



THE WARRIOR



A DIPR MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Vol. 53 No. 10

ipr.nagaland.gov.in

January 2025



Governor of Nagaland, La Ganesan, Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio, Dr. A. R. Rahman and dignitaries of country partners during the inaugural ceremony of the 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 1st December 2024.



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio inspecting the parade contingents during the 62nd Statehood Day celebration held at Nagaland Civil Secretariat Plaza, Kohima on 1st December 2024.



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio and his colleagues with Dr. A.R. Rahman during the inauguration of Centre of Excellence for Music & Arts held at Old Minister's Hill, Kohima on 1st December 2024.



THE
WARRIOR
A DIPR MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Editor: **Ruopfulenuo Mepfhi-o**
Sub-Editor: **Mhonlumi Patton**

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

© 2025, Government of Nagaland
Directorate of Information & Public Relations

email: iprnagaland@gmail.com
For advertisement: dipradvert@gmail.com

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

 *Designed & printed by:*
artworks Nagaland-Kohima

CONTENTS

Regulars

<i>Official Orders & Notifications</i>	4
<i>State Round Up</i>	8
<i>Districts Round Up</i>	53
<i>Development Activities</i>	73
<i>Feature Article</i>	76



Scan the code to install Naga News
app from Google Playstore

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

GUIDELINES ISSUED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NAGALAND

The Department of Higher and Technical Education, Nagaland has issued comprehensive guidelines for establishing private universities in the State. The notification aligns with the University Grants Commission's (UGC) 'Establishment and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities Regulations, 2003.' The guidelines detail procedures, requirements and commitments for potential sponsoring bodies aiming to set up private universities.

Key highlights of the guidelines:

- 1. Eligibility of sponsoring bodies:** Sponsoring bodies must be registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Public Trusts under relevant laws or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and companies under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- 2. Application process:** Proposals for private universities must be submitted to the Department of Higher Education with a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and a non-refundable fee of ₹2,00,000. The application undergoes review at both departmental and state levels.
- 3. Mandatory proposal details:** Proposals should include objectives, location, and justification for the university, proposed academic programmes, fee structures, and provisions for socially or economically disadvantaged groups (minimum 25% reserved seats), land availability, infrastructural plans, and financial outlays for the first five years. Compliance commitments to UGC norms and inclusion of State Government representatives on university governing bodies.
- 4. Approval process:** Applications will be scrutinized by committees at departmental and state levels, with inspections conducted for feasibility and compliance. Proposals meeting all requirements will be forwarded for final approval within three months.
- 5. Letter of Intent (LoI):** Upon approval, the State Government may issue a LoI, requiring sponsoring bodies to establish a permanent endowment fund of ₹3 crore, procure at least 25 acres of land, develop essential infrastructure, including administrative and academic buildings, and invest in learning resources worth ₹10 lakh.
- 6. Legislative enactment:** After fulfilling LoI conditions, a bill for the establishment of the university will be introduced in the state legislature for approval and gazette notification.
- 7. Regulatory compliance:** Universities must adhere to UGC norms, obtain necessary approvals for programmes from regulatory bodies, and achieve National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation within five years of establishment.
- 8. Annual obligations:** Newly established universities must submit annual reports and audit reports to the Department of Higher Education. Additionally, ₹250 per student will be contributed annually to the State Government.

These measures aim to ensure quality higher education and robust regulatory oversight, fostering academic excellence and infrastructure development in Nagaland. The guidelines emphasize inclusivity, accountability, and adherence to national standards in higher education.

For detailed information, interested parties may contact the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Nagaland, Kohima.

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

NBSE INFORMS ON CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME PM-VIDYALAXMI

In pursuant of Ministry of Education and Department of Higher Education, the Chairman, Nagaland Board of School Education (NBSE) has notified for information of all concerned that a new Central Sector Scheme PM-Vidyalaxmi has been approved by Union Cabinet on 06.11.2024. PM-Vidyalaxmi aims to provide financial support in the form of easy availability of collateral and guarantee free education loans to meritorious students who get admission in the Top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEI) of India, translating to covering more than 22 lakhs fresh students who get admission in these HEIs every year. Further, for students with family income upto Rs. 8 lakhs, 3% interest subvention will be provided.

This is in addition to credit guarantee cover being provided for loans upto Rs. 7.5 lakh and full interest subvention being provided for technical courses to students with family income upto Rs. 4.5 lakh under PM-Uchcharat Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) scheme of Department of Higher Education. Thus, PM Vidyalaxmi and PM-USP will together provide holistic support to all deserving students to pursue higher education in quality HEIs in India.

A PM-Vidyalaxmi portal is being developed by the Department of Higher Education for the simple, transparent and entirely digital process of this scheme. Awareness about the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme would give great encouragement to school students to pursue higher education in these top quality HEIs.

Therefore, Heads of Institutions are requested to spread awareness about the scheme to the students so that financial constraints do not prevent any youth of India from pursuing quality higher education.

CM MICRO FINANCE INITIATIVE 2.0: EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS AND FARMERS IN NAGALAND

Nagaland's Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative 2.0 (CMMFI 2.0) has been unveiled, opening a gateway of opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs and farmers across the State. Designed to provide holistic financial support, the initiative offers subsidies, tailored financial solutions, and innovative project support to turn ideas into reality.

CMMFI 2.0 covers a wide spectrum of entrepreneurship ventures, including but not limited to:

1. **Retail:** Provision stores, general stores, and pharmacies.
2. **Services:** Auto garages, mobile food units, gyms, saloons and craft industries.
3. **Transport:** Two-wheeler and four-wheeler taxis, ambulance services, and commercial vehicles.
4. **Innovation:** Hydroponics, software/BPO, and e-commerce delivery centers.
5. **Hospitality:** Homestays, cold storage, and bakery & cafeteria.
6. **Agriculture:** Customized finance for agriculture projects following NABARD guidelines.

A complete list of eligible projects is available in the CMMFI booklet at www.credit.nagaland.gov.in.

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

1. **Exclusive Subsidies on Commercial Vehicles:** In a boost for logistics and transport-related ventures, CMMFI 2.0 has partnered with leading automobile brands to offer special benefits:

- **Tata Motors:** Discounts on Tata Yodha models
- **Maruti Suzuki Nexa:** Options including Ertiga Tour, XL6, and Eeco
- **Kia:** Premium models like Kia Carens
- **Mahindra:** Rugged vehicles for tough terrains

Eligible beneficiaries can access up to 30% back-ended subsidies on vehicles with applications open under programmes like Nagaland Tourism Connect and Nagaland Logistics Connect.

The initiative provides comprehensive support including Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation, application assistance through the credit portal, and financial institution linkages. Applicants can visit Swavalamban Connect Kendras (SCK) located at district DC's Office premises or contact the Credit Facilitation Outreach Unit at 9436030303.

For further assistance or grievance redressal, reach out to the CMMFI Facilitation Cell at credit.fin-ngl@gov.in or call 9077175990.

FOURTH NAGALAND STATE FINANCE COMMISSION INFORMS

The Fourth Nagaland State Finance Commission has been constituted by the Government of Nagaland vide Finance Department Notification No. FRC-4/SFC(Fourth)/2024 dated 25.10.2024, under the chairmanship of Sarah R. Ritse (Retired Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Nagaland). The Commission is to make recommendations covering a period of 5 (five) years commencing on the 1st of April 2026 to 31st March 2031 relating to the following matters:

1. The principles which shall govern:
 - a. The distribution between the State and Municipalities of the net proceed of taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State, which may be divided between them;
 - b. The determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by the Municipalities; and
 - c. The grant-in-aid to the Municipalities from the Consolidated Fund of the State.
 - d. The measures needed to improve the financial position of Municipalities.
 - e. The rates of various taxes, tolls and fees that may be raised by the Municipalities and the method of determining the same.
 - f. Any other matter referred to the Commission by the Government in the interest of sound finances of municipalities.
2. In making its recommendations, the Commission has been asked to have regard, among other considerations, to:
 - a. The objective of balancing the receipts and expenditure of the State Government and the Local Bodies and for generating surplus for capital investment.
 - b. The resources of the State Government and demands thereon, particularly in respect of expenditure on civil administration, maintenance and upkeep of capital assets,

OFFICIAL ORDERS *and* NOTIFICATIONS

- maintenance expenditures on plan schemes and other committed expenditure or liabilities of the State; and
- c. The requirement of the municipalities, their potential for raising resources and for reducing expenditure.
3. The Commission hereby invites suggestions/views on issues relating to its terms of reference indicated above, from the members of the general public, Institutions and organisations. All interested individuals, institutions and organisations may send their suggestions/views to the commission latest by 31st March 2025 in any of the following manners:
- a. By post addressed to the Member Secretary, Fourth Nagaland State Finance Commission, Directorate of Treasuries & Accounts Building, First Floor, New capital Complex, Kohima, Nagaland.
- b. By e-mail to: fourthfincom2024@gmail.com.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTS AUTHORIZED OFFICERS FOR ADJUDGING PENALTY UNDER CINEMATOGRAPHY ACT

In accordance to Section 3 Clause 2 of the Cinematograph (Adjudication of Penalty) Rules 2024 under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, the Governor of Nagaland is pleased to appoint/nominate the following officers of the State Government as authorized officers for adjudging penalty under the provisions of the Act.

SN	Designation	District/ Department
1	Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) of 17 District HQs.	Chumoukedima, Dimapur, Kiphire, Kohima, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Noklak. Niuland, Peren, Phek, Shamator, Tseminyu, Tuensang. Wokha, Zunheboto and Meluri. (at the district level)
2	Joint Secretary to the Government of Nagaland	Department of Information & Public Relations (at the state level)



62nd NAGALAND STATEHOOD DAY CELEBRATED AT KOHIMA

Nagaland celebrated the 62nd Nagaland Statehood Day with Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio gracing the occasion at Nagaland Civil Secretariat Plaza Kohima on 1st December 2024.

Neiphiu Rio, extending greetings to all on the 62nd Statehood Day, reflected on enduring sentiment of “Peace for development and development for peace,” and appealed to every citizen to strive together to take the State to greater heights.

Addressing on ENPO issue, Rio remarked that a Draft Memorandum of Settlement-III was submitted on 6th November 2024 to the Ministry of Home Affairs emphasizing a shared economic progress for all citizens and marking the beginning of a new era of partnership and collective growth.

CM Rio said that the formation of Meluri as the 17th District on 2nd November 2024 fulfils a long-standing demand of the Pochury community and aligns with our policy of creating districts along tribal lines.

Also stressing on resolving the Naga Political Issue, Rio stated that acting on decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting of 16th November 2024, met the Union Home Minister on 21st November 2024. He reiterated the urgency and discussed issues including the recent press statements by the Chief Political Negotiator of NSCN (I-M) while resolving the Naga Political Issue remains a top priority and the formation of new NG groups and their internal divisions pose significant challenges.

The Chief Minister said that celebrating the 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival, the Hornbill Festival has grown in strength over the years and has helped boost the State economy. He added that to enhance

the tourist experience, a new gallery having a capacity of more than 5000 seats capacity has been constructed at Kisama, Naga Heritage village.

Rio remarked after nearly two decades, elections for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were conducted, implementing 33% reservation for women and consequently, 278 councillors were elected across 25 ULBs, including 103 women councillors, constituting 37% of the total.

State Government has initiated the construction of the Konyak Heritage Complex in Mon, under the North Eastern Council (NEC), a pioneering effort to preserve and promote traditional Konyak architecture, sculptures, traditions, and cultural heritage, Rio added.

CM Rio mentioned that to establish a robust and reliable transmission system and to meet the projected load demand of 360 Mega Watt of the State by 2030, the Department of Power has finalized a comprehensive transmission plan with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Ministry of Power.

The annual MykiFest coinciding with the Hornbill Festival, where an exhibition on Naga Tribal Designs will be displayed at Kisama. Further, for empowering our women folk, the Women Resource Development Department is in the process of handing over the Turmeric Processing Unit at Jalukie to women based SHG Jalukie, Rio added.

Chief Minister Rio said the Department of New & Renewable Energy has completed the survey and investigation works for development of Lower Doyang HEP in Wokha district has been completed and a downstream of the existing 75 MW Doyang

HEP and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is ready.

Rio mentioned that the Department of Information Technology & Communication has notified the recently amended Guideline for Granting Right of Way (RoW), 2024 for installation of Telecom Infrastructure.

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services has established two Veterinary Hospitals at Tseminyu and Mangkolemba and three veterinary Hospitals in Shamator, Chumoukedima and Niuland are in the pipeline, Rio added.

Rio mentioned that the Department of Soil & Water Conservation is focusing on the promotion and distribution of micronutrients to cover 74,000 farmers and 74,000 hectares of land. To mitigate and reverse Acid Mine Drainage in coal mining areas, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has approved the Mine Spoil Areas under the Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP)-PMKSY, being implemented on pilot basis in Mon, Mokokchung, Longleng, Tuensang and Wokha districts.

Rio remarked that as a prelude to the 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival 2024, the Tourism Department in association with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, successfully hosted the Third Edition of Autumn Festival at New Delhi and a Cultural Extravaganza Night at Agri Expo, Chumoukedima. Also, in collaboration with the private players, forerunners giving visitors a glimpse into the rich culture of Nagaland, Rio added.

Chief Minister Rio pointed out that considering the potential in piggery sector and the entailing challenges farmers encounter, the State Government launched one of India's first Digital Piggery Insurance schemes, implemented with the support of the Insurance Regulatory and Development

Authority of India (IRDAI) and Tata AIG, addressing longstanding hurdles in livestock insurance.

To ensure social and financial security for every citizen of Nagaland and to safeguard families from the impact of unforeseen tragedies such as accidents or untimely loss, the Chief Minister's Universal Life Insurance Scheme (CMLIS) was introduced in August this year. The State Government has recently extended support to the first set of nine beneficiary families under this transformative initiative. Chief Minister, Rio urged more families across Nagaland to come forward and enroll in this life-changing scheme.

To promote Water Transport and Tourism in the State, Rio said that the State Government is pursuing with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways for developing Inland Water projects at Tizu-Zungki and Doyang Reservoir Dam, Noune Lake, Shilloi Lake.

The State Government has also launched several initiatives to offer viable employment opportunities beyond the government sector - The homegrown app-based taxi aggregation service URA Cabs, will provide tourists with a hassle-free booking experience and taxi owners with a stable and remunerative platform. Rio mentioned that the Nagaland Logistics Connect, a transformative initiative aimed at driving economic growth and empowering our entrepreneurs through enhanced logistics and transportation support, has also been launched.

On the occasion of the 62nd Statehood Day, SMILE App, an initiative of the Nagaland Education Project - The Lighthouse (NECTAR) under the Department of School Education (DoSE) was launched. It is a comprehensive tool

that uses advanced technology such as facial recognition, timestamping, and geofencing for marking attendance, leave application, and tracking its status. Overall, the SMILE App will enhance data integrity and alleviate administrative burdens by addressing the challenges of proxy attendance and manual record keeping, improving the overall management of school resources.

Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio also virtually laid the foundation stones of the first 7 of the 16 Lighthouse Schools. The Department of School Education under the Nagaland Education Project - The Lighthouse (NECTAR), funded by the World Bank, presented the inauguration of the Lighthouse School Complexes (LSCs) which are envisioned as model schools to function as hubs of academic excellence that support neighbouring spoke schools. 16 LSCs have been identified across Nagaland with one in each district catering to the specific needs of

the district. The following schools have been selected from all 16 districts after a thorough screening process: GHSS Medziphema Town, Chümoukedima, GHSS Dimapur, Dimapur, GHS Sitimi Town, Kiphire, GHSS Kigwema, Kohima, GHSS N. I. Jamir, Mokokchung, GHSS Peren Town, Peren, GHSS Phek Town, Phek, GHS Chessore, Shamator, GHSS Wokha, Wokha, GHSS Satakha, Satakha, GHSS Tuensang, Tuensang, GHS Angjyang, Mon, GHSS Niuland, Niuland, GHSS Bautung Phom Memorial, Longleng, and GHSS Tseminyu Town, Tseminyu.

Special performances were presented by Rengma Chorale, Tseminyu who presented the song titled 'Ma Senyalo,' and Sangtam Cultural Group with the song titled 'Vingvingtii.' The celebration also witnessed a war dance performed by Sumi Cultural Troupe, cultural dance 'Sonkeng Jihang' performed by Khamniungan Cultural Troupe, folk dance 'Phita' performed by the



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio inaugurating the exhibition stalls during the 62nd Statehood Day celebration held at Nagaland Civil Secretariat, Kohima on 1st December 2024.

Angami Cultural Troupe and a folk song titled 'Bu Asho' presented by the Phom Cultural Troupe.

March past for the celebration of the 62nd Statehood Day was presented by the following contingents - 1st NAP Battalion, 5th NAP Battalion, 7th NAP Battalion, 10th NAP (IR) Battalion, 12th NAP (IR) Battalion, 13th NAP (IR) Battalion, 15th NAP (IR) Battalion, Village Guards, NPTS Central Brass Band, Mahila Pipe Band and Nagaland Police Auxiliary Brass Band led by parade commander, Dyeputy Commandant, Akihito Sumi, and second-in-command, Mhalezhunuo Chielie, Dy. SP (Prob.) attached to CMS, PHQ.

Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio also

inaugurated the stalls exhibited by various government departments and agencies. Commemorating the Statehood Day, the Department of Information & Public Relations showcased the activities and achievements of the State Government since 1963 through a photo exhibition. Government departments stalls included the Nagaland Institution of Medical Sciences and Research (NIMSR), Department of Agriculture exhibiting various gender friendly agricultural machineries and equipments for the farmers and T. Khel Kohima Village, Kohima RD Block exhibited the local products supported by Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Department of Rural Development (RD).

NH NEW DELHI CELEBRATES 62nd STATEHOOD DAY

The 62nd Nagaland Statehood Day was celebrated at Nagaland House, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi on 1st December 2024. Commemorating the momentous occasion, which was attended by senior officers and staff of Nagaland House (NH) New Delhi, Resident Commissioner, NH New Delhi, Wennyei Konyak unfurled the national flag.

Addressing the gathering, Resident Commissioner, Wennyei Konyak stated that

the State has witnessed much progress during its 62 years of statehood, for which it should be grateful for. He reminded the government servants that in whatever capacity they serve the government, it will have impact in the progress and development of the State and encouraged them to work wholeheartedly. He also called for the employees and staff to continuously keep on updating on skills and knowledge required for their job and never tired of learning and improving.

25th EDITION OF THE HORNBILL FESTIVAL 2024 HELD

INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE 25th HORNBILL FESTIVAL:

The 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival was held with pomp and gaeity at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima with the Governor of Nagaland, La Ganesan as the Chief Host and the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio as the Host.

Governor, La Ganesan speaking at the 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival 2024, said that this festival, lovingly dubbed the 'Festival of Festivals,' is a presentation of our tradition, a symbol of our unity and a testament to the diversity of Mother India. As we complete 25 years of this festival, it is a moment to reflect on what we have achieved. It is also

a moment to celebrate our unity in diversity and march to a harmonious future enriched by mutual respect and understanding, the Governor said.

To the guests at the festival, who have travelled from across the globe and our own countrymen from other states of India, the Governor said that their presence signals a bridge across cultures, continents, and hearts. It is through these shared experiences that we foster a deeper understanding and celebrate our richness and diversity. We are thrilled to share with them the beats of our traditional dances, the melodies of our folk songs, the flavors of our cuisines and the warmth of our Naga hospitality, the Governor added.

The Governor thanked all the government agencies, participants and communities whose tireless efforts have made this extraordinary celebration possible. Their dedication is what brings the spirit and life to the Hornbill Festival, making it a distinguished symbol of unity and cultural pride, and that this festival not only entertain but also enrich, connect, and inspire us all to appreciate and preserve the marvels of our history and traditions.

Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio gave a special welcome to Japan, Peru, UK (Wales), United States of America, Bulgaria, the embassy officials as well as Dr. A. R. Rahman. He described the Hornbill Festival as an embodiment of the spirit of the Naga way of life, its vibrant culture and traditions. He emphasized on the festival being a legacy of the Naga forefathers and their spirit of unity and oneness.

Rio mentioned that over the years, the festival has transcended to bringing not just the citizens of the country together but also bringing together different nations for the

greater good of humanity. He paid tribute to the people of Nagaland, their resilience and creativity and added that 25 years of Hornbill Festival stands as a testament of its unity and brotherhood. He said that each Naga citizen is an equal stakeholder of the festival. Rio thanked the ambassadors sincerely for their efforts to travel to a far corner of the world and encouraged them to immerse themselves in the culture and come back with more friends and loved ones.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to India, Keiichi Ono expressed his excitement to collaborate with Nagaland to promote its charms. He mentioned the shared common history of the importance of bamboo in the lives of Nagas as well as the Japanese. He also emphasized on Japanese schemes that have employed over 100 Naga youths in Japan.

Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde talked about the shared values of the people of Peru and Nagaland. He said that the Peruvian dance will be showcased at the Hornbill Festival stage which will resonate with the Nagas and make deeper connections with them.

British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, CB OBE said that Wales is a partner country for this edition's Hornbill Festival as it is the 80th year of the Battle of Kohima where it has a deep historical tie with the British people as well. She endorsed the idea of furthering the partnership in the future through their shared love of music.

