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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Prime Minister says PM Jan Dhan Yojana transformed lives across India from financial exclusion to empowerment
- Minister Metsubo Jamir urges Naga youth to balance identity and global outlook
- Chief Secretary Sentianger Imchen describes Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan as game-changer for tribal empowerment
- Nagaland government signs MoU with SBI to integrate SBlePay with e-GRAS

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The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has completed 11 years today. It is one of the biggest financial inclusion initiatives in the world which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August 2014. In a social media post while sharing the glimpses of the Yojana, Prime Minister Modi today highlighted how the scheme has transformed lives across India from financial exclusion to empowerment. He underlined that when the last mile is financially connected, the entire nation moves forward together which has been achieved by PM Jan Dhan Yojana. Mr Modi also said the scheme has enhanced dignity and given people the power to script their own destiny.

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Minister for Rural Development and SIRD, Metsubo Jamir, today urged the Naga youth to stay rooted in their cultural identity while embracing global education. Speaking at the 31st Naga Students' Federation General Conference in Tseminyu, he said tradition and modern learning are complementary, and not opposing forces, that empower individuals to face an increasingly complex world. Calling for the urgent need for preserving the Naga identity, he described it as the foundation of emotional well-being and community belonging.

Mr Jamir noted that a well-defined identity enables individuals to make consistent choices navigate challenges with resilience and values. Expressing delight over the revival of indigenous practices and mother tongues in recent years, he urged youth to engage in traditional practices and support community initiatives. He further remarked that education today must prepare people to adapt and respond meaningfully.

The Minister asserted that Nagas have much to contribute the world through values of community, tradition, and resilience. Mr Jamir further highlighted the vital role of student organisations such as the NSF in shaping socially responsible citizens.

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Nagaland today held the State-Level Orientation Programme of the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan at the Civil Secretariat in Kohima. Chairing the event, Chief Secretary Sentianger Imchen, described the Abhiyan as a game-changing initiative to empower tribal communities through grassroots leadership and responsive governance. He emphasized that the Abhiyan focuses on building leadership at the rural level while also providing essential assets and services. He added that the programme had the potential to transform tribal communities by promoting inclusive

and sustainable development. Launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan, aims to build over two million change leaders across one lakh tribal villages nationwide. Presenting the programme overview, Secretary of Tribal Affairs, Angelina Tajen, said the initiative will cover 608 villages in Nagaland through convergence of 15 departments including rural development, health, and education. She added that the Tribal Affairs Department will serve as the nodal agency at the state level, while Deputy Commissioners will lead implementation at the district level. Deputy Commissioners and officials from various departments also joined the programme virtually.

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The Government of Nagaland has signed an Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with the State Bank of India to integrate the SBlePay Payment Gateway with the state's Electronic Government Receipt Accounting System, or e-GRAS. The MoU was signed today through the Finance Department.

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Rajya Sabha MP S. Phangnon Konyak and Lok Sabha MP S. Supongmeren Jamir jointly chaired a meeting of the BSNL Telecom Advisory Committee for Nagaland in Dimapur today. According to a press statement by the NPCC, during the meeting, Ms Konyak highlighted BSNL's role continued contribution in providing connectivity even to government offices. She emphasized that quality telecom services must extend beyond urban areas to reach villages with equal focus and fairness. Mr Jamir called for regular reviews of BSNL's infrastructure and connectivity, urging officials to ensure balanced and equitable network coverage across all regions of Nagaland. Both MPs reaffirmed BSNL's importance in delivering reliable and affordable telecom services, which is essential for Nagaland's development and digital inclusion.

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In celebration of the 11th Inception Day of National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Regional Office Kohima and Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) Dimapur conducted a free eye check-up camp at Kukidolong in Chumukedima today. Speaking to media, PMU Project Director, Manish Kumar, said the camp was expected to benefit around 250 patients.

The camp was organised primarily for NHIDCL workers and residents of neighbouring villages. Free eye glasses and eye drops were distributed to the patients. Medical examinations were conducted by Dr. Asier Rutsa of Octo Eyeland, Kohima, and Dr. Keneivieu Rupreo of North Vision Eye Clinic, Kohima.

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And, The first meeting of the Kohima District Level Advisory Committee on Safe Food and Healthy Diets was held today. Chairing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Henok Buchem emphasized the need for continuous awareness of consumers rights and food safety. He proposed setting up a task force with experts, food operators, and consumer groups. Inspections of hotel kitchens, restaurant hygiene, and compliance with food safety standards were identified as priority areas. Food Safety Officer Kezhangulie Yimchunger said, so far, 160 food business licenses have been issued online, with regular inspections carried out. Members agreed on the need for stronger inspections, stakeholder involvement, and consumer education to ensure safer food and healthier diets.

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