

Nagaland Focuses on MSME Growth and Entrepreneurship to Drive Economic Development: Hekani Jakhalu



Kohima, May 27 : Nagaland Advisor for Industries and Commerce Hekani Jakhalu on Tuesday emphasised that strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and supporting entrepreneurs would play a crucial role in the state's long-term economic progress and employment generation.

Speaking at an interactive session on the UNNATI 2024 Scheme and PM Vishwakarma organised by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Jakhalu said properly developed MSMEs had the potential to address a significant portion of the state's economic challenges. She noted that the sector could resolve nearly 70 to 80 per cent of Nagaland's economic

concerns if strengthened effectively.

Calling for greater involvement of legislators, Jakhalu urged public representatives to actively spread awareness about government initiatives and livelihood opportunities so that people in every constituency could benefit from available schemes. She said genuine beneficiaries should be identified and encouraged to participate in programmes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship.

Referring to the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme, a World Bank-supported initiative under the Ministry of MSME, she said awareness campaigns had already been conducted across Nagaland to identify potential entrepreneurs. She informed that 750 high-

potential MSMEs would receive mentoring support under the programme and appealed to legislators to identify deserving candidates capable of becoming role models in their regions.

Highlighting the potential of the food processing sector under the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, Jakhalu said it could emerge as a major source of employment and entrepreneurship in the state.

She identified sectors such as textiles, handloom, handicrafts and food processing as key areas that could strengthen Nagaland's economy. Stressing the importance of grassroots development, she also called for better infrastructure support for

local weavers and encouraged women involved in handloom activities to ensure that genuine beneficiaries were registered under Individual Weaver's Shed schemes.

Speaking on PM Vishwakarma, Jakhalu described it as an important initiative designed to empower traditional artisans and craftspeople by providing financial assistance, skill development and improved market access.

Secretary for Industries and Commerce Kumar Ramnikant said 55 units in Nagaland are currently covered under the UNNATI scheme, which he described as an important step in promoting entrepreneurship across the Northeast. He noted that the programme could help expand traditional crafts, improve market connectivity and support rural tourism activities.

Ramnikant further stated that six traditional trades had been identified for training programmes in Nagaland and revealed that 1,939 artisans had already been trained under PM Vishwakarma as of May 25, 2026. He added that the schemes are helping traditional occupations become part of the formal and digital economy.

Director of Industries and Commerce P Tokugha Sema said awareness drives on the UNNATI scheme had already reached all districts of Nagaland and urged legislators to identify entrepreneurs capable of contributing to local economic growth.

Additional Director Lipongse Thongtsar said the department is prioritising finance accessibility, technology support and grievance redressal while also promoting the textile sector to strengthen the rural economy.

Officials at the event said the UNNATI 2024 scheme aims to strengthen the industrial ecosystem across the Northeast through incentives for manufacturing, service sectors and micro-industries. They added that PM Vishwakarma currently supports trades in Nagaland such as basket weaving, tailoring, carpentry, masonry, barbering and doll and toy making.

According to figures presented during the session, 1,884 artisans had been trained and assessed under PM Vishwakarma by March 31, 2026, while loans amounting to Rs 3.91 crore and 773 toolkits had already been distributed under the programme.

NPF Questions Kuki CSOs Over Missing Six Naga Men, Seeks Immediate Disclosure of Their Whereabouts

Imphal, May 27: The Naga People's Front (NPF), Manipur State Unit, has strongly objected to statements reportedly made by Kuki civil society organisations (CSOs) denying knowledge of the whereabouts of six Naga men allegedly abducted from Leilon Vaiphei village on May 13. In a statement issued on May 26, the NPF described the reported claim as "deeply disturbing" and questioned what it called contradictions in the position taken by the Kuki organisations. The party argued that while information about other abducted civilians had allegedly surfaced, the denial regarding the six missing individuals raised serious concerns. According to the NPF, a total of 14 civilians, including men, women and a child, were allegedly abducted together during the incident. The party stated that several women and a child who had allegedly been taken along with their family members were later released on May 15, while six men continued to remain missing. The NPF claimed that the testimonies of the women who were released served as crucial accounts of the incident and challenged the denial issued by the Kuki CSOs. According to the party, the survivors had provided



details regarding the circumstances surrounding the abduction and the alleged separation from their family members. The women identified by the NPF as having been released are Kachlaklung Thiumai, wife of Rev. Dr. Manu Thiumai; Winliu Thiumai and her daughter Sarah Thiumai, wife and daughter of Dilip Thiumai; and Wibonliu Chawang, wife of Phenrilungbou Chawang.

The six individuals who remain untraced were identified as Rev. Dr. Manu Thiumai, Dilip Thiumai, Phenrilungbou Chawang, Pherongwibou Thiumai, Kenpibou Chawang and Kliwangbou Abonmai.

