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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Minister C.L. John urges stronger community participation in biodiversity conservation
- Landslide-hit stretch of National Highway-2 at Phesama expected to reopen by November 20
- Digital Life Certificate Campaign underway across Nagaland till November 30
- Kohima leads medal standings at the Nagaland State and Para Games

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A two-day State-Level Workshop on community conservation, focusing on achievements and the way forward for sustainable forest and biodiversity management, began in Kohima today. The workshop is being organised by the Forest and Biodiversity Management in the Himalaya (Nagaland) Project, co-financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through development bank KfW. Addressing the inaugural programme, Minister of Environment, Forests, & Climate Change and Village Guards, C.L. John said Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) should serve as models for forest conservation and environmental protection. He noted that Article 371-A alone cannot address climate and environmental challenges, and stressed the need for greater awareness and community participation. Commissioner & Secretary and Team Leader NEPED, Kovi Meyase said, conservation decisions must remain participatory, and called for greater government recognition and institutional support to strengthen community-led conservation efforts. He also suggested integrating CCA experiences into school and college curricula to nurture future conservation leaders. On the occasion, Forest and Biodiversity Management Project Community Conservation Awards were conferred to Langa Village of Tuensang District, and Thenhyayan and Mmhayan Villages of Wokha District for their contribution to community-led participation conservation and sustainability. The Minister also unveiled project documents including a Landscape Management Plan to address Human-Elephant Conflict in Wokha and Mokokchung. A new project website and a toll free helpline number for human-elephant conflict 1800-2020-878 were also launched.

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Restoration work on the landslide-hit stretch of National Highway-2 at Phesama, near Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, is around 80 percent complete, with the road expected to reopen by November 20. This was informed by the Southern Angami Youth Organisation president Zasitsolie Beio following an inspection of the affected area today, along with representatives of its federating units and contractors engaged by the NHIDCL. Mr Beio said the organisation was satisfied with the progress of the work, while blacktopping and other works were still pending.

Meanwhile, Phesama Youth Organisation raised concerns over the deteriorating condition of the alternative road connecting Phesama, Kisama and Kigwema. Contractor Ketousie Khamo informed that soiling and metalling on the Phesama side were expected to be completed by November 9, after which students would be allowed to use the emergency road.

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The fifth Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign for pensioners is being conducted across Nagaland this month, with facilities being provided at the offices of Deputy Commissioners in all districts. The campaign is being conducted on all working days from 10 AM to 1 PM till the 30th of November. Pensioners have been advised to bring their Aadhaar Card, Pension Payment Order or PPO book, and bank account details through which they receive their pension. Meanwhile, free medical services are being provided, while help desks are being set up to assist pensioners with the process and Aadhaar-related corrections. Once successfully generated and mapped, the Jeevan Pramaan Digital Life Certificate will exempt pensioners from physical verification.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has extended greetings to the Sumi community on the occasion of Apikimti, the festival of thanksgiving. In a social media message, he expressed hope that the celebration would renew bonds of unity and strengthen the spirit of togetherness. Mr Rio also wished that occasion would usher in harmony, abundance, and prosperity for all.

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The Nagaland Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services has made it mandatory for buildings seeking No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to provide dedicated water storage tanks made of concrete, masonry or steel for fire-fighting purposes. According to a circular issued last month, the provision will apply with immediate effect, and plastic or Sintex tanks will no longer be accepted for meeting prescribed fire-fighting water storage requirements in existing buildings seeking NOCs. The circular also directed that existing plastic water tanks used for fire-fighting purposes be replaced

with concrete, masonry or steel structures, in accordance with the capacity requirements specified by inspection officers.

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Nagaland Director General of Police (DGP) Rupin Sharma has called upon young people to develop a strong sense of vigilance and responsibility. Addressing a programme marking the culmination of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 at the Nagaland University, Mr Sharma said vigilance was not merely about identifying faults or suppressing others, but about understanding how systems function and identifying areas that need improvement. He stressed that vigilance should serve as a stepping stone towards solving problems, adding that any malpractice or irregularity brought to light should become the starting point for corrective action.

Emphasising the role of students and young people in shaping the future, Mr Sharma said the responsibility of taking the country forward rests largely with the younger generation.

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Deputy Commissioner, Zunheboto, Dharam Raj today initiated a 100-day campaign under the national Child Marriage Free India initiative, ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Child Marriage on November 27. Addressing the programme, Mr Raj stressed the importance of protecting children's rights, preventing child marriage and promoting girls' education. He also called upon community elders, church leaders and youth organisations to actively participate in efforts to eliminate child marriage. During the event, the District Administration and District Hub for Empowerment of Women, launched Sümi-language versions of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Child Marriage Free India campaign materials to overcome language barriers and strengthen awareness at the grassroots level.

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And, Kohima is leading the medal tally at the 4th Nagaland State and Para Games 2026, with 4 gold medals as competitions continue across Chümoukedima and Dimapur today. According to the latest medal standings, Kohima has an overall tally of 10 medals, including 4 silver and 2 bronze. Dimapur is placed second with 3 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals. Phek is third with 3 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze. Dimapur, however, has the highest overall medal count at 15. The day's events included competitions in archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, Pencak Silat and table tennis.

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