

THE HEADLINES:

- **Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reinforces Centre's commitment to development of the Northeast; launches various initiatives in Nagaland**
- **In Bihar Assembly Elections, NDA heading towards massive victory**
- **Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphu Rio congratulates NDA on securing people's mandate in Bihar Elections**
- **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan says digital infrastructure driving technology-driven economy**



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today carried out a series of engagements on the second day of her visit to Nagaland, aimed at empowering local communities and boosting development. In Kiphire, Ms Sitharaman inaugurated the new Industrial Training Institute, and handed over 9 lakh rupees as part of SBI's CSR initiative to enhance skill development. Later, at a Credit Outreach Programme, she virtually inaugurated nine bank branches across the Northeast, and handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries of various Central Government Schemes. At the event, loans totaling 28.02 crore rupees were disbursed to 350 beneficiaries. Addressing the event, the Union Minister highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to develop the Northeast, stressing its importance in India's growth trajectory.

Underscoring the progress of financial inclusion programs, Ms Sitharaman pointed to the reduction of unbanked villages in Nagaland from 1,143 in 2019 to just 15 today. She highlighted the growing economic empowerment in the region, particularly among women, through welfare and financial schemes. She also commended the region's rich cultural heritage and preservation of traditions.

Earlier, the Minister flagged off vehicles sanctioned under Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative, along with a mobile ATM van of Nagaland Rural Bank. She also visited the Anganwadi Centre in Kiphire and contributed 2 lakh rupees for its upgradation. Meanwhile, Ms Sitharaman also interacted with Lakhpati Didis and encouraged them to inspire other women across the country. Meanwhile, in Kohima, the Finance Minister launched SAMARTH

(Students Advancing Mindsets in AI, Robotics Technology and Digital Hardware) portal at NIELIT this evening.



The counting of votes is underway for all 243 assembly seats in Bihar amid tight security. Trends available so far indicate that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is heading towards a landslide victory in the state assembly polls. The NDA has won 109 seats and leading in 93. RJD-led Mahagathbandhan is trailing far behind, having won 15 seats and leading in 20. Others have won five seats and leading in one. Among the winners are BJP candidate and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary. Mahagathbandhan's Chief Ministerial candidate Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of RJD, who was initially trailing, made a turn around and has been declared elected from Raghapur seat.



Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has congratulated the NDA on securing the mandate of the people in the Bihar Elections. In a social media post, Mr Rio said, the outcome reflects the democratic will of the electorate and their confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar.



Nagaland's Icaisuile has been recognized for her exceptional contribution to the fisheries sector at the World Fisheries India 2025 held in Hyderabad recently. During the Fish Farmer's Conclave held as part of the event, Ms Icaisuile was felicitated as a Progressive Fish Farmer by the National Fisheries Development Board, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. Hailing from Peren district, Ms Icaisuile was honoured for her efforts in driving community growth through fish farming.



Four individuals have been arrested in Wokha, in connection with the alleged sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl. Superintendent of Police Wokha, T. Relo Aye said, the arrests follow a written complaint received on November 10, regarding the incident that occurred on November 4. The accused have been identified Chumlanthung Y Humtsoe, Zurenthung R Odyuo, Zuchanbemo Felix, and Khyothungo Yanthan. The case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. During the investigation, another individual, Myinthungo Humtsoe, was

identified as an accomplice but is currently absconding. The victim is under the care of the Child Welfare Committee, and police investigation is ongoing.



Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan has said India is rapidly emerging as a prosperous nation. Speaking at the inauguration of the 30th CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam, he noted that India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy and is growing as a major startup hub. The Vice President said digital infrastructure and e-governance are delivering faster services and helping build a technology-driven economy.

Addressing the gathering, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India is democratising technology and strengthening free trade through global agreements.



As India celebrates 150 years of Vande Mataram, the nation echoes with pride and nostalgia. The song that once stirred freedom now unites hearts again, reminding us that Vande Mataram is not just a melody but the nation's enduring spirit. Today our correspondent brings a report on year long celebrations of the iconic song.



The 113 Infantry Battalion (TA) Rajput, Dimapur, will hold a Territorial Army recruitment rally tomorrow for the positions of Soldier (General Duty), Clerk, and Tradesmen. The rally will begin at 4:30 AM at Bhagat Stadium, Rangapahar, Dimapur. Candidates aged 18 to 42 are eligible. The physical fitness test includes a 1600-meter run in under 5 minutes 45 seconds, and 6 pull-ups. The civil-military team has encouraged eligible youth from Nagaland to participate in the recruitment rally.



And, in weather, Northeast region of India is expected to experience shallow to moderate fog conditions during the next five days. In Nagaland, dry weather is likely across all states during the period.