Raising a series of questions over the reported denial, the NPF asked who was responsible for taking the men, who separated husbands from their families, and who later released the women while the men allegedly remained in captivity. The party also questioned how such an incident could allegedly take place in broad daylight without information emerging regarding the whereabouts of those still missing. The organisation stated that the continued denial despite what it described as eyewitness accounts had further heightened anxiety and mistrust within the Naga community. It added that while the community had shown restraint despite emotional distress, prolonged uncertainty and conflicting narratives could negatively affect inter-community relations. The NPF demanded immediate disclosure of the whereabouts of the six missing men, their safe and unconditional release, and accountability for those found responsible. The party also stated that it would continue pursuing the matter and stand with the affected families until the facts surrounding the case are fully established.

Arunachal Police Arrest Alleged Drug User-Cum-Peddler in Anti-Narcotics Operation in Upper Siang

Itanagar, May 27: Police in Arunachal Pradesh's Yingkiong have arrested an alleged drug user-cum-peddler during an anti-narcotics operation launched as part of efforts to curb the spread of narcotics in Upper Siang district.

According to police, the operation was carried out following specific information regarding the movement of a suspected drug peddler in the area. Acting on the input, Officer-in-Charge of Yingkiong Police Station Inspector Kari Pertin constituted a team comprising SI Ojaim Moyong, SI Kenjom Pertin, Head Constable T Lipir and

Constable B Eko to conduct the operation.

The team tracked down the suspect and apprehended him from the Yingkiong area. During a search operation, police recovered suspected heroin and cannabis (ganja) from his possession. Officials stated that the seized substances were taken into custody in accordance with legal procedures.

The operation was conducted in the presence of Executive Magistrate Tailyang Tomo.

Police said a case has been registered at Yingkiong Police Station under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Manipur's Maisnam David Singh Wins Mister Heritage 2026 Title in Philippines

Imphal, May 27: Manipur's Maisnam David Singh has won the Mister Heritage 2026 title, adding another international achievement for India at the global male pageant competition. The grand finale of the event was held in Pasig City, Philippines, on May 26. David represented India at the fifth edition of Mister Heritage International after being selected by the Rubaru Mr India Organisation. He had earlier secured the first runner-up position at Rubaru Mister Manipur 2026. A resident of Naoremthong Khumanthem Leikai in Imphal, David is currently a third-semester student at Biramangol College and is also pursuing a career in modelling. Prior to his departure for the competition, David had expressed his desire to use the international platform to showcase the culture and heritage of Manipur before a global audience. He had said he wanted to highlight the rich cultural identity and historical legacy of the state, describing the opportunity to represent both Manipur and India at Mister Heritage International as a significant milestone in his journey.

David had also acknowledged the support extended by people from the state and said he hoped to continue representing Manipur in future competitions. Mister Heritage International is an international male pageant focused on promoting culture, heritage and tourism. India had previously won the title in 2024, and David's victory marks another significant accomplishment for the country at the international event.

Itanagar, May 27: A major landslide caused by continuous heavy rainfall has blocked the Potin-Ziro section of National Highway 13 in Arunachal Pradesh, severely affecting road connectivity to Ziro, the headquarters of Lower Subansiri district. According to reports, a large volume of debris from the landslide has covered the highway, making the route inaccessible for vehicular traffic.

The affected stretch serves as an important link to Ziro through Potin in Papum Pare district and also connects through Yazali in Keyi Panyor district. Officials stated that persistent rainfall across the region has created difficulties in carrying out immediate restoration work. Due to adverse weather conditions and the extent of debris deposited on the road, authorities estimate that clearing and restoration efforts could take between two and three days. Authorities have urged commuters to avoid the affected highway section and use the alternate route through Kimin via Assam for travel to Itanagar and other destinations.

The highway blockage has caused significant disruption to traffic movement in the region, leaving travellers facing delays and transportation difficulties following the closure of the route.

Manipur Security Operations Lead to Multiple Arrests, Recovery of Arms and Explosives

Imphal, May 27: Security forces and Manipur Police conducted a series of operations across the state over two days, leading to the arrest of several alleged cadres linked to banned insurgent organisations and the recovery of arms, explosives and communication equipment from different locations.

An alleged active cadre of the proscribed PREPAK outfit, identified as Thinguijam Gulapi Singh (45), a resident of Ningomthong Sairam Leirak in Imphal East district, was arrested on May 26 from Kakwa Lilando Lampak under Singamei Police Station in Imphal West district. Security personnel recovered a mobile phone, an Aadhaar card and a Hero Pleasure scooter from his possession.

