

THE HEADLINES:

- Nation gears up to celebrate 79th Independence Day
- Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Nagaland, launches statewide Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra bike rally
- Nagaland marks fifth anniversary of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan with statewide events
- In Dr. T. Ao Trophy, Mon sails past Mokokchung to book final berth



The nation is gearing up to celebrate the country's 79th Independence Day on 15th August with full enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. In the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations, people across the country are actively participating in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hoisted the national flag and urged the people to participate in the campaign with full enthusiasm and patriotism.



In a spirited celebration of patriotism, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Nagaland, launched a statewide Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra bike rally today. The rally in Dimapur was formally flagged off by former MLA H. Khehovi. Addressing the gathering, Mr Khehovi described the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative as the very soul of the nation, and urged riders to promote unity, courage, and national pride.

Over 300 bikers participated in the Dimapur leg of the rally, including two female riders who were specially acknowledged for their active involvement in the male-dominated ride. The route covered the Dimapur–Chümoukedima stretch, with riders proudly waving the Tricolour and drawing cheers from onlookers. In Wokha, the district BJYM unit organized the bike rally at Wokha town. Around 20 bikers, each proudly displaying the national flag, rode through the town, before culminating at the Public Ground Wokha, where they were received by the Wokha Town Councillor. Similar bike rallies were organised across other districts.



Marking the fifth anniversary of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, NMBA, Nagaland today joined the national observances with statewide events aimed at strengthening the fight against substance abuse. Led by the state-level NMBA under the Social Welfare Department, pledge ceremonies and awareness drives were held across districts. In Kohima, the Directorate of Information and Public Relations held a pledge ceremony, reaffirming the department's commitment to a drug-free society. An awareness programme in Chümoukedima highlighted that 43 percent of tobacco users in Nagaland are from middle school and 44 percent are introduced to substances through friends. The event included awareness on menstrual hygiene and distributed feminine hygiene kits. In Dimapur, an awareness programme was conducted at GHSS Lengrijan with a call to take the NMBA online pledge. Niuland and Mon also held painting competitions among students to mark the occasion. Similar pledge ceremonies were held across other districts of the state.



Nagaland Chief Secretary Sentianger Imchen today chaired a meeting with all line departments at the Civil Secretariat in Kohima to review preparations of the upcoming Hornbill Festival. Emphasizing early planning, Mr Imchen called for setting up of subcommittees to ensure effective coordination and directed the departments to present concrete action plans at the next meeting on August 25. The meeting also discussed in detail, key issues including roads, sanitation, transport, electricity and logistics arrangements.



Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Virendra Kumar has said that substance use disorder is adversely affecting the social fabric of the country. He said it is a social menace and should be eradicated from the country. Speaking on the 5th anniversary of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan in New Delhi today, the Minister added that Dependence on drug not only affects the individual's health but also disrupts their families and the whole society.



In response to rising concerns over eyesight issues among students, Libemo Memorial School, in collaboration with Vision Eye Care Wokha, conducted a workshop on "Visual Impairment and Visual Demands in School Children" today. Addressing the event, EAC Probation officer Dr. Chuchong Noklang highlighted the growing prevalence of myopia in children due to screen exposure and poor reading habits. Dr. Noklang stressed the importance of early detection and regular screenings to prevent long-term vision problems. EAC

Probation officer Imtiyenla Chang noted changing lifestyles and urged families and schools, especially in rural areas, to prioritise eye care awareness amid limited access to specialists. The workshop called for collective responsibility in protecting children's vision for improved learning and quality of life.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will share his thoughts with the people of the country and abroad in the Mann Ki Baat programme on Akashvani on 31st August. It will be the 125th episode of the monthly radio programme.



On to sports... Mon stormed into the finals of the Dr. T. Ao Trophy with a stunning 3-nil win over Mokokchung in a high-energy semifinal. Laiwang opened the scoring in the 41st minute, with Arap doubling the lead four minutes into the first-half stoppage time. A late strike by Amun in the 81st minute sealed the win for the crowd favourites. Despite nearly equal possession, Mon dominated the attack with 25 attempts on goal to Mokokchung's 13. Meanwhile, the excitement continues as hosts Kohima take on Niuland in the second semifinal, battling for a chance to join Mon in the final.



Three cricketers from Nagaland have been selected as part of the North East Zone squad in the upcoming Duleep Trophy 2025-26. Veteran all-rounder Jonathan Rongsen will lead the 15-member squad as captain, while Sedezhalie Rupreo and Hem Bahadur Chetri also earned their debut spots, marking a strong presence from the state in the prestigious BCCI tournament. The team was announced by the North East Zonal Selection Committee after a meeting in Guwahati, and includes players from six states Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim. The Duleep Trophy will be held in Bengaluru from August 28. Ahead of the tournament, Nagaland Cricket Association will host a week-long preparatory camp in Dimapur.



In weather, India Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rainfall at many places across Northeast accompanied with thunderstorm and lightning till the end of the week. The weather body said heavy rainfall are likely to continue in isolated areas over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura till the 17th of August.