Padma Bhushan, Grammy & Oscar winner, Dr. A. R. Rahman talked about his love for Nagaland and the talent of the Naga people. He compared the energy of the Naga musicians as akin to the musicians abroad which later inspired him to make a documentary "Headhunting to Beatboxing"

about Naga artists. He enthralled the crowd with a special number.

Country Director, India, British Council Division and Minister Education and Cultural Affairs, Alison Barrett talked about her first visit to Nagaland 25 years ago during the humble beginning of the Hornbill Festival. She emphasized on the importance of culture, music and language and its importance of sharing it with communities. She talked about the power of music which brings together Nagaland and Wales.

Director of International Relations & Trade, Welsh Government, Andrew Gwatkin spoke about how he felt like he was coming home due to the likeness of the Naga hills to those of the Welsh ranges. He also mentioned the importance of the Indian community in Wales, and mentioned the partnerships that have been garnered between the nations in the sectors of healthcare, innovation, and youth.

Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy, Jorgan Andrews talked about the spirit of humanity through the festival, and that the US Government is proud to be a part of it along with the other partner countries. He thanked the people of Nagaland for their overwhelming hospitality.

Minister, Tourism and Higher Education, Nagaland, Temjen Imna Along in his vote of thanks thanked the Governor of Nagaland, La Ganesan and the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio. He said the Hornbill Festival was the brainchild of the present Chief Minister and the success of this festival could be attributed to him due to his tireless efforts in promoting and networking with different countries and states as partners. The Minister thanked the Departments and the Government officials led by the Chief Secretary of Nagaland for

managing the event to the best of their ability. He also expressed sincere gratitude to the people of Nagaland especially the tribal bodies for bringing their cultural troupes from every nook and corner of the State to the festival.

Head G.B, Kohima Village, Medoo Keretsu invoked the Traditional Blessings. Task Force for Music and Arts (TaFMA) enthralled the crowds with the presentation of the flight of the Hornbill.

7th MYKIFEST:

The 7th MykiFest, celebrated at Hortiscape, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima alongside the 25th Hornbill Festival, was inaugurated by Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio on 1st December 2024, who highlighted the role of women as key contributors to Nagaland's socio economic development.

First launched in August 2017, MykiFest celebrates the achievements of women and has been an annual feature of the Hornbill Festival since 2018. The Myki Stall featured products from the apparels & accessories production programme, the Food Processing & Resource Centre, and the creation of trainees and instructors from the Multi-Training Centres in Kohima and Dimapur.



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio visiting the MykiFest during the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 1st December 2024.

The main attraction was the Exhibition of Tribal Attires & Designs, organized to promote and preserve the textiles of Nagaland's 17 recognized tribes under the Protection & Promotion of Textile Designs 2024-25. The exhibition focused on preserving tribal weaves and designs, promoting contemporary tribal attires, supporting women entrepreneurs and weavers, generating livelihood opportunities, creating market linkages and boosting tourism.

PONY FARM INAUGURATED AT KIGWEMA:

Advisor of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Kazheto Kinimi inaugurated the 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival at Pony Farm, Kigwema on December 1, 2024.

The Department featured the signature products of Weeshi, the majestic Mithun display, Milkcon showcase, exciting pony rides and vibrant food booths, etc. in partnership with ICAR & local entrepreneurs.

Kazheto Kinimi was accompanied by Sethrongkyu, Advisor of Information Technology & Communication, Economics & Statistics, Evaluation, A. Pangjung, Advisor of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Er. Kropol Vitsu, Advisor of Prison, Printing & Stationery and H. Tovihoto Ayemi, Advisor of Tribal Affairs & Election who joined in the celebration and encouraged the department's efforts to promote the entrepreneurs and livestock sector.

MEDIA KIT UNVEILED TO COMMEMORATE 25 YEARS OF THE HORNBILL FESTIVAL:

Celebrating 25th years of the Hornbill Festival, the Advisor of Information & Public

Relations and Soil & Water Conservation, Imkong L Imchen launched a special Media Kit at the Media Facilitation Centre, Kisama, Kohima on 1st December 2024.

The Commemorative Media Kit, specially curated by the Department of Information & Public Relations, featured contributions from various departments, each reflecting a unique promotion of the State's local produce. The eco-friendly tote bag and stationery items were contributed by the Department of Information & Public Relations. The Department of Agriculture donated sticky foxtail millet packets, Department of Women Resource Development included an assortment of Myki products like gooseberries, pineapples, popped rice and local spices, Nagaland Bee Keeping & Honey Mission donated bottle of stingless honey. The Department of Industries & Commerce contributed a specially crafted key chain and pen stand and Department of Sericulture contributed Eri Cocoon Brooch. The Department of Health & Family Welfare assembled a first aid kit while the Department of Printing & Stationery provided customised note pads for the occasion. Fingerprint Nagaland, the official print partner of the 2024 Hornbill Festival contributed a commemorative brooch.

DATA HUB:

Advisor, Information Technology and Communication, Economics & Statistics and Evaluation, Government of Nagaland H. Sethrongkyu Sangtam inaugurated the "Data Hub" at Nagaland Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 1st December 2024.

At Data Hub, the Department of Economics and Statistics exhibited various books that the department has brought out, especially Nagaland Statistical

Handbook 2024 featuring the policies of the government, importance of Registration of Births and Deaths and the economic landscape of Nagaland.

WWII PEACE RALLY COMMEMORATES THE BATTLE OF KOHIMA AT KISAMA:

The World War II Peace Rally commemorating the historic Battle of Kohima was held at the WWII Museum Complex in Kisama Heritage Village on 2nd December 2024. The event saw participation from global and local dignitaries, with Mitchell Theaker, India Head of the Welsh Government and Partner Country Representative, serving as the chief guest.

The rally, envisioned by Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio, highlighted the importance of using history to promote peace. Abu Metha, Chairman of NAMSA and Advisor to the Chief Minister, emphasized the need to leverage the legacy of the war for fostering global harmony. Metha noted the significant contributions of the Nagas during the war, which led to transformative global changes.

Mitchell Theaker lauded the shared bond between the Nagas and the Welsh people, urging the preservation and strengthening of this connection. He expressed hope that the event would serve as a bridge of peace and goodwill between the two communities, showcasing unity as a message to the world.

In his address, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio described the Battle of Kohima as a pivotal moment in Naga history, underscoring the devastating impact of war and the transformative power of peace. Rio stressed the need for Nagaland to advocate peace within the state, neighboring regions, and the global community. He encouraged the youth to sustain the peace rally initiative

and affirmed the government's commitment to supporting the Nagaland Flatfenders Club.

T.J. Longkumer, IPS (Retd.), and President of the Nagaland Flatfenders Club, announced the battle report of the rally, including the winners.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to peace and the celebration of unity, paying tribute to the sacrifices and resilience of those who shaped the region's history during World War II.

HORNBILL TRADITIONAL SHOT PUT COMPETITION:

The Hornbill Traditional Shot Put Competition organized by the Department of Youth Resource & Sports was held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 2nd December 2024.

Eighteen (18) competitors from all the tribes of Nagaland participated in the event. Kelhoudelie from Angami tribe was the winner with a throw of 15.8 feet while Likho Sangma from Garo tribe and Kevisar from Chang tribe came in second and third place respectively.

The traditional games were held daily at the Hornbill Festival in order to showcase and promote the culture and tradition of the Nagas and also to encourage a spirit of competitiveness among the different tribes of Nagaland.

STILT BAMBOO RACE:

The Traditional Stilt Bamboo Race competition organised by the Department of Youth Resources & Sports was held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 3rd December 2024.

Apart from 18 male and 14 female tribe competitors, 5 male and 4 female tourists participated in the most popular and excited

event. In the man's category, R. Thsankiu of Yimkhiung tribe emerged as the winner, while Heroto of Sümi tribe and M. Tsinthong of Tikhir tribe secured 1st and 2nd place respectively. In the women's category, M. Tensunaro of Phom tribe became the winner and Mughavili of Sümi tribe and T. Repaishe of Tikhir tribe secured 1st and 2nd runners up respectively. In the tourist's category (men), Alex from USA emerged as winner, while Rahul from Bihar and Aadesh Rai from Nepal won 1st and 2nd positions respectively and in the female category, Charlotte from USA emerged as the winner and Ronja from Sweden secured 1st runner up, while Sunita from Andhra Pradesh and Shweta from Gurgaon, Haryana secured 2nd runner up position.

MARI MATHIS PERFORMS AT HORNBILL FESTIVAL:

Folk singer Mari Mathis performed in Welsh language to thousands of people on the opening day of Hornbill festival 2024. Mari Mathias, a singer-songwriter who interprets traditional folk melodies for contemporary audiences, took to the main stage at the Hornbill Music Festival 2024 on 1st December and 2nd December 2024.

The 24-year-old began her solo set in front of a large projection of the Welsh flag, before welcoming Naga folk musician Seyievinuo Chuzho to the stage. The pair performed a piece of music they collaborated on that brings Welsh and Naga languages together.

Mari and Seyievinuo performed for a third time at the prestigious Handshake Concert at Raj Bhavan in Kohima on 3rd December 2024.

STONE PULLING CEREMONY MARKS 25 YEARS OF HORNBILL FESTIVAL:

As part of the celebration of the 25th Hornbill Festival of Nagaland, a grand Stone Pulling Ceremony was held starting from Napfülezha, Kigwema TCP Gate, and culminating at the Kisama Heritage Village on 4th December 2024. The event was graced by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as Chief Guest, alongside Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio as Chief Host and Tourism Minister, Temjen Imna Along as Host. Other dignitaries, including Advisor Er. Kropol Vitsu and MLA Kevipodi Sophie were present to mark the occasion.

Flagging off the ceremony, Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat lauded the Hornbill Festival as a vibrant global platform showcasing Nagaland's rich culture, traditions, and diversity. He expressed confidence that with the continued support of the Government of India, the festival could attract even more global tourists. Reflecting on India's 75th year of constitutional democracy, he highlighted the transformational development in the Northeast over the past decade under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, pointing out Nagaland's potential to drive change in the next 25 years.

Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio emphasized the significance of the Stone Pulling Ceremony as a symbol of unity and cultural heritage. He expressed gratitude to the Southern Angami People Organization (SAPO) for organizing the event, celebrating the community's rich traditions and customs. Highlighting Nagaland's history, Rio credited the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873 for preserving the region's unique identity and

urged for the continued protection of the state's cultural legacy amidst modernization.

The ceremony featured traditional blessings by Kigwema Village Council Chairman, Balie Kere, a 25-gun salute by SAPO, and a welcome address by SAPO President, Er. Tepul Hopovi. Event leadership was provided by SAPO General Secretary, Er. Swelul Pucho.

INDIGENOUS STANDING BROAD JUMP COMPETITION:

The Department of Youth Resources & Sports successfully organized the indigenous game, Standing Broad Jump, as part of the Hornbill Festival celebrations at Kisama on 4th December 2024. The competition, opened to visiting tourists, saw an exciting participation of fourteen athletes, including two foreign tourists.

After three thrilling rounds of competition, Shubham from Pune emerged as the winner with an impressive jump of 7.11 feet. Alex from the USA narrowly missed

the top spot, securing second place with a jump of 7.10 feet, while Atheelth from Kerala claimed third place with a jump of 7.8 feet.

Shubham took home Rs. 7,000 for his first-place finish, while Alex and Atheelth were awarded Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 3,000, respectively, for their remarkable performances.

The Standing Broad Jump competition highlighted the excitement and diverse cultural participation at the Hornbill Festival, drawing both local and international enthusiasts to Kisama.

HORTISCAPE 2024:

Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio inaugurated the Hortiscape at Nagaland Heritage Village, Kisama on 1st December 2024. The Hortiscape housed the Kaleidoscope Hortus and Floral Galleria, which was organised by the Department of Horticulture. At the Kaleidoscope Hortus, visitors could buy local fruits and vegetables sourced from different parts of the State. The Floral Galleria featured



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio inaugurating the Hortiscape during the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 1st December 2024.

a variety of flowers with many unique floral arrangements.

The Prize Distribution Ceremony for the State Level Flower Show-cum-Competition was held on 5th December 2024 at Floral Galleria, Hortiscape, Naga Heritage village, Kisama. Minister for Women Resource Development and Horticulture, Salhoutuonuo Kruse gracing the occasion as the special guest, emphasized on the importance of the platform that has been given to the participants to showcase their talents at a state level. She said efforts are being made to incentivize the floriculture sector to encourage more participants and bring about more opportunities for them.

Horticulture Inspector, Thungchobeni Kikon informed that out of 9 categories in total for the competition, there were 98 participants, with 32 entries and 72 winners.

TUG OF WAR COMPETITION:

Tug of war in traditional Naga Style competition was held at the main arena of Naga Heritage Village Kisama during the 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival on 5th December 2024.

The participants were from tribal troupes consisting of eight participants from each tribe who came from different districts representing the tribes of Nagaland. The event was organised by the Department of Youth Resources & Sports. In the men's category, the first place was bagged by the Angami tribe, second by the Garo tribe and third by the Konyak tribe. In the women's category, the first place was bagged by the Angami tribe, second by the Sangtam tribe, and third by the Kachari tribe. Winning team for both men and women walked away with Rs. 25,000 cash prizes, runners up with Rs. 15,000 and the third prize with Rs. 10,000 each.

NFGS HOSTS MINI FLOWER BAZAAR AND COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE 25th HORNBILL FESTIVAL:

As part of the 25th Hornbill Festival, the Nagaland Flower Growers Society (NFGS) organized a week-long Mini Flower Bazaar at the Farmers Market near Hotel FIFA, Kohima. The event featured a wide array of fresh cut flowers, presentation bouquets, saplings, potted greens, and seasonal flowering plants for sale, attracting numerous visitors and vendors.

On 6th December 2024, prize distribution ceremony for Fresh Flower and Dry Flower competitions was held, where 30 participants showcased their artistic arrangements. Temsunaro Aier, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, IPR and Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Nagaland, graced the prize distribution ceremony as the Chief Guest. In her address, Aier emphasized the potential of floriculture as a sustainable livelihood for farmers, encouraging them to be self-reliant and reduce dependence on government schemes. She lauded the NFGS for its pioneering role in promoting floriculture in the State and its contributions to beautification efforts and empowering flower growers.

In the Dry Flower arrangement category, first position was awarded to Sabino Nakhro, while Meyievino Theluo and Anungla Jamir were awarded second and third positions respectively. Consolation prizes were awarded to Bino Sophie and Pekruvinuo Pienyu. Dzuvisenuo bagged the first place in the Fresh Flower category while Pekruvinuo Pienyu and Anungla Jamir were awarded second and third positions respectively. Consolation prizes were awarded to Yatetinla Ozukum and Meyievino Theluo.

The NFGS, established in 2007 under the Department of Horticulture, continues to promote floriculture as a viable business and support its members in becoming successful entrepreneurs.

2nd TRIBAL GO-KARTING COMPETITION:

As part of the 25th Hornbill Festival, the 2nd Tribal Go-Karting Competition organized by Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Nagaland under Tribal Affairs Department was held at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat Road, Kohima on 6th December 2024 with 15 tribes participating in the competition.

The competition was organized to bring back the memories of the yesteryears where children played or raced with wooden karts as they had no means to bicycles or tricycles and the participants in the event also competed in such wooden karts. The youngest participant in the event was Kevisede Dzuvichu aged 14 years from the Angami tribe.

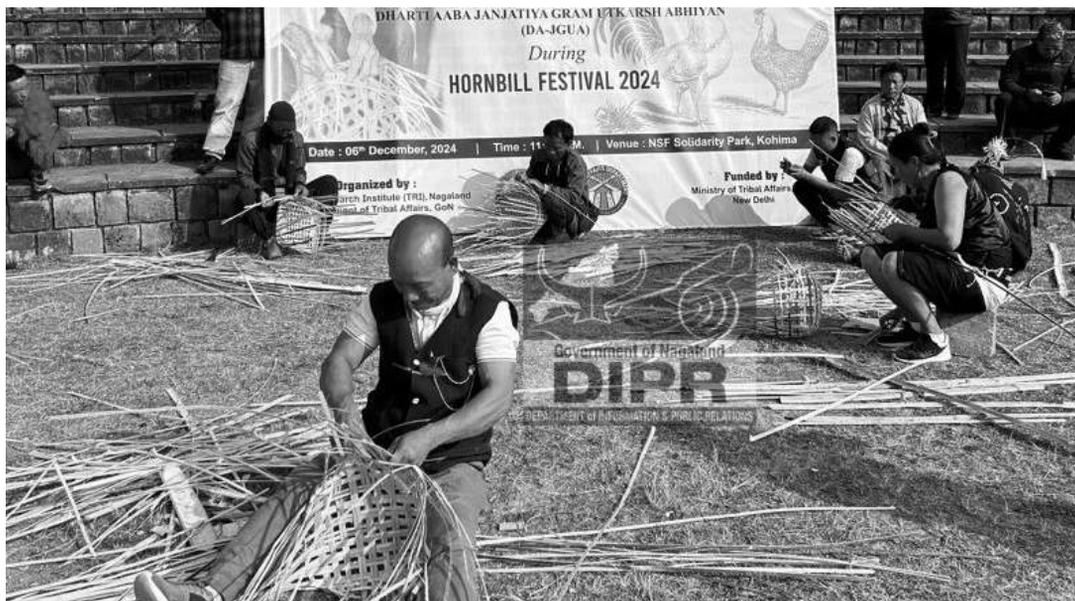
In the competition, the Khamniungan tribe was declared champion while the Lotha tribe and Pochury tribe were declared the first and second runners-up respectively. All the winners were awarded with certificate and cash prize.

STATE LEVEL CHICKEN COOP MAKING COMPETITION:

Participants from 13 tribes took part in the State Level Chicken Coop Making competition, held at NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima on 6th December 2024.

The competition was held on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh celebration & IEC campaign for Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA). It was organized by Tribal Research Institute (TRI), Nagaland, Department of Tribal Affairs, Government of Nagaland, and funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

The competition witnessed the



Participants taking part in the State Level Chicken Coop Making competition at NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima on 6th December 2024.

participation of 12 males and one female. Yongkhumse from Sangtam tribe emerged as the winner, while Yemlongchaba from Chang tribe and Lapshaü from Phom tribe won the first and second prizes respectively. The winners were judged based on two criteria – time and quality of craftsmanship.

3rd STATE-LEVEL CATAPULT COMPETITION:

The 3rd edition of the State-Level Catapult Competition, organized by the Department of Tribal Affairs, marked a vibrant celebration of indigenous traditions on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and the IEC campaign. It was organised as part of the Hornbill Festival at NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima on 6th December 2024.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the competition aimed to revive the traditional Naga game of catapult shooting. This year's event saw enthusiastic participation from 30 contestants representing 15 tribes, including Sumi, Angami, Chakhesang, Chang, Tikhir, Garo, Zeliang, Yimkhiung, Konyak, Sangtam, Pochury, Phom, Kuki, Lotha, and Rengma. A Shangtok Phom emerged as the champion, while Meso and Yhunsinlo Lorin secured second and third places respectively. The prizes were handed over by Angelina Tajen, Secretary of the Tribal Affairs Department.

STATE LEVEL RICE HUSKING COMPETITION:

State Level Rice Husking Competition was held on 6th December 2024 during the 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival at the NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima. The competition was funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and organised by Tribal Research Institute Nagaland under Department of Tribal

Affairs, Nagaland.

A total of 30 contestants participated from 15 tribes and they were judged on the quality as well as the quantity of husking the grains. The winners of the competition were Ngapkhaio & Ayo (Konyak) at 1st position, A. Soyäü Phom & Hantenhaila (Phom) in 2nd position and Mengzi & Lalam Lenthang (Kuki) placed at 3rd position.

SHORT FILM SCREENING HELD:

The Nagaland Art Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Information & Public Relations held a Short Film Screening event as part of the 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival, to showcase captivating short films from the North-East and around the globe, celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and stories through cinema.

The screenings took place on 5th and 6th December 2024 at the LG Hall, CIHSR Campus, 4th Mile, Chümoukedima, Nagaland. Gracing the occasion, Sedevi Angami, Director of CHISR, who said that the event featured a curated selection of short films from around the world, with a spotlight on the Northeast, and provides a platform for audiences to explore diverse storytelling and cinematic perspectives. He also said that M. Ababe Ezung and Sentienla Pongen Ezung, founder of the Nagaland Art Centre, based in the IMC Hall, Dimapur, continues to promote the region's cultural heritage through art and film.

The event also offered a preview of the center's upcoming theatre, Meyitsiiloo, which will showcase short films, documentaries, and other cinematic productions and this initiative reinforces the centre's commitment to supporting local artists and preserving Nagaland's rich cultural legacy and promises

to provide a platform for talented filmmakers to exhibit their work, promote cultural exchange, and engage with audiences in a creative setting.

STATE LEVEL SPEAR THROWING COMPETITION:

Tribal Affairs Department organised a State Level Spear Throwing Competition on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh celebration & IEC campaign during the Hornbill festival at NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima on 7th December 2024.

