



**CHIEF MINISTER
NAGALAND
KOHIMA**

11th September 2026

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

Dear Shri Amit Shah Ji,

I write to you on a matter of great importance and urgency concerning the continuation of the **Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime in Nagaland**, and to convey the collective sentiments and aspirations of the people of our State for its immediate withdrawal.

2. The Nagaland Legislative Assembly, during its recent Session, deliberated extensively on this matter and **unanimously adopted a Resolution appealing to the Government of India to urgently review and withdraw the Protected Area Permit regime presently applicable to Nagaland and restore the relaxation that had earlier been in operation.** The Resolution reflects the united position of the elected representatives of the people, cutting across all sections of the House.

3. The issue has also generated widespread concern amongst civil society organisations, tribal bodies, tourism stakeholders, entrepreneurs, the business community and, particularly, the youth of Nagaland. There is today an overwhelming and collective sentiment that the continuation of the PAP regime is adversely affecting the State's developmental aspirations and its efforts towards greater economic integration and engagement with the rest of the country and the world.

4. The State Government has taken up this matter with the Government of India on several occasions. The State Cabinet has also deliberated upon the matter and resolved against the reimposition of the PAP regime in Nagaland, while urging the Government of India for its early withdrawal. We have consistently conveyed our willingness to put in place appropriate mechanisms, including technology-enabled systems, for the registration, regulation and



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monitoring of foreign visitors in close coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned agencies.

5. Nagaland today is amongst the most peaceful States in the country. The ceasefire and the ongoing peace process have brought immense dividends of peace, stability and tranquillity over the years. A new generation has grown up with aspirations centred around education, entrepreneurship, tourism, sports, the creative economy, innovation and meaningful engagement with the wider world. It is important that our regulatory environment evolves in accordance with these positive transformations.

6. Tourism, in particular, has emerged as an increasingly important pillar of Nagaland's economy and a significant source of livelihood and employment, especially for our youth. Our tourism ecosystem sustains thousands of entrepreneurs, homestays, transport operators, artisans, musicians, artists, performers, farmers, food entrepreneurs and other service-sector stakeholders.

7. The **Hornbill Festival**, which has grown over the years into one of the most recognised flagship tourism events associated with the **Incredible India** campaign, is today not merely a festival of Nagaland but a celebration of India's cultural diversity. It attracts visitors from across India and around the world, and several countries have participated as Partner Countries, using the platform to promote cultural exchanges, investment discussions, business engagements and institutional collaborations. Unfortunately, the PAP regime has begun to directly undermine these achievements.

8. In 2025, despite repeated requests from the State Government and representations from various sections of Naga society, relaxation was eventually granted only for the period coinciding with the Hornbill Festival. While we appreciated the intervention of the Government of India, such a limited relaxation had little practical benefit for international tourism. Foreign visitors plan their journeys, purchase tickets, arrange accommodation and finalise itineraries weeks and months in advance. A relaxation announced only around the period of the Festival cannot provide the certainty required for international



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travel planning and consequently defeats much of its intended purpose.

9. The impact extends far beyond tourism. The PAP regime has created difficulties in facilitating official visits by diplomats, representatives of Partner Countries, investors, development agencies and international institutions with whom the State Government is pursuing engagements. It has complicated our efforts to organise international festivals, investment meetings, cultural exchanges, sporting events and other programmes involving overseas participation.

10. At a time when States are being encouraged to compete for investments, build international partnerships, promote tourism and contribute to India's global outreach, such restrictions place Nagaland at a distinct disadvantage. A regulation conceived in a very different historical and security environment should not become an impediment to the developmental aspirations of a peaceful State.

11. The Government of India has itself demonstrated its confidence in the improving security environment of the North-East through the progressive reduction and withdrawal of extraordinary measures, including the substantial reduction in areas covered under the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act**. These positive developments have been welcomed by our people and have contributed towards strengthening confidence, peace and normalcy.

12. In this context, the continued application of the PAP regime in Nagaland is increasingly difficult for our people to understand. Its continuation risks creating avoidable frustration and a sense of alienation, particularly amongst our youth, who aspire to participate fully in the opportunities emerging from India's growth and its increasing engagement with the world.

