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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has highlighted the impact of the CM's Micro Finance Initiative (CMMFI) in boosting grassroots entrepreneurship, agriculture and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through affordable financial assistance. In a social media post, Mr Rio noted that the initiative is aimed at promoting investment, credit discipline, and encouraging the banking sector to extend greater support to agriculture and small enterprise sectors. CMMFI is open to individual farmers and entrepreneurs, Self-help groups, and registered Farmer Producer Organisations with at least 100 shareholders. It offers loans of up to 50 lakh rupees, with subsidies and interest support, and collateral-free credit available for MSMEs. Launched in August 2022, CMMFI has so far recorded 2,813 beneficiaries from all districts, across multiple sectors including livestock, vehicle, retail, hospitality, and agriculture, among others.

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Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton today said progress of society depends on education, opportunity, unity and equal participation, noting the growing role of women in public life. Speaking at the 9th Lotha Eloë Hoho General Conference at Wokha, he said women have long carried responsibilities with dignity, while continuing to create new opportunities in education, enterprise, and service. Mr Patton also urged the community to uphold dignity of labour, value honest work, and preserve the mother tongue for future generations.

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Nagaland Education Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sarojini Damodaran Foundation for

implementation of the Vidyadhan Scholarship Programme in the state. The MoU was signed today in Kohima by School Education Director, Razouseyi Vese and Principal Consultant of the Foundation, Pankaj Tripati, in the presence of Advisor for School Education, Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, Chief Secretary Sentiyanger Imchen, Commissioner & Secretary Kevileno Angami, and other officials. The agreement is for a period of five years till March 2031, extendable upon mutual consent. Under the MoU, scholarships will be awarded to indigenous students of Nagaland who have passed Class 10 from government schools. Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Yhome expressed happiness over the collaboration and said it comes at an opportune time for students who have passed matriculation this year.

The Advisor said the scholarship is exclusively for students belonging to low-income groups, expressing hope that it will uplift the community. Principal Consultant Tripati informed that 100 students will be selected each year for Classes 11 and 12, with continued support at the degree level based on merit.

The scholarship amount is 10,000 rupees per year for Classes 11 and 12. Degree-level support will range from 25,000 to 75,000 rupees per year depending on the course. Applications can be submitted online at [www.vidyadhan.org](http://www.vidyadhan.org) or through the SDF Vidya app. The last date is July 31.

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Amid the ongoing row over the closure of Government High School (GHS), Longkhum in Mokokchung, Advisor for School Education, Kekhrielhoulie Yhome, has said the government has limited option to act if the community is unwilling to keep the

school functional. The school has remained closed since February by landowners over a dispute tied to appointment of multi-tasking staff. Interacting with media in Kohima today, Mr Yhome noted that many schools in Nagaland, including GHS Longkhum, were established through community participation, including land donations linked to Grade-IV appointments. However, he noted that such arrangements cannot be treated perpetual entitlements. Mr Yhome also noted improved road connectivity has changed educational planning, adding that the option of shifting the school to Alichen is under discussion if Longkhum does not wish to continue. Acknowledging the immediate concern, the Advisor stressed that efforts must ensure education of students is not disrupted.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple development projects worth four thousand crore rupees in Gangtok today. He also announced six cricket academies across the Northeast, including Nagaland, at the closing ceremony of Sikkim's 50th Year of Statehood celebrations. Addressing the gathering, Mr Modi described the Northeast as India's "Ashtalakshmi" and emphasized on the government's resolve of "Act East, Act Fast."

Mr Modi called Sikkim as the heaven of the East and said efforts are underway to boost sports infrastructure and nurture talent in football and archery. He said Sikkim's success in organic and natural farming has become a model for the country. A grand cultural programme titled "1000 Steps of Unity," featuring over 1,500 local artists, marked the occasion.

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The Indoor Cricket Academy at Sovima was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a major boost to cricket infrastructure in Nagaland. Funded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the state-of-the-art facility will provide modern indoor training facilities and year-round practice opportunities for aspiring cricketers, and is equipped with indoor practice nets, modern pitches, and swimming pool. In a statement, the Nagaland Cricket Association said the academy represents the beginning of a stronger future for cricket in the state. Meanwhile, Vice President of Athletics Federation of India, Abu Metha termed the academy as a true game-changer for the advancement of cricket in Nagaland.

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Special Secretary in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, today visited key projects in Kohima under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. On the second day of his tour to Nagaland, Mr Yadav inspected project sites including the High Court at Meriema; Working Women's Hostel at Kigwema; and Main Arena at Kisama Heritage Village, which is partly funded under SASCI. The Special Secretary was accompanied by Finance Commissioner, Kesonyü Yhome, and senior officials from the Finance Department and other project-implementing departments.

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