on 12th December 2025 at Zungki River, below Phuvkiu Village shortcut footbridge, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kiphire, Tamsuwati Longkumer.

The Deputy Commissioner extended warm Christmas greetings to all the Board members present and expressed his appreciation to all the departments for their valuable contribution towards the successful conduct of Government's programs and activities in the district.

The meeting also featured felicitation program for the District's Official Logo Design Competition, where Sheshak Yimchunger was declared winner of the Kiphire District Official Logo Design Competition held

on 6th December 2025 organized by the District Administration. A cash prize of Rs.500/- along with citation certificate was handed over to the winner by the Deputy Commissioner, Tamsuwati Longkumer.

EAC Kiphire, Takatemjen Pongen highlighted and explained in detail the salient features of the winning Logo Design, which incorporates key symbols representing the district identity as the "Land of Minerals" and its natural and cultural symbolism, including Mount Saramati, Hoolock Gibbons and rivers of Kiphire.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by ADC Kiphire, Longdiba L Sangtam. This was followed by Advent Christmas celebration program chaired by Nzanthung Yanthan DFO (Fisheries), Kiphire.

CENTRAL PRABHARI OFFICER (CPO) VISITED KIPHIRE ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT

Central Prabhari Officer ADP/ABP Kiphire & Joint Secretary Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Government of India, Mercy Epao visit Kiphire Aspirational District on 15th December 2025 and held a review meeting with officers of the district at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Kiphire.

After a Review Meeting with the officials, Mercy Epao conducted Field Inspections

concerning the progress of the Five Crore Sectors of the ADP: Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture, Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure in Kiphire Aspirational District.

Respective office heads of the district also presented their progress and reported the ground level status during the meeting.

DC KOHIMA VISITS KHONOMA BASE CAMP AS WESTERN DZÜKOU FIRE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL

Deputy Commissioner Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, NCS, along with SDO Civil Sechü-Zubza Imliakum, Nodal Officer Thejangulie Zao, District Commandant HG, CD & SDRF Wopenthung and other district officials from Police, Forest & Fire Emergency Services, visited the base camp of the team engaged in combating the Western Dzükou fire at Khonoma on 15th December 2025.

During the visit, Khonoma Youth

representatives, SDRF, and other government agencies briefed the officials on the current situation. They informed that an inspection team had been sent on Monday and reported the presence of smoke in between burnt bushes, but no active flames were observed. The smoke was stated to be contained, with Khonoma Youth volunteers, SDRF, and Forest Department personnel present on site. IAF Helicopters were also



DC Kohima B. Henok Buchem with officials during a visit to the Khonoma Base Camp of the team engaged in combating the Western Dzükou fire at Khonoma, Kohima, on 15th December 2025.

deployed, operating with Bambi buckets to suppress and contain the smoke. It was further mentioned that western Dzükou has been closed temporarily as a precautionary measure.

The Khonoma Youth expressed gratitude for the support and assistance rendered by all stakeholders during the crisis. They highlighted that the rescue and response operations by volunteers were possible due to prior training initiatives undertaken by the Angami Youth Organisation (AYO) and conducted by the SDRF. The Adviser of the Khonoma Youth Organisation (KYO) also thanked the Deputy Commissioner, in his capacity as Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), for the successful coordination of the operation. He added that the government should be informed of this success story achieved under the leadership of the Deputy Commissioner.

A discussion was also held on whether to

continue the operation. While the helicopter team from Kharagpur, along with youth volunteers and SDRF personnel, expressed confidence that the fire had been contained, it was decided that a team would trek again to Western Dzükou the following day to further assure the situation on the ground. Deputy Commissioner B. Henok Buchem expressed gratitude to God and to all those involved, and particularly applauded the spirit of human compassion shown by the team, especially the people of Khonoma.

Earlier in the day, Advisor NSDMA & NRE, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, Deputy Commissioner B. Henok Buchem, Nodal Officer Kohima, Thejangulie Zao and Assistant Manager Response & Communication NSDMA, Rendemo Shitio conducted an aerial survey of both the Western and Southern Dzükou areas using a helicopter to assess the overall fire situation.

