

Business Standard

Finance Commission to take innovative approach to develop Nagaland: Singh

Nagaland government has also requested for setting up of national institutes, particularly management, medical and engineering college

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The
Fifteenth
Finance

The 15th Finance Commission celebrates its 1st anniversary in Kohima with a meeting with Hon. CM, Nagaland Shri Neiphiu Rio and his cabinet colleagues. (Photo: Finance Commission of India via Twitter @15thFinCom)

Commission (FFC) would take positive and innovative approach to fast-track the development of the economy of Nagaland, a top official of the commission has said.

A team of the FFC led by its chairman N K Singh is on a three-day visit of Nagaland.

The FFC team held talks with a Nagaland government team led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, different political parties, Naga civil societies, rural and urban local bodies to discuss their demands on Wednesday.

"We have had a very full and rich discussion with all stakeholders in Nagaland while the state government presented a formal memorandum to the commission detailing their expectations from the award and

Nagaland government has put forth four proposals which include post-devolution revenue deficit grants amounting to Rs 740 billion on critical infrastructure development Rs 72.12 billion, Village Councils and Urban bodies Rs 17 billion and for disaster management Rs 10.80 billion totalling to Rs 868.34 billion, in addition to the critical connectivity projects.

"The commission is going back sanguine and enthused by initiatives of the state government and by the development metrics which currently are on the go," he said.

"It will be the endeavour of this FCC to encourage and fully support the innovative measures which are currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of Nagaland's economy which can improve the per capita income more significantly and enable it in harnessing its multiple competitive factors," Singh said.

The FCC chairman said the demands are there through the memorandum and the team will have further consultations within the commission and see the totality of the demands in the lights of the supplementary memorandum before coming to conclusions and firming our recommendations for Nagaland.

"We also had deliberations with village councils and village development boards, tribal organisations, trade and commerce and all political parties and they made oral and written memorandum to the commission," he said.

Singh said the commission is impressed by the great strides which Nagaland has made on several important critical parameters including the indices of human resource development - the rate of literacy, infant and maternal mortality rates are significantly above the national average.

He said that commission is greatly impressed with the interactions with village council and VDBs and the state's approach towards the communitisation of resources which is unique to Nagaland.

Singh said the Commission recognises that 75 per cent of Nagaland is under forest with quite a large percentage in dense forest while most are moderate and open forest, which contributes greatly to the national carbon sync.

The contribution of Nagaland towards the environmental and ecological friendly approach towards reducing the fossil fuel footprint is commendable and needs to be recognised, the FCC chairman said.

He said the Nagaland government has also requested for setting up of national institutes, particularly management, medical and engineering college in the state to harness the huge potential of the young population of Nagaland.



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Impressed with the strides Nagaland have made: 15th FC

November 29, 2018



15th Finance Commission chairman NK Singh addressing the media in Kohima. (Morung Photo)

Chizokho Vero

Kohima | November 28

The 15th Finance Commission chairman Nand Kishore Singh today said that the Commission is going back optimistic and enthused by initiatives of the Nagaland state government and by the current development metrics.

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“It will be the endeavour of this 15th FC to encourage and fully support the innovative measures which are currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of the Nagaland’s economy.

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significantly and enable in harnessing its multiple competitive factors that Nagaland has,” Singh said while addressing a press conference here at the state capital.

He expressed hope that the slogan of the government “Peace for development and development for peace” does not remain a mere slogan but has to be translated into action. “We are exceedingly sympathetic to the needs, requirement and compulsions, the opportunities and challenges of Nagaland,” he asserted.

The Commission will have further consultations and see the totality of the demands in the lights of the supplementary before coming to conclusions and framing its recommendations for Nagaland, the chairman informed.

He said the Commission had full and rich discussion with all stakeholders in Nagaland which include village councils, VDBs, political parties, trade, industry and commerce etc. Formal memorandum, representations detailing their expectations and demands were also presented to the Commission.

Singh said the Commission was impressed by the great strides which Nagaland has made on several important critical parameters with special mention on human resource development, rate of literacy, infant and maternal mortality.

Great strides have been made in the Horticulture sector, which has great scope in terms of organic farming, fruits, vegetables and agriculture productivity, he observed.

Maintaining that Nagaland coffee tastes great, Singh encouraged the state to find better avenues like entering into memorandum with South Africa.

Fruits and other vegetables offer great opportunities for downstream development of those in terms of agro and agro based processing industries, Singh added.

