



THE WARRIOR

A DIPR MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Vol. 55 No. 1

ipr.nagaland.gov.in

April 2026



Nagaland Governor, Ajay Kumar Bhalla and NLA Speaker, Sharinguin Longkumer join in singing the National Anthem on the opening day of the Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall, Kohima, on March 2nd, 2026.



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Editor: Ruopfulemuo H. Mepfhuo

Sub Editor : Ikedahule

Published by:
Directorate of Information & Public Relations
Government of Nagaland
IPR Citadel, New Capital Complex
Kohima - 797001, Nagaland

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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

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Chief Secretary, Sentyanger Imchen administering the Oath of Secrecy to the newly appointed State Information Commissioner, Y. P. Chilio Khiam during a ceremony held at Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima, on 2nd March 2026.



The new Governor of Nagaland, Nand Kishore Yadav being sworn in at Dr. Imkongliba Ao Hall, Lok Bhavan, Kohima on 13th March 2026.

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

JOSEPH HESSO AND Y. P. CHILLIO KHIAM SWORN IN AS STATE INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS

Joseph Hesso and Y. P. Chillio Kham were sworn in as State Information Commissioners of the Nagaland Information Commission on March 2nd, 2026.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Conference Hall of the Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima, where the Chief Secretary of Nagaland, Sentiyanter Imchen, IAS administered the oath of secrecy.

The programme was presided over by Principal Secretary, Home, Abhijit Sinha, IAS. The ceremony was attended by Administrative Heads of Departments (AHOs), senior government officials, officers, and staff members.

HOME DEPARTMENT NOTIFIES ON CHANGE OF VILLAGE NAME

The Home Department, General Administrative Branch, Kohima, Nagaland has issued a notification regarding change of 2 (two) village names in Nagaland with immediate effect.

The spelling of the new names in Roman and Devanagari script is mentioned below:

SN	District	Existing Name	Spelling of the new name in Roman script	Spelling of the new name in Devanagari script
1	Shamator	SOTOKUR	THSOTOKU	सोटोकु
2	Mon	CHOKNYU	CHOHJU	चोहजु

HOME DEPARTMENT NOTIFIES ON HOUSING CENSUS

The Home Department, General Administration Branch-I, Government of Nagaland has notified that the work for the first phase of Census of India, 2027, i.e. the House Listing and Housing Census in the State of Nagaland, will be conducted from 1st July to 30th July, 2026, and the option for self-enumeration shall be operational from 16th June, 2026 to 30th June, 2026.

NAND KISHORE YADAV SWORN IN AS THE 23rd GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND

Nand Kishore Yadav was sworn in as the 23rd Governor of Nagaland in a ceremony held at Dr. Imkongliba Ao Hall, Lok Bhavan, Kohima on 13th March 2026.

The oath of office was administered by the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Justice Ashutosh Kumar, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio. The ceremony was attended by members of the State Cabinet, legislators, senior government officials, representatives of various organizations, and invited dignitaries.

CENTRE DIRECTS STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH FLAG CODE AND NATIONAL HONOUR ACT

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has issued an "immediate" directive to all States, Union Territories, and Central Ministries, calling for strict compliance with the

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

Flag Code of India, 2002 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

The Ministry emphasised that the Indian National Flag represents the hopes and aspirations of the people and must always be treated with dignity and respect. It noted that a lack of awareness regarding proper display and handling of the National Flag is still prevalent among the public and institutions.

The Ministry directed authorities to ensure that paper flags used during national, cultural, and sports events are not discarded improperly. Such flags should be disposed of in private and in a manner consistent with the dignity of the National Flag.

The Flag Code of India, 2002 emphasises that the Indian National Flag is a symbol of national pride and must always be treated with dignity and respect, in accordance with the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

It permits citizens, private organisations, and educational institutions to hoist the National Flag on all days and occasions, provided it is displayed in a respectful manner, and allows the flag to be flown both during the day and at night.

The flag may be made of hand-spun, hand-woven, or machine-made materials such as cotton, polyester, wool, silk, or khadi, and must be rectangular in shape with a prescribed ratio of 3:2.

It further mandates that the flag should always occupy a position of honour, must not be damaged or dishevelled, and should not be displayed alongside or below any other flag on the same mast.

The code also specifies that the National Flag shall not be flown on vehicles except those of designated dignitaries such as the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, and Governors.

ECI ANNOUNCES BYE ELECTION FOR 28 KORIDANG ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

The Election Commission of India has announced Bye-Election to the Nagaland Legislative Assembly from 28- Koridang (ST) Assembly Constituency vide its Press Note No. ECI/PN/030/2026 dated 15th March 2026. The schedule of the Bye-Election is given below:

SN	Event	Dates
1	Issue of Gazette Notification	16.03.2026 (Monday)
2	Last date for making nominations	23.03.2026 (Monday)
3	Date for scrutiny of nominations	24.03.2026 (Tuesday)
4	Last date for withdrawal of candidatures	26.03.2026 (Thursday)
5	Date of Poll	09.04.2026 (Thursday)
6	Date of Counting of Votes	04.05.2026 (Monday)
7	Date before which election shall be completed	06.05.2026 (Wednesday)

The Model Code of Conduct shall come into force with immediate effect in the district (Mokokchung) in which the whole or any part of the Assembly Constituency going for election is included, subject to provision of the instruction vide Commission's letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024 (BYE ELECTIONS) dated 2nd January 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 8th SESSION OF THE 14th NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Eight session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative assembly was held from in two phases, first phase from 2nd to 12th March and second phase from 26th to 27th March, 2026 at NLA Hall, Kohima. The session focused on legislative business, Budget presentation and deliberations and discussion on key issues concerning governance and public welfare.



Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly in progress at NLA Hall, Kohima on 2nd March 2026.

GOVERNOR, AJAY KUMAR BHALLA, ADDRESSES THE 8th SESSION OF THE 14th NLA

The 8th session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly began on 2nd March 2026 at NLA hall, Kohima with the address of the Governor of Nagaland, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, highlighting the State Government's key policy priorities, notable achievements, and major developmental initiatives across various sectors.

Noting that the present Government will soon complete three years in office, the Governor stated that the Government has continuously endeavoured to fulfill the trust reposed in it by the people of the State and expressed gratitude for the support and

cooperation extended by citizens and the Legislature.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to the peaceful settlement of the Naga Political Issue, the Governor informed the House that the Political Affairs Committee (PAC), comprising Ministers, elected representatives of all tribes, representatives of political parties and Members of Parliament from the State, has been actively reviewing the matter. A Sub-Committee has also been constituted to further streamline its efforts. Recently, the Chief Minister along with Cabinet

colleagues and members of the PAC Sub-Committee met the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, requesting the Government to elevate the ongoing peace dialogue through the appointment of an interlocutor at the political or ministerial level to expedite the talks towards an early and honourable solution.

The Governor described signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on February 5, 2026 between the Government of Nagaland, the Government of India and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation for the constitution of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNATA) within the State the agreement as a significant step towards ensuring equitable and inclusive development in Eastern Nagaland. The State Government is currently working towards constituting an Interim Council for FNATA in consultation with stakeholders and will also move for enactment of a special legislation for its formal establishment.

The Governor also informed the House about the upcoming decennial Census of India exercise. Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases, with the House Listing and Housing Census scheduled in Nagaland from July 1 to July 30, 2026, and self-enumeration available from June 16 to June 30, 2026. He called upon Members and all stakeholders to extend full cooperation for the successful conduct of the exercise.

Highlighting the importance of human resource development, the Governor stated that the Department of School Education has initiated school transformation measures through Lighthouse School Complexes and teacher training programmes under the Nagaland Education Project – NECTAR to implement the National Education Policy 2020. The Department of Higher Education

is undertaking infrastructure development under the PM-USHA Scheme while the Nagaland Scholarship Nodal Cell has been established to streamline scholarship delivery. Coaching Centres Guidelines 2025 have also been notified to regulate institutions and safeguard students.

The Governor noted that the State hosted several major sporting events during 2025–26, including the 69th National School Games Taekwondo Championship and the Dr. T. Ao Junior Girls National Football Championship. Athletes from Nagaland also achieved notable success in national competitions including traditional wrestling, Sepaktakraw and Archery championships.

Efforts to improve employment opportunities and skill development were also highlighted. The Department of Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has notified Employment Exchanges as Special Employment Exchanges under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and is launching the Providing Access to Core Employability Skills programme. The Women Resource Department has also trained women in various vocational skills through Multi Training Centres.

In the health sector, the Governor highlighted the progress of the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme and noted that the scheme has benefited thousands of individuals with substantial claim payouts. The operationalisation of the Nagaland State Drugs Testing Laboratory and integration with national pharmaco vigilance and materiovigilance networks were also highlighted.

The Governor stated that the Social Welfare Department continues implementing child protection initiatives under Mission Vatsalya and women welfare schemes such

as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.

Significant progress in rural infrastructure and water supply was reported under the Jal Jeevan Mission, with more than 3.41 lakh household tap connections provided and several villages declared "Har Ghar Jal". Implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) continues to strengthen sanitation sustainability across rural areas.

The Governor also highlighted initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Aadi Adarsh Gram Yojana and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan aimed at accelerating development in tribal areas.

In the agriculture sector, the Government is promoting productivity and sustainable farming practices under the PM-KISAN and the National Mission on Natural Farming. Partnerships with national institutions have also been initiated to promote jute cultivation and improve seed distribution under the National Food Security Mission. Horticulture development under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture includes initiatives such as Golden Kiwifruit cultivation.

The Governor also highlighted programmes under the National Livestock Mission, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and sericulture development schemes supporting rural livelihoods and women beneficiaries across several districts.

Environmental conservation efforts include plantation and protection works under the Nagaland Forest Management Project and the notification of nearly 200 Community Reserves to strengthen the State's protected area network. A new Nagaland Agar Policy is also being drafted to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities.

In rural development, progress was reported under PM Awas Yojana –

Gramin, MGNREGA and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana. The Department of Underdeveloped Areas is implementing livelihood projects under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East (PM-DeVINE), to develop infrastructure, education, healthcare and enhancing economic opportunities for the people in the underdeveloped regions of the State.

Urban development initiatives include infrastructure projects in urban local bodies and the proposed implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban across statutory towns in the State.

Highlighting economic growth initiatives, the Governor stated that Nagaland has made progress in startup promotion and entrepreneurship, generating over 1,500 jobs through registered startups and securing recognition in national rankings including the Export Preparedness Index released by NITI Aayog. The State has also adopted the Unified Logistics Interface Platform to streamline supply chains.

The Governor also highlighted initiatives undertaken by the Department of Information & Public Relations to promote the State's emerging creative ecosystem. The Department has been designated as the Nodal Department for the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector in Nagaland, which holds significant potential for cultural promotion, digital innovation and employment generation. He further noted that the Department of Information Technology & Communication is establishing the Nagaland Innovation Hub for IT Startups at Chumoukedima with support under the NESIDS-OTRI scheme of the Ministry of DoNER. In addition, AI Data Labs are being

set up in two Industrial Training Institutes in the State under the Future Skills initiative of the India AI Mission to equip students and youth with foundational knowledge in Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies.

Tourism promotion remains a key priority, with the successful hosting of the Hornbill Festival attracting large numbers of visitors and showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the State.

The Governor also highlighted disaster management initiatives undertaken including the establishment of an AI-enabled climate risk analysis system and the launch of a weather alert mobile application.

In governance and administration, the government continues to prioritize capacity building of Government employees for effective governance and the Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department in collaboration with the Administrative Training Institute, has initiated intensive training programmes both outside and within the State. Another key initiative of the Department has been the signing of a MoU

with the Capacity Building Commission, Karmayogi Bharat which will enhance the capacity-building ecosystem in the State. The State has also recorded strong revenue performance, with GST collections surpassing national targets during the current financial year.

Reaffirming the State's vision for long-term development, the Governor stated that Nagaland is aligning its strategies with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, with preparations underway for a comprehensive "Viksit Nagaland @2047" roadmap.

The Governor also commended the efforts of the administration, police, security forces, and civil society organisations in maintaining peace, law and order in the State. Initiatives such as cybercrime monitoring systems and AI-enabled surveillance infrastructure are being implemented to strengthen policing and public safety.

The Governor concluded by expressing confidence that the deliberations during the session would further strengthen collective efforts towards building a peaceful, prosperous and developed Nagaland.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

On the first day of the 8th session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 2nd March 2026, at NLA Hall, Kohima, Chief Minister Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio made an Obituary Reference to the passing away of Lt. Ajit Anantrao Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra whom he described as a seasoned and able leader, who dedicated his life to public service and worked for the welfare of the people of Maharashtra.

Rio also made Obituary reference to the passing away of Lt. Imkong L. Imchen former Minister and sitting member of the

14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly whom he described as a bold, expressive and forthright leader who never hesitated to express his convictions.

Speaker Nagaland Legislative Assembly Sharingain Longkumer also made Obituary References to the passing of four former members of Nagaland Legislative Assembly namely Lt. N. Kielu, Lt. Dr. Khasu Kath, Lt. P. Mongchua and Lt. Nkhao Lotha. The speaker described the departed leaders as hardworking and devoted leaders who worked sincerely for the welfare and

upliftment of their people.

Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer, made an obituary reference in the House on the passing of Late Dr. Longrineken, a two-time Member of the Nagaland Legislative

Assembly, who passed away on 7th March 2026 at his residence in Aoyim Village under Chümoukedima. He was 59.

The house also observed a minute of silence in honour of the departed leaders.

RIO REMARKS ON THE MOTION OF THANKS ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address after thorough discussion, with Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio expressing gratitude to all members for their support during the Eight session of the 14th NLA held at NLA Hall, Kohima on 3rd March 2026.

In his concluding remarks on the Motion of Thanks, Dr. Rio reiterated that on the Naga Political Issue, the State Government has consistently maintained the role of a facilitator—working to support negotiations, expedite dialogue and help create conditions conducive to a lasting and honourable solution.

On the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNATA), he stated that the Government remains guided by the basic principles laid down in the MoA and looks forward to the continued cooperation and active participation of the ENPO in taking the process forward.

Addressing the issue of playing Vande Mataram, the National Song, in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said the views expressed by legislators have been duly noted and respected. While acknowledging the historical significance of the song, he emphasised that the nation's strength lies in its diversity, secular values and adherence to constitutional principles. He proposed that

the matter be referred to a Select Committee of the House for detailed examination, including legal consultation, before arriving at a considered decision.

The Chief Minister also sought the cooperation of elected members, civil society organisations and all stakeholders to ensure the smooth conduct of the Census 2027 exercise in the State. A comprehensive briefing session for members and party functionaries will be organised shortly to sensitise them on the various aspects of the exercise.

On extortion and law and order, he asserted that the Government will maintain zero tolerance towards criminal activities and continue firm measures to safeguard peace and security. Regarding the rationalisation and redeployment of teachers, he said the issue is under detailed examination, explaining that demographic shifts and declining student enrolment in certain areas have necessitated measures to ensure utilisation of teaching personnel. Acknowledging challenges in the marketing of agricultural produce, Rio noted that the Government is exploring ways to strengthen institutional mechanisms to provide farmers with improved market access and price support.

On unemployment, he highlighted ongoing skill development and

entrepreneurship initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between education and employability, stressing the importance of promoting vocational and technical skills aligned with emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence and technology.

Rio also condemned incidents of racial discrimination against people from the Northeast, stating that such acts run contrary to the spirit of unity and inclusiveness. Reaffirming the Government's commitment

to protecting the dignity and rights of citizens, he called for collective responsibility in upholding these values.

With regard to the Foothill Road project, he said that discussions have been held with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, though issues related to land acquisition and forest clearance remains a challenge. He appealed to landowners and stakeholders to extend their cooperation to facilitate progress on the project.

STARRED QUESTIONS QUERTIONS RAISED ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

During the Eight Session of the 14th NLA held at the NLA Hall, Kohima on 3rd March 2026, various starred questions were raised by members of the assembly.

Deputy Chief Minister, Y. Patton, replying to a starred question raised by MLA, Nuklutoshi regarding the establishment and status of Sadar areas in Nagaland, informed that Mokokchung district, as well as the newly created districts, have not yet submitted any proposals for the creation of Sadar areas within their respective jurisdictions. The criteria for defining a Sadar Area are based on administrative necessity. It usually covers a populated and commercially active zone requiring closer supervision for governance and maintenance of law.

He therefore appealed to the concerned Deputy Commissioners and administrative heads to forward formal proposals to the Government for consideration.

Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio also added that, as Nagaland is governed under the special provisions of Article 371(A), matters relating to administration—particularly concerning urban and village areas—require careful and distinct

handling in view of customary laws and practices. He emphasized that any decision regarding the establishment of Sadar areas would necessitate detailed study and due consultation before further action is taken.

With regard to Starred Question No. 3 raised by MLA, Tongpang Ozukum concerning the status of road construction from KM 101 to KM 125 (Doyang–Izheto) on National Highway 2, the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister-in-Charge, T. R. Zeliang, informed the House that as of 24th February 2026, the project had achieved the following progress: Physical Progress: 42.47%, Financial Progress: 41.38%. He further stated that the delay in execution of the project is primarily due to issues related to land compensation along the affected stretch.

Ongoing Police Recruitment

Replying to a question raised by Advisor Water Resources, Tongpang Ozukum regarding the no. of unfilled post in the police constable recruitment drive due to PET failure, on the third day of the Eighth Session at NLA Hall, Kohima on 9th March 2026. Deputy CM and Home Minister Yanthungo

Patton said that certain districts were unable to fill their allotted quota due to candidates failing the physical fitness test. He informed the House that Mokokchung has 43 unfilled posts, Longleng 1, Tseminyu 3, and Wokha 1, while Dimapur, Chumoukedima and Niuland together have 30 male and 2 female unfilled posts, bringing the total number of vacancies to 80.

Patton also said that there will be no separate recruitment for these vacancies, and the posts will also not be included in the next departmental recruitment advertisement. Instead, the backlog vacancies will be advertised separately by the department through a recruitment drive, and the posts will remain within the respective districts and tribes concerned.

Modernization Of Dimapur Railway Station

Replying to a question raised by MLA Nuklutoshi on the present status and progress of modernization of Dimapur Railway Station on 9th March 2026, Minister for Health & Family Welfare P. Pawang Konyak informed the House that the central government has allocated ₹283 crore for modernization of Dimapur Railway Station. He said the station remains the second highest revenue-earning railway station in the Northeast region. He further informed that both the concerned department and the landowners have written to the Ministry of Railways seeking compensation, and they are currently awaiting a response from the ministry.

Participating in the discussion, Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio stressed the need for an amicable settlement of land issues surrounding the station, emphasizing that the state cannot afford to lose the opportunity to develop and expand the crucial rail hub.

He pointed out that the station, established in 1903, existed long before Nagaland became a state in 1963, and that railway authorities had occupied the land before certain constitutional provisions relating to land ownership in the state were in place.

The Chief Minister observed that over the years, while railway authorities remained largely silent, encroachments gradually increased. He also noted that administrative authorities had regularized some of these encroachments over time, which has further complicated the present situation. Rio stressed that constructive dialogue between the state government and Indian Railways is necessary to find an amicable solution, particularly regarding compensation or other arrangements for landowners. While railway expansion projects toward Kohima and other areas are underway, he noted that Dimapur would continue to serve as the main railway station for the state.

Upgradation Of Wokha-Bokajan and Aghunato-Shamator Roads Under Active Consideration

Responding to the query regarding the proposed upgradation of the Wokha-Bokajan Road and the Aghunato-Shamator Road by MLA, Achumbemo Kikon, on



Minister for PWD (Roads & Bridges) G. Kaito Aye replying to a starred question during the Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall, Kohima on 10th March 2026.

10th March 2026 during the Eighth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall, Kohima. Minister for PWD (Roads & Bridges) G. Kaito Aye informed the House that four legislators from Wokha district had written to the Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in August 2024 seeking maintenance and improvement of the Wokha-Bokajan Road under PWD (R&B).

He stated that the matter has since been examined by the department. A technical survey of the road has already been completed and a concept note is currently being prepared. Kaito also added that the department is also exploring submission of a proposal to the government under a suitable funding scheme, and the matter is being actively pursued.

On the Aghunato-Shamator Road, Kaito informed that there is a proposal for its upgradation. Out of the total 69 kms of the road, 28 kms are currently under construction through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase III (PMGSY-III), while the remaining 41 kilometres will be taken up subsequently.

Guidelines For the Upgradation of Government Schools

Responding to a starred question raised by MLA, Nuklutoshi on whether the government has specific criteria and guidelines for the upgradation of Government schools. Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio stated that Nagaland already has established guidelines regarding the upgradation, merger and rationalisation of schools. He referred to the provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which stipulates that a primary school should be available within walking distance of 1km and an upper primary school within 3km of a neighbourhood.

He emphasized the need for an updated

census to support accurate planning and policymaking. He also noted ongoing efforts to strengthen data systems by linking Aadhaar with bank accounts using biometric identification, and added that civil society groups, church leaders, and community representatives will be involved to ensure reliable data collection.

Fire Incidents at Dzukou Valley

With regard to the starred question raised by MLA, Naiba Konyak on preventive measures undertaken to prevent forest fires at Dzukou Valley, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio informed that the department has undertaken several measures to prevent forest fires at Dzukou Valley. These include training of community volunteers from Western and Southern Angami areas in collaboration with the Angami Youth Organization (AYO) at Khonoma from March 3 to 9, 2025.

He added that the department will also take up establishment of watch towers for improved early detection of fires in high-risk zones, procurement of firefighting equipment such as beaters, drones and water backpacks, creation and maintenance of fire lines, training of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), installation of early warning systems including SMS alerts and sirens, and deployment of drone surveillance for monitoring inaccessible areas.