Letuozo Patrick Kiewhuo Angami emerged as the winner while Merithung Lotha and Penhaulungzing Mbung Zeliang secured second and third positions respectively.

Altogether, 32 participants participated representing sixteen tribes and foreigners from Australia and Sri Lanka also participated in throwing the Naga spear.

STATE LEVEL LOG CUTTING COMPETITION:

State Level Log Cutting Competition was held on 7th December 2024 during 25th Hornbill Festival at the NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima.

The competition was funded by the Minister of Tribal Affairs and organised by Tribal Research Institute Nagaland under the Department of Tribal Affairs, Nagaland. All 16 tribes of Nagaland participated with one participant from each tribe.

Rhavi Rume (Chakhesang tribe) emerged as the Champion while Ruokuohetuo Rulho (Angami tribe) and Yhunsinlon Lorin (Rengma tribe) were placed at the 1st and 2nd runners-up respectively.

HORNBILL INTERNATIONAL NAGA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024:

The 17th Edition of the Hornbill International Naga Wrestling Championship 2024 was held at Chiechama village, Kohima on 6th December 2024, with Consul General, Royal Bhutanese Consulate General, Guwahati, Kingdom of Bhutan, Jigme Thinlye Namgyal as the special guest.

Namgal in his opening remarks, acknowledged the State Government for facilitating their visit and giving the opportunity to witness the 17th Hornbill International Naga Wrestling Championship 2024 as Special Guest. He stated that this



Winner Venuzo Dawhuo along with participants and officials at the 17th Edition of the Hornbill International Naga Wrestling Championship 2024 held at Chiechama, Kohima on 6th December 2024.

festival is special for them because they could see and feel all the 18 major Naga tribes, which are quite unique from one another and their colourful attires, all naturally inspired along with a rich music culture.

Wrestling, which he got to witness, is a traditionally cherished sport in their culture too, he stated. He also invited friends from Nagaland to come to their event - the Rhododendron Week in the coming spring and assured that it will be a good opportunity to experience the indigenous culture and pristine nature of some of Bhutan's most exotic communities.

Meanwhile in the event, Venuzo Dawhuo bagged the 1st position in the Hornbill Championship for Men while Seyiejalie Gwirie secured the 1st in the category of 90 Kg and below and Keneiselie Khawakhrie in the category of 75 Kg and below.

For the 1st time, exhibition match for women category comprising of 65 Kg and below and 65 Kg and above was held in the Hornbill International Naga Wrestling.

BLOWING OF HORN CHAMPIONSHIP:

The Hornbill Blowing of Horn competition was held at the Kisama Main Arena on 7th December 2024 where defending champion Visosieto Vupru from the Angami Morung was adjudged as the winner while Chingpong from the Phom Morung and Wenlad Konyak from the Konyak Morung were adjudged second and third respectively.

The 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival 2024 witnessed 13 tribal morungs taking part at the Blowing of Horn competition where the youngest contestant was 19 years of age and the oldest was 85 years old from the Konyak tribe.

The winners were judged on three

criteria including sustenance, creativity and melody. The competition was organized by Tribal Vision in collaboration with Department of Youth Resources & Sports, Nagaland. Tribal Vision society was formed in 2012 with the sole objective of picking up fallen thread and reviving forgotten cultural practices.

CULTURAL MOSAIC HELD:

'Cultural Mosaic - a celebration of the unique and diverse culture of the various Naga tribes,' was held on 7th December 2024 at NSF Solidarity Park. It was organised by the Department of Tribal Affairs, on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh celebration & IEC Campaign for Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA).

Advisor, Tribal Affairs and Elections, H. Tovihoto Ayemi, who was the Chief Host of the event, emphasised on the importance of the Hornbill Festival and its goal for progressing the Naga society towards a harmonious future. Ayemi appreciated the participants for coming together from different corners of Nagaland to showcase their creativity and skills, and also congratulated the winners of the various competitions that were held by the Department of Tribal Affairs.

Calling the Naga people 'warm and hospitable,' honoured guest, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Textiles with additional charge of Ministry of DoNER and Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, Asit Gopal said it is an immense pleasure and honour to be a part of the iconic Hornbill Festival, which is now being celebrated on a much larger scale, its fame spreading not only nationally but internationally. Stating that the Hornbill Festival represents the unity, the spirit of Nagaland, he expressed hope



Minister, G. Kaito Aye, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Textiles, Asit Gopal and other officials at the bonfire lighting ceremony during the Cultural Mosaic held at NSF Solidarity Park, Kohima on 7th December 2024.

that the State of Nagaland will grow like its Hornbill Festival. Gopal also emphasised that Nagaland plays an indispensable role in promoting organic agricultural produce in the country.

Addressing the gathering, special guest, Minister, Roads & Bridges, G. Kaito Aye said the Cultural Mosaic is a reminder of the profound significance of our cultural heritage, and called the tribal communities as the torchbearers of wisdom, tradition and sustainability. The theme of the event reflects the display of traditions, language, crafts and practices that form the bedrock of the identity of the Nagas. The Hornbill Festival and events like Culture Mosaic go beyond celebrating the unique identities of tribal communities, he added and called upon the Nagas to take the opportunity to engage with one another, learn from each other's experience and build relationships that transcend differences.

RUN FOR HORNBILL AGAINST TIME HELD:

The Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change organized "Run for Hornbill Against Time" on 7th December 2024. The 5.40-kilometer run commenced at New Police Reserve Junction and concluded in Kisama, Kohima. Designed as an inclusive event, the fun run welcomed participants of all ages. Altogether, there were 226 participants.

Men's Category Winners: 1st-Wede T Mero, 2nd-Tsole Yhokha, 3rd-Shiangjiu T Khamniungan, 4th - Sochiu S and 5th-Wangnao.

Women's Category Winners: 1st-Tsuchoi T, 2nd-Niansai T, 3rd-Songmo P, 4th-Cekrotalu Khesoh and 5th-Vekholhulu.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL SERVICE HELD:

The Advent Christmas Devotional Service was held at the Naga Heritage Village

in Kisama on 8th December 2024. The event was organized by the Nagaland Joint Christian Forum (NJCF), with Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio attending as the special guest.

Expressed his joy in joining the Advent Christmas celebration at Kisama alongside his family, the Chief Minister noted the special significance of the event, coinciding with the 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival. He reflected on the blessing of worshiping with a vibrant community and emphasized the unique nature of the occasion. He assured attendees that the celebration sought not to diminish the spirit of Christmas but to highlight the interconnectedness of spiritual identity, indigenous heritage, and political identity. The Chief Minister encouraged participants to embrace themes of tolerance, forgiveness, and goodwill in the true Christian spirit during this season. Above all, he reminded everyone to focus on the central figure of Christmas, Jesus Christ, who brought hope, peace, and salvation to the world.

In his sermon, Rev. Dr. Zelhoy Keyho, Advisor of NJCF, explained that the essence of the Christmas season is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Rev. Dr. Keyho urged the attendees to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas amid personal challenges, emphasizing that the season offers an opportunity to demonstrate Christian faith and glorify God.

Rev. Fr. Dr. George Rino, Joint Secretary of NJCF, delivered the invocation, while Rev. Dr. N. Paphino, President of NJCF, extended a warm welcome to all attendees in his speech.

Musical performances for the service were presented by the Sumi Aphuyemi Baptist Church (Kohima), the Nagaland

Chamber Choir, the Khedi Baptist Church (Kohima Village), and Live Voice (CRC Viswema), adding a spiritual and festive atmosphere to the event.

4th EDITION OF THE GREAT HORNBILL RUN:

The 4th edition of “The Great Hornbill Run,” organized as part of the Hornbill Festival celebrations, witnessed a grand opening at the Multi discipline Sports Stadium, Sovima Chümoukedima on 9th December 2024. The event was spearheaded by the Nagaland Athletic Association under the aegis of the Nagaland Olympic Association, Athletics Federation of India, and the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland, and sponsored by the Bank of Baroda.

Governor of Nagaland, La Ganesan, gracing the occasion, applauded the organizers for creating a platform that not only celebrates athleticism but also unites cultures and fosters competitive excellence. “This event transcends the boundaries of sports and culture, encouraging our youth and showcasing their talent on national and international stages,” he remarked.

General Manager & Zonal Head of NES Zone, Bank of Baroda, Sonam Tshering Bhutia, reaffirmed the bank’s commitment to supporting sports in the region. “The North East is a breeding ground for talent with immense potential to shine nationally and internationally,” he said, encouraging participants to aim for greater achievements.

The competition featured road races in three categories: Senior 10 Km (Men & Women), Under-20 10 Km (Boys & Girls), and Under-18 8 Km (Boys & Girls), with cash prizes for the top seven finishers in each group. The event was marked by a warm



Governor, La Ganesan and officials of Bank of Baroda at the 4th Edition of the Great Hornbill Festival held at Multi-Discipline Sports Stadium, Sovima, Chumoukedima on 9th December 2024.

welcome from Abu Metha, President of the Nagaland Athletics Association and Associate Vice President of the Athletics Federation of India, and greetings from Sovima Village Council.

NAGA CHEF SEASON 11:

The finale of Naga Chef Season 11 was held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 9th December 2024 with top four finalists, Gaily T Trakha, Hamngam Linghoikim Hengna, Merennungsang Lemtor and Pfutsuvielo Ladu.

Merennungsang Lemtor emerged as the winner of the Naga Chef Season 11 and walked away with a cash prize of Rs. Three (3) lakhs. All three other finalists were awarded gift hampers.

The judges for the Naga Chef Season 11 were Rovi Chasie, Alemjungla Jamir, Kevitsu Doze, Nune Chase and Vekuthöli Vero. The Naga Chef was organized by Synergy Group Enterprise and supported by the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland.

SAVE AND PROTECT THE HORNBILL COMPETITION:

Acknowledging the deep rooted link between the hornbill bird and Naga culture, the Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change held a competition in 2023 for sustainable alternative feathers in place of the real hornbill feathers, and the winners of the competition were Architect Shanjo A. Kithan and Architect Sentilong Imchen.

The department has displayed the winning entry at the stall this year to create awareness that there is an alternative and it is hoped that this will encourage people to make use of such alternative option instead of the real hornbill feathers in their traditional attire.

Encouragingly, the alternative feather has drawn a lot of appreciation from visitors, both local and international. This initiative is seen as a way to protect the Hornbills whose population are facing immense threats in Nagaland.

HIPFEST 2024:

Advisor for Soil & Water Conservation and Information & Public Relations, Imkong L. Imchen inaugurated the Hornbill International Photo Fest (HIPFEST) during the 25th anniversary of the Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 1st December 2024. The photo fest, themed Nature's Canvas – Celebrating the Beauty of Nature, was a collaborative effort by Portrait Enterprise and the Department of Information & Public Relations.

Speaking at the event, Advisor, Imchen expressed his gratitude to the Department of Information & Public Relations and Portrait Enterprise for organizing HIPFEST. He highlighted its significance in inspiring the youth of Nagaland to pursue photography while showcasing the state's natural beauty to the world.

Ababe Ezung from Portrait Enterprise said that the event received 66 entries, including 45 from local photographers. HIPFEST 2024 is part of the broader Hornbill Festival celebrations, promoting art, culture, and the scenic charm of Nagaland on an international platform.

The winners of the Hornbill HIPFEST were felicitated at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama at a short official programme on 10th December 2024. Special Guest at the event, Director, Art & Culture Department, Adela Moa said that the pictures each spoke of a story through which the visitors of the Hornbill Festival would learn about the life, culture and traditions of the Naga people.

Adela Moa later presented the winners with certificates and cash awards. Ato Mor secured first position, while Viketso Meyase and Parvej Akhtar claimed second and third positions respectively. The winners were awarded a certificate along with cash prizes

of Rs. 40,000, Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively. In the category awards, Keyi Putlang won the Best Portrait category, Sashikala Jamir was awarded for Best Landscape Photograph, and Neilar Mepfhuo took home the prize for Best Wildlife Photograph. The winners of the sub-category were each awarded a certificate and Rs. 10,000 each.

IMAGILAND - AN UNFORGETTABLE HORNBILL FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE:

ImagiLAND at Kisama Naga Heritage Village is not just another festival arena—it is an immersive experience that perfectly merges contemporary art and music with innovation, making it a destination for all ages. IMAGISTAGE is dedicated to promoting creativity and offering a one-of-a-kind platform for artists to showcase their talent. From breathtaking performances to vibrant attractions, IMAGISTAGE is the ultimate space for fun, art, and entertainment. Twenty-two (22) stalls were set up ranging from food, beverage, merchandise, games, photo booth, etc.

The Children's Park at ImagiLAND is an ultimate family haven, where parents and their little ones flocked to enjoy swings, arcade games, DIY accessories, basketball shoots and the ever-popular bouncy castle. Along with all that, there were also digital photo booths where one could take away instant photographs for keepsake. By day, IMAGISTAGE offered sunny vibes and activities to delight families and thrill-seekers alike at imagiLAND and by night, the stage showcased performances from some of the best talents around like Undying Inc, Konflikts, The Dixie Boyzz, Street Stories, Polar Lights, Dossers Urge, Reble, and Riotfame.

VARIOUS GUESTS GRACES THE CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA SESSIONS AT THE HORNBILL FESTIVAL 2024:

The cultural performances are a key highlight of the Hornbill Festival, with all the troupes showcasing various traditional dances and songs that celebrate the rich heritage of Nagaland. Additionally, each tribe presented one commemorative performance on different days throughout the festival, highlighting the uniqueness of their traditions.

Day 2 of the 25th Hornbill Festival saw the inaugural programme of the cultural extravaganza from the different tribes of Nagaland with the theme “Cultural Connect.” The event, hosted by T.R. Zeliang, Deputy Chief Minister, Planning & Transformation, Nagaland, and co-hosted by G. Ikuto Zhimomi, Advisor for Land Resources, featured Ravi Bhatnagar, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships, South Asia, Reckitt, as the honored guest.

Day 3 witnessed a variety of cultural performances and folk songs and dances of various tribes. The morning session was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister, Home and Border Affairs, Yanthungo Patton, and co-hosted by Advisor, Food & Civil Supplies, Legal Metrology & Consumer Protection, K.T. Sukhalu and by Chairman, Nagaland Honey Mission, Obed Quinker, featuring Minister, Tourism Sikkim, Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Chairman, SIMFED, Tenzing Dorjee Bhutia and Ambassador of Peru to India, HE Javier Paulinich, Director, Cultural Forum Austrian Embassy Michael Pal and Irena Pal Project Manager, Vienna Economic Forum as honored guests. In the afternoon session, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

graced the function as the chief guest, Minister, Women Resource Development and Horticulture, Salhoutuonuo Kruse was the host and Advisor, Treasuries & Accounts, Art & Culture, Konngam Konyak was the co-host. Drum Tao, the world famous Japanese drumming ensemble hailing from the Aso region in Japan mesmerized the gathering with a grand performance integrating music, martial arts, dance and theatrical storytelling.

The 25th anniversary celebrations of the Hornbill Festival continued on Day 4 under the theme “Cultural Connect,” with an impressive array of traditional performances by various tribes of Nagaland. The morning session was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang, alongside Advisor for Tribal Affairs and Elections, H. Tovihoto Ayemi, and Prasielie Pienyu, Chairman of the Nagaland Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation (NHHDC). The General Manager of NF Railways, A.K. Chowdhury attended the event as the guest of honour. The co-host for the afternoon session was Advisor, Minority Affairs and Sericulture, Imkongmar and was accompanied by Minister of Rural Development and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir.

Cultural Extravaganza on Day 5 witnessed performance by the State Partner of the 25th Hornbill Festival 2024, Sikkim at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 5th December 2024, showcasing the Integration Dance, highlighting Sikkim as the land of unity, peace and tranquillity. The morning Cultural Extravaganza was hosted by Minister, Housing & Mechanical Engineering, P. Bashangmongba Chang and co-hosted by Advisor, Fire & Emergency Services, Home Guards & Civil Defence, S. Kiusumew Yimchunger and Chairman, NIDC, Kvulo Lorin. The day featured three

sessions hosted by prominent dignitaries. The morning session was hosted by the Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA), Sharingain Longkumer with A. Panjung Jamir, Advisor for Fisheries & Aquatic Resources as the co-host. Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, Governor of Mizoram, and Kedir AWOL Omar, Head of Regional Delegation, South Asia, ICRC, Geneva were the honoured guests. The afternoon session was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister, Y. Patton, who is also in charge of Home and Border Affairs, with S. Keoshu Yimchunger, Advisor for Youth Resources & Sports as the co-host. Honoured guests included Director General, AR, Lt. Gen. Vikas Lakhera, AVSM, SM, and Anshu Manish Khalkho, Director (A&F), NHIDCL. The evening session was hosted by Deputy Chief Minister, Y. Patton and S. Keoshu Yimchunger, with the same distinguished guests.

Sikkim, the official state partner for the milestone celebration, showcased its rich cultural diversity through captivating performances by the Sikkim Cultural Troupe on 6th December 2024. Known for its harmonious blend of tribal, ethnic, and caste groups, Sikkim's social fabric is deeply rooted in the traditions of the Lepcha, Bhutia, and Nepali communities. These indigenous groups presented a series of performances reflecting their unique heritage and way of life. The performances by the Sikkim Cultural Troupe not only captivated the audience but also highlighted the state's rich cultural tapestry and its deep connection to nature and spirituality. The Hornbill Festival continues to serve as a platform for cultural exchange, celebrating the diversity of India's northeastern region and beyond.

The morning cultural session on 7th December 2024 was hosted by Advisor for Law

& Justice and Land Revenue, T. N. Manen, while Chairman of the NSMDC, Kuputo Shohe co-hosted the event. Honoured guests of the morning cultural session included Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court, Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Advocate General of Nagaland, K. N. Balgopal, Managing Director of TRIFED, Ashish Chatterjee, IAS, Consul General of the Royal Bhutanese Consulate General, Guwahati, Jigme Namgyal, Special Chief Secretary of Manipur, H. Khan, and Chief General Manager, SBI North East, S. Radhakrishnan. Guwahati High Court Judges, Justice Manish Chowdhury and Justice Devashis Baruah also graced the programme with their presence.

On 8th December 2024, Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya graced the morning session of the event as the Honoured Guest. The session was hosted by Minister for Roads & Bridges, G. Kaito Aye, and co-hosted by Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, Advisor for School Education and SCERT, along with Chairperson Awan Konyak and Abu Metha, Advisor to the Chief Minister and Chairman of IDAN. The afternoon session saw the presence of the Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor from the Ministry of Textiles as the Honoured Guest. Minister for Housing and Mechanical Engineering, P. Bashangmongba Chang served as the host, while Advisor, NRE, NSDMA Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, and NEPED Chairman, Subongmeren co-hosted the programme. Nazneen Banu, IDSE, Commander Works Engineer (CWE) Military Engineer Services, Ministry of Defense, Government of India also attended the programme.

On Day 9 of the Hornbill, the Host was Minister for Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Village Guards, C.L. John, with

co-host Zhaleo Rio, Advisor for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs. The honored guests were Justice Biswanath Sommader, Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court; Paras Sharma, Director of Global Partnerships at Meta, India, and Sh. Rajesh Nambair, Executive Director & State Head of Indian Oil AOD, Guwahati. The afternoon session was hosted by Deputy Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, S. Toiho Yeptho with Advisor for Water Resources, Tongpang Ozukum as the co-host. The honored guests for the afternoon included Sanjay Verma, Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Lt Gen. Abhijit S Pendharkar, AVSM, YSM, General Officer Commanding 3 Corps. The afternoon session featured diverse performances from various Naga tribes, highlighting their rich traditions, music, and dances. The program began with a special performance by Imna Yaden, a folk fusion Singer -songwriter from Dimapur who performed the song "Call of Hornbill," honouring and commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Hornbill Festival.

On 10th December 2024, the morning session was attended by Advisor, Geology & Mining, DUDA, W. Chingang Konyak as the Co-Host. In the afternoon session, the cultural programme was graced by Ambassador, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India (TECC), Baushuan Ger along with Actor and Film Producer, Zayed Sanjay Khan and Group CEO, Times Group, Rohit Gopakumar which was hosted by Minister, Rural Development, SIRD and Co-Hosted by Advisor, Transport, Technical Education, Temjenmenba. In the afternoon session, the cultural show was graced by Air Marshal, Air Officer, Commanding – in – Chief, Eastern

Command, Surat Singh, AVSM, VM, VSM, and hosted by Minister, Women Resources and Horticulture, Salhoutuonuo Kruse along with Co-host, Advisor, Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu Kense.