SDPDB BHANDARI DISCUSSES SITUATION AT THE NAGALAND STATE SEED FARM, MERAPANI

The SDPDB Bhandari, held its meeting at the conference hall of Summer House-Cum-Guest House, Bhandari on 16th December 2025.

In an opening remark, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Vice Chairman SDPDB, Bhandari Longasen Lotha, NCS, lauded the Bhandari based officers and staffs for diligently serving the public over the course of the year.

The Deputy Director, Nagaland State Seed Farm, Merapani, informed the house that a commotion and scuffle occurred at the State Seed Farm on 14 December 2025, which was brought under control with the intervention of the district administration

and law enforcement from Nagaland and Assam. He further reported that on 15 December 2025, miscreants vandalized part of the State Seed Farm Baptist Church (established in 1882). FIRs have been lodged at Bhandari Police Station (Nagaland) and Merapani Police Station (Assam). Urging the house to take serious note of the incident, he appealed to all concerned not to take the law into their own hands.

While the house was in deliberation of issues relating to Nagaland State Seed Farm, Merapani, ADC and Vice Chairman, SDPDB Bhandari, Longasen Lotha, advised the department to impose total ban on hunting within the State Seed Farm to

maintain peaceful environment within the area.

During the meeting the house also proposed and accepted to create 'Officers

Club Bhandari' in order to foster and promote a common goal and to reach and serve the public better.

CENTRAL TEAM CONDUCTS ARECANUT CULTIVATION FEASIBILITY STUDY AT NGWALWA

A Central team led by the Deputy Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Calicut, Kerala, Babulal Meena along with Senior Scientist, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), West Bengal, Dr. A.K. Sit and Scientist CPCRI, Guwahati, Leichombam S. Singh visited Peren District and conducted site visit to the DPDB declared Ngwalwa Arecanut Village on 16th December 2025 as part of an arecanut cultivation feasibility study. The team also carried out field visits to Heningkunglwa village.

Following the field visits, a stakeholders' meeting was held at the Village Council Hall, Ngwalwa, under the chairmanship of EAC Ngwalwa, Sizin Renttah. The meeting was attended by government officials, village leaders, and local stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Central team informed that they would recommend to the Ministry the introduction of latest production technologies, establishment of nurseries for quality planting materials, development



Deputy Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Department, Calicut, Babulal Meena with DC Peren, Hiazu Meru and officials during a site visit for the arecanut cultivation feasibility study at Ngwalwa Village, Peren on 16th December 2025

of necessary infrastructure, and creation of marketing linkages with South India. The team also proposed to develop the Ngwalwa area, including Heningkunglwa, Ngwalwa, Gaili Namdi, Gaili, and Punglwa villages, as an Arecanut Hub. In addition, intercropping of arecanut with spices such as black pepper and cocoa was suggested to enhance farmers' income and promote sustainable cultivation practices.

PHEK DPDB CELEBRATES ADVENT CHRISTMAS

Phek District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) celebrated Advent Christmas on 16th December 2025 at the Heritage Banquet Hall, DC's residence, Phek. The event was graced by prominent dignitaries including Kuzholuzo (Azo) Nienu, MLA of 19th Phek

Assembly Constituency, and Dr. Neisatuo Mero, MLA of 16th Phek A/C Pfutsero, who extended their warm Christmas greetings to the gathering.

During the occasion, MLA Azo delivered an inspiring message highlighting the

true love of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the significance of love, compassion, and unity during the Christmas season. Representing the Government of Nagaland, he conveyed heartfelt Christmas greetings to all attendees, encouraging them to reflect the spirit of giving and fellowship that Christmas embodies.

In his address, Dr. Neisatuo Mero touched upon the profound meaning of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Vezhoto Soho, Associate Pastor of Phek Town Baptist Church, shared an uplifting Christmas message, inspiring attendees to embrace faith, hope, and love in their daily lives.

