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Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, visited Shamator District in Nagaland to review the progress of various central government-funded developmental projects aimed at accelerating the district's growth. The Minister reviewed various projects pertaining to the PWD Department, Rural Development and the status of physical infrastructure including road connectivity. Mr. Varma also engaged with officials at the Community Health Centre and distributed Ayushman Health Cards to eligible beneficiaries. He interacted with students at the Government Higher Secondary School in Shamator, as well as with the three tribal communities. The Minister emphasized that Shamator, as a newly formed district, is a "District of Aspirations" and urged all communities to take full advantage of the central government's inclusive policies. He further highlighted the efforts made under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio to advance Nagaland's socio-economic development. Mr. Varma mentioned that the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has designed policies to ensure the convergence of central and state government schemes for the accelerated development of the Northeast. He further reassured that the Union Government is committed to the development of Nagaland, prioritizing the needs of its people through inclusive initiatives. The Minister was on a two visit to the district from 25th to 26th of this month.

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Nagaland Chief Secretary and Chairman of the Project Steering Committee for NECTAR, Dr. J. Alam, yesterday described the NECTAR project as a significant milestone for the state, calling it a watershed moment. Speaking at a one-day Training and Orientation on Environmental and Social Standards for contractors of the 16 Lighthouse School Complexes to be set up in 16 district of Nagaland, Dr. Alam emphasized the high stakes involved, particularly given the status of school education in Nagaland and the expectations surrounding the project. He highlighted that the World Bank-supported project's pioneering initiatives would not only serve as a model for Nagaland but also set a precedent for the rest of the country. Dr. Alam assured that the contractors were selected based on merit

and emphasized the transparency with which the project is being implemented. He urged contractors to maintain the highest standards throughout the construction process. Encouraging the Project Site Engineers, Dr. Alam stressed the importance of efficiency in supervision and resource management.

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The three-day Entrepreneurship Development Program commenced yesterday at the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Kohima. Organized by Swavalamban Connect Kendras (SCK) in collaboration with the District Administration and various line departments, the program aims to equip 20 aspiring entrepreneurs with the essential knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the entrepreneurial world and contribute to the region's economic growth. The first day of the session focused on critical financial aspects such as working capital management, understanding CIBIL scores, maintaining loan accounts, cash credit loans, term loans, and various banking services schemes tailored for entrepreneurs and sharing of success story among others. The Entrepreneurship Development Program feature more interactive sessions and expert insights aimed at nurturing and empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs in Kohima district.

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The applications forms for Two-Wheeler Taxi Permits for eligible candidates from Dimapur, Chümoukedima, and Niuland opened today. The Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Dimapur announced that a total of 200 permits will be allocated- 100 for Dimapur, 75 for Chümoukedima, and 25 for Niuland. Applicants must be indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland, aged 20-40 years, and permanent residents with a valid residence certificate from their respective administrative office. More from our correspondent -

Correspondent Voice cast: candidate applying for the permit should submit the required documents such Aadhaar card, Indigenous Inhabitant Certificate, Schedule Tribe Certificate, valid driving license, and unemployment card. Candidates who previously applied must reapply using the new format, while incomplete applications will be rejected. The deadline for submission of Applications form is 11th of March. Shortlisted candidates will undergo a two-wheeler riding test and interview, with further details to be provided later.

