

Morning News Script

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A six members delegation from New Zealand arrived in Kohima yesterday on a three-day visit to Nagaland. A coordination meeting on Kiwi Fruit was held last evening between the State Horticulture Department and the New Zealand delegation, focused on collaboration in areas such as technical expertise, capacity building and training, market linkages, and branding. Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, Akumla Chuba, said, horticulture is emerging as a key sector for Naga farmers. However, she noted that despite favourable climatic conditions, production has not scaled up due to gaps in logistics, research, and market linkages. Head of Global Public Affairs Zespri, Michael Fox, said Nagaland holds strong potential to become part of the kiwifruit value chain, and reaffirmed Zespri's support through expertise sharing, training, innovation, and market development. In a presentation, Joint Director, Directorate of Horticulture, S. Senka outlined proposed areas of cooperation, including demonstration orchards, capacity building for farmers and staff, introduction of improved varieties, development of pack-houses and cold storage infrastructure, and strengthening institutional partnerships and knowledge exchange. He also informed that the Central Government will soon set up a Centre of Excellence at Pfutsero under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture. The New Zealand delegation is scheduled to visit kiwifruit farms at Pfutsero and other locations today. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio also met with the New Zealand delegation. In a post on X, Mr Rio said, they held discussions to develop the kiwifruit sector in Nagaland, and added that he looks forward to taking the engagement forward.

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Nagaland's Motor Vehicles Department has launched the E-Challan service in the state, marking a major step towards digital governance and improved traffic management. Formally inaugurating the initiative yesterday at the District Transport Office in Dimapur, Commissioner and Secretary, Transport Department, Robert Longchari, said, the E-Challan platform would eliminate cash transactions, reduce manipulation, and enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability in traffic enforcement. Highlighting road safety benefits, he said traffic violations would now be electronically detected, recorded and tracked, promoting responsible driving and better compliance with traffic rules.

Mr Longchari added that the government plans to expand the system to all districts, integrate automatic cameras and strengthen data collection for evidence-based policy-making. With the launch, Nagaland has become the 34th state in the country to adopt the E-Challan system, which will digitally generate fines through mobile and web-based platforms.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein in Amman yesterday, underlining the close partnership between the two nations as they prepare to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations.

He commended Jordan's resolute stand against terrorism, extremism and radicalisation, emphasising that India and Jordan share a common approach to countering terrorism. The Prime Minister said cooperation in this sphere would be further deepened alongside other areas of bilateral engagement.

Five memoranda of understanding were finalized during the visit, which include culture, renewable energy, water management, digital public infrastructure.

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And, the nation is observing Vijay Diwas today to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. On this day, the country remembers the ultimate sacrifice of the bravehearts whose stories inspire every Indian, and remain a source of national pride. The end of the war also resulted in secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

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