

Morning News Script

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Nagaland has sought greater flexibility in the implementation of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in the Northeast, arguing that the region's distinctive terrain, climate and farming conditions require an approach different from that followed in the plains. Nagaland Horticulture and Women Resources Development Minister Salhoutuonuo Kruse raised the issue at the National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2026 in New Delhi yesterday, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Mrs. Kruse proposed greater flexibility for states to reallocate funds among admissible components according to field requirements. The minister also pointed the opportunities in organic and natural horticulture, and called for a broader focus on the horticulture value chain, branding, marketing and exports. She further said the Government of Nagaland viewed horticulture as an important avenue for diversifying livelihoods and improving farm incomes.

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Nagaland Principal Secretary and Development Commissioner Y. Kikheto Sema has called for greater flexibility and regional context in the implementation and assessment of Sustainable Development Goals in the Northeast. Speaking at the National Workshop on SDG Budgeting in Kolkata yesterday m, Mr Sema highlighted challenges in financial inclusion, noting that 14 of Nagaland's 76 blocks remain unbanked, with people in remote areas travelling up to 40 kilometres for banking services. He also called for context-specific assessment of agricultural indicators, particularly those relating to jhum cultivation, and greater inclusion of indigenous farming systems in agricultural education. Mr Sema stressed that national policies and programmes should better reflect the diverse geographical, cultural and socio-economic realities of the Northeast.

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Director General of Police, Nagaland, Rupin Sharma, yesterday launched the e-Challan and e-Suraksha portals at the Police Complex, Chümoukedima. Speaking on the occasion, DGP Rupin Sharma said e-Challan is an automated digital traffic enforcement system integrated with the Parivahan portal of the Government of India. He said the system will promote transparency and efficiency in traffic enforcement by the Nagaland Police. Mr Sharma said the portal is integrated with QR codes, enabling individuals to make digital payments for traffic violations.

The DGP also said the e-Suraksha application has been developed to make the police grievance redressal system more efficient, transparent and accountable. It will enable people in Nagaland, as well as those from outside the state, to electronically register complaints through the portal when they face any problem. The applications will use an OTP-based verification system. Mr Sharma said the registration system would be crucial in helping the police identify criminals and fugitives in near real time, and strengthen security and verification mechanisms across the state.

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The State Level Census Coordination Committee of Nagaland has reviewed preparations for Phase-II of Census 2027, focusing on Population Enumeration. The meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary and Committee Chairman Sentyanger Imchen, also reviewed the progress of Phase-I and preparations for the Village and Town Directories for the District Census Handbook. Phase-II Self-Enumeration is tentatively scheduled from January 10 to 24 next year, followed by Population Enumeration from January 25 to February 28, with a Revision Round from March 1 to 5. The committee also discussed training, publicity and financial requirements.

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And, Model Higher Secondary School, Kohima, has emerged winner of the third edition of Sonic Showdown, a band battle and beat contest for high school and higher secondary school students. The contest was held at RCEMPA, Jotsoma, Kohima, on Tuesday, organised by the Department of Youth Resources and Sports, Nagaland. Eden Higher Secondary School, Mokokchung, secured the first runners-up position, while Christian Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, was placed second runners-up. In the individual categories, Eden Higher Secondary School won the Best Vocalist and Best Bassist titles. Model Higher Secondary School won Best Keyboardist and Best Guitarist, while Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Kohima, won Best Drummer.

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