A highlight of the program was the Christmas gift exchange among the officers, symbolizing unity, camaraderie, and the spirit of giving. The celebration concluded with a lavish Christmas feast.

DWSM MEETING HELD AT TSEMINYU

The District water and sanitation mission and Jal Jeevan Mission meeting for Tseminyu District was held at DC office conference hall, Tseminyu on 17th December 2025.

DC and Chairman DWSM Tseminyu, Japheth Woch, NCS, stressed the importance of involving all departments in water and sanitation works under the convergence framework. He urged line departments to clearly define responsibilities while submitting data to PHED for accurate updating of JJM and SBM-G dashboards. He also directed PHED to expedite Har Ghar Jal Village certification and ODF Plus Model Village declarations, and emphasized the need to effectively operationalize Plastic Waste Management units at Tseminyu and Chunlikha Blocks.

The Executive Engineer and member Secretary of DWSM expressed gratitude

to all the departments representatives for their participation. He also encouraged the departments to maintain close coordination to ensure effective and sustainable implementation of water and sanitation programmes across the District.

The Social Welfare Department submitted data on the number of Anganwadi Centres and their water coverage status. The Health and Family Welfare Department provided details of Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Sub-Centres along with their water availability status. The School Education Department submitted information on the number of schools and their water supply coverage.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the the DC and chairman of DWSM Tseminyu, Japheth Woch.

SECOND PHASE OF THE CIVIL DEFENCE WARDENS AND VOLUNTEERS TRAINING CONCLUDES

The closing programme of the second phase of the Civil Defence Wardens and Volunteers training under the Office of the District Commandant, Home Guards, Civil Defence & SDRF, Kohima, was held on December 18th, 2025 at the Conference Hall, Agriland Building, A.G. Colony.

The second phase of the training, conducted from December 12 to 18, involved wardens and volunteers from Ward No. 8 to Ward No. 19 and focused on strengthening disaster preparedness and response mechanisms at the community level.

Addressing the gathering, District

Commandant Wopenthung Kikon lauded the trainees for their dedication and stated that the second phase of the training had further enhanced community capacity in areas such as first aid, evacuation, search and rescue operations, fire safety and coordination with emergency response agencies. He urged the wardens and volunteers to act as responsible first responders in their respective wards,

share the knowledge gained with community members and actively participate in future drills to ensure sustained preparedness.

The programme was chaired by Hajiele Kath, S.I and included invocation, distribution of certificates and vote of thanks by Company Commander, Sinlo Khing, followed by closing remarks and a photo session.

WORKSHOP ON GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES AND PRACTICES HELD AT KOHIMA

The Kohima District Workshop on Good Governance Initiatives and Practices, themed “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore,” was held on December 19th, 2025, at the DC Conference Hall, Kohima, with the participation of officers and staff of the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Kohima.

Deputy Commissioner Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, NCS, stressed the importance of good governance based on accountability, transparency, and efficient service delivery, citing global best practices. He said Kohima district is well placed to set an example by strengthening governance mechanisms. Emphasizing systematic office functioning, he highlighted proper file management, record-keeping, and timely processing. He also outlined a hybrid digital–offline governance model to improve efficiency and reduce delays,

and urged officials to work collectively to uphold clean and transparent administration.

SDO (Civil) Rorheu Peseyie presented the district’s Vision and Strategic Framework, focusing on citizen-centric governance under the motto “*Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur.*” The presentation highlighted four pillars—digital governance, community-led development, sustainable and inclusive practices, and direct service delivery and outlined initiatives aimed at improving transparency, empowering local institutions, and ensuring doorstep delivery of government services as part of the district’s future roadmap.

The programme was chaired by EAC Imtiyenla K. Presentation included District @100 by ADC Kohima, Roupfukuotuo Noudi. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by EAC Kohima, Ane Khieya.