Modern Mechanical Workshop - Cum - Training Institute (MMWTI)

Replying to a starred question raised by MLA Nuklutoshi on Day 4 of the Eight Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall, Kohima on 10th March 2026, Minister for Housing and Mechanical Engineering, Bashangmongba Chang, informed the House that the Modern Mechanical Workshop - cum - Training

Institute (MMWTI) has begun training local youth in the operation and maintenance of heavy vehicles and machinery.

Chang said that the Institute, in collaboration with the Nagaland Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Mission, successfully trained 45 local youths between October and December. The trainees were provided training in various trades, including Backhoe Loader Operator, Track Excavator Operator, Tipper Truck Driver, Tandem Road Roller Operator, and Heavy Machinery Mechanic.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio expressed satisfaction that more Naga youths are undergoing technical training and entering in this line of work. Rio also assured that the government would be willing to provide additional funds, if required, to expand training programmes and strengthen skill development initiatives aimed at creating more employment opportunities for local youths in the state.

Multi - Disciplinary Sports Complex, Dimapur

Minister for Rural Development and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir in respond to a starred question raised by MLA, Nuklutoshi on 12th March 2026, seeking details on the total funds received and reasons for delay in completion of the Multi-Disciplinary Sports Complex (MDSC) in Dimapur. He informed the House that a total of ₹140 crore was received for the construction of the Multi-Disciplinary Sports Complex, Dimapur. He stated that ₹43 crore was received earlier from the Planning Commission during 2006-2007 to 2010-2011. However, no further funding was received after the transition to NITI Aayog. Subsequently, the State Government provided ₹97 crore over the years, taking the total funds received for the project to ₹140 crore.

Supplementing the reply, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio stated that the project was delayed due to limited financial resources and phased funding over the years. He informed that the total requirement for completion of the project is estimated at around ₹267 crore, including GST and other costs.

Rio said that considering the financial constraints, the government is exploring the option of handing over the Multi-Disciplinary Sports Complex to the Sports Authority of India (SAI). He stated that the second survey of the complex has already been conducted, and the only remaining step is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State Government and SAI.

He added that once handed over, SAI will not only assist in completing the construction but will also ensure full utilization of the facility, including the deployment of coaches and the establishment of national-standard training centers in different sports disciplines.

Issues In Border Areas

Responding to the query raised by MLA, Achumbemo Kikon regarding the current status of the Tchunjanphen and Lio-Longchym/Longayim police outposts. Deputy Chief Minister, Minister-in-charge of Border Affairs, Yanthungo Patton, informed the House that a temporary police outpost has been set up at present, while a proposal to establish a permanent outpost is under process and will be taken up at the earliest. With regard to the establishment of a permanent police outpost at Lio-Longchym, he said the matter is currently under examination by the State Government. He also informed that the government is examining to set up nine new police outposts in border villages.

During a series of supplementary

questions raised by Kikon, Patton stated that the State had withdrawn all police outposts following the 1972 Interim Agreement, whereas Assam has since established 63 permanent police outposts along the Assam-Nagaland border.

Replying to a starred question raised by MLA, Achumbemo Kikon on whether any plantation drive has been undertaken in the Disputed Area Belt (Ralan area) following the recent eviction drive, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Village Guards, C.L. John informed the House that no plantation drive has been carried out so far. However, he stated that the department is considering initiating such a drive in the coming months.

Responding to a supplementary question on whether Forest Guards have been posted to patrol the Reserve Forest in the DAB, the Minister said that the area is currently being patrolled by Neutral forces and that the State has not stationed any personnel there at present.

In another supplementary question raised by MLA, Achumbemo Kikon regarding whether any action has been taken by the concerned department on the issue of extending a power line from the Nagaland side to Tchunjanphen and neighboring villages in the border areas, Minister for Power & Parliamentary Affairs, K.G. Kenye stated that the department's attempt to provide electricity supply has been stalled. He explained that the Right of Way (RoW) for the proposed line passes through the disputed area, with a larger portion falling under Assam. However, he assured that the department is actively exploring an alternative route to provide power supply to the area.

Kikon also pointed out that several villages in the border areas, which are recognised by the state government during geo-tagging falls under Assam and should be properly demarcated during the census exercise. Sharing the concern, Minister for PHE & Cooperation, Jacob Zhimomi suggested writing to the concerned ministry or department to ensure real-time population data and correct geographical mapping of Nagaland. This, he said, would help ensure that the implementation of government schemes is not hindered and that people in border areas are not deprived of basic facilities and the benefits of government programmes.

CFC Food Processing Unit at Yaongyimsen

Chief Minister and Minister-in-charge of Industries & Commerce, Dr. Neiphiu Rio in reply to the query on the status of the CFC Food Processing Unit at Yaongyimsen and the expected date for its completion and the beginning of operations at the Processing Unit, said that the CFC Food Processing Unit at Yaongyimsen was likely to be completed and become operational within one year if the amount of 60 per cent Central Share is released by the ministry of MSME.

EMRS Projects At Phenshünyu and Kade

Member of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Jwenga Seb raised two starred questions in the House regarding the status of sanctioned Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in the state. Responding to the queries, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio provided a detailed report on the implementation of the scheme. He informed that the earlier phase of the scheme was implemented by the Planning Department, while the new phase is being implemented

by the Tribal Affairs Department. The Chief Minister also highlighted the physical and financial progress achieved so far under the scheme.

While expressing satisfaction with the reply, Seb raised supplementary questions referring to two EMRS projects at Phenshünyu in Tseminyu district and Kade, Phek district which was sanctioned in 2017 and 2016 respectively. He questioned why the projects were taking such a long time and sought details on the project costs of the sanctioned works.

Replying to the query, Minister for Tourism and Higher Education, Temjen Imna Along stated that the EMRS projects fall under a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. He informed the House that earlier phases of the scheme were handled by the Planning Department, and due to the passage of time and various factors, there were changes in the structural design of the EMRS school buildings.

He explained that during 2017-18, the scheme did not have the stringent guidelines

that exist today. He also noted that the introduction of GST and subsequent changes in guidelines had affected project execution.

Along further explained that teams from Delhi also carried out verification visits and the projects had to be modified to meet updated requirements along with other technical requirements. However, he assured that most of the issues were resolved a few months ago.

He added that the project costs in the first phase were smaller than the allocations under the later phases. Nevertheless, the Government of India has expressed willingness to release the full amount for the work already executed.

Regarding cost escalation, the Minister said the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is open to considering revised costs, provided the department submits legitimate justifications for the increase. He further stated that, as committed, the EMRS projects are expected to be completed and will be made operational by April 2027.

LAYING OF ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

The Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly resumed at NLA Hall, Kohima on 9th March 2026, with the presentation of annual administrative reports and the introduction of important government bills.

Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio presented to the House the Annual Administrative Reports for 2025-2026 of several departments. These included Municipal Affairs, Underdeveloped Areas, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Labour, Soil & Water Conservation, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Personnel and

Administrative Reforms, Election, Urban Development, and Excise & Prohibition.

Minister for Rural Development, Metsubo Jamir, also laid the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the Department of Rural Development before the House.

Minister for Public Health Engineering & Cooperation Jacob Zhimomi presented the reports of the Public Health Engineering and Cooperation departments, while Minister for Horticulture, Salhoutuonuo Kruse tabled the report for Department of Horticulture.

In addition, the Chief Minister laid before the Assembly the state's Economic

Survey 2025-26, the Nagaland Agriculture Policy 2025, the Nagaland State Disaster Management Plan and the Incident Response System (IRS) Guideline.

On 10th March, 2026 annual administrative reports of several departments were laid before the house.

Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio presented to the House the Annual Administrative Reports for 2025-2026 of several Departments namely: Nagaland State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., Technical Education, Water Resources, Legal Metrology and Consumer Protection, Sericulture, New & Renewable Energy and Food & Civil Supplies.

Deputy Chief Minister, Home, Yanthungo Patton presented to the House the Annual Administrative Reports for 2025-2026 of the Department of Home and Border Affairs.

Deputy Chief Minister, Planning & Transformation and National Highway, T R- Zeliang, presented to the House a copy of the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the Department of Planning & Transformation.

Minister for Power, K. G. Kenye, presented to the House a copy each of the Annual Administrative Reports 2025-2026 of the Department of Power and Electrical Inspectorate.

Minister of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, C. L. John presented to the House a copy of the Annual Administrative Report of the Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

Minister of Rural Development, Metsubo Jamir presented to the House a copy of the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD).

Minister for Women Resource, Salhoutuonuo Kruse, presented to the House a copy of the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the Department of Women Resource Development.

Minister of Higher Education, Temjen Imna Along presented to the House a copy of the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the Department of Higher Education.

On Day-5 of the Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall, Kohima on March 12, 2026, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio, presented to the House, the Annual Administrative Reports 2025-2026 of the following Departments: Agriculture, Science & Technology, Law & Justice, Information & Public Relations, Economics & Statistics, Land Revenue, State Council of Educational Research and Training, Information Technology & Communication, Art & Culture, Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Finance, Social Welfare and Land Resources.

Chief Minister also presented to the House, the Annual Reports 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 of the Nagaland Public Service Commission.

T. R. Zeliang, Deputy Chief Minister, Planning & Transformation and National Highway presented to the House, the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the Directorate of Evaluation.

K. G. Kenye, Minister, Parliamentary Affairs presented to the House, the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the Department of School Education.

P. Paiwang Konyak, Minister, Health & Family Welfare presented to the House, the Annual Administrative Reports 2025-2026 of the Health & Family Welfare and Transport Department.

Metsubo Jamir, Minister, presented to the House, the Annual Administrative Reports 2025-2026 of the Industries and Commerce and Youth Resources & Sports Department.

Temjen Imna Along, Minister of Tourism presented to the House, the Annual Administrative Reports 2025-2026 of the Departments of Tourism and Tribal Affairs.

P. Bashangmongba Chang, Minister of Housing & Mechanical Engineer presented to the House, the Annual Administrative Report 2025-2026 of the Nagaland Public Works Department.

LAYING OF ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (2025 - 2026), Mhathung Yanthan, presented a copy each of the following reports on the fourth day of the Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 10th March 2026.

139th Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) On the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 132nd Report of the Committee on the C&AG Report of India for the year 2017-2018 on the State Finances Audit Report.

140th Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) On the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 133rd Report of the Committee on the C&AG Report of India for the year 2017-2018.

141st Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) On the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the

134th Report of the Committee on the C&AG Report of India for the year 2018-2019 on the State Finances Audit Report.

142nd Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) On the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 135th Report of the Committee on the C& AG Report of India for the year 2018-2019.

Er. Kropol Vitsu, Member of the Public Accounts Committee (2025-2026) laid before the house the following reports on March 12, 2026 during the Eighth Session of 14th NLA:

143rd Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) On the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 136th Report of the Committee on the C&AG Report of India for the year 2018-2019 on the Performance Audit of Select District Hospitals.

144th Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) On the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 137th Report of the Committee on the C&AG Report of India for the year 2019-2020 on the State Finances Audit Report

145th Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) on the examination of the Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2020-2021 on the State Finances Audit Report.

146th Report of The Committee on Public Accounts (2025-2026) on the examination of the Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the year 2021-2022 on Social, Economic, General and Revenue Sectors.

CALL FOR GREATER SUPPORT TO MSMEs AND NANO-ENTREPRENEURS IN NAGALAND

On the 4th Day of the Eight Session of August House, at NLA Hall, Kohima on 10th March 2026. Advisor, Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu raised an urgent matter on "Critical Role of MSME in improving Nagaland's Economy" under Rule- 50.

During the discussion, Hekani addressed the growth and challenges of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nagaland and highlighted the crucial role of the sector in driving the state's economy, while also stressing the need for greater policy support and financial access for small entrepreneurs.

She highlighted the importance of MSMEs in Nagaland's economy, describing them as a key driver of employment and local growth. She noted that formalization through Udyam registration has significantly improved, increasing from about 27,000 MSMEs in 2023-24 to over 48,000 after the launch of the RAMP scheme on 27th August 2024, creating thousands of jobs. The state also has a growing start-up ecosystem with 267 registered start-ups, including 92 private limited companies, which have generated a revenue of around ₹74 crore and created more than 1,500 jobs during the 2024-25 period.

Despite these achievements, Hekani pointed out major challenges, including limited access to finance, poor banking infrastructure, unreliable power supply, high energy costs, bad road connectivity and issues with taxation, all of which hinder business growth and discourage investment.

She emphasized the need for long-term planning aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047 and

stressed special focus on nano-enterprises, which make up about 95% of businesses but lack access to formal credit. She suggested revisiting existing financial schemes such as the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative (CMMFI) and consider provisions specifically designed for nano-entrepreneurs to simplify financial support and provide small loans to meet their immediate needs.

Jakhalu concluded that with better policies and targeted support, MSMEs and entrepreneurs can drive Nagaland toward a self-reliant economy and achieve the vision of Viksit Nagaland 2047.

Participating in the discussion Advisor Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe pointed out opportunities in sectors like home-based production, food processing, handloom, and handicrafts, which can generate jobs, especially for youth. To tackle unemployment, he suggested vocational training in skills such as masonry, plumbing, and electrical work at district levels.

Nyuthe also recommended introducing job-oriented subjects in schools from Class 5 to 12 to build skills early and stressed the importance of community cooperation and youth participation in business. He concluded that with proper skill development and MSME support, the sector can drive sustainable livelihoods and economic progress in Nagaland.

Advisor for Civil Administration Works Division and Taxes, Kudecho Khamo participating in the discussion appreciated government initiatives like RAMP, NEIF 2035, NSEDM, and CMMFI, along with digital efforts such as the "My MSME" app and a women-led BPO centre in

Dimapur. He encouraged youth to pursue entrepreneurship instead of relying solely on government jobs.

He also urged banks to provide more support to MSMEs and emphasized that collaboration between the government, financial institutions, and entrepreneurs is vital. He concluded that with proper support, MSMEs can drive Nagaland's economic growth and development.

While discussing on the same issue, MLA Jwenga Seb suggested creating innovative credit mechanisms in collaboration with institutions like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). He also called for the establishment of MSME and agro-processing clusters with plug-and-play infrastructure and the promotion of a strong "Made in Nagaland" branding campaign to expand market access for local products.

He concluded that strengthening MSMEs is essential for transforming Nagaland from a consumer state into a producer economy.

Speaking on the issue Advisor Wangpang Konyak stated that in the absence of large industries, MSMEs are the most important source of employment in Nagaland, especially for rural youth. He emphasized that activities like food processing, bamboo furniture, weaving, and spice production can increase farmers' income through value

addition. MSMEs also help preserve Naga cultural heritage by supporting traditional crafts and artisans.

Konyak called for better infrastructure such as cold storage, warehouses, and rural markets to reduce losses and support businesses. He also stressed the role of self-help groups under the National Rural Livelihood Mission in encouraging micro-entrepreneurship.

He concluded by emphasizing the need for supportive policies, affordable finance, subsidies, credit support, and training to help MSMEs grow sustainably.

In his closing remark on the Matter of Urgent Public Importance in the House, Speaker NLA Sharingain Longkumer noted that around 48,000 MSMEs are currently registered in the state. He appreciated the Department of Industries and Commerce for presenting a comprehensive data analysis on the sector.

The Speaker said that if the data is evenly distributed, each assembly constituency could have around 800 registered enterprises. He encouraged legislators to examine how many of these are nano and micro enterprises and assess their turnover and contribution to the local economy.

Longkumer also urged members of the House to coordinate with the concerned department and contribute inputs to strengthen policies and support MSME growth in their respective constituencies.

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON CRITICAL ROLE OF MSME BY CM

Concluding the discussion on the critical role of MSMEs in improving Nagaland's economy during the Eighth Session of the 14th NLA on 10th March 2026, Chief Minister Dr. Neiphiu Rio highlighted the steady

expansion of the sector and the various initiatives undertaken by the government to promote enterprise development.

As of 9th March 2026, Rio said that a total of 48,655 enterprises have been

registered on the Udyam portal in the State. Of these, 48,464 are micro enterprises, most of which fall under nano enterprises with a turnover below ₹25 lakh, while 175 are small enterprises and 16 are medium enterprises.

Under the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative (CMMFI), 777 MSME units have been established since its inception, generating investments of over ₹65 crore through government subsidy support and credit linkages. These enterprises, mainly in transport services, retail trade, hospitality and small manufacturing, are expected to create more than 1,500 direct employment opportunities across the state.

The Chief Minister also informed that 13 MSME development projects are currently under implementation, while 15 additional projects have been submitted to the Union Ministry of MSME for approval. These projects aim to strengthen industrial infrastructure and promote cluster-based development to improve productivity and competitiveness.

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), he said that the target for the financial year 2025-26 is 454 projects, of which 66 have already been sanctioned by banks. Over the past five years, 3,715 beneficiaries have been supported through the scheme.

Rio further mentioned that the state is also implementing programmes such as the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) initiative to enhance MSME competitiveness through capacity building, registration drives and buyer-seller meets. Additionally, he said that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme has received over 25,000 artisan applications, with training and financial assistance being facilitated.

Efforts are also being made to promote

cluster-based development and value addition in sectors such as food processing, handicrafts, handloom and agro-based industries, which hold strong potential in the state. The government is also examining provisions to ensure that a certain percentage of government procurement is sourced from indigenous MSME enterprises.

To support traditional weaving communities, Rio informed that the state government is working on establishing a Yarn Bank in Nagaland which will ensure the steady availability of quality yarn at affordable rates, reduce production costs and enable local artisans to maintain consistent output while promoting traditional Naga textile designs in wider markets.

On the skilling front, Chief Minister added that the Nagaland Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Mission (NSEDMD) have enrolled 3,091 candidates in various training programmes as of February 2026. Out of these, 2,365 candidates have completed training, while 495 are currently undergoing training, with further training phases planned to meet the target of skilling 5,000 youth.

The government is also promoting enterprise development in the agriculture and allied sectors, with Nagaland emerging as a strong performer in the Export Preparedness Index 2024, ranking third among small states. Coffee from the state is currently being exported to the UAE, with demand growing from Bahrain, Europe, South Korea, Singapore and Japan. Pineapple and processed king chilli are also being exported to international markets.

While highlighting these developments, Rio acknowledged that MSMEs still faces challenges related to access to credit, bank approvals and market linkages. The state

is working with banks, district industries centres and other stakeholders to address these issues and provide timely support to entrepreneurs. He requested the legislatures to encourage the youths in their own constituencies.

Rio concluded by saying that the

government will continue to focus on improving the ease of doing business, strengthening financial support systems and promoting innovation to ensure that MSMEs grows into sustainable and competitive enterprises in Nagaland.

KG KENYE LAUDS LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Minister for Power and Parliamentary Affairs, K.G. Kenye, while making a statement under Rule 55 and Rule 54 during the Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall in Kohima on March 12, 2026, commended the Leader of the House and Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio for his efforts to promote the MSME sector in the state.

Referring to the earlier discussion on the topic "Critical Role of MSMEs in Improving Nagaland's Economy," Kenye noted that the



Minister for Power and Parliamentary Affairs, K.G. Kenye making a statement during the Eighth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall in Kohima on 12th March 2026.

House held a constructive and healthy debate on the importance of MSMEs, during which several pertinent issues affecting the growth of the sector in the state were raised.

He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister on behalf of the people of Nagaland for responding positively to the concerns highlighted during the discussion. Kenye acknowledged the Chief Minister's announcement of an increase of ₹20 lakh to the existing ₹2 crore allocated under the LADP fund for all legislators. The additional allocation, he said, would be utilized exclusively to promote MSME activities within their respective constituencies.

Kenye stated that the enhancement of the LADP fund would have a meaningful impact on the lives of many people in the state and help address the immediate needs of the working class. He added that one of the major challenges faced by the MSME sector has been the lack of adequate funding, which he believes will now be partly addressed through the increased LADP allocation, thereby directly benefiting people in rural areas.

CM DR. NEIPHIU RIO PRESENTS STATE BUDGET 2026-27

Chief Minister of Nagaland, Dr. Neiphiu Rio on 26th March 2026 presented the State Budget for 2026-27 during the Phase-II of the 8th Session of the 14th Nagaland

Legislative Assembly, describing it as a strategic roadmap for achieving "Developed Nagaland @ 2047."

Dr. Rio began by congratulating the

people of the eastern districts on the signing of the agreement for the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNATA), terming it a historic step towards enhanced participatory governance. He informed the House that the FNATA Bill is being tabled in the current session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly and that efforts are underway to expedite the formation of an interim body.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to resolving the Naga political issue, the Chief Minister highlighted the constitution of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC), comprising ministers, tribal representatives, political parties, and MPs. He noted that a Sub-Committee under his chairmanship is further intensifying efforts. He also informed that following a meeting with the Union Home Minister on February 5, 2026, the Centre has initiated the formation of a committee led by a Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs to monitor and advance the peace talks.

On fiscal matters, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the Sixteenth Finance Commission's revised devolution formula, which reduces Nagaland's share in central taxes by about 15 percent—from 0.569% to 0.481%. As a result, the State is projected to receive ₹7,341 crore in 2026-27, compared to ₹8,684 crore under the previous formula.

He also flagged the adverse impact of the discontinuation of Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants. Referring to his meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 4, 2026, he said the State has sought continued grants-in-aid to address an anticipated fiscal shortfall and safeguard Nagaland's unique constitutional status.

Emphasizing fiscal discipline, the Chief Minister noted concerns raised by



Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio presenting Budget 2026-2027 during the Eighth Session of the 14th NLA at NLA Hall, Kohima on 26th March 2026.

Finance Commissions over high revenue expenditure, particularly on salaries. He reiterated the government's commitment to fiscal consolidation through improved revenue generation, controlled expenditure, and deficit management, while ensuring sustained development.