The 10-day long 'Cultural Extravaganza' witnessed performances from the Cultural Troupes of Ao, Chang, Chakhesang, Khamniungan, Garo, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Sangtam, Angami, Rengma, Pochury, Sumi, Tikhir, Kachari, Yimkhiung, Kuki and Zeliang tribes. The performances were a testament to the rich cultural diversity of Nagaland and its neighboring states, keeping the audience enthralled throughout the day. The Hornbill Festival continues to be a global platform showcasing the traditions and heritage of the region. The North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) featured troupes from the seven Northeastern states i.e. Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

Certificates, photo frames and cash were given to all the cultural troupes. The Best Commemorative Performance was awarded to the Ao Cultural Troupe with certificate and a cash of Rs. 20,000. The Best Performing Cultural Troupe was bagged by Konyak Cultural Troupe and the second by the Rengma Cultural Troupe, they were awarded with certificates and a cash of Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively. The Best Morung was presented to Ao Morung, Chang Morung and Konyak Morung. The Best Stall was presented to Tepok Oshidak, Nouva and Ao fusion. The afternoon session of the Cultural Extravaganza was hosted by Minister, PHE, Jacob Zhimomi along with his Co-host, Advisor, Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AT NAGA HERITAGE VILLAGE, KISAMA:

To keep Naga Heritage Village, Kisama clean and healthy, a group of young and intelligent youths worked round the clock cleaning up the wastes at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama. The Waste Management System was in operation during the Hornbill Festival since day one, involving three parties, namely Human Matrix, Green Guard and Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

The Human Matrix looked after the securities and collection of waste management and facility services, while Green Guard were placed in all the logistic location for easy access of waste management and the Zub Zub took care of everything on the ground, segregation and rag picking, later the segregated waste were sent to Material Recovery Facility (MRF) where they were weighed and disposed off accordingly.

According to the management, most of the wastes collected were plastic water bottles inspite of its ban.

25th HORNBILL FESTIVAL DRAWS OVER 2 LAKH VISITORS IN KISAMA:

The 25th Edition of the annual Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, drew a total of 2,05,968 visitors over the course of ten days. The festival, which concluded on December 10, saw a remarkable increase of 33.7% in footfall compared to last year, which recorded 1,54,057 attendees.

As per the data given by the Directorate of Tourism, this year's festival attracted a diverse crowd, with 2,527 foreign tourists, 56,217 domestic visitors, and 1,47,224 local attendees. Day-10 saw the highest attendance, with 32,081 visitors, making it the peak day in terms of turnout. The

final day of the festival also witnessed the highest number of local attendees, with 23,816 people in attendance. The first day of the festival recorded the highest number of foreign visitors, with 513 tourists, while Day-8 saw the largest number of domestic visitors, reaching 9,342. On the other hand, Day-4 had the lowest turnout, with 14,502 visitors.

This year's edition witnessed significant growth across all categories of attendees. The number of foreign tourists increased from 2,108 in 2023 to 2,375 in 2024. Domestic visitors also saw a sharp rise, from 37,089 last year to 56,217 this year. Additionally, local attendance grew from 1,14,860 to 1,47,224, reflecting the festival's deepening connection with the local population and its appeal to a wider audience.

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 25th HORNBILL FESTIVAL

The 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival came to a spectacular end with a grand closing ceremony held at the Main Arena, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 10th December 2024. The event marked the successful conclusion of a 10-day long celebration of Nagaland's rich culture and heritage.

Festival Host and Minister of Tourism & Higher Education, Temjen Imna Along in his closing speech, thanked the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio under whose visionary leadership the Nagas were able to come together in unity, spirituality and enthusiasm for the festival. He emphasised that the festival goes beyond cultural and tribal ties and extends to humanity. Along thanked the Department of Art & Culture, led by Advisor K. Konngam Konyak, for bringing artisans from all over Nagaland to come showcase their rich culture and heritage



Cultural Troupes performing the Unity Dance on the final day of 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 10th December 2024.

to the world. He also appreciated Tourism Department for their effort in making the Festival a grand success. He also extended gratitude to the TaFMA team for their persistence and commitment, and providing opportunities in the field of music and arts throughout the 10-day period.

Minister Along thanked the Police for ensuring a secure and seamless logistics during the festival. He thanked the line Departments, Ministers, Advisors, Administrative Head of Departments and Heads of Departments led by the Chief Secretary of Nagaland, Dr. J. Alam for their absolute cooperation and collaboration.

The Festival Host thanked the churches and all the people of Nagaland for bringing positivity and taking ownership to build such an empowering brand. Minister Along also thanked the country partners and state

partners along with the ambassadors and bureaucrats for their collaboration. He appreciated the media fraternity for showing the festival to the world.

Minister, Temjen Imna Along, along with Miss Nagaland 2024, Anon Konyak, and the pageant's first and second runners-up, Nikali K Shohe and Kelülü Dawhuo, lit the ceremonial bonfire, symbolizing the end of this year's festival. The closing programme also featured a mesmerizing cultural presentation and captivating musical performances, leaving the audience with lasting memories of the festival's unique blend of traditions, music, and dance.

The 25th Hornbill Festival has once again proven to be a vibrant celebration of Naga culture, drawing visitors from across the world to witness the beauty and unity of Nagaland.

PM NARENDRA MODI LAUDS NAGALAND'S EFFORTS IN WASTE MANAGEMENT AT HORNBILL FESTIVAL

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi commended Nagaland for its emphasis on waste management and sustainability, spotlighted during the Hornbill Festival at Kisama Heritage Village. In a post on X, the Prime Minister extended his heartfelt wishes to the people of Nagaland, celebrating the festival's vibrant 25-year milestone.

Reflecting on his memorable visit to

the festival a few years ago, Modi described the Hornbill Festival as a lively showcase of Naga culture and traditions. He encouraged everyone to experience its vibrancy.

The Prime Minister's recognition of the State's sustainability initiatives underscores the importance of combining cultural celebration with environmental consciousness.

CM NEIPHIU RIO CONVEYS APPRECIATION ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 25th EDITION OF HORNBILL FESTIVAL

The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio expressed his heartfelt congratulations on the successful completion of the 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival. This year marks a historic milestone as we commemorated 25 years of this iconic festival, a matter of immense pride for all citizens of Nagaland. The Hornbill Festival has elevated our state's reputation on the global stage, showcasing the vibrant energy, creativity, and innovation of our youth to the international community, while enabling them to pursue their aspirations, he said.

The policy of Partner Countries and States has added a multi-dimensional aspect to the festival, fostering collaborations, partnerships and developmental possibilities. The Music Festival has transcended boundaries, positioning Nagaland as an international music destination and providing unparalleled platforms for our young talents within our State. Most importantly, our collective goal of promoting, preserving, and celebrating our age-old traditions, rich cultural heritage,

and the Naga way of life continues to be strengthened through this event, the CM added.

Rio said, while celebrating the resounding success of the festival's 25th edition, it is important to acknowledge the challenges we faced this year, particularly in light of the natural calamities and hardships of recent months. Despite these adversities, several government departments worked tirelessly, completing multiple projects on a war footing in record time. These achievements underscore the immense potential for Nagaland to achieve accelerated progress when all government and supporting agencies work in unison with the same zeal and commitment.

Rio also mentioned that the collective efforts of all sections and numerous agencies and individuals led by the Ministers, Advisors, MLAs, Chairpersons of PSUs, the entire Government machinery under the able leadership of the Chief Secretary and the DGP and leaders of tribal hohos and civil societies deserve special recognition, the

Departments of Tourism, Art & Culture, Task Force for Music & Arts (TaFMA), the Home & Police Department, the Agri & Allied, Horticulture and Industries & Commerce Departments have played exemplary roles in making Nagaland shine brighter. The CM extended sincere gratitude to the Army and paramilitary forces, under the leadership of the GOC 3 Corps and IG AR. for their consistent partnership and support. He also expressed gratitude to the press and media and media persons across all platforms for the extensive coverage and reportage on the festival. The State and Central agencies of the DIPR, AIR, Doordarshan and BSNL including our local, regional and national media institutions have made appreciable contributions, he added.

Rio also conveyed his personal congratulations and the appreciation of the State Government to all government and non-government agencies, Tribal Hohos, Partner Countries and States, and every group, agency, and individual who contributed to the success of this year's festival. We acknowledge the contributions of the communities of Kigwema, Phesama

and the villages under the Southern Angami area, he added.

Rio also conveyed a special note of appreciation to the leaders and representatives of all church organizations and believers, whose enthusiastic participation added so much value and meaning to the festival. The memorable Devotional Advent Christmas Service held on Sunday, December 8, 2024, stands as a testament to their contributions.

Chief Minister Rio expressed deep gratitude to the well-wishers, guests, friends, and tourists who traveled from near and far to celebrate this occasion with us. Their presence made the festival truly memorable. We hope they will return with more friends and family in the years to come.

In conclusion, Rio mentioned that the success of the 25th Edition of the Hornbill Festival is a triumph for the Naga people. Every citizen of Nagaland is a stakeholder in this unique and unparalleled festival, which showcases not only our cultural richness and soft power but also the unity of our people, and he congratulated all concerned for their noble service.

STATE MEDICINAL PLANTS BOARD INAUGURATED

The Exhibition Stall for State Medicinal Plants Board and National Ayush Mission, Nagaland under the initiative of Ayush Wing, Directorate of Health & Family Welfare was inaugurated by Anoop Khinchi, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary for Health & Family Welfare, at Medicinal Herbal Garden, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on the 1st December 2024.

In his speech, Khinchi encouraged the Ayush staff to make every effort to uplift people's health and livelihood in the state.

He stated that medicinal plants available naturally have immense potential to be a source of sustenance for the Nagas. He pledged that every possible effort will be provided from the government for development and progress of medicinal plants sector in the state.

Deputy Director (Ayush), Dr. T. Bendangtula expressed gratitude to Khinchi for laying the initiative to establish the exhibition stall at the Medicinal Herbal Garden.

The stall exhibits an array of diverse Ayush items including free distribution of medicinal plants saplings, herbal tea, Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic medicines and IECs. Local herbal products prepared by

Naga traditional herbalists for sale such as Ginseng, Wild apple, Sumac, Essential oils, Rhododendron juice, etc. are available in the stall.

PARTNER COUNTRIES AND STATES PARTICIPATE IN ROUNDTABLE DELIBERATIONS

A roundtable with partner countries and partner states was held at Bamboo Hall, Kisama on 2nd December 2024.

Chairing the programme, Chairman, Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) & Advisor to Chief Minister, Abu Metha stated that the roundtable is a platform to forge partnerships, ties and networking with each other. He called upon the visiting dignitaries to look beyond the traditional and cultural aspects and delve into the economic prospects and opportunities that Nagaland has to offer. He acknowledged the Government of Sikkim for being very supportive towards the Hornbill festival and for participating with a large delegation.

Advisor, Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan mentioned on the similarities of using natural resources and the traditional medicinal practices between Sikkim and Nagaland. He called for collaboration in coffee and millet plantation since growing of both coffee and millet is gaining importance over the years in Nagaland due to its superior quality. At present, the efforts as well as the programmes are mostly on yielding of high capacity. He also emphasized the importance of marketing networks and building of infrastructure for post-harvest produces.

Advisor, Industries & Commerce, Hekani stated that the Hornbill Festival is just a gist of what Nagaland can offer to the world. She said the strength of the State

lies in the young and talented people whose creativity and hard work is no lesser than others. Taking the advantage of this, the State is looking forward for various collaborations and partnerships from investors outside the state which would be a win-win situation for both the stakeholders.

Ambassador of Peru to India, Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde spoke on the importance of people-to-people connection between the Republic of Peru and the Nagas due to its shared similarities in culture and traditions. He also called upon Peru and the Nagas to continue to celebrate the wisdom of the indigenous people and look forward for partnership and collaboration in the areas of common interests.

Joint Secretary, IDAN, Reny Wilfred, IAS gave a presentation on areas where the State can build collaboration and partnership with the visiting Country and State partners. He delved into the areas where the State has the opportunity for collaboration such as Agri & Allied sector, sports, tourism, human resource development etc. He also mentioned that Nagaland is a tri-junction and gateway to South East Asia.

Invest India lauded the State Government for promoting the Hornbill Festival to a festival of business conference, partnership and collaboration rather than mere festivity. He said Invest India's main mandate is to support business expansion



A roundtable meeting with partner countries and partner states of the 25th Hornbill Festival was held at Bamboo Hall, Kisama on 2nd December 2024.

particularly in the area of investment. He appreciated and mentioned that the Government of Nagaland is the first state in the whole of North East to have Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) for investment and development of the State. He also emphasized the possibility of collaboration with Nagaland and the whole of North East especially in Tour Operators/ Packages and establishment of industrial parks in the region.

Secretary, DIPR Sikkim, Annapurna Alley shared spoke on the similarities, advantages and disadvantages that the two states confront due to similarity in

many aspects, such as the pattern of its terrain and the scope of tourism sector. She lauded the Government of Nagaland as the State is forging ahead in the use of bamboo resources. She also invited the Government of Nagaland and the dignitaries present to Sikkim during the 50th Statehood Day on 16th May 2025.

During the meeting, two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed between the Department of Higher Education, Government of Nagaland and Salesforce.com India Pvt. Ltd. and another MoU between the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland and Omsheel Foods.

TREASURES OF NAGALAND EXHIBITION-CUM-SALE INAUGURATED

The Treasures of Nagaland exhibition-cum-sale organized by YouthNet and sponsored by NABARD was inaugurated at Made in Nagaland Centre, Kohima by General Manager/OIC, NABARD, Pauliankap Bulte on 2nd December 2024.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Pauliankap Bulte said Nagaland is ahead of

other peer states of the North East in the field of food processing based on cottage industry with a variety of locally made food items available in the market, and encouraged the promotion of Naga Cuisine. He also suggested the entrepreneurs for a cluster mode of food processing where NABARD can assist them.

Lauding the participants and entrepreneurs of the Treasures of Nagaland exhibition-cum-sale, Bulte suggested for interaction with their customers for feedbacks on their products, quality and packaging as only attentive listeners can improve their products, visualize the potential market to sell their products and to earn more revenue. Later, Pauliankap Bulte took part in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and inspected the stalls.

Nodal Officer & Head-Business Development & Corporate Communication, YouthNet, Razouvikhoh Luho in his welcome address, highlighted that YouthNet had collaborated with the NABARD since the year 2019 and have been training entrepreneurs in

skill development and hospitality sectors. He added that with the help of NABARD, many of the participants who have undergone the training are today well settled successfully and hoped that this 10-day exhibition-cum-sale would have a great impact on the participating entrepreneurs.

Supervisor-YIC, YouthNet, Vetolu Dawhuo who chaired the programme, mentioned that the Treasures of Nagaland exhibition-cum-sale was undertaken as part of the 25th Year celebration of Hornbill Festival to promote local artisans and entrepreneurs to a wider platform. The programme was attended by entrepreneurs from different districts of the state.

LT. GOVERNOR OF DELHI HOSTS STATEHOOD DAY OF NAGALAND AND ASSAM

The joint celebration of Statehood Foundation Day of Nagaland and Assam was hosted by Lt. Governor of Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena and his wife, Sangita Saxena at Raj Niwas, New Delhi on 2nd December 2024 as part of the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' initiative. The Statehood Day of Nagaland is celebrated on 1st December and that of Assam is celebrated on 2nd December every year.

Lt. Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena greeting the people of Nagaland and Assam on the occasion of their Statehood Day, expressed his happiness on the progress and development that has taken place in the states, highlighting some of the unique

characteristics and achievements of both the states. He encouraged all to include the two North-East states in their travel itinerary as they have many beautiful and rich experiences to offer. He also conveyed his wish for both the states to achieve greater heights and in further contributing to the growth of the country.

The event brought together the Naga and Assamese community residing in Delhi, in celebrating their Statehood Day. A folk song was presented by the Eastern Nagaland Students' Union Delhi and cultural dance was performed by the Assamese cultural troupe during the programme.

TWO-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON SERVICE AND ACCOUNTS MATTERS HELD

Two-day capacity building on Service and Accounts Matter for the officers and staff

of Water Resources Department (WRD) was held at the Conference Hall of Chief Engineer,

WRD, Kohima on 2nd and 3rd December 2024.

Executive Engineer, Wapangnaro Imchen encouraged the attendees, especially the newly recruited officials to take the training as an opportunity and privilege given by the department to maintain their file arrangement, use of flag in files, putting up of files and keeping of record properly so as to avoid any problem. She stated that the training would help to motivate the department officials during the annual audit conducted by the Accountant General, Nagaland, Treasuries & Accounts Department and the Central Government Audit team.

Imchen further informed them that the department has been imparting training to the department officers and staff from time to time on GIS, latest technology-updated software training, and urged them to avail the opportunity whenever the department organizes training in order to enhance their

practical skills.

During the first day of the workshop, the resource person, Khinyi Woch, Retd. Senior Accounts Officer, Treasuries & Accounts imparted training on maintaining records of pay and allowance and fixation of pay for the employees' salary in time. Woch who was a former Financial Advisor (MGRNEGA) and Guest Faculty, ATI imparted the trainees on pension, types of pension and filling of forms, latest notification and check list for the pension, and also shared on the treasuries and audit matter.

The training included basic office procedure, Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) maintenance of service book, personal file and Nagaland Service Conduct Rules, 1968. Other resource persons include Limatemsu, Sr.TO, Treasuries & Accounts (North), and Deputy Secretary, Economics & Statistics, Andreas Lotha.

WORKSHOP HELD ON FOSTERING GROWTH

Akashvani Kohima in collaboration with Department of Horticulture organised a one-day workshop on 'Fostering Growth' under the theme 'Empowering women in sustainability' on 3rd December 2024 at Hortiscape, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama.

Asst. Director (P) HOP, Akashvani Kohima, Abino Lasuh in her keynote address, briefed on the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme, under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, which aims to significantly upgrade the physical infrastructure of public broadcasters like Doordarshan and All India Radio, particularly in border, LWE-affected, and strategic areas, allowing them to expand their reach and provide higher quality content to viewers with improved

transmission facilities. She mentioned that the one-day workshop on fostering growth was a part of the Bind scheme.

Director, Horticulture Department, Meyasashi speaking at the inaugural programme of the workshop, delved into the importance of sustainability in the food production and farming sector and said that food as a basic right should be accessible and affordable for all, while ensuring that the production process is environment friendly and organic. He also emphasized on the importance of eco-friendly farming practices which has little or no impact on the environment and discouraged the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that harm and negatively impact the eco system. He added that the topics for the workshop

were apt in regard to the modern context of sustainable farming and that the participants would get new insights and bring changes to the farming process in the State.

The workshop's resource persons - Director, Konger AGRITECH Pvt. Ltd. Dimapur, Dr. Sosang Longkumer, and

Thunglamo Humtsoe, Urban Grower, Wokha spoke on the topics "Mushroom cultivation as a sustainable livelihood for womenfolk in Nagaland" and "Soilless solution, endless growth, experience the future of farming with hydroponics" respectively.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2024 CELEBRATED

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 was celebrated at Kisama on 3rd December 2024 on the theme, 'Amplifying the leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future.'

Special guest, MLA & Advisor, Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak said that the theme for this year is a powerful reminder of the vital role played by persons with disabilities, or rather, special abilities in shaping our communities. Leadership is not defined by ability but by vision, determination, and the courage to inspire change and persons with special abilities exemplify all of these qualities and more, he added. He cited that Hokato Sema, winning

Bronze Medal at Paris 2024 Paralympics has not only brought laurel to Nagaland and India but also inspired us all. His medal is a symbol of what can be achieved when talent meets opportunity, and we are committed to fostering an environment where such talents can flourish.

Konyak stated that the State Government commits in removing barriers-physical, social, and institutional that hinders progress toward inclusion which means designing policies, programs, and spaces that prioritize accessibility and equity and foster environments where persons with special abilities can excel as leaders in every field, be it governance, education, business, or society. He said that this event



Advisor, Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak along with departmental officials and students at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 at Kisama on 3rd December 2024.

is a celebration of resilience, creativity, and potential. It is also a call to action and as policymakers, community members, and fellow human, we should ensure that inclusion is not just a vision but a reality. He also assured his support in addressing the issues and facilitating various activities of the commission.

In the programme, Anguzo Kense from Tabitha Enabling Academy presented 'I know a place,' Jo- foundation Inclusive school presented 'The lion sleeps tonight' and Vimethanu presented the National Anthem.

MOKOKCHUNG:

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed in Mokokchung with the theme "Amplifying the leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future," organized by the Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM), Mokokchung, and the Mokokchung District Disabled Forum (MDDF). The programme was held at Opangkong Salang, Mokokchung on 3rd December 2024 with Maong Jamir, Secretary of Finance and Property, ABAM as the theme speaker.

While addressing the gathering, Maong Jamir highlighted the societal neglect of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in comparison to other nations where they are celebrated as a blessing. He called for natural and positive acceptance of PwDs, and urged the churches to undertake missions focusing on empowering PwDs. He encouraged the gathering to focus on abilities, not on monetary power.

During the programme, short speeches were delivered by Temsuchuba, SDO (C), Mokokchung, Imtipokym, General

Secretary, Ao Senden, I Lipok Jamir, President, Mokokchung Ao Officers' Telongjem and Vesupra Kezo, Sr. SP, Mokokchung. Significance of the day was outlined by Arenlila Jamir, Advisor, MDDF.

DIMAPUR:

Dimapur celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2024 at IMC Hall, Fellowship Colony, under the theme "Amplifying the leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future." The event was organized by the District Level Committee for Persons with Disabilities Dimapur and Exodus Disabled People's Organization, in collaboration with various organizations and government departments.

