



**CHIEF MINISTER
NAGALAND
KOHIMA**

9th August, 2026

D.O. NO. CMN/19/HOME/2026

Dear Shri Amit Shah ji,

I extend my warm greetings to you from Nagaland.

I write to you in connection with the concerns and apprehensions that have been expressed by various sections of society, particularly the Christian community, regarding the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

I understand that the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) and the Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland, have also made representations to you on this important matter, highlighting the serious difficulties and concerns being faced by churches and associated charitable organisations in the State. I would respectfully request that their representations may kindly be considered with due sensitivity and understanding, particularly in the context of the unique social, historical and developmental circumstances prevailing in Nagaland.

I have been holding in-depth discussions and consultations with Christian leaders and have heard and understood first-hand the difficulties, challenges and apprehensions being faced by Christian institutions. On 9th August, 2026, I held another round of deliberations with the leadership and representatives of the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) and the Bishop of Kohima, during which they conveyed their concerns and the challenges being faced by churches and Christian organisations in carrying out their various activities and humanitarian services.

Nagaland has a population of more than 90 per cent Christians, and churches have historically played a vital role not only in the spiritual and community life of our people, but also in the fields of education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, social welfare, livelihood support and the upliftment of disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society. A significant number of educational, healthcare, humanitarian and social-service activities undertaken by churches and charitable institutions, particularly in remote and economically weaker areas, have been supported by legitimate foreign contributions, partnerships and assistance.



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The increasingly stringent regulatory and compliance requirements under the FCRA have already placed considerable financial and administrative burdens upon churches and charitable organisations. The proposed amendments, if implemented in their present form, are likely to further compound these challenges and could adversely impact a number of ongoing welfare, educational, healthcare and social-service programmes in the State. The difficulties are particularly acute for smaller institutions working at the grassroots level, many of which operate with limited resources while serving people in remote, underserved and economically disadvantaged communities.

I have also been given to understand that while some church organisations continue to receive foreign contributions, applications for renewal of FCRA registration of certain other organisations have reportedly been declined on grounds relating to the alleged utilisation of such funds for religious conversion. In this regard, I would respectfully submit that, considering that more than 90 per cent of the population of Nagaland is Christian, such cases may merit careful and sensitive examination in the specific context of the nature and purpose of the activities actually undertaken by the organisations concerned. It is important that legitimate charitable, educational, healthcare and social-welfare activities, which have served our people for generations, are not inadvertently affected on the basis of broad or generalised assumptions, particularly where the organisations concerned have otherwise remained compliant with the applicable laws and regulatory requirements. The cases of such organisations whose renewal has been denied may kindly be reviewed and taken up with all seriousness, with due consideration given to the nature and purpose of the activities actually undertaken by them. Given the distinctive social and demographic context of Nagaland, it is important that such cases are examined objectively and on an individual basis, so that genuine charitable, educational, healthcare and social-welfare activities are not adversely affected on account of broad or generalised assessments.

Beyond these areas, churches and Christian organisations also play an invaluable role in providing humanitarian assistance during natural calamities, disasters and other emergency situations. A prime example is the substantial relief and assistance presently being extended to affected citizens during the ongoing floods and landslides in this part of the country. Their tremendous contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic, when churches and Christian institutions mobilised their resources, infrastructure and volunteers in support of



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communities and Government efforts, is another significant example of their commitment to public service and humanitarian causes.

The Christian faith and the Church in Nagaland have a history extending well over 150 years, with deep and longstanding ties with the global Christian community. The Baptist movement in Nagaland, in particular, has historical connections with the Baptist community in the United States of America, while the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations have similarly maintained close relationships with churches, missions, institutions and organisations within India and across the world for several decades. These relationships have contributed immensely to the growth and development of our society. For more than a century, churches, Christian missions and organisations from within the country and abroad have played a significant role in the development of Nagaland. Their contribution predates Statehood and continued through some of the most difficult and isolated periods in our history.