New Initiatives Under Budget 2026-27

Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio under the budget 2026-27 announced a series of major new initiatives, focusing on governance reforms, women empowerment, social development, and economic growth, backed by targeted allocations and structural reforms.

For the first time, the State introduced an SDG-linked budget framework, a Gender Budget Statement, and outcome budgeting to strengthen accountability, monitoring, and outcome-based planning across departments under a "whole-of-government" approach.

Women-centric initiatives featured prominently, with ₹2 crore allocated for an Innovation Seed Fund to support 1,000 nano women entrepreneurs through easy, collateral-free financial assistance and

banking linkages. The government will also introduce 50 Pink Scooty Taxis across three districts to promote women's participation in the transport sector, alongside the establishment of crèches in major government offices, beginning with the Civil Secretariat. Capacity building of public servants will continue with an allocation of ₹2 crore, including training in gender-responsive planning.

To strengthen water security, the government will launch the Nagaland Strategic Water Resilience Initiative with an allocation of ₹24 crore. The programme will focus on creation of water bodies, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and strategic storage systems across all district headquarters in a phased manner to improve climate resilience.

In the energy sector, ₹11 crore has been allocated for the Chief Minister's Community Solar Partnership Initiative under the Nagaland Solar Mission. The scheme aims to install 3 kW grid-connected rooftop solar systems in all Village Council buildings, reducing dependence on power imports while generating community revenue and promoting a green economy.

For environmental sustainability, initiatives under the green economy (allocation not specified) will promote eco-friendly livelihoods through programmes such as NEPED and the Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency (NBDA), including bamboo charcoal and briquette value chains, with potential to boost MSMEs.

In the area of skill development and employment, ₹5 crore has been earmarked to expand the Nagaland Skill & Entrepreneurship Development Mission (NSEDMD), with a focus on entrepreneurship, livelihood generation, and women-centric

interventions.

Additionally, ₹50 lakh has been allocated for the launch of the Nagaland Apprenticeship and Placement Exchange (NAPEX), a platform designed to connect job seekers with employers, create a workforce registry, and support employment opportunities, including for Nagas working outside the State. The platform will also be integrated with the Chief Minister's Life Insurance Scheme (CMLIS) to provide social security coverage.

Education and youth development remain key priorities, with new initiatives such as the Nagaland Academic Excellence Corpus with an allocation of 1 crore aimed at upskilling faculty in emerging sectors like AI, digital economy, and green technologies. Additional schemes include the Chief Minister's STEM Incentive Programme and the Nagaland Open Learning Support Scheme (allocations not specified) to support technical education and bring out-of-school youth into the workforce with an allocation of ₹1 crore each.

Social sector initiatives include ₹50 lakh for the Community Wellbeing Initiative to promote mental wellbeing and social cohesion, and ₹2 crore for the Cleanliness Performance Incentive to reward local bodies for improvements in sanitation and waste management.

In sports, ₹3 crore has been allocated for the Chief Minister's Sports Advancement Initiative to train athletes in five priority disciplines—archery, badminton, sepaktakraw, table tennis, and taekwondo—with a long-term goal of Olympic participation.

To strengthen revenue mobilisation and fiscal sustainability, the government will establish a Revenue and Development

Fund Mobilisation Cell with an allocation of ₹1 crore and an Integrated Land Revenue Mobilisation Initiative with an allocation of ₹1 crore. Key digital reforms include the rollout of e-stamps and the e-GRAS platform to improve transparency, plug revenue leakages, and enhance ease of doing business.

On the economic front, the Nagaland Gross Value-Addition Promotion Initiative, a sub component of Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative, will provide incentives of up to ₹10 lakh to promote entrepreneurship and boost GSDP. The government has also allocated ₹5 crore for the Agro-based Produce Logistic Support Scheme to improve market access, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance farmers' income.

Additionally, the Nagaland Weavers' Advancement and Market Formalisation initiative with an allocation of ₹1 crore will support traditional artisans through improved market linkages, GI tagging, and integration into the formal economy.

Dr. Rio said these initiatives underscore the government's commitment to fostering an inclusive, sustainable, and growth-oriented ecosystem aligned with the vision of "Developed Nagaland @ 2047."

Nagaland Budget 2026-27: Key Sector-wise Allocations and Initiatives
Agriculture and Allied Sector – Total Allocation: ₹21.09 crore

- **Agriculture Department** – ₹10.95 crore for Agri infrastructure and Agri Park at Kisama Heritage Village.

- **Horticulture Department** – ₹6.55 crore for post-harvest management and value addition of strawberry, development of flower cluster model villages, and Horti infrastructure in Shamator.

- **Soil & Water Conservation** – ₹3.59 crore for Comprehensive Sustainable

Land Development and other infrastructure projects.

- **Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services** – ₹6.20 crore to strengthen dispensaries, health centers, resource centers, rural livestock promotion, and control of African Swine Flu.

- **Fisheries & Aquatic Services** – ₹4.20 crore for cluster-based fisheries development and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs).

- **Environment, Forest & Climate Change** – ₹5.50 crore for High-Tech Nursery, Agarwood plantation, and conservation initiatives.

- **Cooperation Department** – ₹6.17 crore for construction of ARCS Offices in Niuland, Peren, Mokokchung, Wokha, and Zunheboto.

- **Land Resources Department** – ₹6.25 crore for promotion of coffee plantations, Coffee Cafe, adaptation stations, and nursery development.

- **Sericulture Department** – ₹5.30 crore for Eri silk development, spinning & reeling units, and departmental infrastructure.

- **Rural Development Department** – ₹5 crore for BDO offices, rural roads, and Directorate complex improvements.

- **State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD)** – ₹4 crore for Administrative-cum-Academic Block and training programmes.

- **Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency, Bio resources and Aromatic Plant, Bee and Honey Mission, Nagaland Empowerment of People through Economic Development (NEPED) and Hygroger**

(NEPed) - all allocated ₹1 crore each

Land and Development – Key Allocations

- **Land Revenue Department** – ₹4.85 crore for DGPS procurement and office buildings; ₹200 crore for Land Bank.

- **Development of Under Developed Areas (DUDA)** – ₹20.19 crore for human resource development, staff quarters, and iconic projects.

Power and Renewable Energy

- **Power Distribution & Revenue** – ₹9.29 crore for substations, transformers, and line upgrades in Wokha, Phek, and Peren.

- **Transmission & Generation** – ₹11.42 crore for departmental infrastructure.

- **New & Renewable Energy** – ₹3 crore for 150 kW Thiza Ru Hydel Project, solar water heaters, and solar home lighting.

- **Electrical Inspectorate** – ₹1 crore for Green Village initiatives.

Industries and Commerce – Total Allocation: ₹9.75 crore

- Initiatives include Ease of Doing Business, Startup Nagaland Programme, MSME promotion, India Industrial Land Bank, export promotion, and infrastructure at Avangkhu ITC.

- Additional allocations: NHHDC, NKVIB, NHTDC Ltd. ₹1 crore each and NTTCC – ₹50 lakh.

Geology and Mining – ₹7.50 crore

- Mineral connectivity infrastructure, groundwater development, strategic mineral exploration, Mining Governance & Resource Management Centre, GIS-based assessment of minor minerals.

- **Nagaland State Mineral Development Corporation** – ₹2.39 crore.

Roads, Transport, and Mechanical

- **Roads & Bridges** – ₹30 crore for

road improvement, bridge rehabilitation, and Trans-Nagaland Highway development.

- **Mechanical Department** – ₹3 crore for heavy machinery procurement.

- **Road Transport Department** – ₹9.41 crore for garages, sub-stations, workshops, bus sheds, and helipad maintenance.

- **Motor Vehicles Department** – ₹4 crore for office buildings, staff quarters, and eco-friendly transport policy formulation.

Science, Technology & IT

- **Science & Technology Department** – ₹2.82 crore for infrastructure and Nagaland Science Mission.

- **Information Technology & Communication** – ₹5.35 crore for software development, State Data Centre enhancement, AI-enabled platforms, and Nagaland Innovation Hub in Chumoukedima.

Planning & Development Funds

- **Planning Machinery** – ₹7.38 crore for SDPDB conference halls and other infrastructure.

- **State Matching Share to CSS** – ₹250 crore.

- Other allocations: Special Development Programme – ₹12 crore; SDG initiatives – ₹2.5 crore; NIoT – ₹1 crore; Aspirational Districts & Blocks – ₹1.5 crore; LADP – ₹132 crore; UDAP – ₹50 lakh per area.

Art, Culture & Tourism

- **Art & Culture** – ₹7.45 crore for cultural halls, exhibition spaces, traditional structures, and Hornbill Festival support.

- **Tourism Department** – ₹17.20 crore for Hornbill and Mini Hornbill Festivals, office buildings, eco-tourism, and infrastructure.

- **Education – Total Allocation: ₹30.38 crore**

- **School Education** – ₹12.89 crore for DEO/SDEO offices and school infrastructure.

- **Higher Education** – ₹11.05 crore for classrooms, academic buildings, hostels, toilets, and hall upgrades.

- **SCERT** – ₹3.24 crore for textbooks (KG2–Class 8) and infrastructure.

- **Technical Education** – ₹3.20 crore for AI & ML lab hostels, and power connections.

Youth, Sports & Welfare Departments

- **Youth Resources & Sports** – ₹10.43 crore for departmental buildings, youth empowerment, sports, and tournaments.

- **Health & Family Welfare** – ₹10.10 crore for CHCs, PHCs, offices, staff quarters, and sub-centres.

- **Public Health Engineering** – ₹6.22 crore for water supply improvements, departmental infrastructure, online billing, and rainwater harvesting.

- **Housing** – ₹31.15 crore for rental housing, staff quarters, rest houses, and offices.

- **CAWD** – ₹26 crore for office buildings, quarters, and rest houses.

- **Police Housing** – ₹13.57 crore for offices, stations, barracks, and upgrades.

- **Law and Justice Department** – ₹2.63 crore for various construction activities.

- **Home Guards** – ₹3.29 crore for construction of Departmental infrastructure.

- **Jails (Prison) Housing Department** – ₹5.61 crore for construction of Departmental infrastructure.

- **Excise Department** – ₹3.20 crore for construction of buildings in Phek, Peren

and Dimapur.

Urban Development & Green Field Cities

- Nagaland awarded ₹100 crore for Nagaki City development under Central Government's Green Field Cities Competition (2025–26).

- **Urban Development** – ₹17.49 crore for roads, infrastructure, and drainage.

- **Municipal Affairs** – ₹4.40 crore for sanitation, sewerage, and solid waste management.

- **State Finance Commission** – ₹15.83 crore as share-in-taxes; ₹9.16 crore as grant-in-aid.

Other Departments & Services

- **Information & Public Relations** – ₹4.39 crore for AVGC-XR, films, and creative technology.

- **Economics and Statistics Department** – ₹4.71 crore for construction of District Offices in Wokha, Kiphire, and Tseminyu, construction of staff quarters at Tuensang and Peren and various repairs and renovation of departmental infrastructure.

- **Food and Civil Supplies Department** – ₹4.74 crore for construction of office buildings in Tuensang, Peren, and Zunheboto and construction of godowns at various locations.

- **Legal Metrology and Consumer Protection Department** – ₹2.62 crore for construction and upgradation of various departmental buildings, trainings and consumer awareness programs.

- **Evaluation Department** – ₹2.87 crore for various construction works and conducting evaluation studies.

- **Labour Department** – ₹2.97 crore for office buildings and social security

centres.

• **Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** – ₹4.70 crore for rural youth/women skilling and office infrastructure.

• **Social Welfare** – ₹5.29 crore for departmental infrastructure.

• **Women Resources** – ₹4.30 crore for Transformative Livelihood Intervention project.

• **General Services** – ₹22.10 crore including Fire & Emergency Services (₹10.50 crore), Nagaland Legislative Assembly (₹7 crore), ATI (₹1.80 crore), Printing & Stationery (₹2.80 crore).

• **Treasuries & Accounts** – ₹4 crore for office-cum-staff quarters.

• **Parliamentary Affairs** – ₹2.20 crore

• **Taxes Department** – ₹4.30 crore.

• **Village Guards** – ₹5.56 crore for 18 barracks.

• **Border Affairs** – ₹2 crore

• **Election Department** – ₹4.01 crore.

• **NSDMA (Home)** – ₹3.50 crore for disaster response tech, HAM radio stations;

• ₹1.20 crore for up gradation of Nagaland house in RK Puram and salt lake.

• **Tribal Affairs** – ₹5.60 crore for directorate, staff quarters, and Tribal Arena at Kisama.

• **Minority Affairs** – ₹4.50 crore for directorate, women marketing outlets and Holy Land Tour.

• **State Lotteries** – ₹ 1 crore for construction of new directorate building at New Capital Complex, Thizama, Kohima.

Grant for FNTA

₹100.57 crore has been allocated as Grants to FNTA, which is the proportional allocation of the total divisible pool of the

State development fund after netting out the State-wide obligations including the non-transferred Departments.

Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio stated that the State's fiscal health has improved significantly, with the closing deficit for 2025-26 now estimated at ₹411.81 crore, down from the earlier projection of ₹843.21 crore. As regard to the Budget estimates for 2026-27, gross receipts at ₹22,507.10 crore and gross expenditure at ₹22,127.33 crore.

The breakdown is as follows:

Receipts (₹ in crore)

• State's Own Tax & Non-Tax Revenue: 2,714.44

• State's Share in Central Taxes: 7,341.28

• Central Assistance (Grants & Loans): 9,471.08

• Internal Debt: 2,978.77

• Recovery of Loans & Advances: 1.53

• **Total:** 22,507.10

Expenditure (₹ in crore)

• Non-Development (excluding debt servicing): 13,337.51

• Debt Servicing (including WMA repayment): 2,618.74

• Development Expenditure (including CSS, etc.): 6,171.08

• **Total:** 22,127.33

The Budget projects a net surplus of ₹74.77 crore, but accounting for the negative opening balance of ₹411.81 crore, the year is expected to close with a net deficit of ₹337.04 crore.

The Budget aligns with the State's broader goal of contributing to a developed India by 2047, focusing on balanced development, fiscal prudence, and creating a resilient and inclusive society.

INTRODUCTION AND PASSING OF GOVERNMENT BILLS DURING THE EIGHTH SESSION

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly passed the Nagaland Town and Country Planning (Fifth Amendment) Act, 2025 and the Nagaland Shops and Establishments (First Amendment) Act, 2025 on 10th March 2026 during the eighth session, after they were introduced by the Chief Minister on 9th March 2026.

Later, during Phase-II of the same session on 26th March 2026, Deputy Chief

Minister Yanthungo Patton introduced two government bills: the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026 and the Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026. While the Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 was passed, the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026 was deferred on 27th March 2026 for consideration in a future emergent session of the Assembly.

STATEMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER DR. NEIPHIU RIO ON THE FNTA BILL 2026 ON 27th MARCH 2026

1. I thank you for giving me the time to speak on the very important matter concerning the enactment of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority, Act 2026 for the constitution of the FNTA.

2. Speaker Sir, our Government has consistently striven to ensure equity and inclusiveness in development across all sections of our people and all regions of the State. However, as we are all aware, owing to various historical reasons and geographical challenges, the districts of the Eastern Nagaland Region have suffered significant developmental deficits. These areas have not been able to attain the same levels of progress as other parts of the State. Despite our continued initiatives and interventions, the enormity of the developmental gap, coupled with our limited resources, has meant that these regions continue to lag behind on several key indicators.

3. In order to fulfill their aspirations, the people of Eastern Nagaland have expressed their desire for an institutional arrangement in the form of the Frontier Nagaland

Territorial Authority. The State Government, fully appreciating and understanding these aspirations, extended its support and worked jointly with the Government of India in holding consultations and building consensus. This process culminated in the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on 5th February, 2026, between the Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) for the establishment of the FNTA within the State of Nagaland.

4. The Frontier Nagaland Territory as everyone is aware will comprise six districts of Eastern Nagaland Region, namely Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire, Noklak and Shamator of the State of Nagaland.

5. Speaker Sir, the objective of constituting the FNTA is to establish a unique self-governing Territorial Authority that will enable the people of Eastern Nagaland to fulfill their social, economic, educational, cultural, and linguistic aspirations. It will also provide for democratic, decentralised self-governance at the regional level within

the State of Nagaland.

6. Speaker Sir, with the constitution of FNTA, it is also envisaged for a comprehensive economic development of the Eastern Nagaland Region aligning its process with the rest of the State. The State Government will be allocating funds to FNTA based on its population and size, and also the Government of India, keeping in view, the under-development and lack of Infrastructure in Eastern Nagaland Region will be sanctioning requisite Funds under various schemes or programme of the Ministry as Special Development Grants for development of infrastructure within FNTA and for which, the FNTA will themselves identify such development projects in consultation with the State Government.

7. The FNTA will also prepare its own Annual Plan within the allocated funds for the departments and subjects under its control and will have its own planning/finance set-up to formulate development plans based on grassroots needs. The State Government on its part will ensure timely release of funds in accordance with laid-down norms of the State Government as well as the Central Government.

8. Speaker Sir, I would now like to briefly outline the process followed in preparing the Bill for the constitution of the FNTA. As per Clause 3.3 of the Memorandum of Agreement, the FNTA is to be constituted under a special legislation to be enacted by the State Government in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

9. The concerned Departments of the State, following the signing of the MoA started preparing the Bill by incorporating the various provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed on 05.02.2026 between the Govt. of India, Govt. of

Nagaland, and Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organization, for the creation of FNT/FNTA.

10. The State Cabinet met on 26.02.2026 and deliberated on the draft Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill prepared by the Law and Justice Department. The Cabinet noted that the provisions of the MoA, inter alia, envisaged to give legislative powers to FNTA.

11. The views of the Learned Advocate General, who was present in the meeting, were also sought. The Learned Advocate General opined that, under the constitutional scheme, legislative powers cannot be conferred on the FNTA through a State legislation.

12. Upon further deliberation, the Cabinet observed that the State Government does not possess the legislative competence to delegate powers equivalent to its own or to transfer its legislative authority to another body/authority.

13. Accordingly, the Cabinet directed the Chief Secretary to bring the opinion of the Ld. Advocate General, and its observation, in respect to the legislative powers for FNTA, to the notice of MHA. A copy of the communication sent to MHA was also directed to be provided to the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO).

14. In compliance, the State Government addressed a communication to the Ministry of Home Affairs on 6th March, 2026, regarding the issue of legislative powers under Clause 3.3 of the MoA, with a copy to the ENPO.

15. On 10.03.2026, a communication was received from MHA wherein the State Government was requested to initiate action in terms of Clause no. 3.3 of MoA for constitution of FNT/FNTA under a State Legislation to be enacted by the State

Government in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs as per the provisions of MoA, and to send the draft proposal in this regard to the MHA.

16. In the midst of all the above development, I also had discussion with the Union Home Secretary on 16.03.2026 wherein the MoA signed between the Govt. of Nagaland with Govt. of India and ENPO, was discussed, and the need for early constitution of FNTA was also stressed upon.

17. Subsequently the draft Bill prepared by the Law & Justice Department of the State was further examined, and after being vetted by the Ld. Advocate General of the State, a copy of the same was then sent to MHA on 17.03.2026 in terms of clause 3.3 of the MoA.

18. Meanwhile, the representatives of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) met me on 24.03.2026 and the matter regarding constitution of FNTA was discussed. A representation was also submitted wherein the ENPO on behalf of the 8(eight) Tribes of Eastern Nagaland, requesting that the FNTA Bill be passed before their forthcoming Central Executive Council meeting scheduled for 30th March, 2026.

19. In view of these developments, the Cabinet met again on 25th March, 2026 and further deliberated on the provisions of the draft Bill and taking into account the request of the ENPO and also the fact that the session of the NLA is concluding on 27.03.2026, decided to approve the draft Bill with further modifications as considered necessary, and for tabling in the ongoing Session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.

20. Accordingly, the Bill for the constitution of the FNTA was tabled in this House yesterday, i.e. 26.03.2026.

21. However, yesterday evening, I was contacted by the Ministry of Home Affairs conveying that the matter regarding the conferral of legislative powers to the FNTA, which had earlier been raised by the State Government in its communication, is still under examination. The Ministry further informed that the opinion of the Learned Solicitor General of India is being sought on the issue. The State Government has accordingly been requested to allow some more time to the Ministry and to take up any further action with regard to the FNTA Bill only after receipt of their views and opinion.

22. Further, in the evening of 26th March, 2026, the ENPO has submitted an appeal requesting that the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement signed on 5th February, 2026, be upheld while passing the FNTA Bill, 2026.

23. Again, yesterday evening, ENLU has submitted a letter to Minister, Parliamentary Affairs, wherein the ENPO letter dated 26th March, 2026 has been referred to, and it has requested to consider deferring the passage of the FNTA Bill until such time that all the concerns are adequately addressed and clarity is attained on the MoA

24. Speaker Sir, in view of the request made by the Government of India, which is a signatory to the Memorandum of Agreement, and the appeal of ENPO and the request made by ENLU, and keeping in mind the necessity of ensuring that the provisions of the MoA are addressed in a legally sound and constitutionally tenable manner, I propose that the consideration and passing of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026 be deferred, and that the Bill be referred back to the Government for further examination.

REPORT ON ASSENT OF BILLS

The Secretary-in-Charge, NLA, Khruohituoouo Rio, on the second day of the 8th session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly at NLA Hall, Kohima on 3rd March 2026, reported on Assent of the Governor to the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (Validation) Bill, 2025; the Nagaland Flood Plain Zoning Bill 2025 and the Nagaland State Finance Commissioner Bill 2025.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS/ RULES

On 26th March 2026, the Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio, presented to the House copies of each of the following:

1. Report of the Fourth Nagaland State Finance Commission (2026-27 to 2030-31) Part I (Urban Local Bodies) and the Explanatory Memorandum as to the action taken on the recommendations of the Commission in its report.