13. I therefore most earnestly request your personal intervention and the favourable consideration of the Government of India for the **immediate and complete withdrawal of the Protected Area Permit regime from Nagaland.**



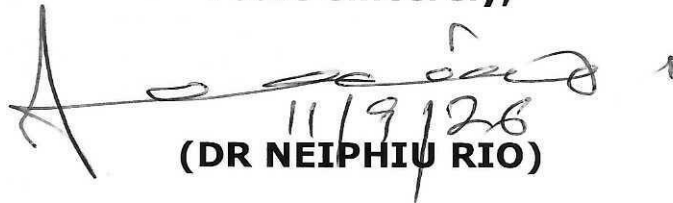
**CHIEF MINISTER
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14. The Government of Nagaland remains fully committed to working closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs and all concerned agencies to establish any appropriate registration, monitoring and security mechanisms that may be considered necessary, while ensuring that legitimate national-security considerations are fully safeguarded.

I look forward to your kind and positive consideration of the unanimous appeal of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly and the collective voice of the people of Nagaland.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


11/9/26
(DR NEIPHIU RIO)

**Shri Amit Shah
Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs & Cooperation
Govt of India, Kartavya Bhavan,
New Delhi-01**

Encl.:

1. Copy of the Resolution unanimously adopted by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly on the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime.
2. Letters and communiques requesting for relaxation of the PAP regime.

**NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
KOHIMA**

NO. AS/LEG-33/2023/209

Dated Kohima, the 3rd September, 2026

The Resolution "*On the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime in Nagaland*" introduced and adopted during the Ninth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly is reproduced below for information

RESOLUTION

"On the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime in Nagaland

WHEREAS, Nagaland is today a peaceful State and has emerged as an increasingly important destination for tourism, culture, investment, entrepreneurship and international engagement;

AND WHEREAS, tourism and the service and creative sectors have become important generators of employment and livelihood, particularly for the youth of the State;

AND WHEREAS, the Hornbill Festival, the 'Land of Festivals' initiative and other tourism and cultural programmes have contributed significantly towards projecting India's cultural diversity nationally and internationally and have created substantial economic opportunities for local communities and entrepreneurs;

AND WHEREAS, the continuation of the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime has created impediments to the growth of international tourism, investment, business engagement, cultural exchange and international partnerships in Nagaland;

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Nagaland remains fully committed to ensuring national security and maintaining appropriate systems for registration, regulation and monitoring of foreign nationals through modern technology and close coordination with the Government of India and its agencies;

AND WHEREAS, the State Government, civil society organisations, tribal bodies, tourism stakeholders, entrepreneurs and other sections of Naga society have repeatedly expressed their desire for the withdrawal/relaxation of the PAP regime;

NOW, THEREFORE, this August House unanimously resolves to appeal to the Government of India to urgently review and withdraw the Protected Area Permit regime presently applicable to the State of Nagaland and restore the relaxation that had earlier been in operation.

The House further appeals to the Government of India to take into consideration the prevailing peaceful environment in Nagaland, the developmental aspirations of its people, the importance of tourism and investment to the State's economy, and the aspirations of Naga youth for greater opportunities and participation in India's growth story.

The House affirms that the Government and the people of Nagaland remain committed to national security, peace and stability, and assures the Government of India of the State's fullest cooperation in putting in place appropriate technology-driven and institutional mechanisms for the registration and monitoring of foreign nationals visiting Nagaland.

The House is of the considered view that regulatory arrangements which have outlived their developmental relevance should not become barriers to economic opportunity, employment generation and Nagaland's fuller participation in the national and global economy.

Accordingly, this House appeals to the Government of India to give urgent and favourable consideration to the collective voice of the elected representatives and the people of Nagaland and take appropriate measures for the complete withdrawal/relaxation of the Protected Area Permit regime from the State.

Sd/- (Y. PATTON)
Deputy Chief Minister
& Minister i/c of Home Department
Nagaland."

The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 3rd September, 2026.

R-10 3/9/2026
(Khruhituonuo Rio)
Secretary

Nagaland Legislative Assembly

Dated Kohima, the 3rd September, 2026

NO.AS/LEG-33/2023

Copy to:

1. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, for information.
2. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister for information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nagaland.
3. The Home Commissioner, Home Department for information.
4. The Principal Secretary, Law & Justice Department, for information
5. The Secretary, Parliamentary Affairs, for information.
6. Office Copy

R-10 3/9/2026
(Khruhituonuo Rio)
Secretary

Nagaland Legislative Assembly
Secretariat, Kohima



**CHIEF MINISTER
NAGALAND
KOHIMA**

05th February 2026

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

Dear Shri Amit Shah Ji,

I would like to take the opportunity of our meeting today to also draw your kind attention to certain critical issues pertaining to the state of Nagaland for your urgent consideration.