At a time when modern institutions and public infrastructure were limited, it was often the Church and Christian institutions that reached some of the remotest communities and provided education, healthcare and humanitarian assistance. Their service helped bring literacy, modern education and healthcare to generations of our people and contributed significantly towards social progress and human development. The same holds true for the rest of the country. The contribution of Christian institutions to India's nation-building process is undeniable. Across the country, Christian organisations have established and operated some of our most respected schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, healthcare facilities, charitable institutions and social-service organisations. These institutions have served people irrespective of religion, community or social background.

Multitudes of our citizens who received their education, healthcare and support from such institutions have gone on to serve the State and the nation with distinction in public service, the Armed Forces, education, healthcare, science, business, sports and numerous other fields. Their contributions form an integral part of India's development story. Even today, churches and Christian organisations continue to supplement the efforts of the Government in education,



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healthcare, humanitarian relief, care for the disadvantaged and vulnerable, rural development and numerous other areas of public welfare. In many instances, their reach extends to communities and areas where delivery of services remains challenging.

Many of these organisations and institutions have, over the decades, developed legitimate collaborations and partnerships with individuals, churches, charitable bodies and institutions outside the country. Assistance received through such relationships, in accordance with the laws of the land, has enabled them to sustain humanitarian programmes and charitable activities that benefit significant sections of our population. For many institutions, such partnerships are important for continuing their services and programmes. A large number of citizens, particularly those belonging to economically weaker and vulnerable sections, are beneficiaries of these initiatives. The activities undertaken are predominantly charitable and humanitarian in nature and represent acts of service, compassion and human solidarity. Many of these services are extended to the poor and weaker sections of society.

We fully recognise and respect the responsibility of the Government of India to ensure transparency, accountability and compliance with the law in respect of foreign contributions. It is equally important that our regulatory framework prevents misuse and safeguards the national interest. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that genuine charitable, educational, healthcare and humanitarian institutions, which have rendered exemplary service to our nation for generations, are not inadvertently affected or placed under uncertainty.

It is in this context, and reflecting the concerns and sentiments being expressed by the Christian community in Nagaland as well as Christian and other minority communities across the country, that I respectfully submit that the proposed legislation would benefit from wider discussion, deliberation and consultation with all stakeholders, particularly organisations and communities that are likely to be directly impacted by its provisions. I therefore request the Government of India to consider subjecting the proposed amendments to greater parliamentary scrutiny and wider stakeholder consultation. In this regard, the Government may consider referring the proposed legislation to a **Joint**



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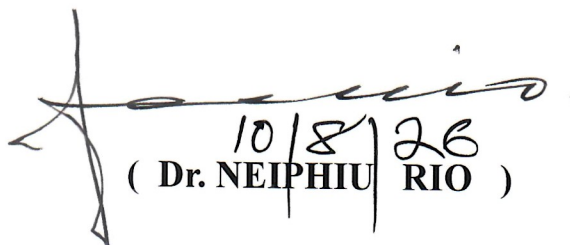
Parliamentary Committee, where the provisions can be examined comprehensively and representatives of concerned stakeholders can be heard and their views appropriately considered.

Such a process would provide an opportunity to address genuine concerns, remove apprehensions and build greater public confidence in the proposed regulatory framework. It would also enable the Government to take all sections of society into confidence while ensuring that the objectives of transparency, accountability and national interest are fully protected. I am confident that such a gesture will exemplify the inclusive and positive approach of our NDA Government and further strengthen the democratic foundations of our nation. It will also reaffirm our collective commitment to India's constitutional values, its secular ethos and its proud tradition of respecting and protecting the rights and contributions of all communities.

I place these concerns before you with the sincere hope that they will receive your kind and sympathetic consideration.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Dr. NEIPHIU RIO)

**Shri Amit Shah,
Hon'ble Union Minister,
Home Affairs & Cooperation,
Government of India,
New Delhi**