ZHALEO RIO INAUGURATED CTC OFFICE BUILDING

The newly constructed Chiephobozou Town Council Office was inaugurated by Advisor, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Zhaleo Rio as the Special guest on 3rd December 2025 at CTC Hall, Chiephobozou

Speaking as the Special Guest, Zhaleo Rio congratulated the Chiephobozou Town Council team for completion of beautiful Office Building with sufficient accommodation within a limited amount. He called upon the elected Councillors, ADC and Executive Officer CTC that any little revenue

they are generating or ULB fund allocation should be openly discuss, deliberated during the house meetings and arrived with consensus and accountability. He encouraged the elected Councillors to work as a team and function under one umbrella for the development of the Sub- division. He also appealed to exercise their powers and responsibility as defined in the Municipal Act judiciously. Emphasizing that Population census and E-roll were not properly enumerated in the past, he suggested and urged the ADC with EO Chiephobozou and elected councillors to take the initiative for genuine enumeration in the next Census.

Earlier, the Special Guest also unveiled the monolith. He was accompanied by Y M Humtsoe, MLA and officers from Urban and Municipal Affairs Department. Building construction report was highlighted by Chairperson Chiephobozou Town Council, Khrielleie Kerhuo. Short Speeches were also delivered by OSD to Chief Minister, Neibalie Rio, NAPO President, Keduo- O Zumu and Commissioner and Secretary, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Kekhrievor Kevichusa respectively.



Advisor, Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Zhaleo Rio unveiling the monolith at Newly Constructed Chiephobozou Town Council Office Building, Chiephobozou, Kohima on 3rd December 2025.

50-HECTARE 'NAGAR VAN' INAUGURATED IN MOKOKCHUNG; PROJECT STRESSES URBAN CONNECTION TO NATURE

The 50-hectare Nagar Van Meraküm Tzüin (Urban Forest) was officially inaugurated on 3rd December 2025 in Mokokchung Village, marking a significant step in urban biodiversity conservation and environmental education in the region.

Vedpal Singh, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & Head

of Forest Force (HOFF) & Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Nagaland graced the occasion as the special guest.

In his inaugural address, the PCCF elaborated on the core objectives of the central Nagar Van scheme. He emphasized that the initiative aims to boost education, raise awareness, and reconnect urban



PCCF & HoFF and CWLW, Nagaland, Vedpal Singh, IFS, and DC Mokokchung, Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS with officials during the inauguration of the 50-hectare Nagar Van Merakum Tzuin (Urban Forest) at Mokokchung Village on 3rd December 2025.

populations with forest ecosystems, addressing the increasing disconnect between humans and nature.

“The success of this project lies in the collaborative effort of the Village and the department,” Singh stated, highlighting the model’s potential for replication across Nagaland and beyond. He also suggested establishing a monitoring board to track the site’s biodiversity status and commended Mokokchung Village for donating the land and the Mokokchung Forest Division for timely execution.

Dr. Sentitula, IFS, DFO Mokokchung Forest Division, provided the keynote address, tracing the project’s journey from its inception in July 2023. She detailed the various features of the site, including eco-trails, a QR-coded “Living Lab” for plant information, a Bible theatre, and a Bio-

Amphitheatre.

Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Mokokchung lauded the project as “futuristic” and stressed the importance of urban forests amidst current environmental challenges. He urged the Village Council and the Forest Department to develop a sustainable, revenue-generating model for the project’s long-term maintenance, given with limited government resources.

Rongsenlemla, IFS, Conservator of Forest (NTC), called it a “historic day” and explained the objectives behind urban forest development to the gathering. Mapuyanger, Chairman of the Mokokchung Village Council, reiterated the village’s commitment to supporting the project following the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

CHIEF MINISTER DR. NEIPHUI RIO INAUGURATES POLICE OFFICERS' MESS AT KOHIMA



Chief Minister Dr. Neiphui Rio with other dignitaries at the plaque unveiling ceremony of the Police Officers' Mess at New Reserve, Phesama, Kohima, on 12th December 2025.

