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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nation observes Panchayati Raj Day today
- Governor Nand Kishore Yadav describes Panchayati Raj as foundation of democratic system
- Agreement signed to strengthen maternal and child welfare services in eastern Nagaland districts
- NSDMA to conduct Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise on April 30

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National Panchayati Raj Day is being observed today. The day commemorates the establishment of the Panchayati Raj System as a formal structure of local self-governance under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Addressing an event in New Delhi on the occasion, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj S P Singh Baghel said the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' cannot be realised without the comprehensive development of villages, farmers, panchayats, and the broader rural landscape. He said that inclusive growth at the grassroots level remains essential for national progress. The Minister urged elected representatives of panchayats to ensure the effective delivery of government schemes at the village level.

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Governor Nand Kishore Yadav has extended greetings on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day. In a social media post, he described Panchayati Raj as the strong foundation of India's democratic system, from the village communities to national development. Member of Parliament S. Phangnon Konyak said the true

strength of a nation lies in its villages. The MP called for continued focus to promote self-reliance and empower grassroots institutions.



In a step towards better grassroots service delivery, a Letter of Agreement was signed today to strengthen maternal and child health, nutrition, and early childhood development in Nagaland. The signing took place at the office of the Commissioner of Nagaland, in Kohima, bringing together the Department of School Education, Department of Health & Family Welfare, the Eleutheros Christian Society, and the District Administration under a unified framework. Under the agreement, departments will coordinate early learning, healthcare, and nutrition services, while the Eleutheros Christian Society will support community mobilization and awareness, and District authorities will oversee implementation and monitoring. The pilot phase will cover 60 villages across six eastern districts of Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, Noklak, Shamator, and Tuensang. The programme will ensure that every mother and child in the identified districts has access to integrated and quality services related to education, nutrition, and health. The initiative is expected to create a model for expansion across the state.



Stakeholder consultations for the Viksit Nagaland at 2047 vision document are continuing across districts, as part of the state government's effort to prepare a long-term development roadmap. In Dimapur today, Deputy Commissioner Tinojongshi Chang emphasised the importance of collective planning and stakeholder participation to shape an inclusive and practical vision. Sectoral presentations covered key areas including economic growth, social development, environmental sustainability, infrastructure, and governance. A similar consultation was also held in Mokokchung today. Meanwhile, in Wokha yesterday, discussions focused on identifying gaps, setting development targets for 2030, 2038, and 2047, and prioritising the needs of marginalized and remote populations. Stakeholders

also shared inputs on proposed policy directions and strategic interventions during the sessions.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended Tsükhenyie greetings to the Chakhesang community. In a message on social media, Mr Rio expressed hope that the season would be abundance and prosperity, and wished for prosperity and fulfilment in every household.

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The Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA), Home Department, with support from the National Disaster Management Authority, is all set to conduct the 8th edition of the Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NePEX) on April 30. The mock exercise will be held from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Simultaneously, a Civil Defence air raid and blackout exercise under Operation Night Guard will be conducted in designated Civil Defence towns across 10 districts. Addressing media persons in Kohima today, Secretary to the Government of Nagaland, Sentiwapang Aier, said the drill will simulate earthquakes and extreme weather events to test preparedness, strengthen coordination among departments and response agencies, and improve effectiveness of emergency response system.

The Secretary said NePEX and Operation Night Guard signifies the state government's commitment to strengthening disaster preparedness and ensuring the safety and resilience of communities. He added that this will also help sensitise the public and encourage preparedness to respond effectively in emergencies.

Joint Chief Executive, NSDMA, Johnny Ruangmei, said that this year's exercise will be highly realistic, including a simulated earthquake of 7.7 magnitude, with its epicentre at Piphema.

Mr Ruangmei reiterated that the simulation is not a prediction but a preparedness measure. He said the exercise will involve all line departments, government agencies, NGOs, and volunteers, including NSS, NCC, and Bharat Scouts and Guides. Highlighting on Operation Night Guard, Commandant General of Home Guards, Civil Defence, and SDRF, Medozhalie Pienyü, said that the Exercise will be carried out in Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung, Wokha, Zunheboto, Mon, Phek, Tuensang, Peren, and Kiphire for 15 minutes starting from 6:30 PM. He said the scenario will simulate a drone attack, leading to structural collapse and fire outbreaks in buildings.

Meanwhile, a tabletop exercise will be held on April 29 at the State Emergency Operations Centre, Capital Convention Centre in Kohima, to review disaster management plans, coordination mechanisms, and response procedures among stakeholders.

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The Ministry of Mines has incorporated a financial outlay of 5000 crore rupees for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) for the Financial Year 2026-27. The Ministry said the objective of this SASCI scheme component is to facilitate and expedite mine operationalisation, increase mineral production, enhance revenue collection by States from mining, and improve overall governance of the sector. The Scheme incentive is to be provided to States and UTs under three reform areas, which include Implementation of Mining Reforms, Mine Operationalisation, and SMRI-based Reforms.

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In cricket, Chümoukedima has won the Senior Men's Inter-District Tournament 2026. In the final played today, Chümoukedima defeated Dimapur by 6 wickets. Batting first, Dimapur were bowled out for 80 runs. In response, Chümoukedima successfully chased the target in 17.1 overs to clinch the title

