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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Governor Nand Kishore Yadav calls for stronger participation in voluntary blood donation
- Nagaland conducts statewide Emergency Preparedness Exercise; Gaps in disaster response identified
- Nagaland delegation joins national summit on data-driven governance
- Dimapur Police launch real-time traffic monitoring centre

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Governor Nand Kishore Yadav has called for continued efforts to promote voluntary blood donation across the state. He made the remarks today during an interaction with members of the Voluntary Blood Donors Association Nagaland (VBDAN) at Lok Bhavan in Kohima. The members briefed the Governor on their key activities, including a Blood Donors app designed to ensure timely access to donors. Lauding the life-saving initiatives, the Governor, who also serves as the Chief Patron of VBDAN, urged citizens, especially the youth, to participate in the cause. An active blood donor himself, Mr Yadav emphasized the importance of leading by example to inspire wider community involvement.

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The 8th edition of the Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEX) on earthquake and extreme weather emergencies was conducted across all 17 districts of the state today. The exercise was organised by the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority, and district administrations. The mock drill began with sirens at 8 AM, simulating a magnitude 7.7 earthquake with epicentre at Piphema. It triggered scenarios such as building collapse, landslides, and fires. Teams from SDRF, fire and Emergency Services, police, medical departments, and community volunteers carried out search, rescue, evacuation, and relief operations. In Kohima, Deputy Commissioner B. Henok Buchem, highlighted communication gaps during the exercise and called for upgrading radio handsets. Meanwhile, Jalukie ADC stressed the importance of community participation, noting that trained local responders play a crucial role in the initial phase of disasters. The exercise also included the 'Operation Night Guard,' simulating an air raid and blackout exercise for 15 minutes from 6:30 PM in 10 designated Civil Defence towns.

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The Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEX) conducted today identified key gaps in disaster response systems, with necessary improvements

to be implemented to ensure more effective emergency responses. Addressing the media, Home Commissioner Abhijit Sinha said the drill was aimed at testing the state's preparedness and evaluating how effectively systems respond to major, unpredictable disasters. He noted that lessons from the exercise will be used to strengthen capacity, address deficiencies, and improve overall response mechanisms. Mr Sinha highlighted that the exercise also tested inter-agency coordination and information flow, with participation from the National Disaster Management Authority, central forces, civil society, and community members. He said feedback from districts and departments has been compiled to ensure improvements in future emergencies response.

Lead Consultant of the National Disaster Management Authority, Major General Sudhir Bahl, said this year's drill followed a more realistic, impact-based approach. He said scenarios included casualties, landslides, disruption of communication, and infrastructure damage. Noting that response from districts was encouraging, he stressed the need to strengthen communication systems, ensure coordination for quick road clearance, and enhance safety measures in places like petrol pumps, which pose high risk of fire during earthquakes. The Major General added that the biggest success of the exercise was the seamless coordination among agencies, including the armed forces, in responding to simulated disaster situations.

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A delegation from Nagaland, led by Secretary, Economics & Statistics, Akunu S. Meyase, took part in a national summit on 'Harmonizing Administrative Data for Governance,' in Bhubaneswar on April 29 and 30. Organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the summit brought together policymakers, experts, and state representatives to discuss on improved governance through linking administrative data systems and evidence-based policymaking. Experts at the summit highlighted the need for common data standards, establishment of state-level data exchange platforms, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance data management and service delivery. Nagaland's participation in the summit reflects the state's commitment to modernising its statistical systems. Key takeaways are expected to strengthen the state's data ecosystem, improve data sharing across departments, and support efficient governance and policy planning. The Nagaland team comprised of representatives from the Economics & Statistics, Information Technology & Communication, Planning & Transformation Departments.

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Commissioner of Police Dimapur, Aotula T Imchen, today launched a centralized monitoring centre at East Police Station to strengthen real-time traffic management and road safety. The project, funded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the National Clean Air

Programme, includes 14 CCTV and automatic number plate recognition cameras installed at key congestion points in Dimapur, including Dhobinala, Tragopan, Purana Bazaar and Nagarjan. Ms Imchen said the initiative will ease traffic congestion and reduce vehicular pollution in busy areas. Deputy Commissioner, Tinojongshi Chang, urged public cooperation, noting that the system will also help law enforcement in crime detection.

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A two-day capacity-building training on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), its compliance, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act began in Kohima today for government departments and NGOs. The programme is being curated by the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) in collaboration with the Home Affairs Ministry and HCL Foundation. Speaking at the inaugural session, IDAN Chairman Abu Metha underscored the importance of collective efforts in addressing development challenges and ensure effective implementation of CSR initiatives. He stressed that government programmes and policies must reach the grassroots, and suggested setting up dedicated CSR cells in key development departments to engage with corporates and mobilise resources.

Mr Metha also said improving efficiency in governance remains a priority under the leadership of Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, especially in reaching remote and underdeveloped areas. Reaffirming the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in developing the Northeast for India's overall progress, he said Nagaland's strategic location as a gateway to Southeast Asia positions it as a key link in India's Act East policy and emerging economic opportunities. Mr Metha further expressed confidence that the state's vibrant and ambitious youth will continue to play a significant role in the country's growth. HCL Foundation Representative Rahul Kumar emphasized the vital importance of understanding compliance requirements for successful CSR implementation, adding that lack of proper compliance knowledge can hinder the actual flow of funds. Deputy Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs, O.P. Singh also spoke on the occasion.

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