A. Protected Area Permit

2. The State Government places on record its sincere appreciation for the partial relaxation of the PAP regime in Nagaland by MHA, GoI for a period of 10(ten) days w.e.f.01.12.2025 to 10.12.2025 for the 26th edition of the Hornbill festival. Alongside, I would also like to reiterate the earlier position of the State Government for review and consideration of complete withdrawal of the PAP regime from the state of Nagaland.
3. The MHA has from 17th December 2024 onwards reimposed the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime for Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland supposedly on account of growing security concerns in the border areas of these States. It may be mentioned that since 2010, the States of Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland were being excluded from the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime with certain conditions.
4. While it is understood that the prevailing security situation in Manipur, and the reported influx of Myanmar refugees into Mizoram in recent years, may perhaps, have been the reasons for reimposition of PAP by the Central Government- the situation in Nagaland continues to be vastly different. Our State has been enjoying one of the most peaceful periods since Statehood with no noticeable security concerns. This is further highlighted by the fact that the latest Crime in India 2023 report of National Crime Report Bureau (NCRB) places Nagaland among the safest states in the Country with a cognisable crime rate of 84.9 per lakh population, second lowest in the country. In addition, the India-Myanmar border areas of the State of Nagaland remain fully peaceful, owing to the homogeneous ethnicity and close familial and social ties of the people living



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on both sides of the border, with no reports of ingress or influx of refugees from across the border into the State.

5. The State Cabinet had on 6th January 2025, and 27th March 2025 deliberated on the re-imposition of PAP and the State Government wrote to MHA on 22nd January 2025 seeking revisiting the decision of re-imposition of PAP regime in Nagaland and restoring the relaxation granted to Nagaland earlier.

6. Subsequently in my letters dated 18th July 2025, 10th September 2025, 17th November 2025, and 28th November 2025 to you it has been requested for review of re-imposition of PAP in Nagaland and for considering relaxing it, subject to conditions deemed appropriate. The reasons for seeking relaxation are that the situation in the State is peaceful and further, Nagaland has emerged as a global tourism destination, driven largely by the success of our "Land of Festivals" tourism policy. This has led to a substantial increase in foreign tourist arrivals, which in turn has boosted the economy, generated employment particularly for our youth. However, the imposition of the PAP regime has the potential to negatively impact all these gains by adversely impacting the foreign tourist's inflow to the State.

7. The State cabinet has on 16.12.2025 and 03.02.2026 further deliberated on the matter and decided for pursuing with the MHA, GOI for complete relaxation of the PAP from the state of Nagaland

8. I would like to again submit that the security situation in the State remains peaceful and under control. Further, the capacity building training of police personnel are being imparted through the Home Department and NIC to ensure optimum utilisation of the Immigration visa Foreigners Registration Tracking platform (IVFRT) for monitoring of foreigners once they enter the State. The State Government, in addition to adherence to the mechanisms/forms prescribed by MHA, is also strengthening the system by digitizing the recordings and documentations of the stay of foreigners as well as Indian Nationals in hotels in the State and also a landlord and tenant registration system to make the system of tracking foreigners more robust has been made functional.



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9. In view of the above, I once again earnestly request for giving directions for urgent review of the PAP regime in Nagaland and to consider permanent lifting of PAP regime in Nagaland to boost tourism and support the State's growth.

10. I assure you that the State Government on its part will continue having systems in place with stringent SOPs and screening protocols, to ensure that tourism growth does not compromise national security in any manner.

B. Free Movement Regime

11. The State of Nagaland shares a 215-kilometre international boundary with Myanmar, across which Naga communities reside on both sides. These communities have for generations, maintained deep-rooted social, cultural and economic ties, with regular cross-border movement for agriculture, traditional practices and familial responsibilities.

