

THE HEADLINES:-

- 16th Finance Commission holds series of meetings with Nagaland government, other stakeholders
- State government makes proposal of Capital Deficit Grants to 16th Finance Commission
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio underlines need for extra support to drive economic transformation of Nagaland
- Parliament winter session to be begin on 25th November



The 16th Finance Commission headed by Chairman Dr. Arvind Panagariya held a series of close-door meetings simultaneously with the state government led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and various stakeholders such as Political Parties, Rural and Urban local bodies, and representatives of trade, Industries and Commerce at Kohima today. Nagaland is the 10th state that the Commission has visited after it became operational in January this year. With 18 states left to cover, the Commission now has approximately a year left to fully prepare the final report and submit it to the Government of India. In the meeting, members of the Commission along with the State government, discussed on the comprehensive overview of Nagaland's economic evolution, performance, and financial status. The government also submitted a memorandum a grant-in-aid on various sectors. Briefing media persons in Kohima today, Chairman Dr. Panagariya said, the biggest job of the Commission is to make recommendations on the divisible pool between the sectors and the 28 states.

The 16th Finance Commission Chairman also highlighted on the state's shares criteria suggested by the Nagaland government.



Nagaland government has made a proposal of Capital Deficit Grants to the 16th Finance Commission. This was informed by the chairman of the 16th Finance Commission Dr. Arvind Panagariya during media briefing at Kohima today. Among the other various grants asked by the Nagaland government, he said, Capital Deficit Grants is one area which is a new thing for the Commission. Dr

Panagariya said, conventionally, the commissions have given the revenue deficit grants, however in addition to the revenue deficit grants, Nagaland asked for capital deficit grants, keeping in view of the state's special circumstances.

The proposal is based on the constitutional mandate of the Finance Commission and to capitalize on the revenue generation potential of the state. It also proposed to boost the green growth initiatives and sustainable development and also to overcome the accumulated deficit in infrastructure and governance.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today underlined the need for additional support to drive economic transformation of Nagaland. He was addressing the meeting with the 16th Finance Commission in Kohima. Rio said, Nagaland is the only Indian state born out of political compulsions, and cited the 16 Point Agreement which calls for grants from the Central government to meet the state's administrative needs. However, he noted that there has been a steady deterioration in the financial position of the State, which has adversely affected developmental activities. Emphasizing Revenue Deficit Grants as a primary concern, Rio said the grants are critical for the government to fulfil its services as well as set aside resources for critical infrastructure. These Grants are essential as funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes lack flexibility to address unique local issues, he added. While the state plan outlay is 1010 crore rupees for the current financial year 2024-25, only 760 crore rupees are left for the State's own developmental activities, which is insufficient for any noticeable impact. Rio also highlighted critical projects in the State which are pending consideration of the Central Government, including the Foothills Road, proposed airport at Ciethu, Kohima, and New High Court Complex. While Nagaland's post-peace talks situation is encouraging, investor confidence takes time, he said. Rio therefore, urged the Commission to work out an arrangement to ensure good financial health, create critical infrastructure and transform the people and economy of Nagaland.



Winter session of Parliament will be held from 25th November to 20th December. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said in a social media post that on 26th November, the 75th Anniversary of the adoption of Constitution would be celebrated in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.



The Department of Industries and Commerce and Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) yesterday organized the first Technology Clinic for Handloom at Dimapur. The clinic was held under the World Bank-supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performances Scheme. Addressing the event, NIDC Chairman, Kvulo Lorin highlighted the growing demand for Nagaland's handloom products even beyond the state's borders. He noted, with increase in market demand, businesses will be pushed towards technology for mass and cheaper production. Mr. Lorin encouraged the participants to boost their expertise in automated production. Highlights of the clinic included hands-on exercise on software and digital tools for design development.



Governor La Ganesan and Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio have greeted the Lotha community on the occasion of Tokhü Emong. In his message, the Governor said the festival celebrates the bounty of harvest and the spirit of unity, and hoped that it may bring abundant blessings, happiness, and peace to all. He called upon everyone to embrace the spirit of reconciliation, share the joy of feasting, and strengthen the bonds of friendship and community. Meanwhile, Rio said the festival is a time when past conflicts are forgiven, new bonds are formed, and relationships deepened. The Chief Minister wished that the joyous occasion may foster oneness.



Additional Deputy Commissioner Wokha Renbomo Ezung today emphasized the need to preserve indigenous games, saying they are essential to our identity and heritage. He said this during the second day of the Tokhü Emong celebrations in Wokha. Mr. Ezung noted that modern electronic games were overshadowing traditions, lessening community bonds and impacting physical health. The ADC further called for reviving indigenous games and maintaining them beyond the festival so as to preserve their cultural significance and connect the younger generation to their roots.



Zunheboto Town Council, ZTC, today launched the vehicle parking management programme. Flagging off the initiative, Additional Deputy Commissioner and ZTC Executive Officer, Keyirangding Hegui termed the parking management and tax collection system as a crucial step in making Zunheboto a more organized and tourist-friendly town. Mr. Hegui assured that the revenue generated from parking tax would be used for improving the town, with a commitment to transparency and accountability. The new system will be enforced in line with the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, with full support from police.

