

Evening News Script

1920 hrs

20th January 2025

:::THE HEADLINES:::

1. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio reviews ongoing works at Konyak Heritage Village

2. Nagaland Congress flags concerns over reimposition of Protected Area Regime in state

3. Top National People's Party leaders join Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee

4. And, Tenyimi Union Nagaland urges review of amended Free Movement Regime along Myanmar border



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today inspected ongoing works at the Konyak Heritage Village. Mr Rio said the village is aimed at showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Konyaks. He exuded hope of seeing the place become a hub for community unity, cultural pride, and a place where bonds can be strengthened. Noting that unity and cooperation are essential for development in any society, Mr Rio thanked the administration, Civil Societies, Landowners and workers, and called for continued support for the works. The Chief Minister informed that all constructions will be completed within two months with inauguration expected in the first week of April.



The Congress Party in Nagaland has raised serious concerns regarding the Protected Area Regime (PAR) reimposed by the Indian government in December last year. Working President of the Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC), Khriedi Theunuo voiced the party's strong opposition to the policy, describing it as a move that could isolate Nagaland from the rest of the country and hinder its development. The leader highlighted that in recent years, Nagaland has seen a growth in tourists, particularly during the Hornbill Festival, which has helped to improve the state's image and economic growth.

The NPCC leader also assured the people of Nagaland that the Congress Party will not let this matter be left unattended and exuded hope the government of India will consider the case positively.



In another significant development for the Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC), a total of 15 leaders from National People's Party (NPP) have joined the Congress fold today in the presence of NPCC President and Lok Sabha MP Supongmeren Jamir and NPCC Working President Khriedi Theunuo at Congress Bhavan, Kohima. The NPP leaders who have joined include NPP State Vice President Bitong Sangtam, General Secretary Organisation L. Hiketo Shohe, Mahila State Executive member Illina Shohe, Secretary Bipin Kumar and Akiti Chishi, besides other leaders from the National People's Youth Front. Lok Sabha MP Mr Jamir asserted that the joining of the young leaders is an encouragement for the Congress party and will also strengthen the party central leadership.

Leaders who joined the Congress fold expressed their discontent on the functioning of NPP organization and stated that there is lack of electoral prospects, and differences in ideas and ideologies. Former NPP Vice President Bitong Sangtam said they have joined Congress because they

can see something for the future. Former General Secretary Organisation NPP, L. Hiketo Shohe viewed that it is better to be in a good opposition than to be in a coalition government and speak nothing for themselves and for the people in general.



The Tenyimi Union Nagaland (TUN) has expressed deep concerns over the recently amended Free Movement Regime (FMR) guidelines along the Indo-Myanmar border, urging the Government of India to reconsider the restrictive policy. Under the revised guidelines, cross-border travel has been limited to a 10 kilometer radius, validity of border passes cut to seven days, and multilayered verification process has been introduced. The TUN claimed, these changes disrupt the social, cultural, and economic practices of Naga people whose ancestral lands span across the international boundary. It also said multiple layers of verification involving the Assam Rifles, state police, and health officials place significant barriers to access essential services. The development adds to earlier concerns raised by the TUN regarding the proposed border fencing. In a formal appeal, the TUN called for restoration of the broader 40 kilometer FMR, and urged the government to engage in meaningful dialogue with Naga stakeholders to ensure policies that uphold inclusivity, equity, and mutual respect.



The Kohima Press Club (KPC) observed its 24th Foundation Day today. Gracing the event as Special Guest, Veteran journalist and Chairman, Sovima Village Council, Sebastian Zumvü recalled the nascent days of media in Nagaland, and difficulties borne by journalists then. He remarked on the transformation in the media scenario over the years, highlighting the rise of digital content creators. In the age of burgeoning youtubers acting as first information providers, Mr Zumvü requested the KPC to initiate and collaborate with the Department of Information and Public Relations, to frame certain guidelines to regulate the ethical functioning of youtubers.

In her Presidential speech, Alice Yhoshü reminded of the Club's motto "To Serve", and called upon all members to rededicated themselves to the profession to serve the society. Emphasizing on journalists to be catalysts of truth, justice and development, she urged them to maintain credibility in their profession even in the face of challenges. Ms Yhoshü also reminded that the Club will be celebrating its Silver



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said, the youth are the asset of the country, who will contribute to nation-building and prosperity. Addressing the NCC Republic Day Camp 2025 in Delhi, Mr Singh said that India's culture is bound together by the unity of its 140 crore people, and the development of each individual reflects the development of the society. The Minister also urged the people to prioritise discipline, unity and national integrity in their lives as these are foundations of a nation on the path of development.



Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States today. The presidential oath will be administered by Chief Justice John Roberts at the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC. Ahead of the ceremony, 78-year-old Trump addressed a victory rally in Washington, DC, last night. Speaking to a packed arena, Mr Trump promised to act with historic speed to address every crisis facing the United States. JD Vance will also take the oath as Vice President.