12. The MHA vide its letter dated 24/12/2024 have issued new instructions concerning the Free Movement Regime allowing cross-border movement of people residing in "Border Areas" within 10 kms only on each side of the Indo-Myanmar Border. Earlier this relaxation was within 16 kms on each side of the border. Further, the movement of People also has been limited to 9 (nine) designated crossing points in the State of Nagaland.

13. These new measures which are further restrictive are going to impact the age-old historical ties of Nagas living on both sides of the Indo Myanmar Border (IMB). It may impede the close familial ties that exist between the communities who live along the border where at times people also cross the IMB for farming purposes. Moreover, there is a significant movement of people to avail Health and Education facilities which may get impacted.

14. After the fresh instructions of the MHA regarding the FMR in December 2024, the State Cabinet held a meeting on 6th January 2025, and the State Government has written to the MHA requesting to restore the old FMR. On 18th July, 2025, in my letter, I have again drawn your kind attention to the changes made in the Free Movement Regime which



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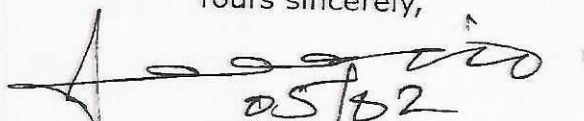
are causing hardship and distress to the border communities and has requested for re-examining the revised guidelines and for considering a more flexible and context-sensitive approach that safeguards national security while respecting the traditional rights and way of life of the people.

15. Recently, the matter concerning FMR was again deliberated in the State Cabinet in its meeting on 3rd February 2026 and considering the genuine concerns of the people, and the unique demographic and cultural realities of the region, it has been decided to once again take up with the MHA to re-examine the revised FMR guidelines. It may, however, be mentioned that in the meantime, with the revised FMR guidelines in force, the respective Departments and agencies of the State Government are taking the necessary steps and measures as expected of them in light of the new FMR guidelines in the interest of security and for ensuring streamlined cross-border movement of the people.

16. I would, in view of the above again request for re-examination of the revised FMR framework and for adopting a more flexible and balanced approach that ensures national security while also protecting the traditional rights and way of life of the Naga people.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(DR NEIPHIU RIO)

**Shri Amit Shah
Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs & Cooperation
Govt of India,
Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi-01**



**CHIEF MINISTER
NAGALAND
KOHIMA**

28th November, 2025

D.O. NO. CMN/19/HOME/2025

Dear Shri Amit Shah Ji,

You are aware that the 26th edition of the Hornbill Festival of Nagaland is scheduled to begin on 1st December 2025, coinciding with the State Commemoration Day.

The ten-day festival welcomes tourists from across the country and around the world, and it plays an important role in the economy of our state, especially in generating livelihood and employment opportunities.

This year, the festival will host six Partner Countries, each participating in various cultural events, business roundtables and networking engagements. All programmes have been finalised, and we are prepared to welcome several leaders and representatives from the Government of India.

You are also aware that I have repeatedly taken up the matter of removing the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime from Nagaland and that I have received positive assurances from you regarding its removal. However, the PAP regime continues to remain in force, and tourists planning to visit the state continue to face significant challenges and procedural hurdles. This situation is adversely affecting our economy as well as the image of both the state and the country.

In view of the above, I request your immediate and personal attention on the following matters:

1. Urgent clearance of PAP permits for the representatives of our Partner Countries. With only a few days left before the festival begins, the required clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs are still pending. This has caused serious concern, and I seek your kind intervention to ensure that the PAP permits are issued at the earliest as a matter of utmost urgency.



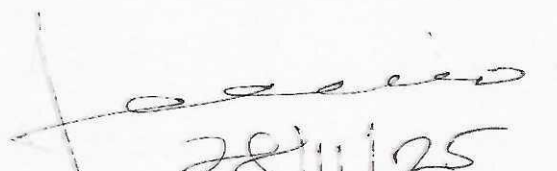
**CHIEF MINISTER
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2. I once again humbly reiterate the request for the lifting of the PAP regime for Nagaland in the larger interest of promoting tourism, improving ease of movement, and strengthening our integration with the rest of the country.

Nagaland has been a committed and contributing member of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for decades. We earnestly appeal to you - as an NDA partner and under the banner of the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) - for your understanding and support. Your positive intervention will send a strong and reassuring message that the NDA Government at the Centre stands with the people of Nagaland in our shared vision of nation-building.

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,


28/11/25
(NEIPHIU RIO)

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