

**THE HEADLINES :-**

- **Centre approves National Critical Mineral Mission essential for promoting green technologies**
- **Uttar Pradesh's tableau 'Mahakumbh 2025' adjudged as Best, J&K Rifles wins best Marching Contingent award**
- **Nagaland to implement SMILE App across all Government schools, establishments from February 1**
- **Beating Retreat ceremony held at historic Vijay Chowk in New Delhi**

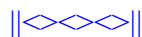


The Central government has approved the National Critical Mineral Mission with an outlay of more than 34 thousand crore rupees. The decision has been taken to build a resilient value chain for critical mineral resources essential for promoting green technologies. Briefing media in New Delhi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted the importance of critical minerals for the development of the economy. He said critical mineral technologies are vital for energy transition, agriculture, defence, electronics, telecommunications, transport, aerospace, nuclear and other sectors. He said the Mission has been approved with the aim of increasing the country's potential for exploration of critical minerals, acquiring critical mineral blocks and reducing dependence on import of minerals.

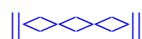
The government has also approved the price for ethanol procurement from sugarcane feedstock. The cabinet approved the price of 57.97 rupees per litre for C-heavy molasses, 60.73 rupees per litre for B-heavy molasses, and 65.61 rupees per litre for sugarcane juice, sugar, and sugar syrup.



Uttar Pradesh's tableau, based on the theme 'Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas', has won the best tableau award at the Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi. Meanwhile, Tripura's 'Eternal Reverence: The Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura - Kharchi Puja' themed tableau was adjudged 2nd, and Andhra Pradesh's tableau depicting 'Etikoppaka Bommalu - Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys' won the 3rd prize. Amongst the Central Ministries and Departments, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' 'Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh' won the best tableau award. Meanwhile, the best Marching Contingent award was won by the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Contingent among Services, while the Delhi Police Marching Contingent won the award among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces. The Central Public Works Department and 'Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam' Dance Group were conferred with the Special Prize: (75 years of the Constitution of India). The winners were chosen by three expert panels.



Nagaland will implement the SMILE App across all Government schools and establishments under the School Education Department from February 1. In a notification, Principal Director, Directorate of School Education, informed all teachers and staff to mark their attendance daily using the SMILE App kiosk at their respective schools and establishments. To facilitate smooth functioning, the department's Data and HR Cell at Kohima will monitor attendance data and manage contingent issues. A report:



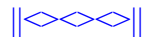
Six newly appointed government nominee members of the Kohima Municipal Council (KMC) were administered the Oath of Affirmation today. Addressing the event, Deputy Commissioner, Kumar Ramnikant, expressed optimism for the future of the Council saying, with contributions from the new members, the Council can now function in full flow. He urged all to work together for the welfare of the community. Sharing his vision for the newly

constituted team, KMC Chairman, Neikhozo Suokhrie, called all members to use their collective wisdom to overcome challenges and seize opportunities to serve the people effectively. Highlighting the responsibilities and challenges that come with the roles, Mr Suokhrie, however, affirmed readiness to face the road ahead with dedication and commitment.



As part of Republic Day Celebrations, the Beating Retreat ceremony was held the Vijay Chowk in New Delhi. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other Union Ministers were present on the occasion. The ceremony commenced with the iconic ‘Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja’ tune, followed by enthralling tunes such as Amar Bharati, Indradhanush, Jai Janam Bhumi, and Veer Siachen by the Pipes and Drums band.

This year in the Beating Retreat ceremony a total of 30 performances captivated the spectators with foot-tapping music of the bands from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces.



In commemoration of National Road Safety Month being celebrated in January, Niuland today held an Awareness Programme under the theme “Parwaah Kareng, Surakshit Rahenge”. Deputy Commissioner, Niuland, Sara S. Jamir, in her keynote address, emphasised on measures needed to avoid road accidents and encouraged everyone to abide by the traffic rules and regulations. The event dwelled on several relevant topics such as Good Samaritan, hit and run case, enforcement of traffic laws and rules under Motor Vehicle Act, Registration of vehicles, training on first aid treatment, among others. The programme was followed by free eye check-up and provision of free first-aid kits to 50 drivers by the District Road Safety Committee.



Meanwhile, District Transport Office, Zunheboto in collaboration with the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Aghunato also organised a one-day awareness programme on road safety today. ARTO Hukayi Awomi, emphasised on the importance of rules and regulations to prevent road accidents, and stressed on obeying road safety rules as well as the need of skilful and cautious driving to ensure safety of passengers, pedestrians and drivers.



President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the stampede accident that happened in Prayagraj MahaKumbh today, as extremely sad and expressed grief over the loss of lives of devotees. In a social media post, President Murmu expressed condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives. She prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured devotees. Mr Modi also expressed condolences to the devotees who lost their loved ones in the accident and wished speedy recovery to the injured. In a social media post, he said, the local administration is engaged in helping the victims in every possible way. The Prime Minister said he is constantly in touch with the state government.

