

Evening News Script

1920 hrs

30th March 2026

THE HEADLINES :-

- Nagaland gets 3,880 crore under Centre's 'Pride of Hills' scheme 2026-27; Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio extends gratitude
- Kohima Municipal Council elects new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson
- Nagaland, Centre officials discuss strengthening MSME development in state
- And, in Khelo India Tribal Games, Athlete Tsuchoi T wins Bronze to secure Nagaland's first medal

<><><><><><>

The Central Government has allocated 3,880 crore rupees to Nagaland under the 'Pride of Hills: Special Development Assistance for the Hill States' scheme for the financial year 2026–27. The initiative, part of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), has a total outlay of 25,000 crore rupees for nine hill states. The scheme is aimed at addressing key challenges faced by hill states, such as difficult terrain, limited connectivity, sparse population, and constrained revenue sources, which often impact their fiscal strength. The additional funding is expected to boost capital expenditure, support infrastructure development, and accelerate overall economic growth in these regions.

<><><><><><>

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has conveyed his appreciation to the Centre for the 'Pride of Hills: Special Development Assistance for the Hill States under SASCI'

for the financial year 2026-27. In a post on X, he expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the grant. Mr Rio noted that the special assistance will help accelerate development and address the unique regional challenges faced across the hill states.

<><><><><><>

Neibodzelie Solo has been elected as the Chairperson of the Kohima Municipal Council (KMC), with Thenusou Sekhose as the Deputy Chairperson. The election took place today at DC Office Kohima. Mr Solo is a councillor from PWD Panchayat Ward-11, while Ms Sekhose represents Ward-6 D' Block. Announcing the result, Deputy Commissioner of Kohima, B. Henok Buchem, said both leaders were elected unanimously by the councillors present.

Speaking to the media after the election, Mr Solo assured that the new team would focus on the betterment of Kohima town. Deputy Chairperson Sekhose outlined their priorities, including bridging urban infrastructure gaps and promoting community welfare. She acknowledged that limited revenue generation remains a major challenge, particularly after the discontinuation of toll gate collections.

<><><><><><>

A high-level coordination meeting on “MSME as Engines of Growth” was held today at the Nagaland Civil Secretariat in Kohima bringing together officials from the Central Government and various agri and allied departments of Nagaland. Addressing the meeting, Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), S.C.L. Das emphasised the need for stronger coordination, convergence and collaboration among various departments to accelerate MSME growth in the state. He noted that Nagaland’s progress is fully supported by the Central Government. Highlighting that MSMEs span across multiple sectors, requiring greater inter departmental synergy. Mr Das expressed confidence that the State government would leverage the various central initiatives more effectively for greater benefit, and hoped for regular and institutionalised follow-up meetings to identifying areas for collaboration and collective progress. During the meeting, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSM, Mercy Epao, presented the

Ministry's vision for fostering sustainable development of globally competitive MSMEs as a key driver of India's economic growth. The meeting was attended by the Development Commissioner and officials from departments including industries & commerce, Tourism, Horticulture, Fisheries, RD, Finance, IT & C, Land Resources, Women Development, Forest, Nagaland Bamboo Mission, Employment & Skill Development, Youth Resource & Sports, Sericulture, and Agriculture.

<><><><><><>

Census 2027 will begin from the 1st of next month. This will be the 16th Census in the series and the 8th since Independence. Addressing the media in New Delhi today, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan informed that the Census will be conducted in two phases. Mr Narayan said that in the first phase, house listing and Self-Enumeration will be carried out. He noted that the Self-Enumeration facility will be conducted over a 15-day period between 1st April and 31st August this year, with the schedule varying across States and Union Territories. The Commissioner said preparations for the Census are at an advanced stage.

Mr Narayan informed that questions for the first phase have already been notified, and those for the second phase will be published in due course.

<><><><><><>

Minister for Rural Development, Metsubo Jamir has underscored the role of youth in preserving language, culture, and traditions. Speaking at the Hega Festival, or Ruangdi, 2026 of the Zeliang community in Mbaupungwa village on Saturday, Mr Jamir called on the younger generation to actively participate in such cultural events to carry on the traditions. The Minister announced that the government would construct a Community Building and Farmers' Market in the village. The festival showcased the vibrant cultural heritage and tradition of the Zeliang community.

<><><><><><>

State Department of Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, today launched a week-long steel fabrication training under the "PACES" initiative at

Wokha Village. The programme aims to equip local youth with practical, income-generating skills for self-employment and small-scale enterprise. The first batch includes 25 trainees from Humtso, Elumyo and Wokha villages, with training partner Zynorique Initiative Society. Emphasizing the importance of skill-based livelihoods, SDO (Civil) Wokha, Echungbemo Eruis said initiatives like PACES provide meaningful grassroots opportunities, enabling youth to build sustainable and self-reliant careers.

<><><><><><>

In sports... Nagaland got off the mark at the ongoing 1st Khelo India Tribal Games in Chhattisgarh, securing its first medal in Athletics today. 26-year-old athlete from Noklak district, Tsuchoi T claimed the bronze medal in the women's 5000 metres event, finishing with a time of 18 minutes 35.6 seconds. She came behind Nedi Ngi of Arunachal Pradesh and Aarti Dawar of Madhya Pradesh, who took the top two spots. The Nagaland contingent is competing across multiple disciplines, including archery, athletics and wrestling at the Games.

<><><><><><>

And, The Nagaland Public Service Commission, NPSC, has announced that the Limited Departmental Examination will be conducted from 6th of May onwards. In a notification today, NPSC said, eligible candidates can download their Admission Certificates, which include exam routine and other details, from its website at npsc.nagaland.gov.in from 30th of April at Noon.

<><><><><><>