

Morning News Script

0730 hrs

8th April 2026

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A high-level meeting was convened by Deputy Chief Minister, T.R. Zeliang in Kohima yesterday to deliberate on the proposal for upgradation and construction of the Trans-Nagaland Highway (Foothill Road) to National Highway (NH) standards. The meeting also discussed the implications of adopting the National Highways Act, 1956, in the State. The meeting brought together 16 tribal bodies including Chakhroma Public Organization, the Western Sumi Hoho, elected representatives, Deputy Commissioners, and officials from the Public Works Department. In his remarks, the Deputy Chief Minister clarified that the meeting was not intended to review the ongoing Foothill Road project, but to explore modalities for its upgradation under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. He informed that the Ministry has expressed willingness to take up construction and maintenance of the road in line with other National Highways. Deliberations focused on key issues including land acquisition, compensation, and the implications of adopting the National Highways Act, 1956 in the State, particularly in the context of Article 371(A). Concerns were raised that certain provisions of the Act may infringe upon constitutional safeguards. While the Centre, has proposed a 30-metre Right of Way, the house found it unfeasible. As a way forward, Mr Zeliang proposed a 15-metre RoW to be finalized within 15 days through district-level consultations.

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Chairman of the District Planning and Development Board of Niuland and Minister for PHED and Cooperation, Jacob Zhimomi, emphasized that the upcoming census will play a vital role in the district's development planning. Addressing the monthly District Planning and Development Board meeting yesterday, he urged the administration to hold awareness meetings with Gaon Buras and Village Councils to ensure proper public participation. He highlighted the importance of Aadhaar enrolment and accurate data collection, stating that proper documentation is essential for securing developmental benefits. The Minister also stressed the need to improve administrative infrastructure, including setting up offices for key departments and addressing staff shortages. He urged officials to maintain transparency and ensure effective implementation of development projects. The board also deliberated on local development issues, including infrastructure repairs and proposals to boost economic activities in the district.

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The Department of Food & Civil Supplies, has assured that there is no shortage of LPG (domestic and commercial) or other Petroleum products in the State at present. It stated that adequate stocks are being maintained by the Oil Marketing Companies, and supply lines continue to function normally. Amid rumours circulating about possible shortages, the Department has urged citizens not to panic or engage in unnecessary hoarding, as this may disrupt smooth distribution and inconvenience others. The public is advised to rely only on official government communications and avoid spreading unverified information on social media. All Deputy Commissioners and concerned authorities have been directed to ensure uninterrupted supply, prevent hoarding and black marketing, and enforce prescribed prices.

The Department therefore reiterated that there is no cause for concern and has called on citizens to remain calm and cooperate with authorities. For any clarification or information, the public may contact the concerned district authorities or the Department.

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To promote rural livelihoods, Tasar silkworm rearing has been introduced at the village level for the first time in Kijümetouma under Kohima district yesterday . The initiative currently involves ten beneficiaries from the village. On the occasion, District Sericulture Officer Kohima, Vilhousienuo Khro, along with technical staff, supervised and assisted in the shifting of silkworms for outdoor rearing.

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The 2nd edition of the Showuba Memorial Volleyball Tournament, organised by the Shamator District Volleyball Association, kicked off yesterday at the Public Ground in Shamator. Advisor for Youth Resources and Sports, S. Keoshu Yimchunger, graced the opening and praised the initiative for providing a platform for young talent. He also acknowledged the Showuba family for sponsoring the tournament in memory of Lt. Showuba. Encouraging players, he stressed the importance of discipline, hard work, and consistency, while wishing all fourteen participating teams the very best.

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