

## THE HEADLINES

1. Supreme Court lauds Nagaland for holding ULB polls with women reservation, closes contempt case
2. Nagaland explores vocational education ties with Australia
3. State Motor Vehicles Department launches Digital Payment services
4. And, Centre clarifies no plan to discontinue NEET (UG) amid controversies



The Supreme Court has closed contempt of court proceedings against Nagaland state following the completion of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) elections with 33 percent reservation for women. During the hearing yesterday, the top court bench lauded Nagaland's effort saying, conducting the civic polls with record number of women participants and winners was 'very commendable'. With the election concluded successfully, the civil appeal is disposed of as 'infructuous' or unnecessary, the court ordered. The appeal, originally filed in 2012 as a Special Leave Petition and converted to a Civil Appeal in 2016, contested an Assembly Resolution that exempted Nagaland from implementing one-third reservation of seats for women in ULBs. Mention may be made that Nagaland held the ULB elections on June 26 after a gap of 20 years.



Nagaland is exploring ties in vocational education with Australia. Advisor for School Education and SCERT Dr. Kekhrie Yhome, today called on Head of Austrade, Dr. Monica Kennedy, and Senior Director, Trade and Investment (Education), Government of Australia, Neha Grover, at New Delhi, to discuss cooperation in vocational education and vocational curriculum development. While Australia leads the world in vocational education, youth in Nagaland have huge potential to meet growing demands in service sectors across developed countries. Officials from the state School Education

Department will be travelling to Australia in September for government-level talks and field study.



Nagaland Motor Vehicles Department has launched Digital Payment services across the state in a bid to boost efficiency and ease the process. The service will enable citizens to digitally pay taxes and fees related to motor vehicles services with debit and credit cards, UPI QR Code along with Google Pay, PhonePe and Paytm. It has been initiated across all regional and district transport offices in collaboration with HDFC Bank. The initiative will enhance transparency, operational efficiency and citizen convenience as well as expedite service process and delivery. At the launch event on July 19, Commissioner & Secretary, Dr. Zasekuolie Chusi termed the initiative as another milestone in harnessing technology within the governance system and in the service of citizens. Chusi emphasized the importance of constantly upgrading working methods and systems to achieve total digitization of transactions and services.



Centre today clarified that there is no proposal to discontinue NEET (UG) and restore state-wise entrance examinations at present amid controversies over the medical examination. This was stated by Minister of State for Education, Dr Sukanta Majumdar in a written reply in Rajya Sabha. On UGC (NET) examination, he informed that the exam held in June this year was cancelled, and will now be conducted between 21st August and 4th September in Computer Based Test mode.



Central Armed Police Forces including BSF, CISF and RPF are geared up to induct Ex-Agniveers in the forces. Director General of BSF Nitin Agarwal said that ex-agniveers will receive a 10 percent reservation and age relaxation for recruitment in the BSF. Director General of CISF Nina Singh also said CISF will provide ex-agniveers 10 percent reservation in posts of constable as well as relaxation in age and Physical Efficiency Test. Director General of RPF Manoj

Yadav said ex-Agniveers will get age relaxation and exemption from physical efficiency test.



Minister for PHED and Cooperation, Jacob Zhimomi today called on Union Minister of Jal Shakti CR Paatil in New Delhi. While congratulating Paatil on his recent Lok Sabha victory and subsequent appointment, Jacob apprised Paatil on the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Nagaland. Noting that the flagship scheme will soon see its completion by December 2024, Zhimomi said tap water connections in the state currently stood at 91.3 percent. The leaders also talked about water source sustainability and access to bulk water in villages across the state. On Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), discussions were held on sanitation parameters including segregated solid and liquid wastes management in rural and urban areas. Further, Zhimomi sought Paatil's support towards Nagaland, highlighting significant challenges posed by the hilly terrain. Meanwhile, Paatil acknowledged the concerns and lauded the Zhimomi and Nagaland PHED for their commendable work. The union minister assured his support towards fulfilling the vision of Har Ghar Jal and making both missions successful in Nagaland.



Chief Medical Officer of Kohima, Dr. Leamnyei Konyak has underlined the crucial benefits of family planning services. These not only reduce pregnancy-related health risks, infant and maternal mortality, and adolescent pregnancies, but also empower individuals, enhance education, and improve quality of life, he said. Dr. Konyak was addressing the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) Nagaland Branch at Kohima last evening. He lauded FPAI's significant contributions in women empowerment, promoting gender equality, reducing gender-based violence, and improving economic status of women and vulnerable groups in the state. Dr. Konyak also highlighted FPAI's comprehensive work on sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS prevention, cancer screening, and youth issues, among others.



Nagaland Public Service Commission, NPSC today declared the results of the NCS, NPS, NSS and Allied Services Mains Examination 2023. In a notice, NPSC said details of the result can be accessed on its website at <https://npsc.nagaland.gov.in>.



The Kohima District Planning and Development Board (DPDB) has decided to enhance the Village Adoption Scheme funding from two lakh rupees to three lakh rupees per constituency under the Local Area Development Programme (LADP) Common Pool. In a meeting held today, the Board scrutinized and approved proposals under LADP for the fiscal year 2024-25. The meeting also discussed need for improvement in government schools, and various initiatives being taken by the education department.



The National Conference on Cybercrime, Digital Forensics and Intelligence 2024 is set to be held in Kohima on the 25th and 26th of this month. The event will feature discussions on Cyber Security, Digital Crime, Cyber Law, Mobile Forensics, Financial Fraud Investigation, and Digital Evidence. It aims to enhance awareness and capabilities of police officers, public prosecutors, the judiciary, and adjudicating officers in combating cybercrimes. The multidisciplinary conference is organised by NIELIT Kohima in collaboration with Nagaland Police and the Department of Information Technology and Communication.

