



**:: THE HEADLINES ::**

- President Droupadi Murmu emphasizes on water conservation as duty of every citizen
- Nagaland government tackles road connectivity issues, foothill road land challenges
- Mahila Jan Sunwai held in Chümoukedima
- Nagaland Staff Selection Board recommends 1,305 candidates for appointment since 2023



President Droupadi Murmu today underlined that water conservation is a duty of every citizen. Addressing a national event as part of the ongoing Jal Mahotsav 2026 in New Delhi, the President urged the nation to treat water as an invaluable treasure that must be preserved for generations to come. To secure a sustainable future, she called upon everyone to make water conservation not just a practice, but a way of life.

The President said that under the Nal Jal Mitra Programme, rural youth and women from Self-Help Groups are being trained to make them active partners in the operation and maintenance of water supply systems. Jal Mahotsav 2026 commenced on 8th of March with the observance of Jal Arpan across the country and will continue until 22nd of this month.



A key discussion on road connectivity in Nagaland took place in the ongoing state assembly yesterday. During the question hour, MLA Achumbemo Kikon raised queries on proposals for upgrading Wokha-Bokajan and Aghunato-Shamator roads. Mr Kikon highlighted the poor condition of the Wokha-Bokajan road, calling it a lifeline for residents of Wokha and neighbouring districts travelling to Dimapur and Kohima. He said the road, built in the early 1990s by the Border Roads Organisation, has deteriorated after being handed over to the state's Roads and Bridges department.

Responding to the query, Roads and Bridges Minister G. Kaito Aye acknowledged funding constraints and said the matter would be placed before the State Planning Board to explore possible funding sources. On the Aghunato-Shamator road, MLA Kikon said improving the route could shorten travel to the state capital by nearly 40 kilometres, which will benefit commuters especially medical patients from remote areas. To this, Mr Aye informed that of the total 69-kilometres, about 28 kilometres are currently under construction under PMGSY-3, with completion targeted by 2026. He added that the route is also part of the proposed national highway from Showuba to Pangsha, and meetings have been held to obtain no-objection certificates from landowners.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has emphasized that securing land remains a key challenge for infrastructure development in Nagaland, including the long-pending Foothill Road project. Speaking in the assembly yesterday, he expressed surprise at reports that a Foothill Road Committee had issued an ultimatum to the state government to allocate funds by March 31. He reminded that the project, spanning from Tizit to Khelma, was initiated by the state government itself, and urged landowners and communities to cooperate in providing land and allow the project to move forward.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister, TR Zeliang, who is Minister in charge of National Highways, shared that the central government has halted the declaration of new national highways. However, he noted that the Centre is willing to declare the Foothill Road as a national highway, provided the state ensures a 30-metre land free of cost along the entire stretch. Mr Zeliang said, the 2,500 crore rupees project would be fully funded by the Centre once the required land and clearances are obtained.



A Mahila Jan Sunwai, or public hearing for women, was held in Chümoukedima today as part of the nationwide outreach initiative of the National Commission for Women in collaboration with the Nagaland State Commission for Women (NSCW). Speaking at the programme, NSCW Member Kekhrienuo Meyase stressed the importance of legal awareness for women to safeguard their rights and seek justice. She highlighted various forms of harassment faced by women, and expressed concern over the growing cases of cybercrime and online bullying on social media platforms. Ms Meyase emphasized the need for greater awareness particularly on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

The public hearing drive is being conducted from March 9 to 13 aimed at strengthening grassroots access to justice by providing women with a direct platform to voice grievances. During the hearings, participants presented complaints related to domestic violence, workplace harassment, abandonment and trafficking, with officials providing legal guidance and assuring follow-up action.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended Mileinyi greetings to the Zeliang community. In a social media post, Mr Rio wished peace, prosperity and good health, expressing hope that the festival of renewal would strengthen bonds of unity and gratitude, while bringing blessings of a plentiful harvest.



Chief Minister Rio also extended greetings to the Sangtam community on the occasion of Tsohsu. In a social media post, he expressed hope that the start of the cultivation season would bring bountiful harvest, prosperity, and harmony. Mr Rio wished for blessings of abundance and good health for every household in the year ahead.



The Nagaland Staff Selection Board has recommended a total of 1,305 candidates for appointment through six recruitment exams conducted since 2023. Informing this in the State Assembly yesterday, Chief Minister and Minister in charge of P&AR Neiphiu Rio said, of these, 428 have government college background, while 467 come from government school and higher secondary institutions. Further, he noted that the state does not have a separate policy to facilitate employment for students from government institutions, but highlighted several initiatives by the School Education and Higher & Technical Education departments to improve their employability and skill development. These include career guidance cells, value-added courses and vocational education.



And in sports, Nagaland's campaign in the Women's Under-23 One Day Trophy Plate came to an end following a defeat against Manipur in their final match of the group stage today.