2. Report of the Fourth Nagaland State Finance Commission (1st April, 2024 to 31st March, 2026) Part II (Rural Local Bodies) and the Explanatory Memorandum as to the action taken on the recommendations of the Commission in its report.

3. Gender Budget Statement for the year 2026-27.

Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio also presented four reports which included:

1. Report No. 2 of 2025 (Civil and Commercial) Social (including Local Governments Audit), Economic, General and Revenue Sectors for the year ended 31st March 2023.

2. Finance Accounts (Volume-I) 2024-2025.

3. Finance Accounts (Volume-II) 2024-2025.

4. Appropriation Accounts 2024-2025.

Dr. Rio also presented the Review of the Trends in Receipts and Expenditure for the First, Second and Third quarter of the year 2025-26, as required under Section 11 of the Nagaland Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005.

BUDGET DOCUMENTS PASSED DURING THE 8th SESSION OF THE 14th NLA

The following budget document were passed on 27th March 2026, during Phase-II of the Eight Session of the 14th NLA at NLA Hall, Kohima.

1. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 2026 Regularization of excess expenditure for the year 2018-2019.

2. The Nagaland Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2026 Regularization of excess expenditure for the year 2019-2020.

3. The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026(Supplementary 2025-2026).

4. The Nagaland Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2026 (Budget 2026-2027).

The Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer, adjourned the House sine die following the successful conclusion of the 8th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 27th March 2026.

EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS DISTRICT-WIDE PWD REGISTRATION DRIVES

Under the DREAM Nagaland initiative, the Department of Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship conducted a special registration campaign for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) from March 1st to 31st, 2026. The drive aimed to ensure inclusive and accessible registration of PwDs as job seekers, in line with the 4% job reservation mandated under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

The campaign was implemented across all districts with Employment Exchange Units, and the collected data was integrated into the Employment Exchange Live Register.

DEO, Wokha conducted registration camp at Sanis, Bhandari and Ralan under Sub-division Bhandari on 18th, 19th and 20th respectively.

In Kohima district, the Regional Employment Exchange, in collaboration with the district administration, organized registration camps at the sub-divisional level, Jakhama (March 20-24), followed by Chiephobozou (March 26), Kohima (March 28) and Sechu Zubza (March 30)

In Dimapur, registration camps were set up at multiple locations from 23rd to 26th March, 2026.

STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON GI INITIATIVES HELD IN DIMAPUR

A stakeholder meeting on Geographical Indication (GI) initiatives for traditional crafts and handloom products of Nagaland was held on March 5, 2026 at the Conference Hall of the Nagaland Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation in Dimapur.

The meeting was organized by the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, with the objective of identifying, documenting, and preparing Geographical Indication applications for traditional crafts and handloom products of Nagaland.

It was chaired by Y. Lipongse Thongtsar, Managing Director of the Nagaland Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation (NHHDC). Key participants included Som Kamie (Planning Advisor,

North Eastern Council) and Mara Kocho (Managing Director, NEHDC, Guwahati). A presentation by Monmayuri Saikai highlighted the concept, benefits, and registration process of Geographical Indication.

Officials informed that 24 products from Nagaland have been identified for GI registration, including items such as Pochury textile and shawl, Zeliang textile, Sumi shawl and textile, Ao textile, and Tikhir jewellery and textile. It was also noted that other tribal groups in the state are in the process of identifying additional products for GI tagging.

The meeting highlighted that the North East region currently has 89 registered GI products, with handicrafts forming the largest share. Plans were discussed to conduct statewide awareness campaigns and engage consultants to assist tribal bodies in documentation and application processes.

VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, C. P. RADHAKRISHNAN GRACES 8th CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF NAGALAND UNIVERSITY HELD AT LUMAMI



Vice President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan speaking at the 8th Convocation Ceremony of Nagaland University held at Lumami, Zunheboto on 6th March 2026.

Nagaland University held its 8th Convocation Ceremony on 6th March 2026, at the University Headquarters in Lumami, Zunheboto. The ceremony was graced by the Vice President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan, as the Chief Guest.

In his convocation address, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan extended his best wishes to graduates and praised Nagaland's vibrant culture and courage. He highlighted India's unity in diversity and encouraged youth to serve the nation, emphasizing that a developed Nagaland contributes to a developed India.

The Vice President reminded the graduates that convocation marks the beginning of a new journey, urging them to adapt to change, set clear goals, and value their unique talents. He further stressed the importance of inclusive development, respecting differences in a democratic society, and maintaining peace for progress. Referring to the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) agreement, he noted that peace and mutual respect are essential for

the overall development of Nagaland.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor of Nagaland and Chief Rector of the University, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, emphasized that convocation is a celebration of perseverance, not just a ceremony, and highlighted the special role of Nagaland University as the state's only central university in promoting education, research, and innovation.

He praised the university's leadership and staff for shaping students and encouraged graduates to uphold values like integrity, compassion, and responsibility. He also urged them to use their knowledge for society's benefit and to embrace creativity, resilience, ethical leadership, and lifelong learning.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Deputy CM, T. R. Zeliang expressed pride in welcoming the Vice President of India and called the event inspiring for graduates, praising their hard work and resilience. He stressed that education is about gaining knowledge and values, not just degrees, and encouraged students to become compassionate, wise leaders.

The programme began with a welcome address and report presented by the Vice-Chancellor, Jagadish Kumar Patnaik, who highlighted the university's academic achievements, research progress, and commitment to nurturing quality education and human resource development in the region.

The ceremony concluded with the conferment of degrees and awards, during which a total of 11 Gold Medals were awarded to the toppers from different academic streams.

DEFCC NAGALAND VISITS RFRI, JORHAT

A delegation of eight officers of the Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (DEFCC), Government of Nagaland led by Y. Kikheto Sema, IAS, Principal Secretary, visited the Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, Assam on 6th March, 2026 to explore avenues for scientific collaboration with the Institute in the areas of sustainable forest management, research support and improved cultivation techniques of economically important tree species like agarwood, teak, etc.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, RFRI and his team of six (6 Nos.) scientists heading various Divisions (HoDs) had day-long discussions and brainstorming deliberations followed by visits to various research facilities including Bambusetum and Museum.

Upon meaningful discussions it was decided that the Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat would collaborate with the Government of Nagaland in several priority areas including resource mapping of Agarwood in Nagaland, expansion of area under Agarwood cultivation, improvement of Agarwood species suitable to Nagaland's agro-climatic conditions,

promotion of artificial inoculation techniques for Agarwood formation, supply of quality planting material to farmers, and capacity building of forest officials and growers. It was further agreed that an MoU would be signed between the Government of Nagaland and RFRI to collaborate on the priority areas. Kikheto Sema, also proposed that the forest officials and farmers would be trained with the assistance of RFRI so that they can facilitate scientific Agarwood cultivation across the State.

During his visit to the RFRI, Jorhat, Y. Kikheto Sema, IAS Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Nagaland was accompanied by Sidramappa Chalkapure, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Development & Planning), Nagaland; Suman WM Sivachar, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Wokha; Beizo Soukhrie, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Dimapur; Desabathula Rajiv Shankar, IFS, Working Plan Officer, Nagaland; Elithung Odyuo, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Wokha; Imkongsunep Longchar, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Dimapur; and Kikhavi Choppy, Range Forest Officer, Chumoukedima.

STATE EXPORT SUMMIT 2026 HELD

The two-day State Export Summit 2026 was held from 6th - 7th March 2026 at Rhododendron Hall, Nagaland Police Complex, Chumoukedima, organised by the Department of Industries & Commerce in collaboration with the Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC). The summit aims to strengthen Nagaland's export ecosystem and improve the competitiveness of MSMEs.

In the inaugural session, Director of Industries & Commerce P. Tokugha Sema emphasized the need of building a strong export-oriented environment that will empower local entrepreneurs and industries to compete in wider markets.

Advisor for Industries & Commerce Hekani Jakhalu, delivering the keynote address, stressed improving product quality, branding, and value addition to enable

global market access. She highlighted the participation of experts from DGFT, APEDA, EPCH, and NEHDC, who provided technical guidance to entrepreneurs.

The summit was structured as a workshop, focusing on food processing on the first day and handicrafts and handloom on the second.

Speakers noted Nagaland's strong performance in the NITI Aayog Export Preparedness Index, where it ranked among the leading states and first in the Northeast. The Department also highlighted its MoU with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata, to establish an Export Facilitation Centre for training and market support.

Challenges such as infrastructure gaps, limited finance access, and the need for improved business practices were acknowledged, with entrepreneurs urged to adopt better financial management and structured planning. Under the RAMP programme, around 16,000 MSMEs have

already been reached, with 750 high-potential entrepreneurs identified for further support.

Officials also emphasized the long-term vision of "Big Shift Nagaland 2047" and India's "Viksit Bharat 2047," urging alignment of state entrepreneurship with national development goals. They highlighted Nagaland's potential in food products, spices, handloom, and handicrafts for niche international markets.

Secretary of Industries & Commerce Kumar Ramnikant, IAS, underlined the importance of collaboration between government and entrepreneurs to unlock export potential. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Kvulo Lorin, Chairman of NIDC.

The summit brought together policymakers, industry experts, and entrepreneurs to chart strategies for improving MSME competitiveness and expanding Nagaland's export opportunities.

NWA ORGANISES 30th NAGA TRADITIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP AND 1st WRESTLING FESTIVAL 2026

The 30th Naga Traditional Wrestling Championship along with the 1st NWA Wrestling Festival 2026 was successfully held at Khuochiezie (Kohima Local Ground) from 6th-7th March, 2026, bringing together wrestlers, officials, and spectators from across Nagaland in a grand celebration of indigenous sport and culture.

Organised by the Nagaland Wrestling Association (NWA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, and the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland, the two-day event highlighted the growing prominence of Naga traditional wrestling.

On the first day, Minister for Tourism & Higher Education Temjen Imna Along graced

the inaugural programme. In his address, he expressed pride in the progress of Naga traditional wrestling and emphasized that promoting the sport is a shared responsibility of the association, youth, and the wider community. He noted that sports not only bring recognition and honor but also create economic opportunities for players and their communities.

The inaugural programme featured traditional elements including the hoisting of the NWA flag, torch relay, oath of sportsmanship, and vibrant cultural performances representing different Naga tribes. The festival also introduced new segments such as the 1st NWA Under-15 Championship and the 1st NWA Provisional

Championship, providing a platform for emerging talent.

On March 7th, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio attended the event as the special guest. He described Naga traditional wrestling as a "living heritage" and a powerful expression of identity, heritage, and the indomitable spirit of the Naga people. He stressed that the sport goes beyond physical strength, representing character and integrity.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to sports development, Rio highlighted ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure and support indigenous games alongside modern sports. He also distributed financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Sports Fund to six wrestling associations, further strengthening grassroots development.

President of the Wrestling Federation of India, Sanjay Kumar Singh, who attended as

the honoured guest, emphasized expanding Naga wrestling to the national stage. Singh also announced financial assistance for the procurement of equipment to support and strengthen the sport. He further assured that proposals related to the development and promotion of wrestling would be approved in the next financial year.

In the championship bout, reigning champion Kezhaseluo-o Pienyü successfully defended his title by defeating Menuosetuo Yiese in the final. Pienyü was awarded ₹6,00,000 along with a plot of land, while Yiese received ₹3,00,000. Venuzo Dawhou secured third place and Venu Vadeo finished fourth, receiving ₹2,00,000 and ₹1,50,000 respectively.

A total of 54 wrestlers participated in the championship, representing major tribal bodies including the Angami, Chakhesang, and Zeliang wrestling associations.

STATE-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026 OBSERVED IN KOHIMA WITH FELICITATIONS AND AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

International Women's Day 2026 was observed at the Capital Convention Centre, Kohima on 7th March 2026 under the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls." The event was graced by MLA & Advisor, Department of Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak as the chief host, while Minister for Environment, Forest, Climate Change and Village Guards, C. L. John attended as the special guest.

In his address, Minister for Environment, Forest, Climate Change and Village Guards, C. L. John praised the role of women in Nagaland, noting their achievements in education, civil services, and leadership while also managing family responsibilities. He highlighted increasing

women's political representation, mentioning two current women representatives and honoring pioneer Rano M. Shaiza. He also appreciated the work of the Naga Mothers' Association in peacebuilding in the state. He urged action against gender-based violence and encouraged women and girls to pursue their aspirations freely.

Chief Host, Wangpang Konyak, Advisor, Department of Social Welfare, said the theme emphasises the need for action to ensure justice, rights, and equality for women facing barriers in society. He highlighted government efforts like Mission Shakti and the role of NSRLM in empowering women through Self Help Groups that support savings, credit, and livelihoods. He also

expressed concern over crimes against women and called for collective action to stop violence and protect women's dignity.

Delivering the keynote address, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Limawabang Jamir, IAS, highlighted various initiative of the department for women safety and empowerment.

The programme also witnessed the felicitation of women achievers under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM) for 2025-26. Anganwadi workers from Zunheboto and Dimapur were also honoured for long service, along with Kohima Municipal Council sanitation workers for their contribution.

The programme also conferred the NSCW Excellence Award 2026. Ponglem Konyak, President of Konyak Nyipuh Sheko Khong (KNSK), and Apeuna Iheilung,

President of the Zeliangrong Mothers' Organisation, were honoured for their contributions to society and community welfare.

Programmes were organised to celebrated and honour women across several districts including Mon, Longleng, Shamator, Meluri, Wokha, Phek, Chümoukedima, Niuland, Tseminyu, Kiphire, and Mhanamtsü. Some highlights include felicitation of successful women entrepreneurs and Self Help Groups at Wokha, flower shows in Dzulhami (Phek), My Bharat and DSO, Longleng organised the ASMITA League in Longleng. In Kohima, the AWO conducted a sale-cum-live exhibition. A free medical camp was also held at Pughoboto by the district administration and Faith Welfare Society.

E&S DEPARTMENT RELEASES SSS SUB SCHEME REPORTS

The Department of Economics & Statistics, Kohima conducted the State High Level Steering Committee (SHLSC) meeting on Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) sub scheme under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Sentyanger Imchen, IAS, on 9th March, 2026 held at the Conference Hall, Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima to review and approve the activities.

During the meeting, the following four reports under the scheme were released: Report on Income disparity in Nagaland, 2025; Time Use Survey in Nagaland, 2025; Survey on Forest and Forest products in Nagaland, 2025 and Study on rates and ratio used in estimation of Gross Value Added construction for Nagaland.

NSCW CONDUCTS 'MAHILA JAN SUNWAI' ACROSS THE STATE

In a significant collaborative outreach initiative, National Commission for Women in partnership with the Nagaland State Commission for Women organized 'Mahila Jan Sunwai' (Public Hearings) across the state from 9th March to 13th March, 2026, commemorating 'International Women's Day' and reinforcing the collective

commitment towards women's safety, dignity, and access to justice.

The week-long nationwide public hearing drive aimed to provide women with a direct, accessible platform to voice their grievances and seek institutional support. Through this coordinated effort, complaints related to domestic violence,

workplace harassment, maternity benefit, abandonment, trafficking, and other forms of gender-based injustice was heard and addressed.

A key highlight of the 'Mahila Jan Sunwai' is the focus on time-bound and swift grievance redressal. Dedicated benches comprising Chairperson, Nginyeih Konyak and Members from the Nagaland State Commission for Women, District Administration, District Legal Services Authority (DALSA), Police Authorities, Legal Experts, and Protection Officers were present to ensure immediate hearing of complaints, registration and escalation of serious cases, legal guidance and procedural assistance and time-bound follow-up mechanisms. Walk-in complaints were also heard during the Jan Sunwai from 9th to 13th March, 2026.

The public hearing was held at DC's conference hall across the district:



Chairperson, Nagaland State Commission for Women, W. Nginyeih Konyak speaking during Mahila Jansunwai held at DPDB Hall, Longleng on 12th March 2026.

on 9th March at Tuensang, Zunheboto, Tseminyu and Wokha; on 10th March at Mokokchung and Niuland; on 11th March at Chumoukedima; on 12th March at Longleng and Peren; on 13th March at Mon, Kohima and Dimapur.

BRIEFING SESSION ON CENSUS-2027 HELD

A briefing session on Census-2027 was held at the State Banquet Hall, Chief Minister's Residential Complex in Kohima on 11th March, 2026, with the participation of key political leaders and senior officials of Nagaland.

The session was attended by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, along with Deputy Chief Ministers T. R. Zeliang and Y. Patton. Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer, Cabinet Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly were also present. Representatives from various political parties and party functionaries also participated in the programme.

In his address, Chief Minister, Dr. Neiphiu Rio stated that Census-2027 would be a significant and important exercise for the state. He noted that the decadal

population growth rate of Nagaland has shown inconsistencies and therefore urged all elected representatives and political party leaders to help correct such discrepancies through responsible leadership. He pointed out that inflated data has caused issues in Aadhaar coverage and school enrolment, and appealed to citizens to uphold honesty, integrity, and avoid unhealthy competition during the census process.

Delivering the welcome address, Sentyanger Imchen highlighted the importance of conducting an accurate census in the state. He emphasized that reliable census data is crucial for planning and implementing various government projects and developmental initiatives.

Home Commissioner, Abhijit Sinha presented an overview of Census-2027, which

was followed by a detailed presentation by Director of Census Operations, Dr. Zasekuolie Chusi on the methodology, processes, and challenges involved in the census exercise.

Dr. Chusi appealed to the gathering to avoid the enumeration of duplicate individuals and any deliberate inflation of population figures, which he stated undermine the integrity of crucial socio-economic data collected through the census. He further

emphasized that the census is an important source of diverse and essential data required for policy formulation and developmental planning.

A fruitful discussion followed, during which several questions were raised and clarifications were provided. The briefing session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Commissioner, Nagaland, Gregory Thejawelie.

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP ON AI IMPLEMENTATION HELD FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Prof. Dr. Anuja Pandey from the All India Management Association highlighted the growing importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance and public administration during a two-day workshop on AI Implementation for Data Platforms and Public Data under the Nagaland Science Mission at Hotel Vivor, Kohima on 11th March 2026.

Addressing officers from more than 40 government departments, Prof. Pandey emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among departments to prepare the state for AI-driven transformation. She said the initiative aims to assess Nagaland's readiness for AI and machine learning adoption and to develop a roadmap for AI implementation in the state over the next 24 months.

Prof. Pandey noted that the success of AI systems largely depends on the quality and availability of data collected by government departments and encouraged officials to actively participate and share insights during the workshop.

She also observed that several states such as Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka and Gujarat have made progress in developing AI policy frameworks, while northeastern states are still at an early stage of implementation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Prof. Saurabh Agarwal, Adjunct Faculty of AIMA, served as the resource person on the first day of the workshop. Kekuneil Ltu, Deputy Mission Director, Nagaland Science Mission, Department of S&T gave the introductory remark.

T.R ZELIANG GRACES NAGALAND SDG ACTION AWARDS 2025

The Nagaland SDG Action Awards 2025 and State-Level Consultation on SDG India Index 4.0 and NER District SDG Index 2.0 organized by Sustainable Development Goal Coordination Centre (SDGCC), Planning & Transformation Department was held at the Capital Convention centre Kohima on 13th March 2026.

In his address as the guest of honour, Deputy CM, T. R. Zeliang describe the event as platform to bring together all departments to reflect, recognize and set a roadmap for our common development agenda 'Development for all—Leaving No One Behind'.

Highlighting Nagaland's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs), T.R. Zeliang stated that Mokokchung, Kohima, and Dimapur districts ranked among the top ten in the North Eastern Region SDG District Index 2023-24. He also noted that nine districts of the state are now in the "Front Runner" category, showing significant improvement since the 2021-22 baseline. He also stated that three districts of Nagaland are among the fastest mover districts, showing maximum improvements in terms of their SDG composite scores in the entire North East Region and Nagaland's balanced progress across critical areas such as health, education, gender equality and infrastructure positioning Nagaland as a rising leader in the North East's sustainable development journey.

However, he stressed the need to address remaining gaps at the district level and improve data updating systems. He called for stronger inter-departmental coordination and sustained efforts to achieve the 2030 SDG targets and the long-term vision of Viksit Nagaland 2047.

Zeliang also presented the Nagaland SDG Action Awards 2025, to Pinnacle Skills for Economic Sustainability, Good Samaritan Women Society for Social Development, and Mobius Team Nagaland (Youth Net) for Environmental Sustainability.

NAGALAND HOSTS MITHUN-RHINO PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

The inaugural edition of the Mithun-Rhino Pickleball Championship 2026 was held at The Fitness House, Dimapur on 14th March 2026. The championship is being organised by the Nagaland Pickleball Association in collaboration with the Assam Pickleball Association.

Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer graced

In her welcome address, Development Commissioner, Temsunaro Aier, IAS highlighted that the government is actively aligning Global Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Nagaland's development priorities. She urged all departments and districts to improve data quality, keep portals updated, and use SDG tools for planning and course correction, as the SDG India Index and NER District SDG Index help track progress and identify areas needing further effort.

UNDP Regional Head (NER) John Borgoyary said noted that while some districts have performed well, lagging districts need focused efforts and innovative solutions to meet national goals. He emphasized the importance of implementing SDGs at the district, block, and local levels, and stressed that reliable data is crucial for tracking progress, describing it as a "GPS" for development planning.

