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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Mission 'Coffees of Nagaland' launched to boost farmers income
- Governor Nand Kishore Yadav calls for stronger school governance and learning outcomes
- Advisor Mhathung Yanthan flags acute shortage of rubber planting material in Nagaland
- Nagaland shines at 2nd Meghalaya Open Taekwondo Championship

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The 'Cluster-based Coffee Value Chain Development in Nagaland' project was jointly launched today by Union Minister of DoNER Jyotiraditya Scindia and Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio. Speaking at the virtual launch event in New Delhi, Mr Rio said, coffee cultivation is emerging as a driver of sustainable economic growth in Nagaland, and highlighted the state's goal of expanding it to 50,000 hectares by 2047 under 'Viksit Nagaland'.

Emphasizing the importance of the initiative, the Chief Minister said the project will generate livelihoods and promote coffee tourism.

Mr Rio urged farmers to adopt new technologies and participate in training, while assuring full government support. Under the 175 crore rupees project, pilot coffee clusters will be developed at Tuophema in Kohima district and Ghotovi in Niuland district. The initiative includes setting up hi-tech nurseries, post-harvest infrastructure, roasteries and branding campaign to establish 'Coffees of Nagaland' as a premium single-origin brand. The Land Resources Department will implement the project. Addressing the event, DoNER Minister Scindia said the initiative is part of a broader effort to identify a Unique Selling Proposition for each state, with coffee identified for Nagaland, and will enable farmers to play a larger role in the value chain.

Union Minister of State for DoNER Sukanta Majumdar, Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang, Advisor G. Ikuto Zhimomi, officials of the Coffee Board of India, farmers and entrepreneurs attended the launch programme.

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Governor Nand Kishore Yadav today stressed the need to improve learning outcomes and strengthen school governance in Nagaland. Chairing a high-level review meeting of the School Education Department at Lok Bhavan in Kohima, he called for effective implementation of educational programmes across the state. The meeting focused on the current status of school

education in the state, including student enrolment, teacher strength, governance structures and initiatives aimed at improving learning outcomes. Officials presented updates on reforms to strengthen data-driven governance through the Education Management Information System. Key programmes discussed included the distribution of free textbooks, uniforms and learning materials in government schools, implementation of the PM-POSHAN scheme and progress under the Nagaland Education Project - The Lighthouse, or NECTAR. The Governor encouraged continued efforts to enhance the quality of education and ensure that government programmes reach students effectively. Senior officials from the Directorate of School Education, NBSE, SCERT, NECTAR and Samagra Shiksha attended the meeting.

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Agriculture Advisor Mhathung Yanthan has urged the Rubber Board of India to address the acute shortage of rubber planting materials in Nagaland during the current planting season. In a letter to the Executive Director of the Rubber Board, Mr Yanthan said rubber cultivation has emerged as a key plantation crop in Nagaland given its income-generating potential. He noted that while around 7,000 hectares of land under the Dimapur regional office have been prepared for fresh plantation, only about 25 percent of the required planting materials are available, causing concern among growers. Highlighting potential loss to farmers, the Advisor urged the Rubber Board to make special arrangements for adequate supply of planting materials to Nagaland on priority to help support the growth of rubber cultivation as a source of livelihood and economic development in the state.

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The Tourism Department today presented its key initiatives, achievements and future plans during a review meeting with Governor Nand Kishore Yadav at Lok Bhavan in Kohima. Secretary Tourism Nchumbemo Lotha briefed on efforts to promote sustainable, eco-tourism, cultural tourism and community-based tourism in the state. Officials highlighted major destinations including Dzükou Valley, Khonoma Green Village, Mount Saramati and Diezephe Craft Village. They said community-based tourism initiatives in villages such as Khonoma and Dzüleke have helped generate livelihood opportunities while promoting conservation and sustainable tourism practices. Officials also informed that Nagaland receives around 2.25 lakh domestic tourists annually, along with 2,000 to 5,000 international visitors each year. The department also updated on ongoing infrastructure projects under State and Central schemes, as well as upcoming projects including ropeway connectivity between Kisama Heritage Village and Dzukou Valley. It highlighted challenges tied to connectivity and need for

stronger marketing strategies. Governor Yadav appreciated the department's efforts and encouraged continued measures to strengthen tourism infrastructure and showcase Nagaland as a unique destination for its vibrant culture and natural heritage.

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The Nationwide IEC Campaign under PM-JANMAN and DA-JGUA was launched in Wokha district today aimed at ensuring saturation of government welfare schemes, especially among tribal communities and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. The week-long campaign will continue till May 25 across the district. Deputy Commissioner, K Mhathung Tsanglao, said during the campaign, line departments will conduct activities such as door-to-door campaigns, health screening, public hearing, grievance redressal, livelihood promotion and saturation camps.

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The Bharatiya Janata Party began its Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya district-level training for Dimapur and Peren districts today in Dimapur. Addressing the event, BJP leader and PHED Minister Jacob Zhimomi said the initiative was part of a national-level effort to educate party members and elected representatives on the party's history, ideology and national outlook. Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he urged party members in Nagaland to follow the guiding philosophy of 'Nation First, Party Second, Individual Last,' while also addressing local concerns with sincerity. Advisor H. Sethrongkyu Sangtam also attended the programme.

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And, in sports.. Nagaland delivered an impressive performance at the 2nd Meghalaya Open Taekwondo Championship held in Shillong from May 15 to 17 winning a total of 33 medals. The 38-member state contingent, under Nagaland Taekwondo Association, secured 13 gold, 12 silver and 8 bronze medals. Coach Visabiu Peseyie was also honoured with the Best Coach Award at the championship.

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