

Morning News Script

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Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio has said that there is no single fixed number of teacher vacancies for the whole state or for each district. He said teacher requirements are calculated, based mainly on number of students enrolled, prescribed staffing pattern and Pupil-Teacher Ratio. The Chief Minister was replying to a starred question raised by MLA, A. Nyamnyi Konyakon district wise details of teacher vacancies in various categories of government schools in Nagaland, during the ninth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly in Kohima yesterday. He highlighted that Government schools in Nagaland currently have a Pupil-Teacher Ratio of 7:1, compared to the All-India average of 24:1 and the NEP 2020 benchmark of less than 30:1. Mr. Rio said this indicates that the state does not face an overall shortage of teachers in terms of student-teacher ratio. He further informed that, following the school rationalization process, the number of Government schools has been reduced from 1,939 to 1,881. Of these, 359 schools have fewer than 10 students, while 819 have fewer than 25 students. Responding to concerns raised by the MLA on the rationalization process, Mr. Rio assured that the state government would undertake further reassessment and readjustment, particularly in difficult and remote areas, to ensure that the process does not adversely affect access to education.

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Nagaland Minister for Health & Family Welfare, P. Paiwang Konyak said the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) provides cashless coverage for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation, covering approximately 1,970 treatment procedures across 25 specialties. Mr. Konyak was responding to a starred question raised by MLA, Kuzholuzo Nienu on the types of diseases and treatments covered under the AB-PMJAY, in the state Legislative Assembly in Kohima yesterday. He added that the scheme covers hospitalisation and specified

day care treatments, including dialysis, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and minor surgeries. The Minister further informed that the National Health Authority also provides for unspecified surgical packages for eligible procedures not specifically included in the listed interventions, subject to prescribed criteria and approval. However, Mr. Konyak clarified that outpatient services, as well as certain procedures and treatments including cosmetic and aesthetic procedures, dental procedures, and fertility treatments such as IVF and surrogacy are not covered under the scheme.

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A Mega Oil Palm Plantation Drive under the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) for 2026-27 was launched at Chümoukedima Village Council Hall yesterday. Gracing the programme as special guest Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Shreyansee Jain said, oil palm plantation initiative can help improve the livelihoods of farmers while promoting economic and environmental sustainability. She said agriculture is the backbone of Nagaland and farmers constitute an equally important foundation of the State's economy.

(S/B JAIN)

Ms. Jain highlighted India's dependence on imports of palm oil, with around 60 percent of its requirement being dependent on Southeast Asia. She said promoting oil palm cultivation could contribute towards greater self-reliance and strengthening the country's production capacity. Emphasising the need for continued technical and scientific assistance, Ms. Jain urged farmers to approach the Agriculture Department whenever they faced doubts or challenges, so that problems at the initial stage did not affect the crop at a later stage.

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The Zunheboto Town Council (ZTC) launched CCTV Surveillance System in Zunheboto town, with the main objective of strengthening public safety, surveillance and traffic management. A total of 44 CCTV cameras has been installed under the 15th Finance Commission Grants, covering key areas of

Zunheboto town. Speaking at the programme, ZTC Chairperson K. Herato Sukhalu said the CCTV cameras would help deter crimes, enable quicker police response, assist in traffic management and provide recorded footage for investigations and resolving disputes. Zunheboto Superintendent of Police, Dr Kupe Kapfo, in his address, suggested measures such as multi-level parking facilities, zebra crossings and proper road signage to address traffic congestion. He also stressed the need for proper planning of parking facilities around upcoming commercial and market areas. The SP further expressed willingness to work jointly with the ZTC whenever opportunities for funding and development arise.

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