He also said the Commission was greatly impressed by interactions with village council and VDBs and the state's approach towards the communitisation of resources which is unique to Nagaland.

Recognizing that 75% area of Nagaland is under forest cover with quite a large percentage in the dense forest category while most are moderate and open forest, Singh said this contributes greatly towards reducing fossil fuel footprint, which he said, "is commendable and needs to be recognized."

He said to harness the advantage that Nagaland has, three important trust areas needs encouragement – one is improve connectivity – air and road. Tourism offers a huge potential but for this requirement, good connectivity becomes essential, he said.

He also encouraged the state to think greatly of renewable energy, particularly solar energy. "Nagaland needs to take advantage not only on hydel potential but take advantage of the enormous amount of the land and sunshine."

Singh informed that the state government had submitted memorandum to the commission basing on four proposals on what they view to be the post devolution revenue deficit grants – totaling to Rs 86,834 crore, in addition to the critical connectivity projects.

15th FC secretary Arvind Mehta said one of the main economic earners of the state is going to be the tourism activities.

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State dinner and cultural show hosted for 15th Finance Commission

November 29, 2018



CM Neiphiu Rio felicitating the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission during the dinner and cultural show hosted in honour of their visit at the Banquet Hall, Office Residence of the CM on November 27. (DIPR Photo)

Kohima, November 28 (MExN): A state dinner and cultural show was hosted in honour of visit of the Chairman, member and officials of the 15th Finance Commission at the Banquet Hall, Office residence of the Chief Minister on November 27.

It was stated in a DIPR report that the Chairman of 15th FC Dr. N.K Singh, in his address mentioned that it was the duty of the Finance Commission to do whatever it could within the constraints of its constitution framework to contribute to the development of the state.

It stated that the Commission will join the distribution by the state government and will support the multiple endeavours in improving the quality of the infrastructure, both physical and social and will also further empower women and help in their contribution to the development of the state. "This Commission will assist the development of Nagaland and enable the government to realize what they believe is the destiny of the state," he said.

The Commission will also mitigate the challenges, contribute to their efforts and will do their very best in encouraging the government for enabling Nagaland to reach its full potential and will take active participation in the endeavours of the present

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio proposed the welcome speech.

Regarding the long period of struggle and violence in the State by the unresolved issue of the Naga political struggle, he said that with almost 21 years of Peace Process and 3 years since signing of the Framework agreement, he was hopeful of a final settlement of the Naga Political Issue which is “inclusive, honourable and acceptable to the people fulfill their dreams and aspirations.”

To make tourism the mainstay of our economy, Rio said the state has launched the Mini Hornbill a tribal festivals in various districts at different times of the year which will culminate at Kisama in Kohima as the Hornbill Festival from December 1.

Rio also highlighted the aspirational and enthusiastic performances of the Naga youths who have excelled in Ranji trophy and the Indian Football League. He credited Tamsutula Imsong for the cleaning the ghats of Varanasi, Chiewelou Thele, the best trainee commando of police officers at Delhi Police, the jawaans and officers of Naga Regiment for making the nation proud at Kargil War, Bangladesh War or fighting Naxals in difficult terrains, and the talented Naga boys and girls who have made the Nation proud with their accomplishments in the field of music, fashion and crafts.

Rio said the infrastructure development is helping Nagaland catch up with mainland States in terms of economic development with connectivity within the State as also with other States of the North East which helps to create opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses. He also said Nagaland is also the gateway to South East Asia and with the Act East policy of Government of India there will be a huge market for our produce and products. The ongoing road projects in the State and pursuing Ciethu airport at capital Kohima, can also transform the State, he informed.

“The strength of our State lies in our organic farm produce, flowers, fruits, and the rare medicinal plants and herbs can help create jobs and boost the economy,” the CM said. He also said Nagaland have a high literacy rate – higher than the national average and the young population is fluent in English, IT savvy and with a progressive outlook which can help transform the region into a hub for the services industry, Rio informed that a Call Centre is already operational in Kohima and is also pursuing for another call centre in Dimapur.



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15th Finance Commission: State govt. requires INR 1,08,872 cr.

By Our Correspondent / November 28, 2018 / Comments Off on 15th Finance Commission: State govt. requires INR 1,08,872 cr.

Our Correspondent

Kohima, Nov. 27 (EMN): The state government has projected a total requirement of INR 1,08,872 cr. to the fifteenth finance commission (2020-25).

In a memorandum to the 14-member visiting team from the 15th finance commission (FC), the government of Nagaland highlighted the fund requirements of the state in detail under separate heads.

