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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Subedar Hokato Hotozhe Sema receives Ati Vishisht Seva Medal; Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio extend congratulations
- Health Minister P. Paiwang Konyak seeks Central support for upgrade of Nagaland's healthcare system
- House Listing Operations for Census 2027 to begin in Nagaland tomorrow
- Nagaland braces for widespread rainfall through the week

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In a landmark event for both the Indian Armed Forces and the para-sports community, Subedar Hokato Hotozhe Sema of the 9 Assam Regiment received the prestigious Ati Vishisht Seva Medal from President Droupadi Murmu during the Defence Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan yesterday.

Hokato becomes the country's first Paralympian to receive one of the nation's highest peacetime military decorations for distinguished service of an exceptional order. Congratulating Hokota, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio described the prestigious honour as a fitting recognition of his exceptional service, dedication and commitment to duty. Mr Rio wished him continued success and many more milestones in his distinguished journey. Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton also said a decorated soldier and an inspiring para athlete, Subedar Hokota has shown extraordinary courage and determination in every chapter of his journey. PHED Minister Jacob Zhimomi also congratulated Hokato saying that along with the rest of the nation, Nagaland rejoices in his remarkable achievement.

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Nagaland Health Minister, P. Paiwang Konyak attended the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health & Family Welfare in New Delhi yesterday, where he highlighted the state's efforts to build an equitable, resilient and accessible healthcare system. Addressing the conference, the Minister sought Central support for modernization and upgradation of ageing health infrastructure across primary, secondary and tertiary levels, particularly ahead of the graduation of Nagaland's first MBBS batch in 2028. He also called for region-specific budgeting under Centrally Sponsored Schemes to reflect the higher construction and logistics costs in hilly and remote states. Further, the Minister sought a review of the National Health Mission resource allocation formula by giving greater weight to terrain,

remoteness, population dispersion and the minimum cost of sustaining essential health services, instead of relying predominantly on population. Acknowledging the Centre's continued support for strengthening healthcare services in Nagaland, Mr Paiwang reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 on Good Health and Well-being. The conference was attended by Union Health & Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda, and Health Ministers from states and union territories.

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A one-day orientation programme on the implementation of the 15th Finance Commission Health Grants was organised today at Kohima by the Directorate of Municipal Affairs in collaboration with the National Health Mission, Nagaland. Delivering the keynote address, Director, Temjenrenla Kechü, said the Health Grant was introduced by the Government of India to strengthen basic healthcare and diagnostic services at the community level through Urban Health and Wellness Centres, while complementing existing health infrastructure. She informed that under the Department, each Urban Health and Wellness Centre is eligible for a one-time infrastructure grant of 25 lakh rupees and 3 lakh rupees for computer and internet facilities. She added that the Nagaland Government has integrated the scheme with existing health units and plans to establish six more centres this year. Managing Director of Naga Hospital Authority Kohima, Dr. Imotemsu, delivered a presentation on Universal Health Coverage, underscoring the need to strengthen primary healthcare, increase public health spending and leveraging technology to achieve universal health coverage. The programme also featured sessions on the recurring and non-recurring components of the Health Grants and on polyclinic services.

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The House Listing Operations and Housing Census, under the first phase of the Census 2027, will begin across Nagaland tomorrow. From July 1 to 30, enumerators and supervisors will visit every household to collect data on housing conditions, basic amenities, and household assets. The Government has assured that all information collected will remain strictly confidential, and has appealed all citizens to cooperate with census officials by providing accurate data for the successful conduct of the exercise.

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Deputy Commissioner of Kohima B. Henok Buchem today urged students to place character and purpose at the centre of their education, saying academic success alone is not enough to build a meaningful life. Addressing the 44th Freshers' Programme of Baptist College, Kohima today, he encouraged the students to pursue learning with integrity, compassion and a commitment to serving society.

Highlighting the rapid transformation driven by artificial intelligence and technological advancement, Mr Buchem called on students to develop critical thinking, communication, and creative problem-solving skills.

Mr. Buchem said Nagaland needs educated young people who will become ethical leaders, and urged students to remain grounded in prayer, uphold integrity and commit themselves to excellence, respect for others, and service to humanity.

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The Meriema Village Youth Organisation (MVYO) has withdrawn its proposed restrictions on the movement of government-registered vehicles within the village jurisdiction following assurances that repair work on the damaged National Highway stretch will begin shortly. The decision was taken during a consultative meeting today chaired by Kohima Deputy Commissioner, B. Henok Buchem and attended by officials of PWD (NH), representatives of the contractor M/s Nitin Sai Construction, and members of MVYO. During the meeting, Executive Engineer of PWD (NH) informed that a work order for repairing the sinking stretch was expected to be issued today. The contractor assured that mobilisation of materials would begin on July 2, while repair work would commence by July 6. It was also decided that the District Administration and MVYO would jointly monitor the progress of the work to ensure timely completion.

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And in weather... Nagaland is likely to experience widespread rainfall across all districts through the end of the week. According to India Meteorological Department, the showers are expected to be accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning. The department said, heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places in Kohima, Zunheboto and Mokokchung tomorrow.

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