The day-long consultation was attended by administrative and departmental heads, SDG nodal officers, Deputy Commissioners and representatives from all 17 districts, along with Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change & Village Guards, C.L John, and MLA, Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso.

the inaugural function as the special guest. Longkumer in his address said that the championship symbolises the spirit of friendship and cooperation between Nagaland and Assam. He remarked that the choice of Mithun and Rhino as symbols reflects the strength, pride and identity of the two states. Describing the event as a meaningful step in promoting sports

diplomacy in the region, he said such initiatives help bring communities together and strengthen bonds across state borders.

Longkumer added that the championship provides an opportunity not only for competition but also for learning, growth and building lasting friendships among young athletes of the Northeast.

Senior Vice President of Naga People's Front, Charlie Sekhose, highlighted the important role of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork and a strong sense of

community. Emphasising that sports are not only about winning but also about learning and personal growth, he expressed hope that the sport would continue to inspire and encourage more young athletes in the future.

The two-day championship, being held from March 14th to 15th, featured matches across various categories including men's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, mixed doubles, open men's category, 40+ and veterans 45+.

NAND KISHORE YADAV ADDRESSES THE STATE

Addressing the citizens of Nagaland upon assuming the office as the 23rd Governor of Nagaland, Nand Kishore Yadav on 13th March 2026 the Governor conveyed his commitment to work for the welfare and progress of Nagaland, and expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, for the trust and confidence reposed on him with the important constitutional responsibility.

Yadav said Nagaland occupies a special place in the rich and diverse fabric of great nation, India. The State is known for its vibrant cultural heritage, strong community values, and the warmth and resilience of its people. The traditions and spirit of the Naga people are a source of pride not only for the State but for the entire nation. India today is undergoing a period of remarkable transformation under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The country has made notable progress in economic development, modern infrastructure, advancements in science, technology and space, social empowerment, and sporting

excellence. These achievements have strengthened India's standing on the global stage and reinforced its emergence as a rising global power.

The Governor said that the NE region has also witnessed renewed focus and investment in recent years, particularly in connectivity, infrastructure and economic development. These initiatives are expanding opportunities and integrating the region more closely with the national growth story while preserving its unique identity and traditions. Nagaland too has been steadily progressing across various sectors such as infrastructure, education, agriculture, tourism, digital connectivity and entrepreneurship. These developments are creating new possibilities for economic growth and improving the quality of life for the people, he added.

He said he was deeply encouraged by the energy and talent of the youth of Nagaland, who are excelling in diverse fields including education, sports, arts, entrepreneurship and public service. Their achievements reflect the creativity, determination and potential of the younger generation.

At the same time, he remarked that

creating meaningful opportunities for educated youth remains an important priority. It is encouraging to see many young people exploring avenues in entrepreneurship, agriculture-based enterprises, tourism and the digital economy. With the right skills, innovation and institutional support, these sectors can generate employment and encourage the youth to become creators of opportunities.

The Governor also mentioned that the aspirations of the people for lasting peace, stability and development remain paramount. Peace and harmony provide the

foundation for sustainable progress, and with collective effort and mutual understanding, Nagaland will continue to move forward on the path of prosperity.

Lastly, he affirms that as Governor of the state, he will strive to uphold the Constitution of India and work in close cooperation with the State Government and all sections of society to promote good governance, inclusive development for the welfare of the people to strengthen peace, encourage development and preserve the unique cultural heritage of Nagaland.

PIB CONDUCTS MEDIA TOUR TO BIHAR

A seven-day media tour of south Bihar for journalists from Nagaland was organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Kohima under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, from 16th to 22nd March 2026. The visit aims to help journalists observe the implementation of government schemes, engage with institutions, and understand socio-economic and cultural developments in other states.

The delegation, comprising representatives from the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) and print and electronic media, is led by PIB officials from Kohima.

During the tour, the media team interacted with Bihar Agriculture Minister Ram Kripal Yadav, who highlighted the

success of *makhana* (fox nut) as a major agricultural product with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The delegation also met senior officials from the Agriculture and Horticulture departments and visited the Danapur-Bitha Elevated Corridor project under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to understand infrastructure development.

On the third day, the team visited the Bhimrao Ambedkar Residential School, re-established Nalanda University and Nalanda Archaeological Site.

The tour was led by P. Sophie, HoO, PIB Kohima with the Nalanda district administration ensuring seamless coordination and arrangement throughout the entire visit.

SUPONGMEREN JAMIR URGES CADETS TO EMBRACE LEADERSHIP AT KOHIMA NCC FESTIVAL

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Nagaland, S. Supongmeren Jamir, attended the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Festival and Alumni Meet-Nagaland as the chief guest at

the Regional Centre of Excellence for Music and Performing Arts (RCEMPA), Kohima, on 17th March 2026.

Addressing the gathering, Jamir

highlighted the significant role of the NCC in shaping the youth by instilling discipline, leadership, and a strong sense of responsibility. He said that the organisation serves as a platform that nurtures character, teamwork, and commitment among young cadets.

The MP also encouraged cadets to carry forward the lessons learned through NCC training into all aspects of life, stating that qualities such as courage, respect, and dedication would help them succeed in any field they choose.

Referring to the alumni meet, Jamir noted that former cadets stand as examples of how NCC training shapes individuals into capable professionals and leaders, inspiring the younger generation. He also acknowledged the efforts of officers, instructors, and teachers for their continued dedication in mentoring cadets.

The festival was inaugurated by the chief guest and featured a series of engaging activities, including live podcast sessions with L. Lanuwabang, Director NIELIT and Lichan Humtsoe, Founder & CEO Eté Coffee. The event also showcased cultural performances by cadets and hosted various games and competitions.

MoU SIGNED TO STRENGTHEN DRONE ECOSYSTEM IN NAGALAND

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Nagaland GIS & Remote Sensing Centre (NGISRSC) and Droneverse Aviation Pvt. Ltd. was formally signed at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 17th March, 2026 in the presence of Temsünaro Aier, IAS, Development Commissioner, Planning & Transformation Department, Government of Nagaland.

Under the MoU, NGISRSC and Droneverse Aviation Pvt. Ltd. will jointly implement both DGCA-compliant and Non-DGCA drone training programmes. These programmes will be delivered through certified instructors from both organizations, ensuring high-quality training aligned with national standards and industry requirements. The collaboration will also focus on knowledge exchange, expert engagement, and joint Research & Development initiatives, including advanced and AI-enabled drone applications.

Droneverse Aviation Pvt. Ltd. will serve as the key industry partner, bringing in strong industry linkage, technical expertise, and placement support for trained candidates.

The partnership is expected to enhance employment opportunities and foster entrepreneurship among the youth of Nagaland.

ECONOMICS & STATISTICS DEPARTMENT LAUNCH BAAL AADHAAR REGISTRATION COUNTER

The Baal Aadhaar Registration Counter for Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration for children aged 0-5 years through the Child Enrolment Lite Client (CELC) kit was formally launched by Akunu S Meyase, Secretary Economics & Statistics Department at the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Kohima on 17th March, 2026.

The Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration for children aged 0-5 years will ensure that every child is registered at birth and linked with Aadhaar. Biometrics are not captured during Aadhaar enrolment of a child (0-5 age group) and need to be updated at the age of 5 and 15. The early registration of children in the national identity system will ensure their

inclusion in various government services and welfare schemes and help support better planning and delivery of child-centric programmes.

The Department requests the general public to come forward and avail the Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration for children under the age group of 0-5 years by visiting the

designated enrolment centre available at the Directorate.

The facilities will also be available in all the District Economics and Statistics Offices shortly for which necessary procedures are under process with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

9th NORTH EAST YOUTH FESTIVAL 2026 CONCLUDES IN CHUMOUKEDIMA

The 9th North East Youth Festival 2026, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Resources and Sports, Government of Nagaland, was held at Chumoukedima Football Stadium, Chumoukedima, from 18th to 21st March 2026, bringing together youth from across the North Eastern states in a vibrant celebration of unity, culture, and talent.

Addressing the inaugural programme of the 9th North East Youth Festival 2026 at Chumoukedima, Governor Nand Kishore Yadav thanked the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for entrusting Nagaland with hosting the event.

He welcomed delegates from all eight North Eastern states as well as MY Bharat and NSS participants, saying their presence reflects unity, cultural exchange, and youth participation. Highlighting the theme "Ashtalakshmi: Celebrating Eight Forces of Youth and Progress," he said it represents the energy and potential of the region's youth.

The Governor urged participants to actively engage in events, build friendships, and work towards the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. He also called on youth to act as ambassadors of their states, promoting respect, cooperation, and harmony, while appreciating the efforts of all organisers.



Minister for Higher Education and Tourism, Temjen Imna Along with Advisor Youth Resources and Sports, S. Keoshu Yimkhung during the prize distribution ceremony of the 9th North East Youth Festival 2026 held at Chumoukedima Football Stadium on 21st March 2026.

Advisor for Youth Resources and Sports S. Keoshu Yimkhiung described the festival as a celebration of unity and diversity, encouraging participants to showcase talent and appreciate each other's cultures.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shiv Ratan, appreciated Nagaland's hospitality and said the festival strengthens unity in diversity and youth participation in national development.

The five-day event brought together around 1,200 participants, officials, and volunteers from all North Eastern states. Competitive events included folk song, folk dance, instrumental guitar, rock band, declamation, and one-act play, while non-competitive segments featured martial arts demonstrations, cultural showcases, and exposure visits. NSS and MY Bharat volunteers also conducted seminars and exhibitions under initiatives such as Yuva Kriti and food festivals.

The festival concluded on 21st March 2026 with Minister for Tourism and Higher Education, Temjen Imna Along as the special guest. Addressing the event, he emphasized that the youth are the future of the nation and play a vital role in achieving the vision of a developed India. He encouraged participants

to uphold cultural values while focusing on education, peace, and development, and to carry forward the spirit of unity and friendship across the region.

Director of Youth Resources and Sports, Kethosituo Sekhose reported that the festival successfully promoted cultural exchange and youth engagement through competitions and interactive programmes.

The closing ceremony featured a wide range of cultural displays, including martial arts demonstrations by teams from Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura.

Competition Results:

- **One Act Play:** Arunachal Pradesh (1st), Manipur (2nd), Mizoram (3rd); Tripura and Nagaland got consolation prizes.

- **Declamation:** Arunachal Pradesh (1st), Tripura (2nd), Mizoram (3rd); Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh got consolation prizes.

- **Folk Song:** Manipur (1st), Nagaland (2nd), Tripura (3rd); Mizoram and Sikkim got consolation prizes.

- **Folk Dance:** Manipur (1st), Mizoram (2nd), Sikkim (3rd); Nagaland and Meghalaya got consolation prizes.

- **Rock Band:** Nagaland (1st), Mizoram (2nd), Sikkim (3rd).

TWO MoUs SIGNED BETWEEN SCERT, NBSE & LAHI

Nagaland took a major step in strengthening skill-based education on 19th March 2026 by signing two MoUs between SCERT, NBSE, and Lend A Hand India to align school education with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The partnership with SCERT will introduce the *Kaushal Bodh* textbook for Classes 6–8, creating early exposure to practical, hands-on learning. The programme is aligned with the National Curriculum

Framework and is organised around three areas of work: Life Forms, Machines and Materials, and Human Services. It aims to develop 21st-century skills like problem-solving, teamwork, creativity, and communication, along with teacher training and curriculum support.

The second MoU with NBSE focuses on strengthening skill assessment and certification for Classes 9–12. This includes supporting NBSE's progression towards

becoming a recognised awarding body under the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVT), through alignment with national standards, development of assessment frameworks, and capacity building of assessors.

Officials said the initiative will make education more practical and job-oriented by linking classroom learning with real-world skills, ensuring students are better prepared for future careers.

KINIMI URGES COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN NAGALAND



Advisor AH&VS, Kazheto Kinimi, Advisor for Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Zhaleo Rio with other officials at the State-level Workshop on Strengthening Animal Welfare held at Hotel de Oriental Grand, Kohima on 19th March 2026.

A state-level workshop aimed at strengthening animal welfare was held on 19th March, 2026, at Hotel de Oriental Grand, Kohima, under the initiative of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and Chairman of SAWAB-N, Kazheto Kinimi, emphasised the need to institutionalise animal welfare practices across the state. He noted that the introduction of Mobile Veterinary Units has significantly enhanced outreach, delivering essential services to farmers in remote areas. Stressing the importance of compassion, he called on citizens to ensure humane treatment of animals, adding that the sector also supports livelihoods through the production of meat, milk and eggs.

Advisor for Urban Development and

Municipal Affairs, Zhaleo Rio, IAS (Retd) in his address, described the workshop as highly significant, bringing together various stakeholders including government departments, civil societies, SPACs, and legal experts to strengthen enforcement of animal protection laws. He urged Urban Local Bodies to go beyond routine civic duties and organise dedicated programmes on animal welfare and livestock management. Emphasising humane treatment, he called for regulated slaughtering practices, hygienic meat sales, and the prevention of slaughter in public spaces, while noting that abattoir machinery would soon be commissioned to improve standards. He also commended the Mokokchung Municipal Council for its effective functioning and encouraged participants to apply their learnings, stressing the need for strategic

planning and collective efforts to ensure both animal and human welfare.

In his welcome address Dr. Imomanen Tzudir, Director, DoAH&VS Dr. Imomanen Tzudir highlighted that animal welfare is a complex, sensitive issue involving multiple stakeholders and rooted in human ethical responsibility toward animals. He called for a shift in how humans interact with animals, noting their global importance in livelihoods, with billions raised for consumption and many people dependent on livestock.

Lanuakam, Deputy Chairperson,

6th INNOVATIVE SCIENCE WORKING MODEL COMPETITION HELD IN DIMAPUR

The Innovation Hub Nagaland Science Centre, Department of Science and Technology organised the 6th Innovative Science Working Model Competition at Innovation Hub, Nagaland Science Centre Dimapur on the 20th March 2026, under the theme - 'Understanding the bad roads of Nagaland: The intervention with grassroots innovation to make it better and persistent'. Er. Kevineizo Chakruo, SDO – PWD (NH)

Mokokchung Municipal Council, spoke on the role of Town Councils in promoting animal welfare, referring to the Nagaland Municipal Act, 2023 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, he noted that Urban Local Bodies have a clear mandate to prevent cruelty and promote responsible animal care through systematic registration, vaccination, and population control measures.

The programme was compered by Dr. Tolto Metha, with Dr. Elizabeth Yhome and Dr. Khrisamhazo Rhetso serving as rapporteurs. Organising Secretary, Dr. Ilang

attended the event as special guest and Chief Judge of the exhibition.

Altogether 16 teams from schools across the districts of Dimapur, Chumoukedima and Wokha participated in the event wherein Santsuo School, Wokha emerged as the Winner, PM Shri GHS Thahekhu came in as the 1st Runners up, followed by Highland Hall Higher Secondary School, Chumoukedima as the 2nd Runners up.

IAS OFFICER TRAINEES VISIT NAGALAND BEEKEEPING AND HONEY MISSION

As part of their winter study tour, a group of ten IAS Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch visited the Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM), Chumoukedima on 20th March 2026. The team was led by Group Leader Ira Jorwal and Associate Group Leader Neelesh Goyal.

During the visit, the officer trainees were briefed on the activities and initiatives undertaken by NBHM to promote beekeeping in the state. They were encouraged to act as "Bee Ambassadors" and spread awareness

on the importance of honey bees and the potential of beekeeping as a sustainable livelihood option.

The trainees also held an interactive session with NBHM officials, during which they enquired about various aspects of beekeeping, including production, processing, and marketing. They later visited the Honey Processing Plant, which is currently under construction, and the Honey Hub, where they sampled different varieties of Nagaland honey and observed a range of value-added products on display.

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY 2026 OBSERVED IN KOHIMA

The World Oral Health Day 2026 was celebrated at Capital Convention Center, Kohima on 20th March 2026 under the theme 'A Happy Mouth is a Happy Life'.

Addressing the event as the special guest, Additional Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Renabomo Odyuo, said oral health awareness is essential for improving quality of life and requires collective effort from families, schools, healthcare workers, and especially mothers in shaping lifelong health habits. He also congratulated the Nagaland Dental team for achieving two National awards in the year 2025, for the 'Best Performer' Award in Small States on World Oral Health Day and 'Special Recognition' for World No Tobacco Day, and encouraged

them to continue improving oral healthcare services.

Director (Health) DH&FW, Dr. Sendimeren Aonok highlighted the rising cases of periodontal disease, dental caries, and oral cancer in the state, calling for an integrated approach between oral and general health. He also noted ongoing efforts to upgrade dental health units across Nagaland with modern equipment and stressed the importance of early childhood oral hygiene education.

The formal programme was followed by training on "Mothers role on importance of Oral Health & Overview of Oral Cancer" with Dr. Thungbeni Ngullie, Sr. Resident (NIMSR) as resource person.

STATE WIDE MEGA JOB FAIR 2026 HELD IN DIMAPUR

A State-Wide Mega Job Fair 2026 was held on March 21st, 2026, at the Integrated Business Hub & Innovation Centre (IBH&IC), Forest Colony, Dimapur, offering a wide range of employment opportunities across multiple sectors.

The job fair was organized by the Nagaland Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Mission (NSEDMD) in collaboration with the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) Kohima, and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, aimed to connect job seekers with potential employers from domestic, national, and international markets.

Advisor to CM & Chairman IDAN, Abu Metha addressing the participants,

highlighted the importance of continuous learning and effective use of digital tools to stay competitive in a technology-driven world. He also noted that initial jobs should be seen as stepping stones toward long-term success, where character and integrity play a key role in career growth. He further spoke about expanding employment opportunities locally and internationally and reaffirmed the government's commitment to creating platforms that connect youth with job prospects abroad and within India.

Metha also launched the NSEDMD Portal at the inaugural program.

The job fair witnessed participation from various companies and institutions, offering opportunities for both skilled and unskilled candidates. A wide range of sectors including home support services, manufacturing, hospitality and aviation, construction,

industrial and technical trades, healthcare and nursing, technology and innovation, IT and IT-enabled services, culinary, as well as

sales and retail.

More than 1000 applicants registered at the State wide Mega Job Fair 2026.

NAGALAND LAUNCHES SCHOOL LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE



Advisor School Education & SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome speaking at the launching programme of the District School & System Leaders Professional Learning Community in Nagaland at De Oriental Grand, Kohima on 24th March 2026.

The Government of Nagaland launched the District School and System Leaders Professional Learning Community, marking a significant step towards strengthening the State's education system at de Oriental Grand, Kohima on 24th March 2026.

Speaking at the programme, Advisor for School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome highlighted that a strong education system depends on leadership, curriculum, and administration. He stressed improving infrastructure, resources and implementation challenges while rebuilding trust in government schools. He noted ongoing reforms like baseline survey covering 249 schools across the State, School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Framework (SQAAC) and curriculum development aligned with national policy. He also emphasized continuous teacher training, better coordination, and stronger

governance to improve the system.

Deputy Director SCERT, Nagaland, Benjung Yaden, highlighted that School Leadership Development Programme (SLDP) aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and focuses on continuous professional development and leadership skills. The one-month course includes, classroom training, school-based project work and final assessment. Yaden further mentioned that hundreds of educators in Nagaland have undergone training under the programme and noted that school leadership is a key factor influencing student learning.

Secretary School Education, Mhathung Tungoe, highlighted that Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) foster continuous improvement, shared expertise, and collaborative problem-solving among educators. Describing District School & System Leaders Professional Community (DSSL PLC) as a significant initiative, he said that it will build a strong network of educational leaders to share best practices, drive systemic change, and improve the quality of education across the state.

Principal Director, School Education, Shashank Pratap Singh, IAS, stated that nearly 385 leaders have been trained through a one-month leadership programme. He also emphasized that School Leadership Development Programme (SLDP) training should not be based on compulsion but should focus on translating learning into action. Eligible teachers should be identified in advance and undergo training before becoming eligible for promotion, and SLDP

should not become a delaying mechanism.

He also highlighted the ULLAS scheme for adult literacy, with surveys done in 7 districts. He stressed that training alone is not sufficient, it must be reinforced through continuous support, clear timelines, and more structured sessions for DEOs and SDEOs.

Assistant Professor NCSL, NIEPA, New Delhi, Dr. Yogesh Pahariya, acknowledged Nagaland taking a leading role in the implementation of NEP and strengthening Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

He emphasized that a PLC create a culture where educators learn, discuss, grow and share accountability. Such a culture has the potential to build strong leadership and improve learning outcomes.

In the technical session, Dr. Yogesh Pahariya spoke on School Leadership: National Context and Support to the States and Founder & International Director, Adhyayan Quality Education Services Ltd, Spoket Wheeler, spoke about the Importance of Professional Learning Community.

WORLD TB DAY OBSERVED ACROSS DISTRICTS, HONOURS TB-FREE VILLAGES



DC Kohima, B. Henok Buchem and officials with TB Free Award Recipients during the observance of World TB Day 2026 at DC Office, Kohima on 24th March 2026.

KOHIMA

The District Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, Kohima, and NHM Nagaland observed World TB Day 2026 at the DC Conference Hall, Kohima under the theme "Yes! We Can End TB; Led by Bharat, Powered by Janbhagidari" on 24th March 2026.

The highlight of the event was the felicitation of TB-free villages under the TB Mukta Panchayat Initiative. The awardees were also presented with Certificates and Mahatma Gandhi statues-bronze for first-year achievers, silver for two consecutive

years, and gold for three years of sustained TB-free status. For 2025, a total of 22 villages in Kohima were honoured, including one gold, four silver, and 17 bronze awardees. The Gold was awarded to Seiyha Phesa Village.

Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, District TB Forum, Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, NCS, B. Henok Buchem urged continued efforts to achieve a TB-free society, highlighting TB as a major deadly disease. He stressed awareness, early detection, and completing treatment, noting a rise in cases after COVID-19. He also called for cooperation with health screenings

and community involvement in spreading awareness.