Justice Songkhupchung Serto, Chairperson of the Nagaland State Human Rights Commission, attending as the special guest, emphasized on the importance of empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and fostering inclusivity through leadership opportunities. He highlighted the collective responsibility of society to ensure accessibility and equal opportunities for all individuals. He encouraged the gathering to focus on individual abilities, be resilient, and strive for independence. He urged parents, society, and the government to be more inclusive and supportive, sharing examples of inspirational figures like Stephen Hawking, Arunima Sinha and Hokato Hotozhe Sema, who won bronze medal during the Paralympic Games 2024.

A key highlight was the distribution of assistive devices under the Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Kendra (PMDK) initiative. Beneficiaries received aids and appliances aimed at enhancing their mobility and independence.

Representatives of various organizations shared their thoughts during the event. Villo Naleo of Blessed Bonding spoke about the importance of amplifying the voices of parents and raising awareness about inclusivity in society and churches. Rongsen Jamir, President of Exodus Disabled People Organization discussed initiatives like issuing ID cards and providing training to make PwDs employable, and he appealed for greater accessibility. Itwapungbe, a member of the Nagaland State Disability Forum, shared his personal journey and the challenges PwDs face in public spaces. He emphasized the need for dignity, equality, and better infrastructure for accessibility. Shikato Zhimo from the District Welfare Office provided information about government welfare schemes, including scholarships and pensions for PwDs. Nsungbeni Kinghen, Block Project Manager

under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, highlighted livelihood support programmes, sensitization efforts, and startup funding provided to PwDs. Sangto Longchar from the Dimapur District Legal Services Authority spoke about the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, ensuring dignity, non-discrimination, and equal opportunities.

The programme also featured special performances by children from Angel Home Dimapur, athletes from Special Olympics Nagaland, and students from Christian Higher Secondary School. The event was a collaborative effort involving ALIMCO, NCSCDA Dimapur, Angel Home Dimapur, Social Welfare Department, Blessed Bonding, Prodigals' Home, Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission, DDRC Dimapur, DDLSA, and other stakeholders.

NAGALAND DELEGATION PARTICIPATES AT THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING EDUCATION AT ITANAGAR

A high-level delegation from Nagaland actively participated in the regional workshop on improving education Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under the “NeVolution” initiative by NITI Aayog, held at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on 3rd December 2024. This workshop aimed to address critical challenges in education across Aspirational Districts and Blocks, fostering a collaborative approach to transformative reforms.

The Nagaland Delegation included Thavaseelan K, IAS, Principal Director, School Education, Government of Nagaland; Yithachu Thur, EAC, Khongsa under Kiphire & Nodal Officer, ABP; K. Huqheto Chishi, Sub-Divisional Education Officer, Atoizu under Zunheboto; Hanrenla K, Coordinator,

EBRC, Pungro, Kiphire; Prarthana Pawale, Aspirational Block Fellow (ABF), NITI Aayog Thonoknyu under Noklak district; Kivikali Achumi, Aspirational Block Fellow (ABF), NITI Aayog, Akuhaito, Zunheboto, and Sukanya, Aspirational Block Fellow (ABF), NITI Aayog Khongsa, Kiphire.

Thavaseelan K moderated the second technical session, focused on Training of Teachers, setting the stage for critical discussions. He highlighted the unique challenges faced by Northeast states, including Nagaland, such as teaching students from diverse culture and linguistic backgrounds, balancing resources in over-resources schools, the need for a strong foundation in learning to address issues



Principal Director, School Education. Thavaseelan K. IAS moderating the second technical session focused on Training of Teachers held at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on 3rd December 2024.

like poor quality results and high dropout rates, and rationalising resource allocation, especially for teacher placements and training.

The highlights of the second technical session featured experts discussing innovative solutions and best practices for teacher training and resource allocation. H. Lalrosamga set the context and highlighted regional education challenges, and Malladi Sree Nagesh shared strategies for rationalising teacher deployment to address gaps. Shanthi Krishna and Ravi Shankar Shukla presented case studies on overcoming teacher shortages and training issues, while Prof. Sharad Sinha provided reflections and actionable insights for the Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy, Nagaland's Vision for Education.

The workshop, inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Chowma Mein, emphasized bridging infrastructure gaps, teacher training, improved pedagogy, and reducing dropouts.

Discussions centered on 4Ps of intervention: political will, public finance, partnerships, and people-centricity.

The key highlights of the inauguration programme included 'Infrastructure and Inclusivity,' where Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, MoDNER called for addressing infrastructural challenges, promoting gender parity, and organizing digital literacy campaigns.

In the Education Reforms sector, DoSEL representative focused on the implementation of the NEP 2020 - aligned National Curriculum Framework (5+3+3+4 structure), addressing foundational learning gaps, and improving digital connectivity through the Vidya Samiksha Kendra, where he highlighted initiatives like Vidyanjali for community and CSR engagement in schools.

The Nagaland Delegation pledged to implement the learnings from the workshop to further strengthen the state's education system and align with the Aspirational Block Programme's objectives.

NAGALAND SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS PARAKH RASHTRIYA SARVEKSHAN 2024

Nagaland successfully conducted the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarveksha 2024, formerly known as National Achievement Survey (NAS) on the 4th December 2024 to assess the learning outcomes and overall health of education. The Survey Report reflect the efficacy of interventions in the schools and determine the Performance Grading Index (PGI) of the State in education. The survey was conducted by PARAKH, NCERT New Delhi and CBSE at the centre. In the State, Samagra Shiksha along with SCERT facilitated the survey.

The conduct of the survey was closely monitored by the observers from the Ministry of Education, Government of India and CBSE New Delhi. Commissioner & Secretary School

Education & SCERT, State Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Nagaland, Director SCERT Nagaland and Chairperson NBSE supported by State Monitoring teams comprising of officials from SCERT, Directorate of School Education, NBSE and Samagra Shiksha supported the District Level Coordinators (DLCs), officials from the District Mission Authority (DMA) and EBRCs to ensure the conduct of the survey as per the PARAKH guidelines.

A total number of 22820 students from grades 3, 6 and 9 from 732 sample schools from Government, Private and Central schools in Nagaland participated in the PARAKH Survey 2024.

HORNBILL BAMBOO CARNIVAL 2024 AT SOVIMA

The much-anticipated Hornbill Bamboo Carnival 2024, organized by the Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency (NBDA) was held with grandeur at the Bamboo Amphitheatre, Nagaland Bamboo Resource Centre, Sovima, Chümoukedima, on 5th December 2024. The event was inaugurated by Abu Metha, Advisor to the Chief Minister and Chairman of the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN).

In his address, Abu Metha commended the NBDA for its dedication to promoting bamboo as a vital resource for sustainable innovation and development. He emphasized its role in fostering economic growth and creating opportunities for the people of Nagaland. He also expressed his appreciation for the diverse contributions made towards the festival's success.

Metha lauded the Chumoukedima

district, the host for the Bamboo Carnival, for its rapid growth and potential as an economic hub. Metha noted that the district, poised for significant growth in the coming decade, would play a key role in connecting India to the ASEAN region through major infrastructure projects. He emphasized that Chumoukedima, which represents unity across the tribes of Nagaland, serves as a model for regional cooperation, offering limitless opportunities for youth and economic growth.

In his remarks, Metha pointed to the growing importance of bamboo for the state, underlining the Chief Minister's vision of making bamboo an ambassador for Nagaland. He explained that bamboo has been central to Naga life for generations, used for everything from agriculture to construction, and that it holds great

potential for the state's economic future. He highlighted the ongoing partnerships with national and international organizations, including upcoming collaborations with experts from Taiwan on bamboo technology, and with a master craftsman from Japan, who will conduct workshops with local artisans. These efforts are expected to improve livelihoods and enhance the Naga economy.

Dr. Tolto Metha, Member, NBDA presented a detailed note on the carnival, highlighting bamboo's significance as a sustainable resource and its applications in various industries. Reflecting on the journey of the carnival, Metha shared that the idea was first conceived in 2012 with the vision to empower rural communities, alleviate poverty, and engage people from various fields in the bamboo industry. Over the years, the event has grown from a small initiative into a significant part of the state's annual Hornbill Festival calendar.

Metha noted that this year's carnival hosted around 200 entrepreneurs, showcasing not only bamboo crafts but also innovations in music, arts, and the food industry. He emphasized how this reflects the versatility of bamboo as a resource and its potential to inspire creativity and entrepreneurship. He highlighted bamboo's role as a sustainable resource capable of improving livelihoods and uniting people from diverse backgrounds.

Delivering the welcome address, Albert Ezung, Mission Director of NBDA

warmly welcomed the esteemed guests, including Keoshu Yimchunger, Advisor to Youth Resources & Sports, Obed Quinker, Chairman of the Nagaland Bee Keeping and Honey Mission, K. Shohe, Chairman of the Nagaland State Mineral Development Corporation, Prasielie Pienyü, Chairman of Nagaland Handloom and Handicraft Corporation, Sebastian Zumvu, Chairman of Sovima Village, and Rev. Zhau Sanchu, Principal of the Hope Institute of Theology. He also acknowledged the presence of three distinguished guests from Japan Hirokazu Matsumoto, a renowned bamboo artist, Ryuta Saito, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in India, Kuniaki Yazawa, an official from JICA India. Ezung emphasized the importance of their visit in fostering collaborations in bamboo art, culture, and entrepreneurship.

The carnival also marked the launch of exhibition stalls showcasing a wide range of innovative bamboo-based products. Live demonstrations featured bamboo crafts from the Tuli Bamboo Cluster, handicrafts from BAM Hub, sustainable energy solutions like Longmi Bamboo Charcoal Briquettes, bamboo-based jewelry by Akami, unique bamboo products from Native Product Industrial, dry flower arrangements by Nobody Talie, handicrafts by The Naga Feather Pvt. Limited, bamboo-based items by Sera Self-Help Group, crafts by the Craft and Development Society, bamboo innovations by Bamboo Concept, and Japanese bamboo artistry by Matsumoto.

WORLD SOIL DAY OBSERVED ACROSS THE STATE

KOHIMA:

Nagaland celebrated the World Soil Day under the theme "Caring for Soils: Measure,

Monitor and Manage" 2024 at the State Capital, Kohima on the 5th December 2024.

Observing the programme, the Central



Member, Central Water Commission, A. S. Goel flagging off a van in the presence of the Director, S&WC, L. Chubaonen during the World Soil Day celebration at Hotel Japfü, Kohima on 5th December 2024.

Water Commission (CWC) Member, A.S. Goel flagged off the van with the important message of the World Soil Day at the Hotel Japfü in the presence of Director, Soil & Water Conservation, L. Chubaonen. The CWC members and the participants also read out the World Soil Day Pledge, administered by the Director.

Congratulating the department for organising the programme, Goel urged the people to remember the vital part soil plays in sustaining life on Earth. He stated that it is the responsibility of everyone to unite together, commit to protecting and nurturing our soil for a healthier and more sustainable future.

The main purpose of the programme is to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources in ensuring soil Biodiversity and improving soil health, reducing erosion and pollution, enhancing water filtration and storage, achieving

sustainable and resplendent agri food system, and contributing to carbon sequestration. The theme for World Soil Day 2024 is to underscore the importance of accurate soil data and information in understanding soil characteristics and support informed decision making on sustainable soil management for food security.

During the annual programme, the department highlighted some important World Soil Day messages across the world with their activities under Soil Health and Fertility of RKVY. As per the activities message, a total of 1,67,904 Soil Health Cards have been issued by the department since 2019.

Marking the day, the department distributed pamphlets in various locations like Hornbill Festival, Kisama, High School Junction, Razhü Point, Secretary Junction, PHQ junction and T.C.P Gate.

A separate programme of World Day Soil Day was also conducted at the conference hall of the Directorate of Soil & Water Conservation with their officers and staff. Addressing the program, the Director, L.Chubaonen in his speech, said that the day serves as a reminder of the indispensable role that soil plays in our lives. He called upon the gathering to take a moment to reflect on the achievements made in promoting soil health and the work that still lies ahead. Reflecting on the year's theme, Chubaonen encouraged everyone to recognize that caring for our soils is a shared responsibility that transcends borders. He said that our actions today will determine the health of our soils for generations to come. The Director urged everyone to take action through advocacy, education, or adopting sustainable practices

in their own lives and also apprised the people to contribute and care for soils.

WOKHA:

District Soil Conservation Office, Wokha observed World Soil Day with the theme, “Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage” on 5th December 2025 at Molunsu Community Hall, Wokha.

Pelebei U Kense, JSCO presented on the importance of soil health, sustainable farming practices and the role of soil conservation in combating climate change and encouraged farmers to adopt practices that ensure long term soil health and productivity. Chumbeni Odyuo, DSCO led the pledge to promote sustainable soil management under the theme. Representatives from farmers also shared success stories and practical insights into improving soil fertility.

During the event, soil health cards were also distributed to farmers, providing valuable insights into the nutrient status of their soils. Altogether 40 farmers along with officials participated at the event.

TUENSANG:

World Soil Day 2024 was celebrated at ECS Conference Hall, Tuensang on 5th December 2024, on the theme ‘Caring for Soil: Measures, Monitor, Manage,’ organised by Soil&Water Conservation Department, Tuensang in collaboration with Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tuensang.

Speaking on the events, DSCO & PD ATMA, Dr. Alika N. Zhimo requested the farmers to make the best use of the event by learning about Soil Health Card and sustainable management of soil and also share their traditional practice that will be beneficial to the farmers.

Application of micro nutrients was demonstrated by Mayalepden Lemtur, Ranger and Sentimongba Sangtam SCA, while soil health management was carried out by Samuel, ACTO (Agronomy) KVK. The campaign highlighted District Level Training on Soil Health Card and interaction with students, farmers, scientists, and also conducted quiz and essay competition.

6th NAGALAND HONEY BEE DAY CELEBRATED

Nagaland Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) organised the Nagaland Honey Bee Day on 5th December 2024 at NBHM'S Multi Utility Center 6th Mile Sovima, Chümoukedima, under the theme BeeZ Vibes “Give bees a chance,” with Advisor to the Chief Minister & Chairman, Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), Abu Metha gracing the programme as the Special Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Metha stated that today, as lifestyle changes and as people become modern conscious, honey has become a key and vital food. It is not

just a food we consume and add elements of our life but also consider a super food that does not contain any side effects and apart from health benefits, there are many other qualities which can be used for other external purposes like cosmetics, waxcraft etc. Metha added.

To enhance production, Metha suggested use of technology to add value to our honey. He also suggested documenting the indigenous knowledge of beekeeping of our farmers for future generations. He informed that today, India is targeting to become the honey capital of the world and

at present, the size of the honey economy in india is 3000 crore and in 10 years it's expected to cross 5000 crore and even if we get 1 percent of the industrial economy to Nagaland, it is 30 crore, and added that the scope and future of honey industry in Nagaland is enormous.

Metha urged the students to understand the dynamics of bee keeping, the economic potential of bee keeping, how one can have a better life and career and at the same time contribute towards a healthy ecosystem of our environment.

Metha thanked the farmers and assured full help from the government to improve and enhance their beekeeping. He also congratulated the department for making efforts to set up the first Honey Museum in the Northeast and introducing the concept of honey tourism to tourists outside the state and the storytelling process of honey in Nagaland.

In his keynote address, Agriculture Production Commissioner & Mission Director, NBHM, Wezope Kenye, IAS said that Nagaland was the first state to have launched a dedicated mission in the year 2007 for the promotion of beekeeping and honey activities in the country to create a conducive environment for enhancing the existing potentials through technology reach and beekeeping development interventions. Nagaland is also the first State in the country to have decided to declare 5th December of every year as the 'Nagaland Honey Bee Day' through a cabinet approval in the year 2017, and since then, NBHM has organized and celebrated 'Nagaland Honey Bee Day' annually.

Kenye expressed that NBHM chose a theme to send out a strong message for the upcoming 'Z' generation of youngsters to give

the bees a chance. The theme aims to instil a sense of curiosity and sensitize the young people on the importance of honeybees and beekeeping.

Kenye further highlighted that, since its inception in 2007, NBHM has trained over 25,000 beekeepers across 500 villages. Their efforts have increased our state's honey production to approximately 440 metric tonnes per year. However, it aims higher with a target of 2000 metric tonnes by 2030. He informed that, this year, NBHM introduced 'Bee Tourism' during the Hornbill Festival. Visitors experienced firsthand traditional beekeeping practices, especially in Mima village, known as the 'Honey Village.' This initiative not only promotes our culture but also boosts the local economy, he said.

The resource persons of technical session were Temjenchuba K Char, Letgong Patrick and Nzanbemo K Lotha who delivered a presentation on the topic 'Overview of beekeeping - with special reference to Nagaland,' 'Importance of bees, beekeeping & honey,' and 'Scope of beekeeping in Nagaland' respectively.

Earlier, Advisor, Abu Metha released Apinews as well as launched the website marketing of 'Nagaland Honey' in collaboration with social commerce venture <http://www.otipy.com>.

District Level Award for Best Beekeeper 2024 are Yansomong, Sangphur village, Shamator; Neikeyiekho, Kacharigaon village, Dimapur; Mantok Phom, Orangkong village, Longleng; Samuel Semy, Terogvuny village, Tseminyu; Shiyng, Lengnyu, Noklak; G. Kiyekhe Zhimomi, Ghokuto, Niuland; K. P. Sangte, Monyakshu, Mon; Khekato Jimomi, Satakha old, Zunheboto; Zanao Yanthan, Elumyo, Wokha; Namang Wongto, Chingmei Tuensang; Vikuolie Keyientsu, Rusoma,

Kohima; P. Cheshmew, Ohuvkiu, Kiphire; Sentiwati Aier, Yisemyong Mokokchung; and Menolhoukho Khate, Punglwa, Peren; Dr. Ruvicato Siria, Ruaogema, Chumoukedima.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE ORGANIZES BUYERS & SELLERS MEET

The Department of Industries & Commerce organized the highly anticipated Buyers & Sellers Meet 2024 at Bamboo Hall, Kisama on 6th December 2024. The event aimed to create a platform for business collaboration, fostering connections between local buyers and sellers in Nagaland.

The meet was graced by the Advisor for Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu, who highlighted the importance of such initiatives for the state's growing entrepreneurial landscape. Speaking as the special guest, Jakhalu emphasized that Nagaland is a young state where entrepreneurship and business are still evolving concepts. However, she pointed out that the start-up culture is rapidly gaining momentum. The market in Nagaland is still pure and unadulterated, Jakhalu noted, adding that there are numerous advantages to launching businesses early in such an environment. She assured the attendees that the Government of Nagaland would continue to support both buyers and sellers in their entrepreneurial ventures, facilitating growth through every possible means. She expressed hope that the partnerships formed during the meet would contribute not only to the state's economy but also to the national economy.

In his keynote address, Secretary of Industries & Commerce, Shanavas C, IAS, shared insights about the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative, a Government of India programme under which the buyers and sellers meet was organized. He acknowledged the unique

challenges faced by Nagaland but urged the gathering to embrace these challenges as opportunities for growth. Shanavas also highlighted one of Nagaland's most significant strengths: its young and talented workforce, known for its strong work ethics and craftsmanship. Encouraging participants to seize the opportunities ahead, he said the meet marks the beginning of a long-term relationship.

Director of Industries & Commerce, P. Tokugha Sema spoke about the significance of the event as a platform for both affiliation and transactional activities. He emphasized that Nagaland holds immense potential in sectors such as handloom, handicrafts, and food products. Sema urged participants to fully capitalize on these opportunities to drive economic development in the region.

Following the inaugural session, the event proceeded with a series of interactions between buyers and sellers. This was followed by a Business-to-Business (B2B) meeting and a feedback session, allowing participants to engage directly and discuss potential collaborations.

The Buyers & Sellers Meet 2024 was organised to strengthen business relationships, promote regional products, expand market access, and contribute to the economic development of Nagaland, all the while offering buyers new, high-quality products to source and sell in broader markets.

The Buyers & Sellers Meet 2024 proved to be an important step toward boosting

local businesses and fostering lasting partnerships, contributing to Nagaland's economic growth and integration into the broader national and international markets.

The meet saw the participation of 27 sellers from Nagaland and 18 buyers from various parts of the country, including Kerala, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata.

NAGALAND STATE EXPORT SUMMIT 2024 HELD AT KISAMA

The Nagaland State Export Summit 2024 organised by the Department of Industries & Commerce, was convened at the Bamboo Hall, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, Kohima on 7th December 2024.

P. Tokugha Sema, Director of Industries & Commerce emphasized the summit's significance for entrepreneurs, particularly during the Hornbill Festival. Sema asserted that attendees would glean valuable insights from industry experts during technical sessions, especially regarding product exportation. He noted that while Nagaland currently exports goods like coffee and fruits, greater efforts are needed to expand the global market presence. Sema acknowledged the potential of Nagaland's entrepreneurs but stressed the need to overcome procedural obstacles. The summit, he added, would provide guidance on navigating these challenges and connecting with international customers. Sema also highlighted the numerous schemes available to entrepreneurs through the central and state governments, encouraging attendees to leverage these opportunities.

Shanavas C, Secretary of Industries & Commerce characterized Nagaland's export sector as nascent and largely focused on local markets. He noted that few entrepreneurs currently export to national or international markets. The government, Shanavas emphasized, aims to facilitate the global reach of products with export potential.

