

:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Centre reinstates Protected Area Regime in Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram amid security concerns
- National Investigation Agency conducts searches at multiple locations, including Nagaland, in inter-state arms trafficking case
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio emphasizes on preserving culture and tradition
- Author Easterine Kire's novel, Spirit Nights wins Sahitya Akademi Award

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National Investigation Agency (NIA) has conducted searches at multiple locations in four states, including Nagaland, in an inter-state arms trafficking case. The searches were conducted at three locations in Nagaland, 12 locations in Bihar, and one location each in Haryana, and Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. During the searches, NIA recovered prohibited weapons including a 315-bore rifle, 11 rounds, three empty cartridges, and digital devices such as mobile phones, memory cards, and pen drives. A car and total cash amounting to over 13 lakh 94 thousand were also seized, besides other incriminating documents. The case relates to the recovery of an AK-47 rifle and other prohibited weapons that are being smuggled from Nagaland and other North Eastern states. The agency added that Bihar was being used as a transit route for further smuggling to other states, and also as a destination for the weapons.

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Amid heightened security concerns arising from the influx from neighbouring countries, the Union Home Affairs Ministry has reimposed the Protected Area Regime in Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. A statement from the Manipur government yesterday said, with the reimposition of the Protected Area Regime, the movement of foreigners visiting the state will be closely monitored, and they will have to obtain necessary Protected Area Permits in accordance with the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958. The Union Ministry had earlier scrapped the regime from the three states in 2011 to promote tourism.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today emphasized upon preserving the rich culture and tradition of Nagas. Speaking at the Nolo pfü Day of Robvena Ni celebration in Manipur, he said, stressed the importance of preserving our culture, even as believers, ensuring that our spiritual and worship remains unpolluted. Mr. Rio said, this celebration of collective clan identity and cultural pride is a vibrant example of oneness. He added, strengthens the bond and unity of the community, upholding social harmony. The Chief Minister said these are the foundations of our tribal identity.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also expressed his desire for integrating all Nagas living in different states under one government.

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Noted author from Nagaland Easterine Kire, has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi. The Akademi announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards in 21 languages on Wednesday. Kire's novel, Spirit Nights, published by Simon and Schuster India, won the award in the English language category. The novel is inspired by a story of darkness narrated by the Chang Naga tribe of Nagaland. Eight books of poetry, three novels, two short story collections, three essays, three literary criticism, one play, and one work of research have won this year's awards. Awards in Bengali, Dogri and Urdu will be announced later. The awardees will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and a cash prize of 1 lakh rupees. The award ceremony will be held on 8th March 2025, in Delhi.

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Lok Sabha MP S. Supongmeren Jamir has underlined the need to address the financial constraints facing Nagaland, which have held back several major projects. This was among suggestions submitted by the MP during the meeting of Consultative Committee of Ministry of DoNER on "New Development Framework for the North-East" in New Delhi on December 4. Mr. Jamir suggested that the Foothill Road in Nagaland may be declared a National Highway given its potential to serve as an economic corridor for trade and urbanization. Noting the potential to boost tourism activities to complement Hornbill Festival, he suggested development of year-long tourism circuits, besides developing cultural and historical hubs, and eco-tourism circuits across unexplored destinations in the state. A report...

JAMIR VC: The MP also highlighted the state's vulnerability to natural disasters given its geographical and climatic conditions. He said, to face these recurring challenges, there is a need to invest in resilient infrastructure transport networks, many of which fall outside the scope of centrally sponsored schemes. Further, Mr. Jamir sought support to

enhance digital connectivity and infrastructure in the state to position Nagaland as a hub for Business process outsourcing services. Other suggestions made by the MP included enhancing budget allocation for North-Eastern Council, and increased advance fund release for DoNER projects.

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Nagaland has a total of 348 ambulances registered on government's VAHAN Portal as of November this year. This was informed by Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari in a written reply in Lok Sabha today. According to data on VAHAN Portal, the total number of ambulances registered in the North Eastern States is 9,109. The minister also said, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sanctioned 41 Trauma Care Facilities in the North Eastern States under "National programme for Prevention & Management of Trauma and Burn injuries". In Nagaland, these are located at Naga Hospital in Kohima, and the District Hospitals at Tuensang, Kiphire, Mon, and Dimapur.

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Union Minister for Communications and Development of the Northeastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindia has emphasized the importance of building a bridge between businesses, investors. He said this while addressing the Northeast Trade and Investment Roadshow in Mumbai. Mr. Scindia highlighted the vast potential of the North Eastern Region. He said, every state in the region has unique strengths and core competencies. The minister also highlighted the remarkable transformation in connectivity across the North Eastern Region.

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The Samagra Shiksha Nagaland under Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan organised an exclusive exposure trip for Science Students of Government Higher Secondary Schools to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati. With a total of 39 students along with four teacher guides, three students each from all districts were selected for the trip. The exposure trip took place from 14th to 17th of this month with an objective to broaden their horizons, spark curiosity and inspire them to explore the wonders of science. During the trip, the students also had the opportunity to visit the Central Library, Computer and Communication Centre (Supercomputer), of IIT Guwahati.

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