Total requirement of fund during 15th finance commission

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (₹ in crore)
1	Projected Revenue Deficit during 2020-21 to 2024-25 (Pre-Devolution)	96370.46
2	Maintenance of Infrastructure Assets	3535.50
3	Critical Infrastructure Requirements	4392.93
4	Grants to Village Councils (VCs) and Village Development Boards (VDBs)	1212.45
5	Grants to Urban Local Bodies	496.10
6	One time Grant to waive the Budgetary deficit and liabilities as on 31st March 2018	2864.18
	Total	108871.62
		say ₹108872.00 crore

Source: Nagaland Finance Department

These include INR 96370.46 cr. as the projected revenue deficit during 2020-21 to 2024-25 (pre-devolution); INR 3535.50 cr. for maintenance of infrastructure assets; INR 4392.93 cr. for critical infrastructure requirements; INR 1212.45 cr. for grants to village councils (VCs) and village development boards (VDBs); INR 496.10 cr. for grants to urban local bodies; and INR 2864.18 cr. as a one-time grant to waive the budgetary deficit and liabilities as on 31st Mar. 2018.

According to the memorandum, an amount of INR 707.10 cr. would be required annually for maintenance of infrastructure assets of 35 departments which amounts to INR 3535.50 cr. for five year period under 35 departments, while an amount of INR 4392.93 cr. was put up for consideration to the FC for 14 critical infrastructure development including schools, housing, new Raj Bhavan, High Court complex, Duda, and strengthening of power sector through generation projects among others.

The state government also highlighted that due to the change of funding pattern from 1989-90, liberal assistance to the state was restricted and the financial position of the state had deteriorated as the government of India had discontinued grant of fund for covering the balance from current revenue gap through additional central plan assistance.

It mentioned that the one-time special grant of INR 365 cr. from the centre in 2003 to wipe out the accumulated budgetary deficit had only brought relief to the state for a short period and the deficit had started to mount again as the state had to create avenues for appointment of the unemployed youth in the absence of other employment opportunities.

The state also highlighted the negative impacts of the 13th FC which had adopted a normative approach of awarding grant to all the states without taking into account that the state of Nagaland was created out of a political exigency, and the special category states were denied any special treatment. During this period (2010-15), it pointed out that the state had to suffer on several fronts: short assessment on salary requirements, reasons for huge number of government employees; loss on power and road transport; SCA untied; non-release of funds for state specific schemes; and non-release of funds for development of Eastern Nagaland, thereby, the state faced a deficit of INR 1811.85 cr. when the 13th FC period ended.

Stating that while the 14th FC had recommended better and realistic financing for all the special category states, the state government mentioned that the increase of 10% tax devolution from the centre to the state by raising the states' share from 32 to 42% hardly made little difference for a revenue-deficit state like Nagaland and due to huge burden, the state continues to have a post-devolution deficit. The state's memo also pointed out that non-release of funds, particularly pertaining to 40 projects under special plan assistance (SPA), to Eastern Nagaland and state specific development projects had further accumulated the deficit for the state to INR 2864.18 cr. as on 31st March 2018.

The state government is hoping that the special category status to Nagaland should be seriously upheld, particularly in the backdrop of the peace process, to enable the state bring about development and progress.

It has been learnt that the state government had already submitted the memorandum to the commission earlier this year, but a supplementary memorandum could be made to the current visiting FC team after their meetings with various stakeholders.

Finance Commission on Nagaland tour; visitors entry banned into Secretariat



NE NOW NEWS

KOHIMA , November 27, 2018 10:22 am

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Nagaland Home Department through a notification issued on Monday has prohibited entry of visitors into the Nagaland Civil Secretariat on Wednesday in view of the visit of the 15th Finance Commission.

The notification was issued by S Ramakrishnan, Home Secretary, Government of Nagaland.

Meanwhile, Nagaland Finance Secretary, Y Kikheto Sema on Monday said that the State Government is ready to host the 15th Finance Commission on Tuesday.

The 15th Finance Commission is arriving in Nagaland Tuesday on a three-day official visit to the north-eastern state.

While informing this during a media interaction at the Conference Hall of Finance Department at the State Secretariat on Monday evening, Kikheto further hoped that the Commission will understand the problems faced by the State on all fronts.

The Commission's chairman, Nand Kishore Singh along with 11 officials will be arriving at Kohima by helicopter, the finance secretary further informed.