Highlighting the significance of the day, District TB Officer Dr. Chibenthung Kithan emphasized the importance of collective efforts and community participation in eliminating tuberculosis.

WOKHA

World TB Day was observed at the DC's Conference Hall, Wokha with the Deputy Commissioner, Wokha Vineet Kumar addressing the event.

In his address, the DC emphasized the importance of discipline in the treatment process, highlighted the causes and impact of late detection, and urged citizens to undergo testing and seek early treatment.

During the programme, 37 achievers were felicitated, including two gold achievers Mekirang and Okhaeyan villages, eight silver achievers, and 27 Bronze achievers. The district showed improvement compared to

last year, when 34 villages were recognized.

The event also marked the launch of the 100 Days TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan campaign by Deputy Commissioner Vineet Kumar, IAS, reinforcing the collective commitment to eliminate TB through awareness, early detection, and community participation.

TSEMINYU

World TB Day was also observed at DC's Conference Hall, Tseminyu.

In Tseminyu, 14 villages were recognised for their achievements, including silver and bronze categories. Deputy Commissioner Japheth Woch encouraged continued efforts towards better health outcomes and emphasized timely testing and treatment. The district also launched the 100 Days TB Mukht Bharat campaign, promoting intensified awareness and community participation.

SEVEN CANDIDATES FILED NOMINATION PAPERS FOR BYE ELECTION TO 28 KORIDANG A/C

Altogether seven candidates have filed their nomination papers for the forthcoming Bye Election to 28 Koridang A/C under Mokokchung District.

The candidates along with their respective parties are Daochir (BJP), Abenjang (NPP), T. Chalokumba (INC), Imtiwapang (IND), Major (Retd) Toshikaba

(IND), Imchatoba Imchen (IND) and Wapangmeren (IND).

SDO (C) and Returning Officer, Nockpai Konyak, NCS, informed that scrutiny of the nomination papers will be conducted at 11:00 AM on 24th March 2026 at the office of the SDO (C)/ Returning office, Deputy Commissioner office Mokokchung.

STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON 'USING ADMINISTRATIVE DATA FOR GOVERNANCE' HELD AT KOHIMA

The Economics & Statistics Department, Government of Nagaland, organised a one-day State-level Workshop on 'Using Administrative Data for Governance: Linking Departmental Data at State Level'

on 24th March 2026 at the Secretariat Conference Hall, Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima. The event brought together senior officials and technical experts from 20 state departments to advance the agenda of

data-driven governance. The workshop was inaugurated with a Welcome Address by Neidilhou Kreditsu, Director, Economics & Statistics Department.

Development Commissioner, Temsunaro Aier, IAS, in her keynote address, emphasized that administrative data should be AI ready to leverage the benefits of AI and big data for good governance and data driven policy making. The technical session began with presentation on the workshop's theme by Akunu S Meyase, Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, Economics and Statistics Department, wherein she emphasized that the prevailing siloed and underutilised governmental data must be integrated and linked to transform the same as strategic asset for evidence-based governance.

During the workshop the following presentations were made, 'Use of the PIMS database for scheme implementation such as CMHIS and CMLIS' was made by Livitoli Sukhalu, Deputy Secretary, P&AR

Department; 'Best practices from other States' by Vikosieto Krose, Deputy Director, Economics and Statistics Department; 'State Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy' by Er. Pelengulie Chucha, Scientist 'C' Nagaland Science and Technology Council, Science and Technology Department; 'Data privacy and Interoperability' by Er. Yanger Longkumer, Program Officer, Information Technology and Communications Department; 'Leveraging Administrative Data for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' by Abilo Humtsoe, SDG Officer, SDGCC, Planning & Transformation Department.

The aforesaid presentations were followed by a consultative discussion moderated by Neisatuo Puro, while Charles N Kikon, Additional Directors, Economics and Statics Department spoke on challenges and way forward for administrative data linkages. The workshop ended with a concluding remark by Akunu S Meyase, Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, Economics and Statistics Department.

STATE LEVEL SEMINAR AND MARKET LINKAGE PROGRAMME ON SPICES HELD IN DIMAPUR

A State Level Seminar and Market Linkage Programme on Spices was held at Town Hall, Dimapur, Nagaland on March 25, 2026. The programme was organized by the Spices Board India with the objective of promoting spice cultivation and strengthening market linkages in the North Eastern region.

The special guest, Razouvollie Dozo, NCS, Additional Secretary, Horticulture, addressing the gathering, said that market linkages in Nagaland continue to remain weak and largely unstructured across various crops. He stressed the need to focus on key areas such as quality control, export standards, and proper post-harvest handling

practices, which the farmers alone cannot address, and there is a need for collective efforts involving government departments, entrepreneurs, buyers, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). He further emphasised the need to strengthen FPOs, improve post-harvest management, develop infrastructure, and establish direct linkages between farmers and export markets. Concluding his address, Dozo underscored the importance of youth empowerment and skilling as key drivers for building strong and sustainable market linkages in the state.

Dr. Cressida Jamir, Deputy Director, Agriculture, highlighted the continuing

challenges in establishing strong market linkages for farmers in Nagaland. Despite the state's favourable climate, fertile soil, and hardworking farmers. Fragmented landholdings, she said, make it difficult to meet large-scale demand. She underscored the importance of value addition and processing facilities for better quality and pricing.

Rituraj Hazarika, Chief General Manager, M Junction, spoke on strategies for spice marketing in the NE. He highlighted that M Junction's strategy for spice marketing in North East India focuses on digital empowerment through e-auctions and direct market linkages. He stated that by partnering with the Spices Board, the initiative aims to connect local farmers directly with national

buyers, ensuring transparent pricing, eliminating middlemen, and improving farmers' income and market access.

The technical session featured presentations on turmeric production and market insights, prospects and challenges of Naga King Chilli, and market potential and trends for ginger products. Experts from the Spices Board shared insights to help farmers and stakeholders enhance production and access better markets.

The programme aimed to promote high-value spices such as large cardamom and GI-tagged Naga King Chilli (Bhut Jolokia), while also creating opportunities for direct trade linkages between farmers and buyers across the country.

NISMR CONDUCTS NATIONAL EMERGENCY LIFE SUPPORT ToT PROGRAMME

The Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (NISMR), concluded a three-day National Emergency Life support on training of trainers programme held at NISMR, Kohima on 25th March 2026.

The programme was led by the Department of Emergency Medicine, JPNATC, AIIMS New Delhi, in collaboration with the NELS Centre of Excellence and WHO Collaborating Centre for Emergency and Trauma Care, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Bhoi.

Altogether, 20 doctors and nurses from across Nagaland participated in the training. The programme focused on strengthening clinical skills, enhancing knowledge and building confidence among participants to take leadership roles in emergency care delivery in the state.

The training comprised lectures, hands-on skill stations, simulations, megacodes, ambulance exposure, and structured

instructor training modules. It aimed at equipping participants not only to effectively manage emergencies but also to serve as trainers in their respective districts.

The sessions were facilitated by Dr. Hannah Chawang and Dr. Sahana Twinkle from AIIMS New Delhi, Dr. Prawal Shrimal from AIIMS Bilaspur, and Dr. Kemba Padu from Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Arunachal Pradesh. The training adhered to national standards while being contextualised to address local challenges, particularly in resource-constrained settings.

Given Nagaland's vulnerability to natural disasters such as earthquakes and landslides, the programme marks a significant step towards developing a pool of trained professionals who will further cascade emergency care knowledge and skills across the state.

MINISTER METSUBO INAUGURATES SARAS FAIR 2026

The six-day SARAS (Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society) Fair 2026, organised by the Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM) was inaugurated at Khuochiezie (Local Ground), Kohima on 26th March 2026 by Metsubo Jamir, Minister for Rural Development & SIRD who graced the occasion as the Special Guest.

In his address, Minister Jamir lauded the NSRLM for providing a platform that connects rural artisans and producers directly to markets, enabling wider and even global reach. He highlighted the government's commitment to support rural entrepreneurs through skills, finance, and market access, noting that youth skilling programmes have already benefited over 9,000 youths. He also announced a seed fund for 1,000 women entrepreneurs to promote women-

led businesses and self-reliance.

Overall, he expressed confidence that such initiatives will drive sustainable livelihoods, inclusive growth, and a stronger, self-reliant Nagaland.

The programme also featured the inauguration of Skills-on-Wheels, a folkloric performance by Nagaland artists, and the distribution of laptops and printers to BC Sakhis.

The six-day event brought together participants from across the country and various districts of Nagaland, including six national participants, 23 departments and organizations, and 43 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). In total, around 100 stalls were set up, displaying a diverse range of products and innovations including food stalls by rural artisans and entrepreneurs.

SCERT NAGALAND RELEASES KEY EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

A series of important educational publications developed by Social Science and Mathematics cells of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Nagaland, was formally released on 27th March, 2026 by Director, SCERT, Nagaland, Keviraleü Kerhüo, in the presence of academic officers of the department.

The publications include pamphlets on Road Safety Education for School Students, a Module on Road Safety Education for School Teachers, a Coffee Table Book on the Traditional Arts and Crafts of Nagaland, a

Teacher Resource Book on the Teaching of Social Science in the Middle Stage, and a book titled Computational Thinking: Your First Steps.

The publications reflect SCERT Nagaland's continued effort to provide teacher-friendly, context-based, and culturally relevant learning resources for schools across the state. The release of these books and resource materials is expected to benefit teachers across Nagaland and contribute to improving classroom teaching and learning.

CENTRE, STATE PUSH FOR CONVERGENCE TO ACCELERATE MSME GROWTH IN NAGALAND

A high-level coordination meeting on "MSME as Engines of Growth" was held at the Chief Secretary's Conference Hall, Nagaland

Civil Secretariat, Kohima, on 30th March 2026, bringing together officials from the Government of India and various agri. and

allied departments of the State.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner, V. Shashank Shekhar (IAS), who said the objective was to bring all concerned departments onto a common platform to enhance synergy between the Centre and the State for maximising benefits to the people. He stressed the importance of convergence and collective efforts for effective implementation of developmental programmes.

Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, S.C.L. Das (IAS), said that the meeting was meant for dialogue and partnership—not review—and aimed to align central support with the state's development goals. He highlighted that MSMEs span multiple sectors (like textiles, food processing, steel, and electronics) and play a significant role in the economy.

Das emphasized breaking departmental silos and improving convergence across schemes run by various ministries to maximize benefits for stakeholders. He also noted that both central and state governments must work together more effectively to leverage these schemes.

Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the Ministry's vision of fostering sustainable development MSMEs as a key driver of India's economic growth.

She highlighted various flagship schemes under the Ministry, including PM Vishwakarma, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises, Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund, Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), National SC-ST Hub Scheme (NSSH), International Cooperation Scheme (IC), Assistance to Training Institutions (ATI) and Yashasvini initiative.

Under Viksit Bharat 2047, Epao outlined a vision to build a modern, vibrant, and globally competitive MSME sector at the core of India's development. She emphasised increasing MSME participation in services and exports, promoting the adoption of modern and sustainable technologies, expanding digitalisation along with skill development initiatives and strengthening rural industries.

Various departments presented updates on their ongoing activities while also highlighting key challenges in marketing and exports. They further outlined the support required to scale up and expand their products.

Development Commissioner, Industries & Commerce, Tourism, Horticulture, Fisheries, RD, Finance, IT & C, Land Resources, Women Development, Forest, Nagaland Bamboo Mission, Employment & Skill Development, Youth Resource & Sports, Seri culture, Agri department attended the meeting.

NAGALAND COMPETING AT INDIA SKILLS 2025-26

IndiaSkills Competition 2025-26 was held from 29th March to 2nd April, 2026 at Auditorium-I, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The Nagaland team is represented by one State official, one team leader and a lone participant Imtisangla Kangshou, a silver medalist in the Zonal Level who is competing in the Restaurant Service job role. It may be noted that Nagaland has reached the National Level for the first time, marking a significant milestone in the State's journey towards skill excellence and national participation.

The event brought together participants, officials, experts, and dignitaries from across 36 States and Union Territories, reflecting the nationwide commitment towards strengthening skill development and youth empowerment. The competition follows a rigorous selection process conducted over a month-long period, beginning from District Level, progressing through State Level, and culminating at the Zonal Level, before reaching the national stage.



Nagaland team at the IndiaSkills competition 2025-26 held at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, UP on 29th March 2026.

The IndiaSkills Competition 2025-26 featured competitions across 60-odd job roles covering multiple sectors. The winners of the national competition will represent India at the International Skills Competition scheduled to be held in Shanghai, China in September 2026.

MoS GEORGE KURIAN VISITS TUENSANG

Union MoS for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian interacts with doctors and staff at District Hospital Tuensang during his two-day visit to the district on March 1st, 2026.

Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian, visited Tuensang on a two-day tour from March 1st -2nd, 2026 during which he conducted field visits and held interaction sessions with officials, stakeholders, and the public.

During his visit, he inspected Fish Farm Thimka and interacted with local fish farmers. District Fisheries Officer, Mhomo Murry highlighted key challenges such as poor road connectivity, inadequate infrastructure, and the need for more fishery ponds, noting that over 80 marginal fish farmers operate in the area.

The Minister also inspected the fishery pond and hatchery tank, and later visited District Hospital Tuensang and Parade Ground Tuensang. In the evening, he met with tribal leaders, civil society members, and party representatives.

On March 2, Kurian convened an

LONGLENG DPDB MEETING HELD

Longleng District Planning and Development Board Meeting for the month

interaction session with Heads of Offices at the DC's Conference Hall. DC Tuensang, Lithrongla Tongpi Rutsa welcomed the Minister, while ADC Shelly Katiry presented an overview of the district through a powerpoint presentation. Discussions covered key development issues including infant mortality, immunization, public distribution, skill development, nutrition, PM Kisan, PMAY-G, SHGs, education, and National Highway 202.

The Minister emphasized the Government of India's commitment to the development of the Northeast, assuring support in infrastructure and financial assistance. He appreciated the efforts of district officials and encouraged them to continue working with dedication for public welfare. During the visit, he also interacted with students at St. John Higher Secondary School Tuensang.

of March 2026, was held at DPDB Hall, Longleng on 5th March 2026, under the

chairmanship of MLA & Chairman DPDB Longleng, A. Pongshi Phom.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address to the MLA and chairman DPDB Longleng by SDO (c) Longleng, Pukham, on behalf of DPDB Longleng.

MLA and chairman DPDB Longleng, A. Pongshi Phom in his address, welcomed the members to the monthly meeting and emphasised the importance of being sincere and attentive in the board meeting.

Agendas discussed in the meeting included, establishment of Government Primary School (GPS) at Anaki (c) submitted by sr. DEO Longleng, where the house approved the proposal and agreed to forward

the matter to the higher authority. On Adoption of the National Highways Act 1956 for land acquisition in respect of National Highway projects, the house discussed on the status, rights and protection of landowners under the National Highways Act 1956.

Agriculture Officer Longleng, Chingsang Phom, on behalf of district Agriculture department presented the department project and scheme implemented in the district through a power point presentation.

The chairman entrusted the Department of PWD R&B and Housing for the presentation in the next DPDB meeting. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by the chairman.

BLACKSMITH TRAINING PROGRAMME HELD AT SHAMATOR

The Shamator District Administration in collaboration with the Department of Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship organised a Blacksmith Training Programme with ZIS as the training partner at District Cultural Hall, Shamator on 5th March 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, EAC Shamator Mekato J Aye highlighted the district administration's target of creating 3,000 skilled labourers in the district. He urged the trainees to make use of the platform to learn from experts and trainers, share ideas, and enhance their traditional skills in blacksmithing. Referring to the district's

reputation for producing quality dao, spades and other traditional tools he urged the trainees to think beyond making basic tools and explore how the craft could contribute not only to livelihood but also to the local and social economy.

Quoting the message, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are," he reminded the trainees that every successful person begins from small steps and urged them to actively utilise the skills imparted during the training.

The programme was chaired by John Anar, while the welcome address was delivered by R Kiuju.

MINI LEGAL SERVICES CAMP HELD AT NOKLAK

The Nagaland State Legal Services Authority (NSLSA) in collaboration with the Tuensang District Legal Services Authority (TDLSA) and the District Administration, Noklak organised the First Mini Legal Services Camp at Noklak on 5th of March, 2026.

Deputy Commissioner P Mono Khamniungan extended a warm welcome to the visiting team from NSLSA and TDLSA. In his address, he appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of such outreach programmes in remote areas. He further

requested the Legal Services Authorities to organise similar camps in the sub-divisions of the district in the near future to ensure wider coverage and benefit to more citizens.

Delivering his key note address, Member Secretary, Neiko Akami, NJS elaborated on the purpose of conducting the Camp in the district. He highlighted various services offered by the Legal Services Authority like Legal Aid, Victim Compensations and Lok Adalat for speedy and amicable settlement of disputes.

Secretary, TDLSA, Kumdilong Kessen, informed the gathering about the participating departments and the free services offered, and

expressed gratitude to NSLSA, the Deputy Commissioner of Noklak, and all departments for their support and active participation.

Following the formal programme, the Mini Legal Services Camp was officially inaugurated. The camp saw participation from multiple government departments and institutions.

A similar programme was organized by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in collaboration with the Shamator District Administration at Shamator on 6th March 2026 with the visiting team from NSLSA and TDLSA.

PEREN DPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly meeting of the District Planning & Development Board (DPDB), Peren was held at DC's Conference Hall, Peren on 6th March 2026 under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Peren, Hiazu Meru.

At the outset, the DC welcomed the members present and reviewed the agendas discussed in the previous meeting. Later, the house deliberated on matters related to the education sector and the need to take up necessary initiatives for improvement.

On the agenda pertaining to the National Highway Act, 1956 for construction of National Highways, the DC informed the house that the proposal had been received from the Works & Housing Department. Stating that the matter was important and required wider consultation, the DC directed both the Tribal Bodies - NZPO and Kuki Inpi, Nagaland to discuss along with other stakeholders and get back with their views and opinions for further consideration.

The Deputy Commissioner presented a proposal to declare Peren as a Green District

Headquarters, under which efforts would be made to protect trees, plants, and wildlife. The district plans to develop its own policies and explore funding sources in coordination with the Urban Development Department. The DC requested support from members, and after discussion, the proposal was approved.

The house also agreed to the proposal for creation of a Police Outpost at the District Headquarters to strengthen security and enforcement mechanisms.

Deliberating on the application for construction of a spring well/reservoir, the house decided to refer the proposal to the Land Resources Department for further examination.

The Deputy Commissioner raised concerns about irregular attendance of government staff in Jalukie Sub-division and instructed Heads of Offices to ensure regular attendance, with sub-divisional officers tasked to monitor it. He also asked departments without office buildings or residential quarters at the District Headquarters to submit details,

following an enquiry from the Deputy Chief Minister, so the matter can be taken up with the government.

Referring to the Orchid Festival held at Peren Town, organized by the Peren Town Women Welfare Organization (PTWWO), the DC asked the District Horticulture Officer, Peren to prepare a proper action plan for promotion of orchid cultivation and explore possible collaboration with the School of Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development (SASRD).

The Executive Engineer of the Power Department outlined ongoing initiatives and schemes, encouraged departments to utilize Central Government subsidies, and informed that smart meters would soon be installed in

government offices. He also urged all Heads of Offices to clear pending electricity dues before the installation.

The Principal of Government Polytechnic Peren, Neikhrove Pfuno highlighted challenges related to road connectivity and water supply and requested support. The DC instructed submission of a letter for road issues to be taken up with the PWD and a proposal for water supply to be forwarded to the Urban Development Department.

The Chief Medical Officer also informed the house about the nationwide HPV vaccination campaign for 14-year-old girls to prevent cervical cancer and other HPV-related diseases.

DEMENTIA SCREENING PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS HELD AT NOKLAK

A Dementia Screening Programme for Senior Citizens- Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) initiative was held for the first time at District Hospital, Noklak on March 9, 2026. The programme was organized by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the Health & Family Welfare Department. Altogether, 96 senior citizens were screened during the health camp.

Chief Medical Officer, Noklak, Dr. Victor, spoke about dementia and explained how the disease commonly affects people in old age. He urged the elderly to openly share their health concerns with doctors and nurses. Emphasizing that prevention is better than care, he advised maintaining a balanced diet including organic and protein-rich foods.



Chief Medical Officer, Noklak, Dr. Victor addressing the participants at a Dementia Screening Programme for senior citizens held in Noklak on March 9th, 2026.

District Programme Officer (ICDS), Ajongla Temjen, in her address encouraged the elderly persons to extend full cooperation to the caregivers during the screening process.

ONE-DAY TRAINING UNDER SEED THE FUTURE ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAMME HELD IN DIMAPUR

A one-day training programme under the Seed the Future Entrepreneur Programme was conducted at Government Higher Secondary School, Purana Bazaar, Dimapur on 9th March 2026, to promote innovation and entrepreneurial thinking among school students in solving local problems through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and the use of Atal Tinkering Labs and skill labs.

Resource persons Shreyas Bhagwat and Arundhati Jadhav, from La Fondation Dassault Systèmes & Lend A Hand India respectively, conducted sessions on 3-D product design and developing final product concepts, guiding students in transforming their ideas into innovative prototypes through a design thinking approach and

finally preparing the students to come up with the final product for submission to the next steps of the competition.

The programme is being implemented in six schools in Nagaland—three Government and three Private schools—each nominating six students from Classes VIII, IX and X. This national-level programme includes 216 schools across the country, out of which 30 schools from Maharashtra and 6 schools from Nagaland are directly supported by Lend A Hand India, where students will develop innovative prototypes and compete at the national level. The product ideas focus on themes such as Agriculture, Local Artisans, and Safety & Security, encouraging students to create solutions addressing real community challenges.

