

THE HEADLINES:

- 1. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio inaugurates upgraded Police Officers' Mess; Calls for renewed vigour**
- 2. Major wildfire breaks out in Western Dzukou Valley; SAYO suspends all trekking**
- 3. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates development projects in Senapati district**
- 4. Union Cabinet approves budget for Census 2027**



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today inaugurated the upgraded Police Officers' Mess at New Police Reserve, Phesama. The project, costing over seven crore rupees, was funded under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2023–24 and 2024–25. During the programme, the Chief Minister handed over 39 Pension Payment Orders to retired police personnel, and distributed 10 lakh rupees Group Term Life Insurance benefits to the families of police personnel who died in harness under the Police Salary Package scheme. He also launched the Nagaland Police Mess Reservation App. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said, as the previous Officers' Mess built in 1981 had deteriorated over time, and the Government took a timely decision to dismantle it and construct a new three-storied RCC Officers' Mess building, reflecting its commitment to providing dignified and modern accommodation for police officers. The Chief Minister encouraged officers to make meaningful use of the new facility to enhance efficiency, camaraderie, and overall well-being. Mr Rio urged police officers to continue their journey of service with renewed vigour, discipline, and determination.

The Chief Minister further called on everyone to move forward together with unity, integrity, and unwavering dedication.



Director General of Police Rupin Sharma today said, the upgraded Police Officers' Mess at New Police Reserve, Phesama will ease accommodation shortages and strengthen camaraderie among officers.

The DGP highlighted that prepaid power meters have been installed in all suites and requested advance monthly release of RRT funds for similar installations across government offices. On pension reforms, he said the department has settled 91 percent of nearly 500 pending pension cases within six months following an overhaul of outdated procedures and coordinating with the AG Office. He added that about 95 percent of cases for employees retiring till November 2025 have also been processed. Appealing to the State Finance Department, Mr Sharma called for streamlining leave encashment and increment-related pension. On welfare initiatives, the DGP revealed that 23,000 police accounts were shifted to SBI's Corporate Salary Package, enabling 10 lakh rupees insurance coverage for personnel who die in service. He said, nearly 50 such cases have occurred, with 30 processed and 10 already settled. The DGP said these measures reflect the State Government's commitment to improving the welfare and dignity of police personnel.



A major wildfire broke out today in the Western Dzükou Valley in Kohima district. The blaze was first spotted by a tourist guide, who alerted Khonoma village authorities and the district administration, officials said. Kohima Deputy Commissioner B Henok Buchem has set up a rapid response team to carry out reconnaissance and rescue operations to prevent the fire from spreading. The team will be led by SDO (Civil), Sechü-Zubza, Imliakum, and includes SDPO (North); District Commandant of Home Guards; Range Forest Officer of Forest Department; Nodal Officer, DDMA Kohima; OC, Fire & Emergency Services; and representatives from the Western Angami Youth Organisation. The team has been instructed to reach the site immediately to assess the situation, while all available resources are being mobilised to contain the blaze. The cause of the wildfire remains unknown at the time of filing this report.



Meanwhile, Southern Angami Youth Organisation (SAYO) has suspended all trekking activities to Dzükou Valley as a precautionary measure following the wildfire in Western Dzükou. In a notice today, SAYO warned that the fire could spread toward the southern side of the valley, adding that trekking will remain suspended until the blaze is fully extinguished and safety is completely ensured.



President Droupadi Murmu visited Senapati district of Manipur today and inaugurated six development projects. She also laid foundation stones for five other development projects for the district. The projects inaugurated include a model residential school development, two Primary Health Centres upgrade, and two Bailey Bridges. Addressing the gathering, President Murmu said that under PM JANMAN, a series of initiatives have been launched for uplifting the tribal community which will further improve their life.

After reaching Senapati district headquarters, the President interacted with Internally Displaced Persons taking shelter in relief camps. She also met with the leader of Maram Tribe, the only tribe in Manipur under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups category.



The Union Cabinet has approved a budget of 11,718 crore rupees for the Census 2027. Briefing the media in New Delhi today, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases.

Census 2027 will cover the entire population in the country, and will include Caste Enumeration. Mr Vaishnaw said it will be the first-ever digital Census, with data collected using mobile applications.



And, The 5th Nagaland Literature Festival 2025 began today in Kohima. The two-day festival, held under the theme "Art & Artifice: Story Telling in the Age of AI", features exhibitions, panel discussions, calligraphy workshop, book signings, and competitions. In her opening remarks, President of Writers Collective Kohima, Vishü Rita Krocha highlighted the Collective's focus to promoting Naga literature and keep local stories relevant. Ms. Krocha stressed that despite digitalisation, books continue to be the most powerful medium for connection and understanding among people. Prominent writer, Easterine Kire, in her keynote address, said it was the human brain, and not AI, that created all amazing inventions. She warned that neglecting human thought would lead to regression, adding that AI cannot fully capture cultural nuances to write authentic stories. A panel discussion on the festival theme featuring Mmhonlümo Kikon, Talilula and Fr. Innocent Panmei, echoed that AI should be used as a tool for meaningful interaction, rather than a replacement for human creativity. They emphasised on preserving original narrative over machine-generated assumptions.