In another operation on the same day, security forces apprehended an alleged active cadre of PLA, identified as Waikhom Shanta Singh alias Torbot



(32), a resident of Sabungkhok Mamang Leikai, from the Nongdai Kameng area under Lamlai Police Station in Imphal East district.

Security personnel also arrested Ayekpam Dharmendra Singh (48), allegedly a self-styled captain of RPF/PLA, from his current residence under Iribung Police Station. He was reportedly known by multiple aliases, including Dhamen, Thawanhaba, Kunjo, Brojen and Thawailakpa. A mobile phone and an Aadhaar card were recovered during the operation.

Earlier, security forces had arrested two alleged cadres associated with different underground organisations from Mayai Keithel near Forest Gate under Nongpok Sekmai Police Station in Thoubal district. The arrested individuals were identified as Changubam Nganba Meitei alias Meiraba alias Thouba (21), allegedly

linked to RPF/PLA, and a juvenile suspected to be associated with NRFM.

Meanwhile, security forces carried out an operation under Litan Police Station in Ukhrul district and demolished three illegal bunkers. Officials said one bunker was located at Patleijang village, while two others were destroyed at Roudai village in the T.M. Kasom area. During the operation, security personnel recovered an improvised explosive device weighing approximately five kilograms, two pompi guns, two Baofeng radio sets with a charger, three live 12-bore cartridges and 12 empty cases of different calibres.

In a separate search operation conducted in the forest area of Hengkot village under Churachandpur Police Station, security forces recovered a substantial cache of arms and explosives.

The recovered items included an MK-II rifle, an AK-47 rifle with two magazines, a .303 rifle, a 12-bore rifle, several country-made weapons, two SBML guns, an SBBL gun and five improvised explosive devices.

Officials also seized wireless communication handsets, a country-made launcher, magazine pouches, camouflage jungle boots, a camouflage hat, live rounds of ammunition and empty cartridges from the site.

Further investigation into the cases is underway.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