KOHIMA DC CALLS FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN CSR ACTIVITIES BY BANKS

The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the combined quarter ended September and December 2025 was held at the DC's Conference Hall, Kohima on March 10th, 2026 to review the performance of banks and financial institutions in the district.

The meeting reviewed the progress under the District Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025–26, lending to priority sectors, and the implementation of government-sponsored schemes. Performance of banks under social security schemes including the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was also reviewed.

Altogether, 24 banks are currently operating in Kohima district. A review of performance under the District Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025–26 showed that achievement under the Agriculture sector stood at 60.32 per cent, MSME at 104.47 per cent, and other Priority sectors at 15.52 per cent, while the overall achievement under the total priority sector was recorded at 80.80 per cent.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kohima The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kohima asked banks to present their CSR activities in the district. Representatives from various banks shared that several initiatives had been carried out in areas such as support to educational

institutions through the provision of computers and learning equipment, installation of solar lighting in rural areas, setting up of smart classroom facilities, and assistance towards community welfare initiatives including support for patients requiring nutritional aid. The DC emphasized accountability and transparency, urging that locally generated resources should benefit the district. He also instructed banks to submit detailed reports on their CSR efforts in the next meeting.

The District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Security Committee (DLSC) meetings for the same combined quarter were also held. The meeting confirmed and adopted the minutes of the

previous meeting held on October 28, 2025.

Discussions were held on the Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of banks in the district and the performance under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025–26 as on December 31, 2025. The committee also reviewed the implementation of government-sponsored schemes, progress of social security schemes, Aadhaar seeding, and financial literacy initiatives.

Under the District Level Security Committee, security-related issues concerning banking institutions in the district were also discussed. The meeting concluded with deliberations on other matters and a vote of thanks by the chair.

CHUMOUKEDIMA DPDB MEETING HELD

Chumoukedima District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting for the month of March was held at the DC's Conference Hall, Chumoukedima on March 10th, 2026 under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and Vice Chairman, DPDB Chumoukedima, Polan John, NCS.

The board reviewed the minutes of the previous DPDB meeting and deliberated on various matters concerning the district. In this regard, the DC sought recommendations from the concerned departments on whether partial riverbed mining on Chathe River could be permitted or if the existing total ban should continue. The board also recommended registration of society Grace Family Foundation at Virazouma.

Among other agendas, the board members recommended updating the nomenclature of Passport Seva Kendra office from Dimapur to Chumoukedima

and deliberated on the development of Chumoukedima Town Cemetery. The meeting also discussed financial literacy initiatives in the district in connection with the MoU signed between the State Government and State Bank of India. Further, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on the constitution of Internal Complaints Committees (ICC) in all departments under the provisions of the POSH Act and urged all departmental offices in the district to ensure compliance. Additionally, he briefed the House on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), directing all Heads of Department (HODs) to align their departmental action and development plans with the SDG targets.

Orenponi Yanthan, Dy. Commissioner of State Taxes on behalf of the Department of Taxes gave a Power Point Presentation about the department and the activities being carried out in the district.

COORDINATION MEETING HELD AT CHIEPHOBOZOU

The Chiephobozou Sub-Divisional Coordination meeting was held on 11th March 2026 under the chairmanship of ADC Chiephobozou, Alemyapang Longcha at the ADC's Office Chamber, Chiephobozou.

ADC Chiephobozou, Alemyapang Longchar informed the members that a reconstitution of new village council would be conducted in the month of April 2026 and the House Listing for the Census will begin by the month of July 2026. He encouraged all the departments to render their services

diligently and to work with coordination and commitment for upliftment of the Sub-division.

Neinuo Zumu, Inspector of Food and Civil Supplies, highlighted departmental activities under the Public Distribution System. She also informed that under the National Food Security Act 2023, the Government has extended free food grain distribution for five more years, until December 2028.

SAGSA PUGHOBOTO EMERGES CHAMPION OF 1st INTRA-DISTRICT U-23 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Sumi Aphuyemi Games and Sports Association (SAGSA), Pughoboto Area, emerged victorious after defeating the Satakha Area Culture and Sports Association (SASCA) 4-1 in the final of the 1st Intra-District U-23 Football Tournament held on 14th March 2026 at the District Sports Council Ground, Zunheboto.

The tournament was organised by the District Planning & Development Board (DPDB) in collaboration with the Zunheboto District Football Association (ZDFA) from 10th to 14th March, 2026. Deputy Speaker NLA and Chairman DPDB, Zunheboto, Toiho S. Yeptho graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Yeptho encouraged the young footballers to remain dedicated and disciplined in the sport. He emphasised that football is not only about winning matches but also about teamwork, perseverance and sportsmanship.

Citing examples of legendary footballers such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Diego

Maradona, he said their success came through hard work, determination and an unyielding passion for the game. He urged the players to learn from such global icons and strive to improve their skills through regular practice and commitment.

Yeptho further expressed hope that tournaments like this would enable talented and outstanding players from Zunheboto district to compete in the Dr. T. Ao Trophy and represent the district with pride. He encouraged the youth to view football as a platform to showcase their abilities and bring recognition to the district.

Highlighting the importance of sports in youth development, he noted that tournaments like the Intra-District U-23 competition help nurture local talent and provide opportunities for young players to gain competitive experience. He also urged players to maintain discipline on and off the field, stressing that true sportsmanship lies in respecting teammates, opponents and officials.

Altogether, six teams from Zunheboto district participated in the tournament. The prize money included ₹75,000 for the

champion, ₹50,000 for the runner-up, ₹25,000 each for the two semi-finalists, and ₹10,000 each for the participating teams.

DIMAPUR OBSERVES JAL MAHOTSAV PAKHWADA 2026

Dimapur observed the Jal Mahotsav Pakhwada 2026 as part of the nationwide water conservation campaign under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The programme, organised by the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) in collaboration with the PHED Urban Division, was held at the DC Office on 16th March 2026 as part of the fortnight-long observance from 8th to 22nd March.

DC Dimapur, Dr. Tinojongshi Chang, NCS, in his address highlighting the objectives of the ongoing activities under the rural drinking water programme. He said that while the government has provided infrastructure and support, the success of such schemes depends on community participation. He stressed that community participation is key to ensure the sustainability of development initiatives, especially in rural areas, and encouraged villagers to work together to properly manage and protect government facilities for future generations.

Executive Engineer PHED & Member Secretary DWSM, Dimapur, Er. Bendangtola Walling, in her address said that the ongoing Pakhwada, launched on March 8 coinciding

with International Women's Day to recognise and promote the role of women in managing village-level water assets and encourage greater involvement. She also noted that the government is encouraging communities to conduct surveys and monitor water supply systems themselves using digital platforms. She further informed that deserving women actively contributing to the management and protection of village water assets are being identified for recognition and awards at higher levels.

The meeting discussed key agenda's including the observance of Jal Mahotsav Pakhwada 2026, formation of the District Technical Unit (DTU), and setting up of Source Sustenance Committees under the Jal Jeevan Mission. It also focused on clarifying roles and reporting systems for sustainable rural water supply. It also discussed that formation of a District Technical Committee to monitor issues related to rural water supply after the schemes are handed over, review online reports from village-level workers, and coordinate with departments to address technical issues.

NATIONAL VACCINATION DAY OBSERVED WITH 3 DAY LIVESTOCK DRIVE IN KIPHIRE

National Vaccination Day 2026 was observed on 16th March 2026 at Kiphire, organised by the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Kiphire under the leadership of Dr. Tsilise Sangtam, Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO). The event brought

together the Aspirational Fellow from NITI Aayog, Veterinarians, and animal lovers from the district.

Addressing the delegates and veterinarians, Dr. Tsilise Sangtam assured full saturation of the two key indicators



Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Tsilise sangtam with officials during the observance of National Vaccination Day 2026 at Veterinary Hospital, Kiphire on 16th March 2026.

under the District and Block Programme for Sampoonnata Abhiyan 2.0. While the Aspirational Block Fellow, Ningsangwu Bomrr highlighted NITI Aayog's ongoing efforts and pledged comprehensive support to departments for district saturation and development. He also flagged off the vaccination drive.

The three-day continuous vaccination drive was launched, in 11 wards of Kiphire

town and nearby villages. The focus is on combating Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) through mass vaccinations for cattle and cows, Classical Swine Fever for Pigs.

This initiative aligns with the ongoing Sampoonnata Abhiyan 2.0 under the Aspirational District/Block Programme. The program culminated by flagging-off the vaccination van for the 11 wards.

DPDB KOHIMA HIGHLIGHTS PUBLIC SERVICE ISSUES AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Deputy Commissioner Kohima, B Henok Buchem, reviewed the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators and public service issues during the monthly meeting of the District Planning & Development Board (DPDB) held at DPDB's Hall, Kohima on March 16th, 2026. MLA and Chairman DPDB Kohima, Kevipodi Sophie, chaired the programme.

Addressing the meeting, Buchem urged all departments to remain proactive in updating data related to SDG indicators, noting that while the state has made encouraging progress, several areas still

require improvement.

The DC also informed members about recent discussions held with oil companies, distributors and dealers regarding issues related to LPG supply and the implementation of digital booking systems. He said that since most consumers in Kohima already use digital LPG booking, the district is better prepared for the government's move towards full nationwide digital booking.

Buchem also spoke about the need to prepare for the approaching monsoon season and suggested conducting a pre-monsoon preparedness exercise in coordination with

departments. He urged officials to ensure adequate manpower and resources to address potential issues, particularly along national highways.

The DC further informed the board that reports and submissions related to issues discussed in the previous DPDB meeting has been forwarded to the concerned authorities.

Deputy Director Urban Development, Kiniholi Kinimi, through a PowerPoint presentation, informed that PM SVANidhi and DAY-NULM schemes are being

implemented in Kohima to support urban livelihoods. She informed that around 968 street vendors, mostly women, have benefited from loans under the scheme. She also highlighted other activities undertaken by the department.

Meanwhile, the District Planning Officer, Kohima informed the board that a stakeholder consultation workshop for the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision document will be held in April 2026.

TRAINING ON BASIC STEEL FABRICATION HELD AT MELURI

The Department of Employment Skill Development & Entrepreneurship conducted Training on Basic steel Fabrication, at Town Hall, Meluri from 16th to 24th March 2026.

At the culmination programme on March 24, Advisor for New & Renewable Energy and Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, stated that training alone is ineffective unless it translates into improved performance. He said that if knowledge is not put into practice, effort, time, and chances for growth are wasted.

Nyuthe encouraged youth to focus on self-skilling rather than depending solely on government employment, describing it as a more sustainable career path in the present context. He added that without consistent effort and application, potential remains unrealized and underdeveloped.

The programme also featured experience-sharing by the trainees after which certificates and toolkits were distributed. A Total of 25 trainees registered for the training programme.

PHEK DPDB APPOINTS CONVENERNERS FOR VIKSIT NAGALAND VISION 2047

Phek DPDB held its monthly meeting at the DC's conference hall in Phek on 17th March 2026.

During the meeting, the issue of the SDO (Electrical) Office at Phek headquarters being shut down by individuals who claimed ownership of the land on which the office stands was discussed. The matter was brought to light by the concerned SDO (Electrical), Er. Nukhosa Chizo. It was reported that the office has remained closed since 27th February 2026.

Deliberating over the issue, DC and Vice Chairman DPDB Phek, Rhosietho Nguori, NCS, urged the concerned department officers and staff to initiate for solution. The SDO (Electrical) informed the House that negotiations are currently underway with the landowners to reach an amicable settlement. Taking note of the seriousness of the matter, ADC Pfutsero, Mhalo Humtsoe, NCS, also advised the department to formalize an agreement in accordance with the existing government policies.

Thejakhrienuo Nisa, NCS, ADC Phek, briefed the members on a letter received from the State Planning & Transformation Department regarding the organization of workshop to prepare the Vision Document for Viksit Nagaland @2047.

The House then held detailed deliberations on the Vision Document for Viksit Nagaland and subsequently appointed one convener for each of the five pillars of the Vision Document, namely:

1. District Agriculture Officer, Phek, Convener for Economic Development.
2. Chief Medical Officer, Phek, convener

for Social Development

3. District Forest Officer, Phek, Convener for Environmental Sustainability.

4. EE (PWD), Pfutsero, Convener for Infrastructure.

5. ADC Phek, Convener, for Governance and Institutional Strengthening.

Zhoi Lohe, NCS, Project Director, DRDA (Department of Rural Development), Phek and Vivose Kera, Asst. Urban Development Officer of Urban Department, Phek highlighted current activities of their department at the meeting through power point presentation.

TSEMINYU DPDB CUM DWSM MEETING HELD

As part of Jal Mahotsav, the Tseminyu DPDB meeting cum DWSM meet was held on 17th March 2026 at DC's Conference Hall, Tseminyu. Deputy Commissioner Tseminyu, Japheth Woch, NCS welcome all the members present and reviewed the last meeting minutes.

Discussing on the status of Fuel in the District, the DC informed that there is no shortage of Fuel in the District. While deliberating on the LPG, he informed that the district has two gas agencies and reminded that all booking must be done through online. Briefing on Nagaland Olympics and Paralympics Game 2026, he

urged the members to come forward with free-will contribution and financial support to promote sports in the district.

Keynote address on Jal Mahotsav was delivered by the Executive Engineer and members secretary DWSM, Er. Kedolhuto Punyu. Meanwhile, a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the activities of Jal Mahotsav, Jal Arpan Diwas, Jal Seva Aankahan and Jan Bhagidari was presented by the District Coordinator, Ashale Seb.

Later after the program, the DC & Chairman DWSM, Japheth Woch handed over a waste collection truck to Tesophenyu and Kandinu Villages.

KIPHIRE DPDB MEETING HELD

The DPDB meeting of Kiphire was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner & Vice Chairman DPDB, Temsuwati Longkumer, NCS at DC's Conference Hall on 17th March 2026.

Deliberating on the agendas of the day, the house recommended the registration

of Pencake Silat Association as a society to the concerned department after detailed discussion.

EAC Development, Takatemjen Pongen, highlighted various schemes and activities under the Minority Affairs Department and Department of Higher & Technical

Education including the PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme which provides education loans and scholarships to meritorious students to help reduce school dropouts. He further urged members of the District Skill Committee to submit their action plan and target proposals at the earliest.

The proposal for upgradation of Mission School, Kiphire Town was justified by District Education Officer, Kiphire and was later approved and forwarded to the higher authority for consideration.

Action plan on Sampoonata Abhiyaan 2.0 Campaign Drive in Khongsa Block (ABP) and Kiphire District (ADP) was presented by ABF and Development Partner, Lithsaba Sangtam.

SCK - IDAN Kiphire, shared details about the State-Wide Mega Job Fair scheduled to be held on 21st March 2026 at IBHIC, Dimapur, and informed that the NST Transport Department will arrange transportation for participants.

The board also recommended the proposal for correction of village name from "Tuthuyo" to "Tethuyo" after a justification statement made by the Village Council Chairman and Representatives of the village at the meeting.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON MINORITY SCHEMES HELD AT PHEK

The Directorate of Minority Affairs, in collaboration with the Phek District Administration, conducted an Awareness and Sensitization Programme on various schemes and activities of the department March 17th 2026, at the DC's Conference Hall, Phek.

The programme focused on key

schemes including National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), Micro Credit Schemes, PM VIKAS, Minority Scholarships, and PMJVK, highlighted through detailed presentations by departmental officials.

The programme was attended by district administrative officers, heads of departments, village council chairmen, GBs, and church leaders. Deputy Commissioner Phek, Rhosietho Nguori, delivered the welcome address, while Joint Secretary Neingulie Krome, NCS, chaired and delivered the keynote address.

Similar Programme Held in Kiphire:

A similar awareness and sensitization programme was held at Hopongkyu Memorial Hall, Kiphire, on March 19, 2026, to create awareness on various minority welfare schemes and initiatives.

ZUNHEBOTO DPDB DELIBERATES ON VARIOUS AGENDAS

The District Planning & Development Board (DPDB) Zunheboto held its monthly meeting under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Dharam Raj (IAS) at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Zunheboto on 18th March 2026.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by the Deputy Commissioner

The Board reviewed the previous meeting agendas including the proposal for change of nomenclature and relocation of Eden Garden School, Alahuto and the proposal for the establishment of the Sumi Naga Museum, which were forwarded to the concerned authorities for necessary action. However, the proposal for registering the

Sumi Anthropology Research Union was not approved, as it lacked adequate proof of members' academic qualifications, especially in anthropology.

The house also discussed the proposal for registration of Sumi Baptist Akukuhou Kuqhakulu, Aizuto Society and recommended it for registration.

Another important agenda discussed was the establishment of a Sub-District Industries and Commerce Centre (SIDC) at Suruhuto. The DC informed the house that the proposal can only be forwarded after submission by the concerned General Manager (Industries).

The meeting also deliberated on the concept of a Model Village, during which modalities and guidelines were discussed. The Deputy Commissioner invited suggestions from members and emphasized the need for cooperation from all departments, as well as active participation and contribution from the community and the concerned village. It was highlighted that achieving 100 percent saturation in development indicators would be a key objective for the selected village in the next financial year.

Additionally, EAC (Development), Dr. L. Chuchong Noklang, outlined an internship programme for students of Zunheboto Government College. Under the two-week programme, students will be placed in various government departments across Zunheboto district to gain practical exposure to their functioning. The initiative aims to enhance understanding of government work and encourage students to share innovative ideas for improvement. A total of 12 departments agreed to take part in the programme.

PIGGERY FARMERS MEET HELD AT TSEMINYU

A piggery Farmers meet on the theme "Strengthening Tseminyu as a model Piggery District", was held on 18th March 2026 at Town Hall, Tseminyu. Bringing together farmers, Government Officials, allied departments and financial institutions to promote sustainable Piggery development in the district. The program was chaired by Dr. Gwathonlo Tsela VAS.

Delivering the keynote address, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman DLMC, Japheth Woch emphasized the importance of Piggery as a key livelihood activity in the district and highlighted the need for convergence among departments, financial institutions and farmers to strengthen the Piggery sector.

While Dr. Kenalo Kath (CVO) Tseminyu, spoke on the importance of scientific Piggery practices, disease control to improve productivity and ensuring the health of livestock.

Officers from allied Departments including Agriculture, KVK, Land Resources, Industry and Fishery shared their insights on integrated farming approaches, resources management and technical support available to farmers.

Officials from financial institutions such as SBI and Bank of Baroda highlighted financial assistance available for Piggery and allied activities assuring farmers to avail institutional support for expanding their enterprise.

The program served as a platform for interactions knowledge sharing and strengthening coordination among stakeholders aimed at enhancing Piggery production improving farmers livelihood.

12th INTER DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENT 2026 CONCLUDES AT MON

The 12th Inter Departmental Tournament 2026, organised by Officers' Club Mon was held from 19th to 21st March 2026 at Officer's Club, Mon & Neilkeak Futsal, Tammong. The closing ceremony on 21st March was graced by Superintendent of Police, Mon, Kanchan Kumar Kanpal as the special guest.

The Special Guest in his address thanked the organising committee and said that such tournaments promote unity and create memorable experiences. He also

assured that the Police Department would extend support in organising similar events in the future.

The tournament featured competitions in badminton (men's singles, women's singles, mixed doubles, and men's doubles), carrom (men's and women's singles and doubles categories) and futsal matches.

The overall winner was lifted by DEF Mon with DEO Mon bagging the Runner up.

BHANDARI SDPB MEETING HELD

The monthly meeting of the Bhandari Sub divisional Planning Board was held on 20th March 2026 at the Summer House-cum-Guest House, Bhandari under the chairmanship of Vice Chairmen of SDPB Bhandari, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Longasen Lotha, NCS.

The ADC appreciated the members for their consistent attendance at the SDPDB meeting and urged the members to be more sincere, dedicated, and diligent in their assigned duties.

Additional Deputy Commissioner informed that the public of the sub-division are facing difficulties due to outage of power supply and urged the Power Department to

make every effort to restore the power supply at the earliest.

He also informed the members to be well prepare for the approaching monsoon season and further suggested that a pre monsoon exercise be conducted in coordination with the concerned Departments.

He also highlighted the notification issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Wokha for selection/election of village Council members (VCM's) for the tenure 2026-2031. He said the entire process of selection/election of VCMs under Bhandari Sub-division should be completed on or before 20th April 2026 and submitted to the office of DC, Wokha.

EXCISE DEPARTMENT DESTROYS LIQUOR WORTH ₹9 LAKH IN ZUNHEBOTO

In a significant enforcement action under the Nagaland Liquor Total Prohibition (NLTP) Act, 1989, the Excise Department on 20th March 2026 destroyed a large quantity of seized liquor valued at nearly ₹9 lakh in Zunheboto district.

According to the official destruction

certificate, a total of 1,635 bottles of seized liquor worth about ₹8.9 lakh was destroyed on 20 March 2026. The stock, collected from multiple cases over time, was disposed of legally by burning in a designated area.

Chairman of the Destruction Committee and Joint Commissioner of Excise, Katoho



Katoho Sumi, Chairman of the Destruction Committee and Joint Commissioner of Excise, along with excise personnel destroyed illegally sold liquor worth ₹9 lakh in Zunheboto on March 20th, 2026.

Sumi called for a more balanced and collective approach to enforcing liquor laws, stressing that responsibility should be shared among authorities, civil society, and the public—not the Excise Department alone. He highlighted manpower shortages but noted the department's continued commitment, calling for greater public understanding and support.

The destruction process was carried out following due legal procedures and in the presence of concerned officials. Authorities confirmed that the entire stock stored at

the Excise Malkhana has been completely destroyed and officially struck off from records in compliance with the provisions of the NLTP Act.