He stressed the paramount importance of maintaining high product quality. Shanavas acknowledged the passion driving entrepreneurial ventures, underscoring the need for consistent effort and a focus on branding and packaging to establish a distinct "Brand Nagaland." He urged entrepreneurs to prioritize market understanding, cater to customer needs and wants, and implement effective product promotion strategies. Shanavas concluded by emphasizing that a 10% government workforce will not drive Nagaland's development. He asserted that entrepreneurs must be the driving force of economic progress and encouraged attendees to capitalize on the expertise offered during the technical sessions.

The Nagaland State Export Summit was held with special focus on One District One Product, boosting the economy of each district, with focus on product enhancement support, e-commerce on-boarding, boosting domestic trade, export promotion, B2B facilitation. The participants attending the summit were entrepreneurs of Hornbill Festival 2024.

The technical session focused on state export plan, export procedures and documentation, post-harvest management and marketing of spices, experience sharing, Dal Ghar Niryat Kendra, support schemes and assistance to entrepreneurs, credit linkage for farmers, producers and entrepreneurs.

INTERACTION SESSION WITH UNION MINISTER HELD AT IG STADIUM KOHIMA

An interaction session with Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Resources & Sports, Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya was held at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Kohima on 7th December.

Speaking at the interaction session, Union Minister, Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya said India has a rich history of sports and boasts some of the world's greatest athletes. To produce such athletes, a good sports infrastructure is very important, and sports infrastructure in India has come a long way in recent years.

The Union Minister added that India has a rich sporting culture, and over the years, there have been many initiatives taken by the government and private sector to develop the sports infrastructure in the country. However, he maintained that there are still challenges that need to be overcome to make sports accessible to all and promote the development of young sporting talent in the country. Dr. Mansukh asserted that the development of sports infrastructure in India has been significant in recent years, and many initiatives have been taken to promote

sports at the grassroots level.

Dr. Mansukh mentioned that Khelo India Programme which was launched in 2018 is an initiative focused on promoting grassroots sports and identifying young talent across the country. It aims to create a pipeline of athletes who can compete at the national and international levels. Launched in 2014, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) provides funding and support to elite athletes with the potential to win medals at the Olympic Games. This initiative is focused on enhancing the performance of Indian athletes at major international competitions.

The Union Minister informed that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the government has recognized the potential of e-sports to not only entertain but also create new opportunities for youth, innovation, and economic growth.

Dr. Mansukh interacted with the officials of Labour & Employment Department, Youth Resources & Sports Department, Nagaland Olympic Association and State Sports Association.



Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Resources & Sports, Dr. Mansukh L. Mandaviya paying his respects during his visit to the Kohima War Cemetery, Kohima on 8th December 2024.

NAGALAND LAUNCHES 100-DAY TB ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN

The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Nagaland, launched the 100-Day Intensified Campaign on TB Elimination (Ni-Kshay Shivar) on 7th December 2024, at Seikhazou, D. Khel Ground, Kohima. The initiative is part of India's nationwide effort to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025, five years ahead of the global target set by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Minister, Health & Family Welfare, P. Paiwang Konyak, in his keynote address, reaffirmed the state's commitment to eliminating TB by 2025. He emphasized the need for collective action involving government agencies, NGOs, healthcare providers, and communities. The Minister assured that sufficient funding and resources would be allocated to support the campaign's implementation and ensure its success.

Dr. Tseilhoutuo Rhutso, MLA emphasized the need for collective efforts in eradicating Tuberculosis (TB). Speaking on the topic, he stated, "TB is a disease

known to everyone. While it is commonly associated with the lungs, it can also affect other organs such as the skin, bones, brain, and intestines." He highlighted that TB tests might show negative results, which could indicate a "latent" or "closed" infection rather than an absence of the disease, adding that skin tests are more practical in certain cases. Dr. Rhutso urged the public to actively participate in the campaign, emphasizing that public involvement is essential in alignment with democratic values. He also expressed his readiness to support the campaign to ensure its success.

Advisor, School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome reflected on the historical challenges of TB eradication, noting that despite efforts, previous targets and aims have often met with failure. He highlighted the ambitious nature of India's 100-day TB Elimination Campaign and called on stakeholders to address ground realities and public policy gaps for its successful implementation.



Minister, H&FW, Paiwang Konyak flagging off the Ni-Kshay Vahan to launch Nagaland's 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign at Seikhazou, Kohima on 7th December 2024.

Delivering the welcome address, Anoop Khinchi, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary of Health & Family Welfare underscored the critical importance of addressing TB, which remains one of India's biggest public health challenges. Nagaland reported 4,229 TB cases in 2023, with 3,018 new cases identified this year alone. The campaign aims to strengthen efforts in early detection, comprehensive treatment, and nutritional support for TB patients.

Dr. Akuo Sorhie, MD (NHM) highlighted the campaign's focus on vulnerable groups, including high-risk populations such as household contacts of TB patients, individuals with HIV or diabetes, and the elderly. Advanced diagnostic tools like AI-based X-ray screenings and molecular testing will play a pivotal role in identifying cases early. The campaign also emphasizes nutritional support, with ₹1,000 per month

provided to patients under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

The launch event featured the felicitation of Nikshay Mitras and TB Champions, along with the distribution of food baskets. The programme concluded with the flag-off of the Ni-Kshay Vahan by Minister Paiwang Konyak, symbolizing the state's intensified efforts to reach remote areas with diagnostic and treatment services. A host of MLAs and civil society leaders, officials and others attended the programme.

Running until March 2025, the campaign will focus on reducing stigma, raising awareness, and mobilizing communities to take an active role in fighting TB. With sustained efforts and collaborative participation, Nagaland moves closer to its vision of a TB-free state, ensuring improved health and dignity for all its citizens.

BHARATIYA BHASHA UTSAV 2024 OBSERVED IN KOHIMA

A State Level Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav 2024 with a theme "Unity through Languages" was celebrated at Morung Hall, Directorate of School Education, Kohima on 11th December 2024.

Advisor for School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome speaking as a Special Guest, said that language plays an important and powerful role in the society as it is one's identity and culture, and urged the people to focus more in promoting our rich culture through language instead of keeping our mother language in danger.

During the Indian Languages Festival, a note on Language Development in Nagaland was highlighted by Dr. Mimi Kevichusa Ezung, Associate Professor, Department of Tenyidie, Nagaland University. Dr. Mimi

made a clarion call to all the Tribal Literature Boards to give more interest in making their orally stories, folklore etc. in documented form to keep one's language and culture alive.

Earlier, Thavaseelan K, IAS, Principal Director, DoSE while chairing the programme, said that celebrating Indian Languages Festival is a week-long event to celebrate the diversity of Indian Languages and Culture with an aim to promote the learning of Indian Languages, celebrate cultural diversity and promote sense of unity and harmony among the people of India.

At the programme, rendition of the National Anthem was presented by Dr. N.K GHSS Seikhazou, A Life Sketch of C. Subramanian Bharati was read out by Grace

Sote, PM Shri GHS, New Market, Kohima, Poetry Recitation was presented by T. Toihon Konyak in Konyak, Rungshetom Yimkhiung

in Yimkhiung and T. M GHSS in Tenyidie, and cultural presentation was performed by GHSS, Jotsoma

NAGALAND STATE GETS HONOURED WITH THE EXCELLENCE AWARD IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The International Institute of Security and Safety Management (IISSM), a renowned not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing education, training, and capacity-building in security, safety, and disaster management accorded an Award of Excellence and Innovation for the State of Nagaland for its outstanding achievements in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

Nagaland has been acknowledged for its remarkable strides in implementing innovative DRR initiatives, including financial resilience mechanisms for disaster response, ground-breaking advancements in hazard preparedness, and collaborative actions to enhance disaster mitigation strategies.

IISSM conferred the Award of Excellence and Innovation in Disaster Risk Reduction to the State of Nagaland during the 34th IISSM Annual Global Conclave 2024 nominated by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). This

prestigious recognition was presented at the Taj Vivanta, Dwarka, New Delhi, on the 12th of December 2024 by Sanjay Seth, the Minister of State for Defence, Government of India. The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio was cordially invited as distinguished guest to receive the award. On behalf of the Government of Nagaland, officials from the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA), Home Department, Government of Nagaland led by Johnny Ruangmei, Joint Chief Executive Officer received the award.

Sanjay Seth, the Minister of State for Defence, Government of India, commended the State of Nagaland's accomplishment at the award ceremony, saying it "demonstrates the government's commitment to building a safer and more resilient community by exemplifying a forward-thinking approach to addressing the challenges posed by climate change and disasters."

GOVERNOR GRACES SNIC FOR NCC CADETS

The Special National Integration Camp (NIC) for NCC cadets was held at 24 Assam Rifles Camp, Wokha on 12th December 2024. The camp was conducted by 1 Nagaland NCC Battalion under the Kohima NCC Group HQs under overall directions of NCC Directorate of North East Region (NER). The camp aims to bring together the NCC cadets from all over the country, providing a platform

for meaningful interaction and National Integration. The camp has a strength of nearly 600 NCC Cadets and NCC staff from across the country.

Governor, Nagaland, La Ganesan who graced the inaugural event as the chief guest, welcomed the 560 cadets and staff from 17 NCC Directorates across India to Nagaland. The very essence of this camp is in defining,

“Unity in Diversity,” remarked the Governor, while underscoring the importance of unity despite differences in language, culture, and traditions. He encouraged the young cadets to embody discipline, leadership, and a commitment towards national service, which he said was crucial for future peace, prosperity, and mutual respect. He encouraged the cadets to engage with peers from the North East, experience local customs, cuisine, and culture, and build understanding and tolerance which he said are the key values for an inclusive society.

The Governor further described the camp as a transformative platform for interaction, allowing cadets to forge lifelong bonds and appreciated the country’s diverse cultural expressions. He lauded the organizers, NCC staff, and cadets for fostering integration and cultural empathy through this camp.

Advisor, Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan, MLA & Chairman of the District Planning Board of Wokha, Y. Mhombemo Humtsoe were also present as Special Guests of Honour during the inauguration ceremony of the camp. Lotha Eloë Hoho President, Thungbeni Ngullie, Lotha Hoho

Chairman, Mhondamo Ovung, MLA & Chairman, Sub-Divisional Planning and Development Board, Achumbemo Kikon, Lotha Students’ Union President, Lironthung E Kithan, Wokha District Council Chairman Association Chairman, Vandan Erui were also present as special invitees for the event. Deputy Commissioner of Wokha Vineet Kumar IAS and Superintendent of Police Rhovysie Nyui who were the Chief Special Invitees spearheaded the preparations for the Governor’s visit.

Brig. Antony Grossy, Deputy Director General from NER NCC Directorate received the Governor at the Wokha Camp site, along with Brig. S. P. Mainkar, Group Commander Kohima Group NCC and Brig. Shiva Kant Shukla, Commander of 6 Sector Assam Rifles. The team of NCC Cadets presented a Guard of Honour to the Governor as a mark of respect.

Commemorating the event, the Governor also presented a Silver Salver for the conducting unit. The event concluded with a powerful rendition of the NCC song by NCC Cadets of Nagaland followed by the singing of National Anthem.

ONE DAY AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON IPR ORGANIZED BY IPFC, IDAN

The Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (IPFC) of the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), in collaboration with the Nagaland Science and Technology Council (NASTEC) and Educentre School of Business (ESB), successfully hosted a one-day Awareness Programme on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) at the Innovation and Incubation Centre, IDAN, Kohima on 12th December 2024.

The programme commenced with a



Officials during the One-Day Awareness Programme on Intellectual Property Rights held at IDAN, Kohima on 12th December 2024.

special remark from I. Changsang, Under Secretary, Nagaland who emphasized the importance of the Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre. He highlighted how IDAN IPFC's collaboration with NASTEC and ESB aims to provide unparalleled services to the entrepreneurs of Nagaland. Changsang also urged the attendees to leverage the platform for the growth and protection of their businesses.

The event featured esteemed resource persons Kekuniel Ltu, Scientist 'B' NASTEC, who elaborated on "Intellectual Property Rights and its components." Gihukali Chishi,

Technical In-Charge, Patent Information Centre-NASTEC provided an in-depth discussion on "Patents, Trademarks, Designs, and Trade Secrets." Ketoulhoutuo-u Rame, Intellectual Property Rights Legal Consultant, IPFC shared valuable insights and experiences on "Infringement and Opposition."

The programme was attended by entrepreneurs, startups, and aspiring entrepreneurs who were provided with vital information on the availability of registration services for all types of Intellectual Property Rights.

STATE LEVEL PM SHRI SCHOOLS DEBATE COMPETITION CONDUCTED

The State Level PM SHRI Schools Debate Competition, organised by Samagra Shiksha Nagaland under the PM SHRI (Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India) Scheme under the topic 'Viksit Bharat and its contours' was conducted at Morung Hall, Directorate of School Education, Kohima on 13th December 2024. Students of PM SHRI GHS and GHSS from Eight (8) Districts across Nagaland participated in the competition.

Dr. Kevizakie Rio, JMD Samagra Shiksha & State Nodal Officer, PM SHRI Nagaland delivered the Keynote address and provided an overview of the importance of the competition. He highlighted how under the scheme, schools were established across the country as PM SHRI Schools to showcase the implementation of NEP 2020 and

emerge as exemplary schools over a period and how it aims to create and nurture holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills. He further challenged the students and teachers to strive towards making each PM SHRI School in Nagaland an exemplary school.

Moalong Imty, Joint Director, SCERT and Visetonuo Angami, Assistant Director, DoSE were members of the jury for the competition. The competition witnessed the participants speaking on the topic for both motions. Chichanbeni Odyuo from PM SHRI GHS, Wokha village of Wokha district and Pairamlung from PM SHRI GHSS, Jalukie town of Peren district were adjudged as the first and second position winners respectively of the State PM SHRI Schools Debate.

COMPLETION OF FIRST BATCH, EDC IN PRIVATE COLLEGES 2024

Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) in private colleges concluded its first batch with a certificate distribution

ceremony on 16th December 2024. This is an initiative of Startup Nagaland, Department of Industries & Commerce and implemented

by Educentre School of Business.

P. Tokugha, Director of Industries & Commerce, graced the occasion, encouraging students that entrepreneurship in Nagaland is taking off and becoming a good career option. He also emphasized on the importance of fostering innovation and become job creators so that we can create impact. He advised students to strive for excellence, and not to follow success, rather success will follow when you start doing the

things right. He highlighted the department's efforts to support startups.

Around 60 students from Tetso College, St. Joseph's Autonomous College, Eastern Christian College, and C-Edge College successfully completed the EDC programme and were awarded certificates. This initiative seeks to inspire and empower young minds to contribute to a thriving entrepreneurial future for the region.

CM NEIPHIU RIO ATTENDS THE 72nd NEC PLENARY HELD AT AGARTALA

Addressing the 72nd Plenary Session of the North East Council (NEC) Governing Council at Agartala on 21st December 2024, the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio, said that NEC has been functioning as a statutory Regional Planning body since 1971. Taking the opportunity, Rio put on record the good, the pioneering work done by NEC for development of the region.

Chief Minister Rio said that it is now almost 50 years since NEC was set up but the region still has a huge development deficit when compared to the developed states in the mainland. The NEC which has been set up with a special purpose due to special needs, deserves more resources at its disposal. However, over the years, the functional autonomy of NEC intended by the Parliament has been significantly diluted and the role of NEC is becoming insignificant. Rio further said that during the previous Plenaries, he had raised concerns about the diminishing role of NEC, and the need for enhancing fund allocation for the NEC. Therefore, he requested the Chairman, NEC to consider providing more budget allocation for NEC and also increase delegation of powers to sanction projects so that the

regional aspirations of the States are fulfilled by the Council.

Rio further expressed gratitude to the Government of India for initiatives undertaken for the North Eastern States under the schemes of PM DevINE and NESIDS (ROADS). While appreciating these efforts, the Chief Minister called for the attention of this August House by saying that the financial outlay for the State of Nagaland under PM DeVINE from the period 2022-23 to 2025-26 is only Rs. 561 crore, and under NESIDS ROADS, the allocation is ₹276.69 crore for the same period. These allocations, while helpful, are insufficient for undertaking major infrastructural developmental projects. He urged the Minister to consider enhancing the budgetary allocation for PM DevINE and NESIDS (ROADS) so that the state can undertake impactful projects that truly address the regional aspirations of the people and foster inclusive development.

Rio also highlighted the issue of delays in the approval and clearance of projects by NITI Aayog and Line Ministries, as these delays impede the timely implementation of schemes and projects, causing frustration among stakeholders and slowing the progress

of developmental initiatives. He urged the Minister to consider a time schedule, asking the states for the priority list by December/January and submission of the State Priority List to Ministry of DoNER/NEC by April/May, so that the approval may be accorded by the Ministry in June/July. This will enable the implementing departments to initiate the tendering process by August/September and the work order can be issued in October. The works can be started by November and could be completed before onset of monsoon.

Chief Minister Rio further said that due to limited resource base, the state government is unable to undertake capital projects and important infrastructures, the government has submitted important projects such as construction of Airport at Ciethu, Kohima, the only capital in the country without airport, Foot Hill Road to boost urbanization and industrialization in the State, completion of the Multi-Disciplinary Sports Complex at Dimapur to

promote sports in the state, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) to serve as a prestigious national institute for enhancing youth exchanges and fostering greater integration between Nagaland and the rest of the country. The Chief Minister requested DoNER Ministry/NEC to support and own the projects submitted by the State and coordinate with concerned agencies for approval of these projects, which will help to accelerate the pace of economic development and address infrastructure needs.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio requested to consider extending the opportunity for hosting the North Eastern Council (NEC) Plenary to each of the Northeastern State on a rotational basis. Such an approach would enable all states in the region to actively participate in and contribute to the planning and decision-making process, fostering a sense of inclusivity and shared responsibility in regional development initiatives.



DHEW PEREN RECEIVES VEHICLE TO SUPPORT MISSION SHAKTI ACTIVITIES

A vehicle dedicated to supporting Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) activities in Peren was inaugurated at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Peren on 3rd December 2024.

During the ceremony, DC and Chairperson, Mission Shakti Peren, Hiazu Meru explained that the vehicle will facilitate DHEW Peren's activities across all district subdivisions.

Speaking at the event, the District Programme Officer, Social Welfare and Nodal Officer for Mission Shakti Peren, Tsungrosenla highlighted this development as a success story for the district, made possible through the District Level Committee for Mission Shakti Peren initiative.

The vehicle was formally dedicated by the Pastor Namreugwang of the New Peren Baptist Church.

BENCHREST AIR RIFLE SHOOTING COMPETITION HELD AT TOUPHEMA

The Tati Group Enterprise organized the 3rd Hornbill Benchrest Air Rifle Shooting Competition on 3rd December 2024 at ToupHEMA Village, Kohima.

The Precihole Sports India Thane, Maharashtra the Number One Rifle manufacturers in India sponsored the prize for the .177 Indian Category and also displayed the products during the Competition.

In the open category, the distance was 50 meters, 75 meters and 100 meters. Henben Imlong won the championship with 291 points and walked away with a cash prize of Rs. 55,000, Echenjang bagged 1st runners up with 286 points and cash prize of Rs.

35,000, Khriesanyü bagged 2nd runners up with 238 points and cash prize of Rs. 20,000. For the .177 open category, the distance shots were 25 meters, 35 meters and 50 meters respectively, where Neizo Belho took the championship with 285 pts and walked away with a cash prize of Rs. 35,000, Echenjang bagged 1st runners up with 285 points along with cash prize of Rs 20,000 and Khriesanyü Miachieo bagged 2nd runners up with 279 pts and cash prize of Rs. 15,000 and Kenezetuo Khro 2nd runners up scored 288 points and walked away with cash prize of Rs. 7000 along with 2 tins of .177 round head pellets.

1st EDITION OF HORNBILL EXTENSION HELD AT ZUNHEBOTO

The three-day event of the Hornbill Extension was held at DSCZ Ground, Zunheboto on 5th December 2024, with the theme "Celebrating Nagaland's Rich Heritage" organised by Sumi Youth Organisation with other event partners and graced by Advisor, School Education and SCERT, Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome as the

inaugural guest.

The three-day event was also graced by dignitaries including Minister, Higher Education and Tourism, Temjen Imna Along, Former Minister, Government of Nagaland, Y. Vikheho Swu, Additional Director, Tourism, T. Kakihe Sumi, President, Sumi Officers' Union, Zunheboto, Dr. K. Akaho Awomi and

Chairman, Livingstone Foundation Society, Dr. e Andrew Ahoto Sema as Special Guests of the Hornbill Festival.

Celebrating the rich cultural and traditional heritage of the Naga societies and communities, the event witnessed an exhibition of various cultural and traditional activities and competitions by Sumi

Indigenous Martial Art Sparring, an art of physical combat 'Apukhu Kiti' and Tug of War competition. The festival was enthralled with mesmerizing musical extravaganza with artists galore from across the state namely, Mengu Suokhrie, Keneisenuo Sorhie, Nikato Tamang, Physco K4, District Band Zunheboto, Aloboli Kinimi, etc.

BHANDARI SDPDB HOLDS MONTHLY COORDINATION MEETING

The Sub-Divisional Planning and Development Board (SDPDB), Bhandari convened its monthly departmental coordination meeting at the Additional Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Bhandari on 6th December 2024.

