8<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 Evening News 1920 hrs

## **HEADLINES**

- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio strengthens Indo-Japan ties during Tokyo visit
- Nagaland Government urges five Tribes Committee to call off planned protest
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari says government taking initiatives to make national highways more eco-friendly
- Northeast districts make stride in Sustainable Development Goals



Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has reaffirmed the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between India and Japan, emphasizing shared democratic values, peace, and cooperation. The Chief Minister, who is leading a high-level delegation of the state government to Japan, held a series of engagements in Tokyo and concluded several agreements. These include, a Memorandum of Understanding with Kochi Prefecture to enhance employment opportunities for Naga youth in Japan, capacity building, and agri-technology transfer; an MoU between IDAN and Japan's ARMS Incorporation to facilitate long-term collaboration and engagement with local stakeholders in Nagaland; and Meeting with AXON and Eclat Animal on potential collaboration in the anime and creative industry. Discussions were also held with Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Japan-India Friendship Association on youth exchanges, while Nomura Securities expressed interest in working in Nagaland. Additional Letters of Intent were exchanged across sectors such as sports, education, peace-building, and setting up an engineering college. Mr Rio expressed gratitude to the Indian Embassy in Tokyo, led by Ambassador Sibi George, and all Japanese stakeholders for their commitment towards Nagaland. The Chief Minister reiterated the State Government's full support and eagerness to build enduring partnerships across sectors with Japan.



The Nagaland Government has appealed to the five Tribes Committee on Review of Reservation Policy to call off its planned sit-in protest at the Civil Secretariat scheduled for July 9. In a statement from the Chief Secretary Office, the state government clarified that concerns raised by the committee had already been discussed during a meeting on June 3, wherein the government and tribal representatives agreed upon referring the matter to the State Cabinet. Following this, the Cabinet on June 12 approved, in principle, to set up a Commission to review the reservation policy in government employment. The Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department has also actively been pursuing follow-up actions as directed. The state government reiterated its commitment to resolving the issue through proper institutional processes.

Government is taking several steps to reduce carbon emissions and make the National Highways more eco-friendly in the country. Over 4.78 crore trees have been planted and 70 thousand trees transplanted along National Highways so far across the country. Addressing a gathering during the plantation drive under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0, Mr Gadkari said that Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam is a dutiful initiative towards Mother Earth, and it is also a cultural and moral responsibility of the citizens.

He highlighted that the Transport Department bears greater responsibility towards ecology and the environment, as 40 percent of the pollution in the country can be directly attributed to the transport sector. Mr. Gadkari also advocated for the use of bamboo, describing it as a multipurpose which can be used to manufacture a variety of products.

The Department of Technical Education has released the NEET-UG 2025 Merit List for MBBS, BDS, and Allied courses for Nagaland. The list is available on the department's website <a href="www.dte.nagaland.gov.in">www.dte.nagaland.gov.in</a> and on the Notice Board at the Directorate in Kohima. Candidates are advised to verify their details carefully, and report any discrepancies to the department by 10th of July. No corrections will be accepted after the deadline. The department added that the selection and nomination for state-reserved seats will be announced in due course.

Mizoram, Tripura, and Nagaland districts have emerged top performers in the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index Report 2023-24 released by NITI Aayog yesterday. Overall, 85 percent of the region's districts are in the top category compared to 62 percent in 2021. Hnahthial in Mizoram topped as the best performing district with a score of 81.43, while Longding in Arunachal Pradesh recorded the lowest score at 58.71.

The index covered 131 districts of the eight north-eastern states and measured their performance across 15 SDGs ranging across poverty, hunger, health, quality of education, gender equality, and economic growth, among others.

Dimapur continues to reel under floods as many low lying areas bordering Assam were submerged after a heavy downpour last night. Many areas in Lengrijan, Bor Lengri, Riverbelt colony were flooded, and SDRF personnel were deployed to rescue stranded residents. Many areas within Dimapur town also remain submerged. Advisor, Labour, Employment & Skill Development, and Chairman, Dimapur District Planning and Development Board, Moatoshi Longkumer accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Tinojongshi Chang and others visited the flood affected areas this afternoon. The Advisor said persistent flooding in Dimapur is a man-made disaster, arising from a lack of public civic responsibility, and urged for a definitive solution to resolve the flooding.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has said that the Northeast stands at the heart of Bharat's development agenda. Speaking at a press conference in Guwahati yesterday, Mr Sonowal said, announced multiple initiatives by the Union government to boost the waterways and maritime sector in the northeastern region. He also announced plans to develop 85 community jetties across the Northeast.

For Nagaland, Mizoram, and Tripura, efforts are on to expand Inland Water Transport infrastructure and promote water-based tourism.

Information and Broadcasting Ministry, through its WaveX Startup Accelerator Platform has launched the Kalaa Setu – Real-Time Language Tech for Bharat' Challenge. This nationwide initiative invites India's leading AI startups to develop indigenous, scalable solutions for the automated generation of audio, video, and graphic content from textual inputs, with support for multiple Indian languages. Startups can apply for the challenge through the WAVEX portal at www.wavex[dot]wavesbazaar[dot]com till 30th of this month. Startups can also submit their application for Bhasha Setu real-time language translation challenge till 22nd of this month.

