

THE HEADLINES ::

- **North Eastern Council releases more than 5.7 crore rupees for Nagaland in January**
- **All Nagaland Adhoc Teachers Group 2015 batch begins indefinite hunger strike**
- **Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination to begin tomorrow; Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio extends best wishes to students**
- **Under-13 ASMITA Football League 2025-26 (East Zone) concludes; Assam and Mizoram advance to national round**



The North Eastern Council (NEC) released more than 5.7 crore rupees in total for various development projects in Nagaland last month. This was updated yesterday by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in its January status report for the state. The NEC projects include a Community Trade Link Centre at Jalukie in Peren district, a Working Women's Hostel in Kohima, infrastructure for off-road tourism, a Bamboo Incense and Tooth Pick Manufacturing Unit at Jalukie, as well as classroom and hostel facilities at Government Polytechnic, Seithekema-C in Chümoukedima. In addition, 5.61 crore rupees was sanctioned under the NESIDS Roads scheme for construction of the road from Jalukie on NH-129A to the New DC Complex model township in Peren district. The road is expected to improve connectivity across five villages. Overall, the NEC released over 81.5 crore rupees across the Northeast in January to support infrastructure, livelihood, research, and cultural initiatives. These include around 32.6 crore rupees to Central, Regional and other Agencies.



The All Nagaland Adhoc Teachers Group (ANATG) 2015 batch began an indefinite hunger strike today, escalating their ongoing protest demanding service regularization. Fifteen teachers participated in the hunger strike staged at the Capital Convention Centre in Kohima on the first day. However, as authorities have permitted the protest only till 4 PM, the volunteers are now stationed near the Naga Solidarity Park for the night.

The ANATG-2015 batch has been agitating against the continued lack of official communication from the state government on their demands for implementation of earlier assurances and policy decisions regarding regularization. The protest, which began on February 4, entered its seventh day today.



The Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate (HSSLC) Examination will begin tomorrow and continue till March 9. A total of 16,095 candidates will appear in the three streams from 68 examination centers across the state. Meanwhile, the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) Examination will commence on Friday. 23,505 candidates are enrolled to appear for the matriculation exam from 98 centers statewide.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended best wishes to all students appearing for the HSLC and the HSSLC examinations. In a social media message, he hoped that their preparation and hard work would translate into success. Mr Rio also extend my best wishes to Nagaland Board of School Education for the smooth conduct of the exams.



Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the government will move a privilege notice against Rahul Gandhi for misleading the house by making baseless statements in the Lok Sabha during the Budget discussion. Talking to media, Mr Rijiju alleged that Mr Gandhi made useless and false allegations without giving any notice.

Mr Rijiju added that it is a serious breach of privilege and the government will move the necessary notice to the Speaker.



Both Houses of Parliament today resumed discussions on the Union Budget 2026-27. In the Lok Sabha, Arun Bharti of LJP (R) described the Budget as a visionary and inclusive Budget saying it will lay the foundation of achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi said, there is nothing concrete in the Union Budget. He said, it is centred on Artificial Intelligence AI and expressed apprehension that lots of jobs in the Engineering and IT sector will be challenged by AI.

Participating in the discussion in the Rajya Sabha, Former Prime Minister and JD(S) leader HD Devegowda hoped that this budget would be remembered not only for the numbers but for the wisdom for building a strong economy. He suggested that growth alone is not enough but employment must be the centre of the policy thinking. Rajeev Shukla of Congress demanded that a supplementary or revised budget be released because the deal with the US was announced after the presentation of the budget.



Nagaland's Health & Family Welfare Department has directed all optical shops and establishments in the state to apply for registration on or before June 30. In an order issued today, the authority stated that registration is required under Rule 87 A(2) of the Medical Device Rules, 2017. However, it said several optical shops in the state are operating without the mandatory registration certificate. The authority warned that failure to register within the stipulated deadline will result in penal action, including suspension of operations, seizure of medical devices and other measures.



The Drugs Control Administration of the state Health & Family Welfare Department has directed all licensed wholesale medicine dealers and retail pharmacies to onboard their firms on the Online National Drugs Licensing System, ONDLS, portal by the 30th of June. The order, issued on February 5, warned that failure to register will adversely affect procurement and sale of medicines after the deadline. Further, the department also issued strict guidelines for retail pharmacies

operating in the state. Pharmacies allowing Registered Medical Practitioners to conduct patient consultations must either register as clinics under the Nagaland Healthcare Establishment Act, 1997 and Rules 2022, or stop the practice immediately. Registered pharmacists have been directed to physically supervise the dispensing of medicines in their respective pharmacies, while absenteeism may lead to strict legal action. They have also been instructed to wear a white coat or apron with a name tag displaying their Council Registration Number while on duty.



The Under-13 ASMITA Zonal Football League 2025–26 (East Zone) concluded yesterday at the Chümoukedima Football Stadium. The East Zone featured Tripura, Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Nagaland. After the league matches, Assam and Mizoram finished at the top of the points table, and will advance to the national round. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Secretary of Youth Resources & Sports, Anthony Nguillie, highlighted the importance of initiatives like ASMITA in empowering young athletes, especially girls, through structured competitive platforms. He expressed hope that the initiative marks the beginning of a stronger future for women’s football.

This is the fourth edition of the ASMITA Zonal Football League and the first time Nagaland participated in the tournament.