During the meeting, ADC and Vice Chairman SDPDB, Longasen Lotha informed the members that land had been acquired for the Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Ralan, with construction scheduled to commence in January 2025.

Chairman of the Town Council, Bhandari, Khonthungia Michael Odyuo updated the board on negotiations with landowners for the construction of an office complex for Bhandari. He mentioned that

the process of finalizing land resolutions is underway.

Highlighting the progress in the power sector, Er. Vungthungo L. Mury, SDO (Electrical) shared updates on the department's initiatives under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (BMSGMBY). He noted that the department is working to enhance electricity facilities and promote the Roof Top Solar (RTS) Scheme for residential houses. Also, efforts to clear jungle growth around power lines will be undertaken to ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers.

Various departments also shared updates on their respective activities and plans during the meeting.

THE HERITAGE BASKET ORGANISED AT CHIECHAMA VILLAGE

To promote and make the Hornbill Festival to a more eventful festival, the Chiechama Coffee Growers in collaboration with the Land Resource Development put forth an innovative idea by initiating an event called "Farm to Cup- The Journey of Coffee Beans" as the newest entrant to "The Heritage Basket" introduced by Chiechama village few years back to showcase its culture, traditional values and practices.

A complimentary certified organic

coffee was served to the visitors and tourists at the venue.

The Heritage Basket implies inheriting unique cultures and practices from our forefathers by the present generation. It also means to protect, preserve, promote, and pass on its traditional values to the next generation. During this time of festival, indigenous games dominate the event.

At present, there are 27 coffee growers in the village reportedly to be certified in

accordance with the National Programme for Organic Production. Coffee was first grown in the village during the 1980s, however, it was abandoned due to lack of demand and marketing facilities. Then coffee plantations began to sprout again in 2018. At present, there are about 80,000 coffee plants in the

village covering an area of more than 80 acres.

People with no permanent source of income for sustenance are being motivated and encouraged to make Agri. & allied sector as the mainstay of their livelihood.

SECRETARY, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT VISITS SHAMATOR DISTRICT

A team of the Social Welfare Department headed by Secretary, Martha R. Ritse, IAS visited various institutions under Shamator district on 7th December 2024.

During her visit, a consultative meeting was held with all the concerned stakeholders including representatives from government departments, community leaders, NGOs, Tribal Leaders and DLC. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen integrated service for women and children.

The team also visited the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), CDPO Office, DCPO Office, One Stop Centre (OSC) construction site and Anganwadi Center at the Veterinary Ward.

The Secretary was accompanied by



Secretary, Social Welfare, Martha R. Ritse, IAS addressing a consultative meeting during her visit to Shamator on 7th December 2024.

Additional Secretary, Bodeno S Colo, Director, Social Welfare, Tosheli Zhimomi and a host of officials from the department of Social Welfare and DHEW.

PEREN HOLDS DPDB MEETING

The Peren District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting was held on 7th December 2024 at Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Peren under the chairmanship of DC & Vice-Chairman, DPDB Peren, Hiazu Meru. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Chief

Minister and Minister in-charge of Planning & Transformation and National Highways, T.R. Zeliang.

T.R. Zeliang while addressing the meeting, called upon the officers to come back with new mindset and new vision to serve the district post-New Year. He also said, to

translate this new district headquarters into a Model Township, is the dream of the people and to turn this dream into a reality, it needs collective efforts from every department.

In the meeting, the following proposals were discussed and approved: Peren District's Departmental Profile Update, proposal for creation of Jalukie District, proposal for inclusion of valley villages, namely New-Jalukie, Mhainamtsi and Lilen under DPDB Pilot Project for off-season crop, proposal

for construction of District Excise Office-cum-Staff quarter and boundary wall at New District HQ, and proposal for construction of ARCS office building, fencing wall, retaining wall and office gate. The board also agreed to recommend the proposal for the registration of society, Luangdimai Bamdua as it fulfils all the criteria for registration.

Officials from DRDA and Water Resources Department presented departmental activities through PowerPoint.

TUENSANG DPDB MEETING HELD

The District Planning and Development Board, Tuensang held its monthly meeting on 7th December 2024 at Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Tuensang. The meeting was chaired by Lithrongla Tongpi Rutsa, DC & Vice Chairman DPDB, Tuensang.

After reviewing the previous meeting minutes, the Chairman requested the board members to contribute a small amount for TB patients of the district to support their nutrition during their TB medication period.

KIPHIRE DPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly District Planning and Development Board meeting was held on 7th December 2024 at Zinki Quarry Road Kiphire, hosted by Tutheze village.

Deputy Commissioner Kiphire, Temsuwati Longkumer shared Advent Christmas greetings to the gathering. He

thanked Tutheze Village for giving their time, and space and for hosting the grand programme. Temsuwati also reminded all the departmental heads to be well prepared and ready with their developmental activities, and projects to be reported during the visit of the Union Finance Minister in the district.

LAUNCH OF 100-DAY TB ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN BY WOKHA DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY AND NTEP

The Wokha District Health Society, in collaboration with the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), officially launched a 100-day Campaign for TB Elimination on 7th December 2024 at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Wokha.

In his keynote address, DC, Wokha, Vineet Kumar, IAS stressed the importance

of maximizing the campaign's impact through public education to combat Tuberculosis (TB). He called for increased efforts to achieve TB certification for more villages within the district, highlighting that only nine villages have already been certified.

District TB Officer, Dr. Akum Jamir delivered a comprehensive presentation on the TB Elimination Programme, focusing on

preventive measures and public awareness strategies, including the critical importance of early treatment.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Renbomo Ezung recognized Ni-Kshay Mitra and presented certificates to TB champions.

One of the champions, Limathung shared his personal experience of battling TB.

DC, Vineet Kumar flagged off the Ni-Kshay Vahan, marking the commencement of the campaign activities.

THREE-DAY UNITY MINI HORNBILL FESTIVAL 2024 HELD AT PEREN

Three-day Unity Mini Hornbill Festival 2024 commenced at Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex, Peren District HQ on 5th December 2024 with DC, Peren, Hiazu Meru as the special guest of the inaugural function.

In his address, Hiazu Meru said festivals are an integral part of human culture, which provides a platform for bringing people together to celebrate, rejoice and connect, and these vibrant events showcase the rich diversity of traditions, customs and values that define the communities. He also said festivals play a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage, as they often revolve around traditional practices, music, dance and art. Meru mentioned that the Unity Mini Hornbill Festival at the District Headquarter,

Peren was organised to bring closer the various communities inhabiting Peren district, and he expressed his happiness to see the participation from the various Tribal Hohos and CSOs, and appealed to them to continue extending their support with the same spirit even in the coming days.

Additionally, Meru acknowledged the support rendered by the two neighbouring villages of Kejanglwa and New Peren led by their respective Village Council Chairmen who have contributed generously in the construction of the Morungs.

After the inaugural programme, the DC inaugurated the Exhibition Stalls & Flower Show Competition at the venue of the festival.

Speaking as the chief host of the event,



DC, Peren, Hiazu Meru with President, Kuki Inpi Nagaland, L.Singsit, IPS (Retd.) and other dignitaries at the inaugural programme of Unity Mini Hornbill Festival 2024 at DC's Office Complex, Peren on 5th December 2024.

President Kuki Inpi Nagaland (KIN), L. Singsit, IPS (Retd.) said in order to see development in the district, we have to honour each other's culture and traditions while preserving the rich natural resources.

The first day of the festival witnessed captivating cultural performances by Ngaulo Cultural Troupe, Liangmai Cultural Troupe, Rongmei Traditional Troupe and Inbung Village Cultural Troupe. Folk songs were also presented by Heiraisile, Lunghingdaile & Namguihingle. In the afternoon session, tug

of war and indigenous games competition were also played.

The three-day closing programme of Unity Mini Hornbill Festival-cum Pre-Christmas celebration was held at DC's Office Complex, Peren District HQ on 7th December 2024. The programme was graced by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of Planning & Transformation and National Highways, T.R. Zeliang as the special guest and NZPO.

DIMAPUR DPDB MEETING HELD

The Dimapur District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting for December was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall on 9th December 2024 under the chairmanship of DC and DPDB Vice Chairman, Dr. Tinojongshi Chang, NCS.

Various developmental proposals and matters were discussed and reviewed during the session. The Board reviewed the progress on the proposed upgradation of Wotsa Fine Arts College located at Model Colony, East Dimapur and it was approved and forwarded to the government for consideration. The board also approved and forwarded to the concerned department the renewal of the registration of Public College, Dimapur, and the registration of its memorandum of

association.

Under the agenda for registration of societies, the following were discussed and approved by the board and forwarded to the government: Dimapur Sakshi Union; Sakshi Cultural Society; United Baptist Church Convention; Coal Mining Association Nagaland; United Kachari Baptist Church Association and Sumi Baptist Church.

PowerPoint Presentation was given by the Agriculture Department officials reflecting on an overview of their current projects and initiatives aimed at boosting agricultural productivity in the district. Similarly, the Horticulture Department showcased its recent achievements and plans for promoting sustainable horticulture practices in Dimapur.

CULMINATION PROGRAMME OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS HELD

TSEMINYU:

The culmination of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Human Rights Day was jointly organized with the Tseminyu administration on 10th

December 2024 at Tseminyu Town Hall. Martha R. Ritse, IAS, Secretary of Social Welfare, graced the event as the special guest.

Martha R. Ritse formally inaugurated a flower show, as well as graced an arm

wrestling and baking competitions. In her speech, she emphasized that as Tseminyu is a new district, this is the right time to establish key initiatives. Referring to the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, she highlighted the need to fight against such violence daily. She stated that women and girls represent half of the world's population and potential, underscoring the importance of equal access to education, healthcare, and politics for women.

While discussing the issue of gender-based violence, she pointed out that the highest reported cases involve cybercrime and domestic violence. She announced that Tseminyu has received approval to establish a sub-centre in the district. However, she stressed that addressing violence against women and girls requires public intervention to reduce discrimination within society effectively.

The keynote address was delivered by W. Nginyeih Konyak, Chairperson of the Nagaland State Commission for Women. She highlighted that during the 16 days of activism, various events aimed to address

issues of discrimination and violence against women and girls. She further emphasized that Human Rights Day—adopted in 1948—champions equal rights for all, regardless of gender, and called for collective action to eliminate gender inequality. She encouraged women to speak out and assert their rights within society.

Sonile Thyug, Area Coordinator of NSRLM Chunlikha RD Block introduced the Naya Chetna 3.0 campaign - an initiative against gender-based discrimination and violence. Toshile Zhimomi, Director of Social Welfare, discussed services for women and children under Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. Additional Secretary of Social Welfare, Bodeno S. Colo, provided insights into addressing gender-based violence and offered a roadmap for moving forward. The program concluded with prize distributions.

LONGLENG:

Under the aegis of District Administration, District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) & Sakhi-One stop centre in convergence with Phomla



Womenfolk participating in the walkathon during the culmination programme of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence held at Longleng on 10th December 2024.

Hoichem, the Apex women body of Phom conducted several activities given 16 days of activism against Gender-Based violence on the theme “Toward Beijing+30: Unite to end Violence against Women and Girls.” The activities included the launching of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women-cum-consultative meeting with all the major functionaries under the Social Welfare Department, a social media & poster campaign, and an advocacy campaign at Sadar, Namsang and Tamlu Block. The week-long campaign culmination programme was held on 10th December 2024 at Lempong Traffic Point, followed by a walkathon.

In his speech, Additional SP, Longleng, Hiatwa Iralu called upon all the stakeholders to actively address all forms of violence against women. He also assured the department of assistance, if need arise, and briefly discussed the rights, laws and consequences for the offender and culprits.

Women Secretary, PBCA, Anghbenla Phom and Former ENWO President, A. Shamthai also spoke on the issues and problems faced by women in public and workplaces. In her introductory note, Case Worker, OSC, Longleng, Shandimoineyi spoke on the significance and the value of Human Rights Day.

MOKOKCHUNG:

The District Administration, District Hub for Empowerment of Women (Mission Shakti), and Sakhi -One Stop Centre, in collaboration with the Nagaland State Rural Livelihood Mission (NSRLM), Mokokchung successfully organised the culmination programme of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence alongside the observance of Human Rights Day 2024

at Deputy Commissioner’s Conference Hall, Mokokchung on 10th December 2024.

The event was held under the theme “Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now” and witnessed active participation from various stakeholders.

The keynote speaker of the program, Advocate Molo Jamir delivered an impactful address on the theme, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding human rights and ensuring equal opportunities for a better future. He inspired attendees to take immediate and tangible steps towards creating a just and equitable society.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Mokokchung, Chumlammo Humtsoe addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of the campaign and encouraging collaborative efforts to promote gender equality and protect human rights.

The District Administration, DHEW and its partners reaffirm their commitment to fostering a safer, more inclusive society and look forward to continued efforts in empowering communities and combating violence against women and children.

ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE & POCSO ACT HELD AT TSEMINYU

International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women was observed at Tseminyu from 25th November to 10th December 2024. The district also held a one-day workshop for government departments on sexual harassment at the workplace and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) on 3rd December 2024 at the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Tseminyu.

In his keynote address, DC, Tseminyu, Rohit Singh (IAS) said the POCSO Act is a gender-neutral legislation providing for the

welfare and safety of children irrespective of their gender protection of children from sexual offences, while the POSH Act, 2013 deals with the prevention of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

Giving a Powerpoint presentation, Neivotuonuo Rutsa, Legal-cum-Probation Officer DCPO Tseminyu said that POSH ACT 2013 is applied to all workplaces in India, mandatory by the law to provide safe and secure working environments free from

sexual harassment for all women. She also said it ensures safe working spaces for women and builds an enabling work environment that respects women's rights to equality of status and opportunities.

Childline Supervisor, Keben Keppen said POCSO Act is a comprehensive law to provide protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography.

MOKOKCHUNG DPDB MEETING HELD

The Mokokchung District Planning and Development Board meeting for the month of December was held at Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Mokokchung on 11th December 2024.

The DPDB meeting was chaired by the Chairman DPDB and Speaker Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer, and attended by MLA & Advisor for Sericulture and Minority Affairs, Imkongmar.

While reviewing the previous meeting minutes, DC, Mokokchung, Thsuvisie Phoiji shared about the 2nd Cherry blossom Festival held at Longkum village where various departments took an active part, and also spoke about the prospect of Eco-tourism in the district.

In this regard, the Chairman remarked that as Tourism comprises diverse sectors, a collective effort is needed to come up with new ideas so that visitors can experience



Speaker, NLA, Sharingain Longkumer with Advisor for Sericulture, Imkongmar and DPDB members during the Mokokchung DPDB Meeting-cum-Advent Christmas programme held at DC's Office, Mokokchung on 11th December 2024.

the unique identity of the district. On the agenda for Black Topping of diversion road at Imkongliba Memorial District Hospital, the chairman assured to take up the issue at the earliest. Sharingain Longkumer also informed the board of the collective achievement of all the stakeholders about construction of ongoing new infrastructure

at Imkongliba Memorial District Hospital and the improvement of road connectivity along the NH 02.

Taking up the agenda for the meeting, the board approved and forwarded the registration of the Environment and Economic Society, Kelingmen village, Mokokchung to the concerned authority.

5th MON INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR & EXPO 2024 INAUGURATED

Deputy Commissioner, Mon, Ajit Kumar Verma, IAS graced the inaugural programme of the 5th Mon International Trade Fair & Expo 2024 as the Guest of Honour on 11th December 2024 at Local Ground Mon.

In his speech, the DC thanked all the stakeholders, partners, artists, and viewers for participating and organising this event. He said despite many challenges and difficulties, Mon International Trade Fair & Expo has been organised consecutively for 5 (five) years. He also spoke about the significance of such events being multilateral, where it provides the local entrepreneur with

an opportunity to expose their products and at the same time learn new things from outsiders. He appealed to the local people to interact and share with the outsiders to get more ideas. The DC spoke about the gradual development and hope that this legacy will be carried forward in the coming days as well. He also inaugurated and inspected the stalls.

Short Speeches were also delivered by Bandang Wati, SDPO, Manpang, representative of Konyak Union and Tingshim Wangnao, Treasurer, all Wards of Mon.

7th WINTER CARNIVAL-CUM-ORCHID FESTIVAL HELD AT PEREN

The 7th Edition of the Winter Carnival-cum-Orchid Festival began at Carnival Village, Tepuiki River, Peren on 9th December 2024. The event was organized by Progressive Peren (P2) and concluded on 12th December 2024.

Inaugural guest, Deputy Commissioner, Peren, Hiazu Meru expressed his happiness to see the united efforts among the residents of Peren town, for which he lauded the ADC Peren and Members of Progressive Peren for bringing the citizens together. He added tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in today's world and he hoped to see very soon that Peren town etch its name

on the tourist map of Nagaland.

The event was also attended by Khrienuo C Metha, Retd. Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Nagaland as the honoured guest.

Following the inaugural event, Hiazu Meru lit the carnival lighting to mark the opening of the Winter Carnival, while the Orchid Festival was inaugurated by Khrienuo C Metha.

Different competitive events such as ward-wise tug of war, strongman, snail eating competition and orchid competition marked the highlights on day-one.

PHEK DPDB MEETING HELD

Phek District Planning & Development Board meeting was held at Tourist Spot, Tekûmle Tizu, Meluri on 13th December 2024. The programme was chaired by Chairman, DPDB and Advisor for New & Renewal Energy, NSDMA, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe,

During the meeting, the following agenda were discussed and forwarded to

the concerned authority for approval by the government: The creation of Sub-Treasury Office at Meluri district, creation of Office of District Programme Officer (Social Welfare Department) at Meluri, upgradation of Meluri District Hospital and registration of Phek District Music & Art Society.

PUNGRO SDPDB MEETING HELD

The monthly Sub-Divisional Planning and Development Board (SDPDB) meeting of Pungro was convened on 11th December 2024 at ADC' Office premise, Pungro town. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman of SDPDB Pungro and ADC, Pungro, James T Khulu Tikhir.

During the meeting, the proposal submitted by the ADC for the construction of a new Town Council Office in Pungro town was approved and forwarded to the concerned department. The board while reviewing the previous meeting minutes, deliberated on the ongoing activities of the sub-division discussion on key issues like shortage of manpower for operation and

maintenance under Power Department. The meeting also addressed the shortage of manpower and urgent need of additional staff for the operation and maintenance of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).

The proposal for the reconstruction of the Government Primary School in Penkim village was deferred to the next meeting. The board also discussed the need to relocate the Community Health Centre (CHC) to facilitate further expansion and improved the healthcare services of the region. The meeting concluded with a focus on prioritizing the developmental needs of the sub-division.

DPDB MEETING HELD AT ZUNHEBOTO

The Zunheboto District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) meeting was held at Arkha Farm Tizu Valley on 13th December 2024 under the chairmanship of MLA & Chairman, DPDB, Er. Picto Shohe.

Er, Picto urged the members to have sense of responsibility towards the district

and come up with proposals through their respective departments, assuring his sincere cooperation for the betterment of the district.

The meeting further approved the proposal for grant-in-aid to Evergreen School, Satakha and forwarded to the concerned authority for necessary action.

LONGLENG DPDB MEETING HELD

Longleng District Planning & Development Board meeting was held at

Bonshi's Farm near 12 IRBn. Chingtok on 13th December 2024.



MLA, A. Pongshi Phom and others during the DPDB Meeting-cum-Advent Christmas programme held at Chingtok, Longleng on December 13th 2024.

Deputy Commissioner & Vice Chairman DPDB Longleng, W. Manpai Phom welcomed the members present to the monthly board

meeting and also reviewed the previous meeting minutes.

4TH WINTER OPEN AIRGUN SHOOTING COMPETITION HELD IN WOKHA

The 4th Winter Open Airgun Shooting Competition, organised by the Airgun Sporting Association of Nagaland (ASAN), was held on 14th December 2024, at the Likya Community Hall in Wokha. Nzano P Kikon, Deputy Chairperson of the Wokha Town Council graced the event as the special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Nzano P Kikon lauded the association for its efforts in promoting sports in the region. She highlighted the importance of female participation in competitive sports. With no female competitors this time, she encouraged females to participate in shooting sports. She also commended ASAN for providing a platform for emerging shooters, with the potential for Wokha's athletes to compete internationally.

Ajit John, a founding member of ASAN, shared the association's vision to expand its

reach beyond Wokha to other districts such as Kohima and Dimapur. He emphasised the importance of focusing on grassroots development to ensure equal opportunities for shooters across Nagaland. He also expressed gratitude to the sponsors of the event, including AZ Communication and Trading, M/S T.R. Lotha Electrical Division, IZZE Collection, and R. Murry Gun House for their continued support.

The winners of the competition were L. Yibomo Odyuo, who claimed the championship title, followed by Benathung Ovung as the first runner-up and M. Nyamo Odyuo in the third place.

Out of 40 registered participants, 34 turned up for the competition. The organisers noted a higher turnout this year compared to previous editions.

DIMAPUR PRESS CLUB CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE

Dimapur Press Club celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 16th December 2024, at the Dimapur Government College Auditorium, bringing together notable personalities, journalists, and distinguished guests to observe the 25 years of journalistic excellence and community service.

