

THE HEADLINES:

- **Advisor Imchen raises concerns over funding, policy issues in Soil and Water Conservation Department**
- **India's largest School Hackathon 'Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025' begins today; Nagaland students join innovation drive**
- **Nagaland gets Command-and-Control Centre for soil health of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**
- **NSDMA launches weather portal to strengthen disaster preparedness**



Nagaland's Advisor for Soil and Water Conservation, and Information and Public Relations, Imkong L. Imchen, today raised concerns over persistent issues in the Department of Soil and Water Conservation, particularly inadequate state funding. Addressing a press conference in Kohima, Mr Imchen said despite having over 100 well-qualified officers across the state, the department received funding far below what is required, and less than other departments during the past three years.

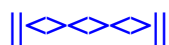
The Advisor also highlighted the soil conservation training institute in Zubza, noting that it is the only one in India offering a subject-specific diploma. However, he criticized a change in service rules introduced by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, which now mandates in-service training instead of the previous pre-service system. This forces the government to pay salaries all trainees regardless of performance, he said, calling it wasteful. Mr Imchen further raised concerns over the Rules of Executive Business. He said, under these rules, Natural Resource Management should fall under his Department, but in practice, it is controlled by the Agriculture Department.

Despite these challenges, Mr Imchen noted that a 35 crore rupees project for the rejuvenation of barren and toxic coal-mined areas was approved last year after his intervention with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The project is now under implementation.

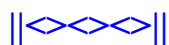


Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today said that India can become a developed nation only through the path of a production-driven economy. Inaugurating Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, Mr. Pradhan said that the 21st century is a knowledge-based century, and the country is going to lead this knowledge-driven world and economy. He highlighted that to become a developed nation, India needs a clear vision, advanced technology, and IT-driven solutions and expressed confidence that students will create these in the years to come.

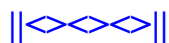
Organized by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog, the nationwide initiative invites schools and teachers to empower students from classes 6 to 12 to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills.



In Nagaland, students across districts participated in the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025 today, showcasing innovative ideas and solutions aimed at building a self-reliant India. The event encouraged creativity and problem-solving among students. Officials, led by State Mission Director of Samagra Shiksha, Jamithung Lotha, along with District and Block Education Officers, visited various PM SHRI Schools across the state. They interacted with students and urged them to actively contribute to the journey towards a Viksit Bharat.



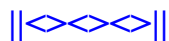
Nagaland today received a Command-and-Control Centre under the Soil Health and Fertility component of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana at the Directorate of Soil and Water Conservation in Kohima. The Centre was commissioned at an event today by Advisor for Soil and Water Conservation, Imkong L. Imchen. It is a centralized digital hub to strengthen data-driven decision-making, real-time monitoring, dissemination and effective implementation of various activities. The centre is equipped with a dedicated server system for centralized data storage and management, integrated GIS software, video conferencing and communication facilities to improve coordination among all stakeholders. During the event, the Advisor also virtual inaugurated bio-fertilizer production units at Rotomi and Seyochung.



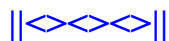
Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal today said that PM Gatishakti has acted as a bridge between macro planning and micro implementation. Addressing the 4th anniversary of the PM Gatishakti National Master Plan in

New Delhi, the Minister said, the initiative transcends every sector of government and governance. He added that PM Gatishakti embodies Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of integrated planning and area-based development.

During the event, the Minister also launched other initiatives under PM Gatishakti including PM Gatishakti public platform, PM Gatishakti Offshore, an NMP Dashboard and LEAPS 2025.



The Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) today launched its official weather monitoring portal to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The portal - nsdmaweather.com - provides real-time weather updates, early warning alerts, and climate insights. Developed under the NSDMA's Nagaland Centre for Disaster Management and Atmospheric Research, the portal will support disaster preparedness and risk reduction across key sectors, including agriculture, urban planning, and infrastructure. Integrating data from automatic weather stations, satellite imagery, and GIS-based systems, the portal will help deliver accurate, location-specific information to government agencies, first responders, and the public, thereby strengthening early warning systems and building a more climate-resilient Nagaland. The portal was launched by Additional Secretary NSDMA, Sentianger Aier.



Kohima Deputy Commissioner (DC) B. Henok Buchem, led an inspection of the Jotsoma By-Pass Road today. This follows recent landslides at Liezocha and Kezanu that rendered parts of National Highway-29 impassable, making the by-pass a critical alternative route. The DC was accompanied by officials from PWD (R&B), Traffic Police, NSDMA, and representatives from the Jotsoma Village Council and Jotsoma Youth Organisation. He thanked all stakeholders for their cooperation and emphasized the urgency of repairs. Mr Buchem said, restoration will be carried out directly by the concerned department with the highest standards of quality. He added that it will funded through the Disaster Management Authority, with no provision for land compensation. Additional SP (Traffic) Puzoto Khatso acknowledged enforcement gaps and assured stricter regulation of traffic. Meanwhile, reaffirming continued support, the Village Council and Youth Organisation urged for direct departmental execution to ensure better quality of road.