The operation was overseen by Joint Commissioner of Excise and Chairman of the Destruction Committee, Katoho Sumi, along with Deputy Commissioner of Excise (Enforcement), Vithoselie Terhuja, and Superintendent of Excise, Zunheboto, L. Hevito Zhimomi, who also serves as Member Secretary of the committee.

NIULAND DPDB MEMBERS VISIT AGHUNAQA AREA

Deputy Commissioner Niuland, Sara S Jamir along with the members of the District Planning & Development Board paid a field inspection to Aghunaqa circle on 24th March 2026.

The purpose of the visit is to inspect the implementation of departmental works in the field, engage with local stakeholders at the grassroots level and an initiative to bring the government offices at the doorstep of the people living in Aghunaqa area.

The team visited PM Shri Government High school (GHS) Pihekhu and Govt. High

School Aghunaqa and held interaction with the students, teacher/Staff and village Authorities.

DC in her short speech at PM Shri Government High School, Pihekhu urged the teachers to be dedicated and sincere in their duties and produce good results.

The team also visited Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme at Nizheto village, Solid Waste Management Unit at Aghunaqa and inspection of work undertaking by RD department at Pihekhu village.

The DPDB members also held meeting

with the Civil Societies and NGOs at Hukhai Village (Aghunaqa). During the visit, various DPDB members held an insightful interaction

with the village Leaders in regards to their respective departmental scheme and projects that are being implementing in their villages.

BLOCK LEVEL COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT JAKHAMA

A Block Level Coordination Committee (BLCC) meeting under the Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM) was held at the SDO (Civil) Office, Jakhama on 24th March 2026

The programme was organised by the Block Mission Management Unit (BMMU), RD Block Jakhama. Officials and representatives from various line departments and stakeholders attended the meeting to review ongoing activities and strengthen coordination at the block level.

During the meeting, discussions were held on the implementation and progress of various rural development and livelihood programmes under NSRLM. The members also deliberated on strategies to improve

convergence among departments, enhance community participation, and ensure effective delivery of schemes to beneficiaries.

Emphasis was laid on strengthening self-help groups (SHGs), promoting sustainable livelihood initiatives, and addressing challenges faced at the grassroots level. The committee also highlighted the importance of timely monitoring, reporting, and collaborative efforts for achieving the mission's objectives.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to work in coordination for the successful implementation of rural development programmes in Jakhama block.

BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO PROGRAMME FELICITATES MOTHERS AND NEWBORN BABY GIRLS IN WOKHA

The Wokha District Administration, Department of Social Welfare, and District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Mission Shakti), organized a felicitation programme for mothers and newborn baby girls held at DC's Conference Hall, Wokha, on 24th March, 2026.

Epidemiologist, Dr. Khesheli Awomi delivered a session on "Complementary Feeding: Right Food, Right Time, Right Amount," emphasizing the importance of proper nutrition for child health. Altogether, 190 mothers and newborn baby girls were

felicitated during the event, with warm blankets distributed as part of the initiative.

The programme was chaired by Gender Specialist, DHEW, Merithung Lotha, while the vote of thanks was proposed by District Mission Coordinator, DHEW, Dr. Wonjano E. Enny.

The event highlighted the commitment of the district administration and social welfare agencies towards promoting maternal and child welfare, reinforcing the vision of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to empower women and ensure a healthier future for all girl child.

FSSAI AWARENESS & REGISTRATION DRIVE HELD AT BHANDARI



Officials and Participants during the FSSAI Awareness and Registration drive held at Bhandari, Wokha on 24th March, 2026.

The District Industries Centre Wokha organised a FSSAI awareness programme at Sub-District Industries Centre, Bhandari, Wokha on 24th March 2026.

As a part of the RAMP scheme implemented by the Department of Industries & Commerce in collaboration with Nagaland Industrial Corporation Limited.

The programme is aimed to create

awareness about FSSAI/Regulations and facilitate Registration process enabling MSME to build trust comply with legal norms, access to new markets, and grow to their businesses sustainably.

A total of 40 participants from SHGs in different villages under Bhandari Sub-division were registered during the drive.

MON DPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly meeting of the Mon District Planning & Development Board was held on 24th March 2026 at DC's Conference Hall, Mon. The Additional Deputy Commissioner Mon, Pakon Phom, NCS presided over the proceeding, and welcomed the DPDB members.

After reviewing last meeting minutes,

the ADC opened an agenda for registration of ECO HUB Society, Wakching. After a brief deliberation, the house forwarded the matter to the higher authority for registration of the Society.

Pakon also highlighted about the new location of the GPS Shamnyu Ward, Mon Town.

JOINT CLEAN ELECTION MOVEMENT CONVENED AT MOKOKCHUNG



DC & DEO Mokokchung, Ajit Kumar Verma IAS and General Secretary NBCC, Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener with officials from NBCC and administration during an interaction and fellowship program on Clean Election Movement at DC's Conference Hall, Mokokchung on 26th March 2026.

The Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) in collaboration with the District Administration Mokokchung convened an interaction and fellowship program with the DC Mokokchung and staff on Clean Election Movement at the DC Conference Hall on 26th March 2026.

In his introductory address, Rev. Dr. Mar Pongener, General Secretary, NBCC maintain that the gathering is a platform for dialogue, partnership and to share responsibilities about NBCC's clean election movement that the NBCC has been spearheading to bring social transformation. He stated that the vision of the clean election movement is for transformation not only in systems but also in attitudes and values which required collective effort and mutual cooperation from all stakeholders, he added. He further said that to achieve the true vision of this movement we need to stand firm in practice and in promoting it in our respective spheres of influence.

Dr. Villo Naleo, Secretary, Social Concern Department, NBCC in his presentation

on "NBCC initiative for clean election, vision, and commitment and way forward", shared about the history of Clean Election Movement, its objectives and visions and the strategies of the clean election movement to bring about social transformation.

Deputy Commissioner & DEO Mokokchung, Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS in his address expressed hope that the movement will help bring about a transformation for a clean, fair and peaceful election process in the state. He also reiterated that rules and laws are put in place only as preventive measures, the changes can be seen only when all the stakeholders come together to achieve the desired purpose.

Rev Temsu Jamir, Executive Secretary ABAM while sharing his thoughts on Clean Election Movement said the message of this movement will impact the society.

The program was chaired by Bideno Kikon, Secretary, Christian Education Department, NBCC, while benediction was led by Katoli V Sumi, Secretary, Women Department, NBCC.

LPG SUPPLY NORMAL IN KOHIMA DISTRICT, NO IRREGULARITIES DETECTED

Deputy Commissioner, Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, NCS has informed that the Kohima District Monitoring Committee for regulation and monitoring of LPG and other petroleum products, and for prevention of hoarding, black-marketing, and overpricing, conducted inspection of LPG distribution agencies and outlets across Kohima District on 28th March 2026.

The inspection team comprised officials from the District Administration, Kohima Police, Food & Civil Supplies Department, Kohima Municipal Council and Legal Metrology. During the inspection, it was observed that all LPG distribution agencies are strictly adhering to the latest guidelines

issued by the Food & Civil Supplies Department, and no instances of hoarding, black-marketing, or overpricing were detected at any of the distribution outlets. The supply of LPG in the district has been reported to be normal and adequate.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner, Kohima has appealed to the general public to remain calm and not be influenced by any unverified or misleading information, and further requested the public to refrain from spreading such information. Any instances of malpractice by distributors or hoarding of LPG by individuals may be reported to the nearest Police Station or the District Administration for necessary action.

HEGA FESTIVAL CELEBRATED AT JALUKIE B

The Hega Festival (Ruangdi) 2026 of Mbaupungwa village was celebrated at the residence of Deputy Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang, at Jalukie B on 28th March 2026. The festival brought together community members in a vibrant display of cultural heritage, unity, and tradition.

The event was organised by the Mbaupungwa Lui Council and was graced by Minister for RD and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir, as the Special Guest; Deputy Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang, as the Chief Host; Chairman, Mbaupungwa Lui Council, Igumchu, as Co-Host; and Deputy Commissioner, Peren, Hiazu Meru, as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Metsubo Jamir described Hega as a cherished festival of the Zeliang community and praised Mbaupungwa village for preserving its cultural heritage.

He commended the Zeliangrong community for maintaining unity and identity despite geographical divisions while upholding oneness, terming it an inspiration to other Naga tribes.

Jamir also urged the community to remain united, value their blessings, and avoid comparisons. Expressing concern over the low participation of youth at the event, he stressed the importance of preserving language, culture and traditions by encouraging greater involvement of the younger generation. He also announced that his department would undertake the construction of a Community Building and set up a major Farmers' Market in Mbaupungwa village in response to the community's request of a major Farmers' Market.

Speaking at the programme, Deputy

Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang elaborated on how the Hega Festival was traditionally celebrated by the Mbaupungwa villagers and highlighted its meaning and significance.

While speaking on the significance of festivals, Deputy Commissioner Hiazu Meru described festivals as a "living museum" that preserves culture, traditions, and artistic heritage, and contributes to mental well-being and economic activity.

Expressing concern over increasing digital engagement, he observed that such gatherings help foster social cohesion and urged citizens to prioritise the collective development of Peren district over individual or village interests. The DC raised concern over the rising sale of land in villages and

suggested consultation with tribal hohos on such matters. He further highlighted the importance of tribal institutions and elaborated on the provisions of the Nagaland Village and Tribal Council Act, 1978.

The programme was chaired by Namsungbeu Teilia and Nchibamneui Siarau, followed by a welcome address delivered by Chairman (MLBC) and Joint Director, IPR, Igwanglia Simon Teilia.

Highlights of the event included folk song performances by Ramkia and Ramdi, and a folk dance presented by Mbaupungwa village. The vote of thanks was proposed by Vice President (COB), NPF, Hupun Zeliang. The programme concluded with Ruangdi celebrations.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, NIULAND ORGANIZES POLICE STATION VISIT FOR STUDENTS UNDER BBBP INITIATIVE

As part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, the District Administration Niuland and District Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, organized a visit to the local police station for students of Modern High School, Niuland on 30th March 2026 at Niuland PS.

Inzung Lungalang, ASI, and Ningsangyanger, LC, took the students through the intricacies of police functioning and highlighted various legal measures

available to citizens, especially girls and women.

Kelengunuo Solo, EAC Niuland, emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating that the visit is crucial for girl students to know how to approach police in times of need.

The initiative aimed to educate girl students about their rights and the support services provided by the police, boosting their confidence and empowerment.

BLOCK LEVEL TRAINING UNDER REVAMPED –RGSA HELD IN TSEMINIYU

Two Block Level Training programmes under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) were conducted in Tseminyu district on 30th and 31st March 2026, focusing on strengthening grassroots governance and capacity building of

Panchayat representatives.

(Photo 7)At Chunlikha Block (30th March), the training was held at the Community Hall and chaired by DEO RGSA Thejasenuo Roseline Sekhose, with participation from 35 members. Discussions



Officials and participants during the Block level Training under Revamped- RGSA held at community Hall, Chunlikha, Tseminyu on 30th March 2026.

focused on leadership development of Panchayat representatives and promoting women-friendly village initiatives.

At RD Block Tseminyu (31st March), the programme was chaired by BDO Celin Thol. C.A. Rural Development, Tseminyu, Kongaulie Chuilo spoke on Self Source of

Revenue Generating Income. DEO RGSA, Tseminyu, Hitimo Semy spoke on Leadership Development for Elected Representatives of Panchayat, while DPM RGSA Tseminyu, Sonye Khing spoke on Women Friendly Village and Model Women Friendly Gram Panchayat.

NPWD MULTI-LEVEL PARKING FACILITY INAUGURATES AT KOHIMA

The Multi-Level Parking facility at the NPWD Office, Kohima was inaugurated on 13th March 2026 by the Personal Secretary to the Minister for PWD (Housing), R. Rithrong, on behalf of the Minister P. Bashangmongba Chang.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister, Rithrong stated that the completion of the parking complex marks an important step in addressing the long-standing issue of limited parking space in the office premises. With the increasing number of vehicles, the facility will provide a more organized and convenient parking arrangement for staff and visitors.

The Minister congratulated the NPWD, particularly the Housing Department, for successfully completing the project and expressed hope that such initiatives would continue to improve workplace facilities and administrative efficiency.

A technical report on the project was presented by Executive Engineer, PWD (Housing), Central Division, Kohima,

Er. Nungsang Jamir. He highlighted the construction details and significance of the parking structure, and informed the total estimated cost of the building at 440.68 lakh.

Engineer-in-Chief, NPWD, Er. K. Imnajungba Jamir, in his short speech expressed his sincere appreciation to the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister, the initiative of PWD (Housing) Minister, Engineer incharge and the contractors who have contributed their skills and dedication to make the project successful. He also emphasized the importance of infrastructure development to ease traffic congestion and improve urban management in the capital.

The inaugural programme was chaired by Chief Engineer, PWD (Housing), Nagaland, Er. K. Nikato Assumi.

The Special Guest also unveiled the plaque marking the official inauguration of the multi-level parking facility. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the chairperson.

NIoT INAUGURATED AT KOHIMA AS STATE'S THINK TANK FOR POLICY INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Deputy Chief Minister Planning & Transformation and National Highways, T. R. Zeliang inaugurated the Nagaland Institute of Transformation (NIoT) office building at Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 13th March 2026.

Speaking at the launch programme, T.R. Zeliang said that the establishment of the institute marks a significant milestone in strengthening institutional capacity for

strategic planning, policy innovation, and development monitoring in Nagaland.

Zeliang noted that in a rapidly evolving development landscape, governments must rely on robust data systems, research driven policies and coordinated action to ensure effective governance. He added that institutions like NIoT will play an important role in shaping the future trajectory of the State, particularly as the country works

towards the vision of a developed India by 2047. Through research, data analytics, and policy support, the institute will assist the government in designing innovative and impactful development strategies, Zeliang added. He also expressed confidence that the institute will contribute significantly towards inclusive and sustainable development in Nagaland.

John Borgoyary, UNDP Regional Head in giving a brief introduction of NIoT emphasized the importance of long-term planning and effective implementation of development vision documents. Highlighting the ongoing work on the State's development roadmap towards 2047, he said a team of consultants is working on preparing digital documents for the State's long-term vision, which will be crucial in guiding future development strategies. He also underscored the significance of integrating planning with transformation, stating that the Planning and Transformation Department reflects the State Government's commitment to forward-looking governance. He concluded by encouraging the officers, experts, and members of NIoT to collaborate and contribute their expertise in refining the State's vision documents so as to help advance inclusive and sustainable development in Nagaland.

Development Commissioner Nagaland, Temsunaro Aier, IAS, in her address emphasized the importance of stakeholder

consultations in preparing the State's Vision 2047 document. She informed that consultations would be held across districts involving various stakeholders, officers, and sections of society to contribute inputs for the Vision 2047 roadmap. Aier further requested the Deputy Commissioners and district officials to actively cooperate with the team by sharing relevant data and insights from their respective districts to support the preparation of the long-term development vision for the State.

The Nagaland Institute of Transformation (NIoT) established in January 2026 under Department of Planning and Transformation, is a specialized institutional mechanism supported by NITI Aayog under its State Support Mission (SSM). It has been created to design and drive development strategies for the State by leveraging expertise from knowledge institutions, development partners, multilateral agencies, civil society organizations and academia both within and outside Nagaland.

Among those present at the launching program were MLA, Dr. Tseilhoutuo Routso; Home Commissioner, Abhijit Sinha; Additional Chief Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner, V Shashank Shekhar, IAS; Deputy Commissioners; officials from the Planning and Transformation Department and members of the Nagaland Institute of Transformation.

MULTI-PLAYGROUND, KALAKHA INAUGURATED AT KHEZHAKENO

Advisor for Youth Resources & Sports, S. Keoshu Yimchunger inaugurated the Multi-Playground, Kalakha, Khezhakeno as the Special Guest on 14th March, 2026.

In the inaugural function held at Tsodelo Taza-o, Chairman, NSSB and Chief Patron & Pioneer, Multi-Playground, Kevekha Kevin Zehol, NCS (Retd.) briefed the gathering

as to how he was entrusted on 25th June, 2022 to scout for a new football ground as the only football ground in Khezhakeno could not be extended length wise due to non-availability of space. He thanked the Komuno Khel of Khezhakeno for adopting a Resolution on 3rd December, 2023 to freely make the required land available for the multi playground ground and allowing him to utilise as much as land required for construction of the multi playground. Accordingly, the cutting work of the multi-ground started on 1st April, 2024.

Addressing the gathering, Advisor, Keoshu thanked Kevekha Kevin Zehol for his generous heart and concern for his village and solely taking up construction of the standard size Football ground and Badminton court, and further appreciated Zehol for his vision to take up more construction of other grounds including basketball court, badminton court and another football ground. He stated that since there is already a standard size football ground, they may go for a futsal ground which will be initiated from the Government side to make it into a reality.

Keoshu called upon different bodies including the village council, church, students

and the youth for maintaining the grounds. 'You cannot depend or wait on Government for everything' he said and that repair works should be initiated by the community.

He reminded that Nagas do not have sense of ownership over Government property/infrastructures and called upon the community to treat Government infrastructures / properties with sense of ownership, and also to initiate for community's participation in repair/improvement of Government infrastructures.

He also encouraged all to be not only seasonal players but to play games and sports all throughout the year. He also called upon village authorities to identify potential youths and encourage them to join State Khelo academy for overall development.

Among others those who attended the programme included MLA, Pongshi, Former MLA, Khriehu Liezietsu, President, NCSU and President, NAPO, Pele Khezhe; Pfulkruh Koza, Jt. Dir (Retd), Kakshe Zhimomi, Dy. Director, Tourism, Er. Daniel Kevie, E.E., Pfulsero, PWD (R&B), Vekhrolo, BDO, Pfulsero and Mechietsho Koza, EAC, Phek.

BLOOD STORAGE UNIT INAUGURATED AT DR. MOTSUO MEMORIAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL, WOKHA

A Blood Storage Unit was inaugurated at Dr. Motsuo Memorial District Hospital (DMMDH), Wokha, on March 17, 2026, marking a significant milestone in strengthening healthcare services in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Wokha, Vineet Kumar, IAS, graced the occasion as Special

Guest. In his remarks, he acknowledged the efforts and initiatives of Medical Superintendent, DMMDH Wokha, Dr. Mhonchan N. Kithan, and his team for establishing this vital facility. He assured continued assistance and cooperation from the district administration, while emphasizing the importance of awareness

creation and encouraging citizens, especially young people, to actively participate in blood donation. He noted that the unit would enhance the efficiency of hospital functioning and improve patient care.

Delivering the keynote address, Pathologist, Dr. Nzanthung Lotha highlighted the importance of blood donation, stressing its role not only in saving lives but also in contributing to physical and emotional well-being. He urged the youth of Wokha to come forward in the spirit of service and humanity.

The inaugural programme was chaired

by Medical Superintendent, DMMDH Wokha, Dr. Mhonchan N. Kithan. The Blood Storage Unit has a capacity of 50 units with a storage period of 35 days. The first donors to the newly inaugurated unit were Zubemo Ngullie and Chijanthung Tungoe, setting an example for others to follow.

The establishment of the Blood Storage Unit is expected to play a crucial role in meeting emergency needs, ensuring timely availability of blood, and strengthening healthcare delivery in Wokha district.



Deputy CM, T.R. Zeliang officially inaugurating the National Institute of Transformation (NIoT) office building at Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 13th March 2026.



Secretary & Chairperson (Additional Charge) NBSE, Rangumbing Nsarangbe with representatives of Lend A Hand India and other officials after the MoU signing ceremony at Kohima on 19th March 2026.



Vice President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan with Nagaland Governor, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, NU Vice Chancellor, Jagadish K. Patnaik and other dignitaries during the unveiling of the HEFA Phase II buildings foundation stone at NU, Lumami on 6th March 2026.



Published by:
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
Government of Nagaland
IPR Citadel, New Capital Complex, Kohima - 797 001 Nagaland

STATE ROUND-UP



Minister for Environment, Forest, Climate Change and Village Guards C. L. John and Advisor Social Welfare, Wanpang Konyak along with Senior officials and awardees during the International Women's Day celebration at Capital Convention Centre, Kohima on 7th March 2026.



Deputy CM, T.R. Zeliang and Development Commissioner, Temsunaro Aier presenting the Nagaland SDG Action Awards 2025 for Social Development to Good Samaritan Women Society during the Nagaland SDG Action Awards 2025 ceremony held at Capital Convention Centre, Kohima on 13th March 2026.

STATE ROUND-UP



Secretary Economics & Statistics Dept. Akumu S. Meyase along with officials during the launch of Baal Aadhar registration Counter for Aadhar Linked Birth Registration for Children aged 0-5years at the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Kohima on 17th March 2026.



Add. Chief Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner, V. Shashank Shekhar IAS, chairing the high-level coordination meeting on "MSME as Engines of Growth" held at the Chief Secretary's Conference Hall, Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima, on 30th March 2026.



Deputy Speaker NLA, Toiho S. Yeptho being introduced to the players before the final match of the first Intra District U-23 Football Tournament held at the District Sports Council Ground, Zunheboto on 14th March 2026.



Advisor New & Renewable Energy and NSDMA, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe with officials and participants during the Training on Basic steel Fabrication held at Town Hall, Meluri on 24th March 2026.



Advisor Youth Resource & Sports, S. Keoshu Yimchunger with dignitaries and officials during the inaugural programme of Multi- Playground at Kalakha, Khezhakeno, Phek on 14th March 2026.



Vineet Kumar, IAS during the inauguration of Blood Storage Unit at Dr. Motsuo Memorial District Hospital (DMMDH), Wokha, on 17th March 2026.