The celebration featured Sharingain Longkumer, Speaker of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly as the Special Guest, alongside Yirmiyar Arthur Yhome, Deputy News Director for Asia-Pacific at The Associated Press, who served as the Theme Speaker. The theme for the event was “Harnessing Media Vibrancy, Embracing New Frontiers”.

Sharingain Longkumer commended the Dimapur Press Club for its unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of journalism over the past 25 years. He highlighted the vital role the press plays in shaping public opinion, holding authorities accountable, and bridging the gap between the government and the people. “The press is the backbone of democracy, and organizations like the Dimapur Press Club are integral in ensuring that the voice of the people is heard,” he said. The Speaker also emphasized the importance of ethical journalism in an era of misinformation and encouraged journalists to continue their dedication to truth and integrity.

Yirmiyar Arthur Yhome spoke on the theme “Harnessing Media Vibrancy, Embracing New Frontiers” with profound insights into the evolving landscape of journalism. Yhome emphasized the growing need for the media to adapt to technological advancements and changing audience

behaviours. She underscored the importance of vibrant media practices, urging journalists to leverage digital platforms, data-driven storytelling, and innovative approaches to ensure credibility, speed, and accuracy in reporting.

In his address, Deputy Commissioner of Dimapur, Dr. Tinojongshi Chang expressed gratitude to the press fraternity for their cooperation in highlighting grassroots issues and ensuring wide coverage of developmental activities in Dimapur and Nagaland. He asserted that the media has been instrumental in bringing attention to the realities at the grassroots level. Acknowledging the importance of a responsible press, the DC urged the media to continue its role as a nurturer of society by focusing on the positive aspects and developmental stories of the region.

Briefing on the history of DPC, Dilip Sharma, Convenor of the Planning Committee said that Dimapur Press Club (DPC) was established in 1999 to provide a common platform for journalists in Dimapur, Nagaland to foster solidarity, support and professionalism within the media community. Over the past 25 years, the club has played a significant role in promoting ethical journalism, ensuring press freedom, and serving as a voice for the people. It has also served as a bridge between the media and society, addressing critical issues while promoting transparency and accountability.

The Silver Jubilee celebration marks a milestone in DPC’s journey, celebrating its contributions to journalism and its role in shaping informed public discourse in Nagaland.

AWARENESS-CUM-ENROLMENT CAMP FOR CMHIS HELD FOR ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS IN DIMAPUR

Awareness-cum-Enrolment Camp for the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS) targeting accredited journalists was held at E-Space, near SBI Rangapahar Branch, Duncan, Dimapur on 17th December 2024. Organized by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (IPR), Government of Nagaland, in collaboration with the Department of Health & Family Welfare, the camp aimed to facilitate the registration and card generation process for accredited journalists.

Imkong Walling, President of the Dimapur Press Club (DPC) urged journalists to take full advantage of this opportunity and praised their active participation in the camp.

Dr. Kika Longkumer, Joint CEO of the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), emphasized the significant role of journalists in bridging the gap between government schemes and the public. He highlighted how the CMHIS is designed to offer accessible and efficient health coverage for accredited journalists and their families, stressing the government's commitment to supporting media professionals in Nagaland.

The camp saw active participation from Dimapur-based journalists on 17th December. Card registration and activation were conducted during the camp, ensuring a smooth process for all attendees.

NOKLAK DPDB MEETING HELD

Noklak DPDB meeting was held on 17th December 2024 at Deputy Commissioner's Conference hall, Noklak under the chairmanship of MLA & DPDB Chairman, Benei M. Lamthiu.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the officials for prioritizing their official duties.

Addressing the DPDB meeting, MLA, P. Longon appealed to the members to verify and ensure the accuracy of census details for

better development of the district.

After a brief discussion, the board approved the proposed upgradation of PHC, Panso to CHC and the creation of District Commandant Home Guards & Civil Defence-cum-SDRF at Noklak.

The PowerPoint presentation was given by the Department of PWD (R&B) and Forest Department highlighting the ongoing projects and achievements of the respective departments in the district.

SPECIAL NATIONAL INTEGRATION CAMP ORGANISED AT WOKHA

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Spear Corps of Indian Army made a momentous visit to the Special National Integration Camp organized by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) at Wokha, Nagaland. This unique camp, aimed at fostering unity

and national integration among the youth, brought together NCC cadets from across the country to celebrate the diverse cultural fabric of India.

During the visit, the GOC interacted with the cadets, commending their discipline,

enthusiasm, and commitment to national integration. Addressing the gathering, the GOC emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping the future of the nation and lauded the NCC's contribution in nurturing leadership, character, and a spirit of service among young citizens.

As part of the visit, the GOC also inaugurated the Nagaland State Day celebrations at the camp. The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland, featuring traditional dances, music, and exhibitions that highlighted the state's unique identity and contributions to the nation. The vibrant celebrations provided an opportunity for the cadets to experience and appreciate the diversity of India's Northeastern region.

Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Department of Horticulture, Department of Sericulture,

Department of Employment Skill, Development Entrepreneurship, Department of Tourism, Department of Information & Public Relations, Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission, Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Department of Industries & Commerce established the Information and Souvenir stalls.

The event was graced by senior officers of the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, NCC officials, civil dignitaries, ex-servicemen and local community leaders, who expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the NCC in promoting national unity and cultural exchange.

The Special National Integration Camp at Wokha stands as a testament to the NCC's enduring mission of instilling a sense of pride and unity in the youth, fostering a stronger and more inclusive India.

WORKSHOP ON GOOD GOVERNANCE WEEK HELD

PHEK:

In pursuance to the directive of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Government of India, a workshop on Good Governance Week was held at Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Phek on 20th December 2024.

Vetsiyo Vero, District Coordinator from Medical Department for CMHIS spoke on the implementations of CMHIS Schemes covering Rs.5 lakhs and Rs.20 lakhs for public and government servants respectively, through PowerPoint presentation during the workshop programme.

Veyito Nyekha, District Project

Assistant under (Education), Phek also gave a PowerPoint presentation on the development activities being undertaken by NECTAR Projects in the district.

EAC Phek, Balong Phom presented on Grievances Redressal through PowerPoint. He also informed that the public is permitted and allowed for four days in a week, with three hours a day to meet the Deputy Commissioner for reporting and discussion on grievances being faced by the public in the district, while Wednesday and Saturday are restricted days.

The detailed presentations from Medical, School Education Departments and District Administration was followed by a question-and-answer session.

NIULAND:

Workshop on Good Governance and practices was held at Niuland district at Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Niuland on 21st December, 2024 to commemorate the celebration of Good Governance Week from 19th-24th December on the theme "Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur."

During the programme, DC, Niuland, Sara S. Jamir presented a short talk on Good Governance encouraging all the departments, officers and staff to ensure that the services are made available and accessible to the general public.

SBI Niuland Branch Manager and SDAO, Niuland gave a brief presentation on departmental activities.

KIPHIRE:

In connection with the Good Governance Week which was held from 19th to 24th December 2024, a workshop on Good Governance Day was held at Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall, Kiphire on 21st December 2024.

DHEW Coordinator, Villiho Awomi

spoke on women-related schemes, and Nodal Officer of CMHIS-PMJAY, Yangtsapila spoke on insurance scheme. Assistant Supply Officer, Food & Civil Supplies Department, Renthungo spoke on ration, and EAC (Dev) Takatemjen Pongnen spoke on different schemes and programmes of the state and central government through PowerPoint presentation.

The DPA (Education) Kiphire, Alumse also presented PowerPoint presentations on the development activities being undertaken by the NECTAR projects in the district, EAC, Nitile Tep who is also the APIO, presented on grievances redressal and RTI mechanism. The District Administration, Rural Development Department, Education and Health & Family Welfare department also presented their activities. This was followed by a question-and-answer session.

The programme was held under the directives of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Government of India.



CM NEIPHIU RIO AND DR. A.R. RAHMAN INAUGURATES CEMA AT KOHIMA

Centre of Excellence for Music & Arts (CEMA) was inaugurated by Chief Minister, Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio and Padma Bhushan, Grammy & Oscar winner, Dr. A.R. Rahman at Ministers' Hill, Kohima on 1st December 2024, in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of National Highways, T.R. Zeliang, and Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of Home Department, Y. Patton.

Stating that setting up the Centre of Excellence for Music & Arts was not only his dream, but a dream of the musicians and artists, Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio said the State Government is determined to help the youth in music and arts, sports etc. especially those who do not have proper opportunities. He expressed gratitude to Dr. A. R. Rahman for coming all the way to Nagaland, and that the State Government looks forward to working and partnering with him in the future. He also thanked him for having the heart to help the young children, less privileged people, nurturing and guiding them. With a positive approach and attitude through music, arts and sports, he expressed hope that the Naga people will be brought together under

one umbrella. He expressed hope that Nagaland will not be only called as a land of festivals, but also known as a land of music.

Delivering the welcome address, Chairman, TaFMA, Theja Meru thanked Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio for supporting and guiding the youth, and in particular, the musicians and artists, at all times, pushing them beyond the borders of Nagaland. He also thanked Dr. A. R. Rahman for inspiring the youth of the State, and for his continued support in the field of music.

Padma Bhushan awardee, Dr. A. R. Rahman, who is a singer, songwriter, music composer, record producer, expressed happiness to be a part of the inaugural programme. Sharing that his quest and search for music has led him to Nagaland, he expressed hope that the musicians and artists of the State will continue to inspire in the days to come. On the occasion, A. R. Rahman also announced that *Headhunting to Beatboxing*, a musical documentary exploring the sonic heritage and cultural heritage of Nagaland, which is produced by him, has been selected for the 2025 Palm Springs International Film Festival.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nagaland, Abu Metha extended his appreciation to the Chief Minister for supporting the young people of Nagaland and for playing a positive and contributory role in their dreams and aspirations. He stated that about two decades ago, the Chief Minister envisioned to set up a separate special purpose vehicle to promote music and arts in Nagaland, and that vision has today seen so many results which has taken Nagaland to the global platform. He added that our musicians, artists, performers, our ambassadors of the entertainment industry are not only doing Nagaland proud, but they're doing India proud across the globe, performing in different continents. These opportunities were opened up because of support from the State Government, and the vision and support in the form

of resources, infrastructure by the Chief Minister.

The Centre of Excellence for Music & Arts (CEMA) was conceptualized to encourage and promote music and arts to national and international level, and to create awareness and preserve talents of people practicing age old traditional Music and Art which are getting ignored. The Centre will also provide a platform for professional musicians and amateurs to meet, interact and learn. The Centre was constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.00 Crore under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment. The implementing department is Youth Resources & Sports Department, Government of Nagaland and the Construction Agency is M/s Infrastructural Development Consortium under EPC Mode.

CM NEIPHIU RIO INAUGURATES UPGRADED DIMAPUR TOWN HALL

The much-anticipated upgrade of Dimapur Town Hall was inaugurated on 17th December 2024 at NSA Super Market, Dimapur. This milestone is a significant step towards improving urban infrastructure in the region under the leadership of the Urban Development Department.

In his inaugural speech, Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio emphasized Nagaland's rapid

urbanization, with the urban population recording at 66.70% growth since the 2011 census. He underscored the need for resilient infrastructure to sustain this growth and called for investment in urban centres like Dimapur, a key economic hub characterized by its diverse population and strategic location.

Acknowledging global projections that 68% of the world's population will reside in urban areas by 2050, Rio

stressed the importance of balanced urban and rural development to ensure economic prosperity. He reaffirmed the Nagaland Government's commitment to building sustainable infrastructure, particularly in transportation, railways, and marketplaces, to improve accessibility and quality of life.

Rio also said that the Dimapur Town Hall has been successfully upgraded to meet modern standards, blending tradition with contemporary needs. Where he highlighted that the project involved durable materials, robust acoustic treatments, advanced audio and lighting systems, centralized air conditioning, enhanced safety measures, power backup, and beautification works. This sustainable upgrade reduces greenhouse gas emissions compared to building a new structure, improving comfort for public use.

CM Rio also said that the facility for rewired power connectivity and other enhancements has been handed over to the Development Authority Nagaland (DAN) for operation and management.

Rio said Dimapur Town Hall holds cultural significance as a venue for festivals, religious rituals, weddings,

and other social events. Its upgraded amenities now cater to modern needs while preserving its role as a community hub.

Advisor of Tribal Affairs and Election, H. Tovihoto Ayemi, who graced the occasion as the honoured guest, described the event as the beginning of a new chapter for the city, emphasizing the hall's role in symbolizing progress and service. He recalled that the foundation stone for the original town hall was laid in 1986 by former Chief Minister S. C. Jamir, but over time, the facility fell into disrepair and had to be shut down. Thanks to the vision and efforts of the Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio, the dream of a modern town hall has been realized, offering the people of Dimapur a fitting venue for various civic and cultural activities, he added.

Equipped with modern amenities such as greenrooms, washrooms, a cafeteria, and fire safety measures, the hall is being hailed as the finest of its kind in the state. Tovihoto also urged the citizens to preserve and responsibly use the facility, emphasizing it as a shared community asset.



JOTSOMA EXPERIENCE: LESSONS IN CONSERVATION

- A DIPR Feature by **Morotsung Longchar, IA**

Far from the madding crowd, nestled in the foothill of the iconic Puliebadze Peak, the Jotsoma Nature Conservation and Eco Tourism set up the base for the Jotsoma Experience as part of the Hornbill Festival 2024. Tourists from across the globe and India flocked to Kohima to join in the festivities of the much acclaimed Hornbill Festival wherein they come not just to watch the songs and dances and the cultural performances but rather to experience the Naga way of life, be it the food, the rich culture and traditions and most importantly, to be among the fun loving, easy going good natured people that inhabits the State. The Hornbill Festival in itself is a unique experience and has much to offer for people seeking different experiences. Among such experience is the Jotsoma Experience which is ideal for nature lovers and the adventure seekers.

The Jotsoma Experience offers a unique opportunity for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts to immerse themselves in the beauty of nature, far removed from the fast-paced urban lifestyle. Nestled in a pristine, virgin forest, visitors are surrounded by towering trees that have stood for over

a century, creating an atmosphere of tranquillity and timelessness. This experience is especially precious in today's world, where rapid urbanization and industrialization have diminished opportunities to connect with such untouched environments.

The trek to Puliebadze Peak, which is also a highlight of the Jotsoma Experience, is an exhilarating adventure for those who love trekking. As hikers make their way to the summit, they are rewarded with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape - lush, rolling hills and vibrant greenery that define the natural beauty of the region. This combination of serene forest and challenging terrain makes the Jotsoma Experience an unforgettable journey for both nature lovers and those with an adventurous spirit. Whether you are seeking peace and solitude or craving the thrill of a physical challenge, the Jotsoma Experience provides a rare chance to reconnect with nature and explore a landscape that remains largely untouched by modern development.

The Jotsoma Experience goes beyond just the beauty of nature by offering a rich cultural immersion into the Naga way of life. Visitors

have the opportunity to witness live demonstrations of traditional daily activities such as weaving, pounding rice, and brewing rice beer. These demonstrations give a firsthand look at the customs and practices that have been passed down through generations, offering deep insights into the Naga community's lifestyle and heritage.

In addition to the live demos, visitors can explore traditional Naga attire and artifacts, which are displayed for educational purposes. These artifacts offer a glimpse into the craftsmanship, artistry, and rich cultural history of the Naga people. For those eager to learn more, the Jotsoma Experience also features stalls where visitors can sample authentic Naga cuisine, from the famous Naga chillies to the diverse range of meats and dishes that showcase the region's unique flavors. Food enthusiasts will be in for a treat as they savor the exotic tastes of the Naga culinary tradition.

For thrill-seekers, the Jotsoma Experience has an exciting off-road driving adventure. Starting from the Puliebadze base camp and continuing to the Japfu base camp, visitors can experience the rugged terrain and the beauty of the landscape from the comfort of off-road vehicles. These vehicles are available for hire at nominal charges, allowing visitors to drive the off-road

track themselves, adding an adrenaline-pumping aspect to their adventure.

The Jotsoma Experience offers a wide array of activities that further enrich the visitor experience, adding an element of fun and excitement alongside its deep cultural and natural immersion. Among the attractions are camping under the stars, taking a leisurely ride on a traditional wooden cart, and enjoying a thrilling hillside swing that let visitors take in the scenic beauty of the area from a unique vantage point. For those interested in history and tradition, there is the opportunity to try firing traditional muzzle-loading guns, an activity that brings visitors closer to the heritage of the Naga people.

However, what truly sets the Jotsoma Experience apart from other eco-tourism destinations is its deep commitment to conservation. The Jotsoma community does not just seek to promote eco-tourism; they are dedicated to preserving the forest and natural surroundings for future generations. This commitment to environmental stewardship ensures that the area remains untouched and pristine, allowing visitors to experience nature in its most authentic form.

The Puliebadze Experience, a key part of the Hornbill Festival, serves as a living example of a community working together to protect and conserve its

environment. It is not just an opportunity for tourism but an invitation to become part of a larger effort to maintain the integrity of the land. Visitors to the Jotsoma Experience are contributing to this conservation effort simply by participating in the activities.

This unique blend of cultural heritage, adventure, and ecological

preservation makes the Jotsoma Experience truly special. As part of the Hornbill Festival, it stands out as an event that highlights the importance of environmental conservation, making it an extraordinary and meaningful experience that is unlike anything else in the world.





Joint Chief Executive Officer, NSDMA, Home Department, Johnny Ruangmei receiving an Award of Excellence and Innovation in Disaster Risk Reduction to the State of Nagaland during the 34th IISSM Annual Global Conclave BV 2024 from the Union Minister of Defence, Sanjay Seth at Taj Vivanta, Dwarka, New Delhi on 12th December 2024.



Officials and dignitaries at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Higher Education and Salesforce.com India Pvt. Ltd. at the Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 2nd December 2024.



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio with Union Minister, Culture and Tourism, Government of India, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at the Stone Pulling ceremony held from Kipfuzha, Kigwema to Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 4th December 2024.



Published by:

Government of Nagaland

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

iprnagaland@gmail.com [f](https://www.facebook.com/DiprNagaland) Dipr Nagaland [i](https://www.instagram.com/diprnagaland) diprnagaland [X](https://www.x.com/DIPR_Nagaland) DIPR Nagaland [y](https://www.youtube.com/DIPR_Nagaland) DIPR Nagaland [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/DIPR_Nagaland) DIPR Nagaland

STATE ROUND UP



Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Shanavas C, IAS, Director, Industries & Commerce, P. Tokugha Sema and other officials with the participants during the Nagaland State Export Summit 2024 held at the Bamboo Hall, Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 7th December 2024.



Lt. General Abhijit S. Pendharkar, AVSM, YSM, GOC 3 CORPS with other officials and NCC Cadets from various parts of India during the SNIC-NER 2024 held at Wokha on 17th December 2024.



Advisor to CM & Chairman, IDAN, Abu Metha with officials and awardees during the 6th Honey Bee Day celebration held at NHBM Multi-Utility Centre, Chumoukedima on 5th December 2024.

DISTRICTS ROUND UP & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Sharingain Longkumer releasing the Souvenir Cover of the 25 Years of Dimapur Press Club at Dimapur Government College Auditorium, Dimapur on 16th December 2024.



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio inaugurating the Dimapur Town Hall at NSA, Super Market, Dimapur on 17th December 2024.

25th EDITION OF HORNBILL FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE



Joint cultural troupes from across the Northeast states performing on the 7th Day of the Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 7th December 2024.



Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio with dignitaries and participants during the 13th Edition of WW-II Peace Rally at the WW-II Museum Complex, Kisama on 2nd December 2024.



Ambassador of Peru to India, HE Javier Paulinich being felicitated during the cultural programme of the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 3rd December 2024.



Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat being felicitated during the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 3rd December 2024.



Sikkim Cultural Troupe performing during the Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 6th December 2024.



Specially abled artist, Imlisunep painting extraordinary pictures using his mouth at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 at Kisama on 3rd December 2024.



Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court, Justice Vijay Bishnoi and his wife being felicitated during the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 7th December 2024.



Director, IPR, Dzüvinuo Theinuo, Director, Art & Culture, Adela Moa along with officials and winners of the HIPFEST 2024 at Kisama on 10th December 2024.

25th EDITION OF HORNBILL FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE



Guests and dignitaries on the 10th Day of the Cultural Extravaganza at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 10th December 2024.



Participants in action during the Stilt Bamboo Race held at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 3rd December 2024.



Chakhesang Cultural Troupe presenting Lorhi Ketshe (ritual game) during the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 6th December 2024.



Chiechama Coffee Growers and CVC Members with LRD officials during 'The Heritage Basket,' organised by Chiechama village as part of the Hornbill Festival at Chiechama on 7th December 2024.



'Run for Hornbill Against Time' was organised as part of the Hornbill Festival on 7th December 2024.



Advocate General of Nagaland, K. N. Balgopal being felicitated during the cultural programme of the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 7th December 2024.



Sumi Cultural Troupe presenting the traditional way of fire making during the Hornbill Festival at Kisama on 9th December 2024.



Minister, Tourism and Higher Education, Temjen Imna and other dignitaries lighting the bonfire during the closing ceremony of the 25th Edition of Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama on 10th December 2024.