CIN:L65910KL1962PLC008623

Registered Office: IV-4/638A, Manappuram Finance, P.O. Valapatt, Thrissur-680567 Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/06/2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction center and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BONGAIGAON, BONGAIGAON, 0136990700005859, 7404, 8791, 8837, 8927, 0136990730021399, 1477, 1839, 2811, CACHAR, SILCHAR, 0137290700007991, 8135, 8357, 8545, 8646, 8808, 8811, 9105, 9122, 9170, 9837, 0015, 0162, 0836, 0851, 0874, 0988, 1059, 0137290730039750, 0294, 0800, 0817, 1128, 1669, 2087, 2354, 2847, 4187, 0162, TARAPUR, 0137410700005354, 5399, 5554, 5762, 5809, 5883, 5979, 7021, 0137410730034335, 5283, 5437, 5594, 5870, 6159, 7396, 7397, DIBRUGARH, DIBRUGARH, 0137170700011210, 2574, 2970, 2974, 3090, 3093, 3221, 3383, 3446, 3574, 4672, 5167, 5569, 5778, 0137170730009856, 0201, 0208, JORHAT, JORHAT, 0137280700007223, 7224, 7374, 0137280730017705, 8286, 9081, 9485, KAMRUP, AMINGAON, 0137250700012268, 2417, 2662, 2782, 3108, 3143, 3147, 3173, 3189, 3226, 3511, 3521, 3769, 3932, 4040, 4048, 4060, 4084, 4178, 4275, 4297, 4313, 4408, 4550, 4878, 4913, 5112, 5151, 0137250730015492, 6063, 6390, 6526, 6797, 7176, 7258, 7261, 7300, 7404, 7418, 7419, 7453, 7566, 7691, 7748, 7756, 7782, 7783, 7784, 7785, 7855, 7856, 7858, 7869, 7882, 8194, 8218, 8452, 9123, 9158, 0364, 0365, 0412, 1385, BATTALIAN GATE, 0132410700026774, 6856, 7438, 7527, 7662, 9875, 9972, 0120, 0121, 0301, 0481, 0524, 0551, 0574, 0612, 0620, 0652, 0684, 0732, 0894, 0921, 1013, 1030, 1033, 1035, 1067, 1091, 1119, 1141, 1350, 1405, 1440, 1441, 1530, 1588, 1599, 1835, 1961, 2150, 2271, 3228, 3274, 3470, 0132410730030323, 0591, 0688, 0704, 6750, 6898, 7136, 7874, 8052, 8056, 8337, 8388, 8886, 9047, 9197, 9402, 9617, 9756, 9777, 9792, 9912, 9915, 9997, 0102, 0338, 0561, 1023, 1086, 1159, 1319, 1398, 1444, 1550, 1658, 1752, 1785, 2034, 2064, 2098, 2202, 2265, 2293, 2852, 3119, 3424, 3470, 5297, 6189, 6562, 0197, 0242, BELTOLA TINALI, 0132420700035668, 5714, 5805, 5808, 6054, 6089, 6126, 6143, 6274, 6634, 6673, 6698, 6745, 6749, 6806, 6967, 7008, 7012, 7041, 7042, 7058, 7085, 7143, 7189, 7216, 7349, 7380, 7440, 7468, 7489, 7508, 7740, 7911, 7951, 8041, 8152, 8285, 8676, 9036, 9083, 9171, 9265, 9360, 0132420730032544, 8592, 0087, 1136, 1866, 1867, 2004, 2512, 3336, 3352, 3382, 3504, 3505, 3506, 3772, 3793, 3807, 3894, 4131, 4270, 4363, 4538, 4635, 4638, 4669, 4675, 5326, 5507, 5567, 5803, 5916, 6109, 8462, 9355, 9474, HATIGAON, 0130100700024280, 4401, 4417, 4479, 6250, 6437, 6770, 6997, 7033, 7087, 7155, 7365, 7380, 7551, 7572, 7676, 7760, 7775, 7825, 7883, 7935, 8485, 8599, 8651, 8661, 8681, 8721, 8723, 8788, 8878, 0130100730030846, 0937, 3264, 3273, 3306, 3787, 3962, 4058, 4456, 4528, 4657, 4793, 4820, 4821, 4896, 4898, 5078, 5083, 5084, 5096, 5585, 7886, 8150, 8151, 8213, 3180, 0256, 0259, NARANGI, 0130190700020892, 8448, 8468, 8558, 0949, 0984, 1227, 1370, 1512, 1679, 1710, 1755, 1925, 1982, 1986, 2091, 2195, 2422, 2537, 2568, 2616, 3083, 3145, 3191, 3492, 3519, 3639, 3810, 3864, 3895, 4040, 4061, 4078, 4124, 4128, 0130190730030213, 4197, 6599, 7149, 7457, 7561, 7730, 8061, 8273, 8425, 8463, 8464, 8662, 8669, 8674, 8711, 8712, 9167, 9264, 9408, 9607, 9638, 0067, 0068, 0298, 1928, 2191, NORTH JALUKBARI, 0132450700035963, 6006, 8341, 8713, 8811, 8894, 9317, 9330, 9584, 9644, 0166, 0430, 0437, 0499, 1254, 1400, 0132450730038817, 6224, 6880, 8235, 8258, 9483, 0095, 0124, 0130, 0131, 0132, 0646, 0647, 3459, 3482, 3808, 3916, 4221, 4222, 4223, PALTON BAZAR, 0133360700020202, 2263, 2297, 3832, 4021, 4051, 0133360730030785, 6090, 6903, 7290, 7375, 7687, 7968, 7969, 8633, 9896, 0432, SILPUKHURI, 0128290700024828, 4901, 5350, 5459, 5521, 5773, 5953, 5959, 6247, 0128290730035869, 6759, 7339, 8460, 9372, SIX MILE, 0125970700027160, 7448, 7495, 8843, 8870, 9048, 9140, 9303, 9569, 9613, 9668, 9768, 9824, 0148, 0380, 0549, 0758, 0914, 1138, 0125970730027455, 8184, 8802, 9903, 0587, 1035, 1271, 1451, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1779, 1814, 1824, 1914, 2106, 2302, 2337, 0184, NAGAON, NAGAON, 0137000700010778, 1359, 2534, 3100, 3118, 0137000730020348, 5261, 7312, 7315, 0173, SIBSAGAR, SIBSAGAR, 0136940700013174, 5404, 5454, 5470, 5534, 5570, 5600, 5642, 5751, 5907, 5917, 5961, 6023, 6040, 6079, 6121, 6196, 6225, 6254, 6367, 6577, 6595, 6629, 6647, 6718, 6899, 7448, 7505, 7787, 7800, 8196, 8585, 8687, 8703, 0136940730023581, 3597, 3786, 4376, 4451, 4454, 5036, 5045, 5101, 5102, 5199, 5257, 5598, 5804, 5958, 6145, 6241, 6599, 6690, 6836, 8315, 8366, 8744, 1011, SONITPUR, TEZPUR, 0137180730020118, 0891, 0902, 1090, 1091, 2562, 5412, TINSUKIA, TINSUKIA, 0137270700008560, 8602, 8927, 9217, 9306, 9320, 9383, 9754, 9921, 9945, 0004, 0055, 0162, 0310, 0477, 0979, 0137270730017665, 8469, 8972, 9128, 9254, 9474, 9528, 9735, 9736, 9767, 9872, 9903, 0131, 0262, 0606, 0632, 0894, 1152, 1203, 2084, 3371, 3372, 3537, Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072807147.

Authorised Officer

For Manappuram Finance Ltd