The Nagaland Police Officers Mess at New Police Reserve, Phesema, Kohima was inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphui Rio on 12th December 2025.

Speaking at the Police Conference Hall, Dr. Rio highlighted the inauguration of the new three-storied Police Officers' Mess at New Reserve, Phesema as a major milestone for the state police. Replacing the old 1981 structure, the new RCC building, funded under the SASCI 2023–24 scheme, aims to provide officers with dignity, comfort, and modern facilities. He encouraged officers to use the space for efficiency, camaraderie, and official engagements, and urged them to continue serving with discipline, integrity, and dedication, bringing pride and honor to the state. Dr. Rio also thanked Home Minister Y. Patton for initiating the project.

Chief Engineer Police Project, Er. K. Imnajungba Jamir, stated that the upgraded

Police Officers' Mess at Phesema was constructed under SASCI, aiming to provide a comfortable, functional, and secure facility with dining, recreation, and accommodation areas, adhering to safety and engineering standards. The building has a plinth area of 5,767 sq. ft. and a total floor area of 17,375 sq. ft., with a project cost of ₹7.03 crore, funded in phases.

Speaking on the occasion, Accountant General Nagaland, Accountant General Arun Ahluwalia, IA & AS highlighted the State's commitment to the well-being and morale of the police force. He noted that handing over Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) to retiring officers recognizes their dedication and long service, ensuring a dignified and timely transition into retirement. Arun praised the Chief Minister for promoting digital governance and systemic reforms, and emphasized Nagaland's progress toward

a fully digital, citizen-centric pension and GPF system. He noted that monthly pension settlements have increased from 300 to over 400 cases and commended the Police Department and DGP for enabling timely pension authorizations.

In his welcome address, Director General of Police, Rupin Sharma, IPS informed the gathering that pending cases of pensions and gradually will be settle in the next six months targeting 91% pension cases.

Police Union Baptist Church (PUBC), Phe sema, Pastor Rev. Vesotsu Rakho

dedicated the Police officer' mess building. During the program, the Nagaland Police Mess Reservation App was launched, and Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) were handed over to 39 retired police personnel, along with group insurance benefits under the Police Salary Package (PSP). The event was attended by Ministers G. Kaito Aye and P. Bashangmongba Chang, Adviser Mhathung Yanthan, AG Arun Ahluwalia, Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha, senior police officers, and SBI officials.

NEW NAGALAND RURAL BANK BRANCH DEDICATED AT WAKCHING

The Nagaland Rural Bank (NRB), Wakching Branch, was formally dedicated on 13th December 2025 at the bank premises in Wakching. The programme commenced with an invocation prayer, followed by a welcome address by S. Longnyei Konyak, SDO (Civil), Wakching. Velayutham Sadhasivam, Chairman, Nagaland Rural Bank, addressed the gathering and highlighted the bank's commitment to strengthening rural banking and promoting financial inclusion. Speeches

were also delivered by village leaders and officials.

Advisor for Geology & Mining and DUDA, W. Chingang Konyak, graced the occasion as the Special Guest. The programme was chaired by Atai Konyak, Branch Manager, NRB. Y. Taiching Konyak, President, Konyak Union (Wakching Unit), proposed the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with a benediction.

ACHUMBEMO KIKON INAUGURATES SDO (CIVIL) OFFICE RALAN

Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) office, Ralan under Wokha was inaugurated by MLA & Chairmen SDPDB Bhandari, Achumbemo Kikon, on 15th December 2025. Speaking at the inaugural programme, Kikon Congratulated the Public and stakeholders and described the new office as a significant milestone in bringing Administration closer to remote areas, thereby enhancing Public service delivery and strengthening co-

ordination with grassroots institutions.

He urged the officers to serve with dedication and transparency and at the same time, he also appealed to the citizens for full co-operation and encouraged the youth leaders to partner in promoting peace and Development in the region. He asserted that the government is committed for inclusive growth and development in the Border regions.

