

## Evening News Script

1920 hrs of

4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- Cloudburst triggers massive landslides on Dimapur- Kohima NH-29; 6 dead
- State government directs NHIDCL to make NH-29 operational within 24 hours to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities
- Deputy Commissioner of Kohima says no shortage of essential commodities; urges public to refrain from panic buying
- And, Centre extends ceasefire agreement with National Socialist Council of Nagaland-(K)Niki for another year



A series of massive mudslides and landslides hit National Highway-29 between Kohima and Dimapur following heavy rainfall last night. Mudslides struck near Pherima and Tseipama/Piphema around 10:30 P.M. last night, while landslide occurred at Pagla Pahar in the wee hours this morning, sinking a portion of the highway. Speaking to Akashvani News, Deputy Commissioner of Chumoukedima, Polan John, said the National Highway is now completely cut off for vehicular movement and advised commuters to take Niuland- Kohima via Zhadima road only for light motor vehicles. Further, the alternate route Pimla-Mhainamsti under Peren district is not advised due to landslide. The DC also confirmed the death of six persons due to mudslide at Pherima, which include five male and one female. All six bodies have been recovered. At least three persons also sustained injuries and have been hospitalized. The Deputy Commissioner added, clearance of the road will take time keeping in view the severity of the landslides. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang has announced 4 lakh rupees each as ex-gratia payment to the families of the deceased and 16,000 rupees to the injured as an emergency relief under Dimapur District Disaster Management Authority



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has expressed deep concern over the large scale destruction on NH-29 caused by incessant rainfall. In a social media post, Rio said authorities are on-site assessing the situation and helping those affected, adding that the State Government will continue to pursue with the Central government and NHIDCL for immediate measures and restore normalcy at the earliest. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister-in-charge of National Highway, T R Zeliang also expressed deep anguish on the unfortunate calamity, leading to loss of life and properties. Zeliang assured that the State Government will immediately take measures to alleviate the pain caused by this natural disaster and also assess the situation leading to the cause of such frequent debacle on the NH-29 4-Lane Road.



In the wake of the landslides and damages on NH-29, state government today directed NHIDCL to make the highway operational within 24 hours to ensure that supply of essential commodities is not adversely affected. NHIDCL was also directed to take rectification measures including use of latest technology to ensure that such disasters do not occur in future. Official sources informed Akashvani News Kohima that, the directive came after a high-level meeting convened by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio to take stock of the disaster and discuss restoration and relief measures. It was attended by Deputy Chief Minister and Minister-in-Charge of National Highway T.R. Zeliang along with all the concerned officials and agencies. During the meeting, it was decided to explore an alternative route for plying of heavy vehicles carrying essential goods as well as for light vehicles. The meeting also discussed alternative routes, including 7th Mile - Sukhovi - Mhainamtsi - Tharnapani, for Light and heavy vehicles, as well as Showuba - Nuiland - Zhadima - NH 2; and New Chumoukedima to Old Chumoukedima (old check gate) for light vehicles. It was also decided that PWD(Road & Bridges) will maintain all these alternate routes as well as the road from Peducha to Tsiesema to ensure smooth and uninterrupted connectivity between Dimapur and Kohima. Meanwhile, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority was been directed to release Ex-Gratia payment to the families of the deceased and injured immediately.



Kohima Deputy Commissioner, Kumar Ramnikant, has urged citizens to refrain from panic buying in the aftermath of landslides that cut off key routes connecting the state capital to commercial hub Dimapur. In an advisory, the DC noted instances of panic buying of essential commodities and fuel spurred by a false assumption in shortage due to the landslides. Assuring that there is no scarcity of essential items in Kohima, it said District Administration is collaborating with neighboring districts to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential items through alternate routes. Meanwhile, Kohima Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) has also appealed the public to maintain normal purchase pattern and to avoid bulk purchases or panic buying. It assured that there is sufficient stock of essential items, which will continue to be accessible. Further, KCCI issued strict directives to traders and shop owners, warning them against charging exorbitant rates for commodities. The Chamber cautioned that any attempt to exploit the situation by inflating prices will result in penalties.



Centre has extended the ceasefire agreement with National Socialist Council of Nagaland-(K)Niki for a period of one year. Ministry of Home Affairs announced that Government of India and NSCN-(K)Niki have mutually decided to extend the Ceasefire Agreement with effect from 8th September this year until 7th of September 2025, to bring about lasting peace in Nagaland with the involvement of Naga people. The Home Ministry said, the Ceasefire will be subject to adherence to the Ceasefire Ground Rules mutually agreed to and signed by the two sides. The agreement was signed today by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Piyush Goyal, and Supervisors, CFSB of NSCN-(K)Niki, Abel Zingri Thuer and Ameka Achumi.



In a bid to bolster security, three police checkpoints have been set up at all exit points of the Dimapur railway station. The checkpoints will operate 24/7 with officers stationed to verify the identities of inbound travelers. On Monday, Deputy Commissioner, Dimapur, Dr. Tinojongshi Chang, accompanied by representatives from the Dimapur Police Commissionerate inspected the Railway

Station. The officials also held a meeting with the Railway Protection Force to discuss security measures.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended Teacher's Day greetings. In a post on X, Rio said teachers are mentors, guides and role models. Urging teachers to remain committed and devoted to their noble profession, Rio said the state government is committed to empowering and supporting them in building their capacities to equip future-ready generations.



A 10-member team of the Nagaland Wrestling Association (NWA) will be joining the Indian Sports Contingent at the 5th World Nomad Games 2024 at Kazakhstan. The NWA team is comprised of three officials and seven wrestlers who will compete in the Belt & Mas Wrestling discipline. The NWA today observed Prayer and Blessing Ceremony for its athletes and officials. The games are scheduled from 7th to 15th September at Astana, Kazakhstan.

