

**THE HEADLINES ::**

- **Nagaland to close 34 Government schools from 2026-27**
- **Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton expresses concerns over low enrolment in government schools**
- **Union Minister B. L. Verma reviews development projects in Chümoukedima; Reaffirms focus on healthcare and agriculture**
- **Northeast Football League launched with Japanese partnership**



The Nagaland School Education Department will close 34 government Primary and Middle schools across the state from the academic session 2026-27. A notification issued on Tuesday said, the decision follows approval of the State-Level Education Committee based on the physical verification report of zero enrolment and non-functioning of the schools. The schools to be closed include 11 each in Wokha and Zunheboto, three in Kiphire, two in Meluri, and one each in Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Niuland, Phek, Shamator, and Tuensang. The Department also merged 17 government schools from this academic session. Further, 23 new private schools across the state have been granted provisional permission to open.



Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton today raised concerns over the poor student enrolment in government schools. Addressing the 53rd General Conference of the Lotha Students' Union at Old Changsü Village, Mr Patton said that 11 government schools under Wokha district are likely to be shut down due to very low enrolment. He noted that many parents prefer private schools over government institutions. Mr Patton also encouraged students to work hard, and use their talents and skills to earn a livelihood instead of depending solely on government jobs. The Deputy Chief Minister further emphasized the importance of preserving culture, traditions and one's roots.



Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Social Justice and Empowerment, B. L. Verma, today visited key development sites in Chümoukedima district on the final day of his two-day visit to Nagaland. He inspected the palm oil plantation at Chümoukedima Village, where he reviewed progress under the National Edible Oil–Oil Palm initiative and interacted with farmers and officials. He underscored the importance of palm oil cultivation in enhancing farmers' income, promoting edible oil self-reliance, and strengthening the rural economy. Mr Verma also inspected the facilities at the Health and Wellness Centre at Diphupar B. The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare services, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas of the Northeast.



The 5th edition of Rüsoma Orange Festival 2026 is set to be held on January 30 and 31 at Rüsoma Local Ground. This year's theme, 'Abundance of Rüsoma,' will highlight the village's oranges alongside other agri and horticultural organic products, handicrafts and local cuisines. Addressing a press conference today, organizer Neisatuonuo Zhale said, the festival will also feature other activities such as cultural presentation, games, food stalls and sale of orange saplings.

Advisor, Tribal Affairs, H. Tovihoto Ayemi, will grace the inaugural function on January 30. Organizers have set an upper limit of 140 rupees per KG for oranges during the festival, and will provide local guides for visitors interested in touring the orange orchards. They highlighted Rüsoma's rich orange-growing history, dating back to the early 1940s, and said that the 470 of the total 570 households in the village are now engaged in orange farming.



The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign completed 11 years today. In a social media post, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, daughters are revered as Lakshmi in India. He said that it is a matter of great pride that today India's daughters are creating new records across every field and contributing significantly to the nation's progress. The campaign was launched in 2015 as a response to the critical issue of gender imbalance and the declining Child Sex Ratio in India. Over the years, the scheme has achieved remarkable success. The national Sex Ratio at Birth has improved to 930 as compared to 918 in 2014-15.



Prime Minister's flagship platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, PRAGATI, has marked a significant milestone with the successful conduct of its 50th meeting. Since its launch by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, PRAGATI has transformed governance by enabling real-time monitoring and resolution of key infrastructure projects and public grievances through direct Prime Ministerial review. Over a decade, PRAGATI has helped accelerate decision-making, resolution of issues causing delay in key infrastructure projects, and instilled a strong culture of accountability. Today, in this special series, we take a look at the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project. A report...



The state Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services has expressed concern over the continued indiscriminate burning of forests during the dry and windy season. Despite efforts by fire fighters, village volunteers, and support from district administrations and police, forest fires continue to pose a threat. The department noted that authorities have repeatedly notified total bans on forest fires, citing serious ecological consequences. It urged the village councils and public to take proactive steps to check such practice and take action against offenders. In 2025, the state recorded 188 forest fire incidents, with Kohima district alone accounting for 91 cases.



In a major boost for football in the Northeast, State Football Associations of the region have partnered with Japan-based firm Bestserv Incorporated to launch the Northeast Football League. In this regard, a Deed of Contract was signed on Monday in Guwahati. Bestserv Chairman, Luis Nakawa, and International Development Manager Josef Kovac attended the signing ceremony, along with representatives from all eight State Football Associations of the Northeast. The proposed league will offer a structured professional platform for local players while supporting State Associations in achieving financial self-sustainability. It is expected to enhance competitive standards, nurture grassroots talent, and provide exposure to professional football environments, positioning the Northeast as a key hub of Indian football.



And in cricket, Nagaland scored 206 in their first innings against Baroda In the Ranji Trophy Elite match today. At stumps on Day 1, Baroda reached 139 for the loss of one wicket, trailing by 67 runs.