In his technical report Assistant Engineer (CAWD), Er. Daniel H Lotha informed that the total cost for construction of the SDC (C) office building is projected at 80,00,000 (Rupees Eighty Lakhs). The building is an RCC structure with a total plinth area of 2292.94 Sq.ft including site and services such as water supply & sanitary, construction of septic tank & soak pit and power connection, he added.

Short speeches were delivered by Renbomo Ezung, Additional Deputy Commissioner Wokha, Samuel Ovung, Chairmen Ralan Area Lotha Hoho and Ren Murry Contractor. The program culminated with a vote of thanks proposed by Lawrence Ovung, Chairmen Ralan Range Union, Dimapur.





Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio; Director, Project SVP & CCO, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd., Dudeep Santram Dalvi; Chairman, IDAN, Abu Metha; and Deputy Managing Director, TKM, Tadashi Asazuma, during the MoU exchange programme between Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. and IDAN at Bamboo Hall, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 2nd December 2025.



Commissioner & Secretary, Transport Department, Robert Longchari, with officials during the launching of the e-Challan service in Nagaland at the District Transport Office, Dimapur on 15th December 2025.



Maharashtra Team champion of the Dr. T. Ao Junior Girls National Football Championship 2025-26 at Football Stadium, Police Complex, Chumoukedima on 11th December, 2025.



Published by:

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Government of Nagaland

IPR Citadel, New Capital Complex, Kohima - 797 001 Nagaland

STATE ROUND-UP



Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio distributing Tablet Computers to accredited Journalist on the occasion of the 63rd Statehood Day Celebration at Nagaland Civil Secretariate Complex, Kohima on 1st December 2025.



Chief Secretary, Sentiyangler Imchen with officials flagging-off the first consignment of Zanthoxylem (Michinga/ Tomar) seeds at SIRD Office Complex, Kohima on 6th December 2025.



Additional Chief Secretary, V. Shashank Shekar, IAS with other officials during the MoA signing with DoLR and NEPED under the ELEMENT project at Chief secretary's Conference Hall, Nagaland Civil Secretariate, Kohima on 18th December 2025.

HORNBILL



The Governor of Nagaland and Manipur and Chief Host for the Hornbill Festival 2025, Ajay Kumar Bhalla being felicitated by Minister for Tourism and Higher Education and Festival Host, Temjen Imna Along during the inaugural ceremony of the Hornbill Festival 2025 at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 1st December 2025.



Participants taking part in the Silt bamboo race held at Amphitheatre, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 2nd December 2025.



Tourist participating in Sack Race Competition during the Hornbill Festival 2025 at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 4th December 2025.



Union Minister of Communication & DoNER Joytiraditya M. Scindia and Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio during the Stone Pulling Ceremony at Toupheima, Kohima on 5th December 2025.

HORNBILL



Swiss Ambassador to India Maya Tissafi, along with Commissioner & Secretary, IPR and Co-operation, Orenthung Lotha and Director IPR, Dzüvinuo Theinuo, viewing the photographs displayed at HIPFEST 2025 at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 2nd December 2025



Commissioner & Secretary, Tourism, Dr. Zasekuolie Chusi, IAS interacting with artisans at the Naga CraftScape at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama Kohima on 1st December 2025.



The Winner of the 1st ever Hornbill Dog show performing at Pony Farm, Kigwema, on 5th December 2025.



SDG One Stop Destination set up by the SDG Coordination Centre at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama.

DISTRICT ROUND-UP



MLA, A. Pongshi Phom with officials visiting the stalls setup by the various SHGs and Departments during the 1st edition of Taro festival held at Pongo village, Longleng on 5th December 2025.



Officials with beneficiaries during the distribution of bicycles at the Office of Border Magistrate Tzurangkong, Mokochung on 10th December 2025.



Participants engaged in fire making competition during the International Hornbill Festival Mon Edition 2025 at Konyak Heritage Complex Mon on 10th December 2025.