

THE HEADLINES:

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman begins three-day visit to Nagaland**
- **First conference of Northeast Anti-Narcotics Task Forces begins in Nagaland**
- **Narcotics Control Bureau DG, Anurag Garg, calls for strong inter-agency coordination to combat drug crisis in Northeast**
- **Nagaland joins United Nations' Disaster Risk Reduction initiative**



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, arrived in Nagaland today on a three-day visit to the state. On her arrival at Dimapur Airport, she was received by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang, and other leaders.

During the visit, the Union Minister acknowledged the resource limitations faced by Nagaland, and emphasized her commitment to securing substantial CSR contributions for Nagaland. Highlighting the importance of modern diagnostic tools in addressing today's medical challenges and ensuring precision in diagnosis and treatment, the Union Minister expressed her gratitude to the State Bank of India for their meaningful contribution. Tomorrow, Ms Sitharaman will inaugurate the Government Industrial Training Institute and other projects in Kiphire, and later launch SAMARTH (Students Advancing Mindsets in AI, Robotics Technology and Digital Hardware) at NIELIT in Kohima.



The first Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Force of the eight North Eastern States, including West Bengal, commenced at the Nagaland Police Complex Chümoukedima today. The two-day conference is being hosted by Nagaland Police in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), under the national 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' mission, focusing on supply reduction, enforcement, rehabilitation, and de-addiction. In his address, Director General of Police, Nagaland, Rupin Sharma, highlighted the North East as a critical

front in India's battle against drugs, and outlined the unique challenges faced by the states.

Mr Sharma revealed that Nagaland has an estimated 1.2 lakh users of opiates like heroin, locally known as 'shaanflower.' He said, while the region faces an estimated drug demand over 1 lakh kilograms annually, law enforcement seizes only about 5,000 kilograms per year. To tackle the crisis, the DGP proposed a strategy based on the three pillars of coordination, enforcement, and accountability, across states and agencies. He also called for policy level reforms, including amendments to the NDPS Act 1985, and the creation of a dedicated Northeast Anti-Drug Trafficking Agency that would serve as the regional nodal body to collect and disseminate real-time intelligence. Mr Sharma further suggested strengthening forensic infrastructure and creating a national drug tip-off reward system to improve enforcement efforts.



Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau, Anurag Garg, has underscored the importance of strong coordination among central and state enforcement, intelligence and security agencies, to combat the growing drug crisis. Addressing the Northeast Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF) in Chümoukedima today, he emphasized the pivotal role of ANTFs as the first line of defense against drug trafficking and abuse in the states. Mr Garg pointed to the strategic location of the North East as a major gateway for narcotics entering into India from Myanmar, and stressed that the region requires focused attention and resources to tackle the inflow of drugs. He warned that drug trafficking fuels organized crime and has severe public health and safety consequences. The Conference is being attended by officials from the Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and police departments from all the eight North-Eastern states, and West Bengal.



The Department of Higher Education has confirmed that full and final payment of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students has been made to all beneficiaries for the Academic Year 2024-25. In a statement today, the department said, out of the total 41,793 beneficiaries, it had disbursed a one-time full scholarship payment in June to 22,412 beneficiaries in the first phase, amounting to 3,071.49 lakh rupees. Following further sanction from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs last month and state's share, the Department disbursed the Second Phase final payment on 11th November to the remaining 19,381 beneficiaries. The Department has urged any second-phase beneficiaries

who have not yet received their scholarships to ensure that their Aadhaar is linked to their bank accounts to facilitate Direct Benefit Transfer payments. A complete list of beneficiaries is available on the Directorate's website at highereducation.nagaland.gov.in.



In a significant step to strengthen urban resilience, Nagaland has joined the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction flagship programme, Making Cities Resilient 2030, a global partnership aimed at reducing disaster risks and building safer cities. With this, Nagaland becomes part of a global network of over 1,300 cities worldwide working to advance disaster risk reduction.



Deputy Commissioner of Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, has issued an order prohibiting the encroachment of public spaces, including footpaths, across the district, with immediate effect. The order noted that street vendors, hawkers, and unauthorized structures have been obstructing pedestrian and vehicular movement, posing risks to road safety and potentially leading to accidents or stampedes. The District Administration has warned of strict action against violator.



In celebration of Children's Day tomorrow, the 14th of November, Akashvani Kohima is broadcasting a special live programme featuring performances by school children. The programme is scheduled from 8:40 AM to 9:30 AM on FM Tragopan, and will include a variety of music and recitation items showcasing the talent of young performers.



The Government has refuted a message being circulated on social media which claimed that the Centre has withdrawn post-retirement benefits like DA hikes and Pay Commission revisions for retired employees under the Finance Act 2025. The Fact Check Unit of the Press Information Bureau informed that the claim is fake. It further added that no such changes have been announced by the government for the retired employees. The government has urged people not to fall for such news and to verify information before trusting and sharing.