The Commission will have meetings with representatives of the rural local bodies, urban local bodies and Tribal Hohos at a hotel in Kohima later on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, the Commission will have its meetings with the Chief Minister and the State Government officials during the first half of the day.

Later on Wednesday evening the Commission will hold meetings with representatives of political parties and with representatives of Trade, Industries & Commerce in the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary, Nagaland Civil Secretariat.

On Thursday, the third day of their visit, the Commission is expected to make a field visit to ToupHEMA Tourist Village in the morning and will then proceed to Imphal by helicopter.

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State

Nagaland wish list submitted to 15th FC



Nand Kishore Singh being received by Y. Patton and other, Tuesday.

By Nagaland Post | Publish Date: 11/27/2018 11:42:51 AM IST

Correspondent

KOHIMA, NOV 27 (NPN): Nagaland has submitted a memorandum to Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) reflecting the impact due to the change of funding in the previous years and a proposal for the next five years – 2020-21 to 2024-25. A team of 12 members led by its chairman Nand Kishore Singh arrived here on Tuesday afternoon on a three-

State finance secretary Kikheto Sema informed media persons Monday evening that the memorandum for 2020-21 to 2024-25 was submitted on August 16 and supplementary memorandum was under preparation for submission during the FC's visit. He said the FC members would be meeting State government officials and private agencies during their visit and leave for Imphal on November 29.

Meanwhile, the memorandum projected Rs 3,535.50 crore for the five-year period for repair and maintenance; Rs 1,115.59 crore for four hydro projects and Rs 4,392.93 for critical infrastructural development.

Impact on changing of funds: The memorandum pointed out that the state's finances suffered due to change in funding pattern by the 9th FC during 1989-90 in which grant of fund was discontinued, instead of providing liberal assistance to cover Balance from Current Revenue (BCR) gap through Additional Central Plan Assistance (ACPA).

It was also pointed out that due to the change in funding pattern from 1989-90 onwards, the State faced problems even in releasing monthly pay and allowances to government employees even as the government was unable to undertake developmental activities, which affected the overall socio-economic condition of the State.



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During 2003, a one-time special grant of Rs 365 crore was provided by then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to wipe out accumulated budgetary deficit which was a great relief for the State.

However, it said this one-time grant was only for a short period and the deficit started mounting because the state had to create avenues for providing jobs in the absence of other avenues since the formation of Nagaland.

State spends 58% on salary and pension: The memorandum submitted to the FFC mentioned that since the number of government employee was very high, the annual growth rate of salary and pension was equally high. It said these two components alone consumed about 58% of the total revenue expenditure.

Also, it stated that about 67% of the revenue expenditure was spent on account of salary, wage, pension and interest payments and thus very little fund was left for maintenance of infrastructural assets and other developments activities.

Impact of 13th FC: Refreshing the impact of 13th FC, the State government pointed out that the FC had adopted a normative approach of awarding grant to all the States without considering that Nagaland was the only State created out of political exigency. It pointed out that the special-category State was not given any special treatment as the same yardstick was applied to all the States, following which Nagaland suffered a lot during the 13th FC period.

Impact of 14th FC: The memorandum maintained that the 14th FC took into account the adverse awards of the 13th FC and recommended considerably better and realistic financing for all the special category States. It pointed out that though the increase of 10% tax devolution raised the share of states from 32% to 42%, it made little difference for revenue deficit states like Nagaland.

While appreciating the 14th FC for considering considerably better revenue deficit grant to Nagaland, the State still continued to have a post devolution deficit due to the huge burden.

Further, the memorandum explained that the percentage of distribution of share of Central taxes was not too favourable to Nagaland, as compared with some other North-eastern States.

The State government appealed to FFC to distribute State share of Central taxes equitably to all the North-eastern States on need basis, with special consideration for Nagaland, taking into account the provision of point 11, clauses 1& 2 of the 16-point Agreement.

Rs 3,535.50 for repair and maintenance: State government has urged the FFC to consider granting Rs 3,535.50 crore for repair and maintenance of infrastructural assets during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25.

The memorandum submitted to the FC stated that the amount had not reflected the statement relating to State finance under statements 1-4.

Requirement of critical infrastructure: The State government asserted that Nagaland did not have any national or regional institution worth mentioning, neither medical nor engineering college and that there was a huge gap in critical infrastructure that was required to cater to the needs of the people.

Out of the many requirements, the Stated urged the 15th FC to consider and grant the following projects:

New Raj Bhavan, at Thizama, Kohima with a required amount of Rs 400 crore with start-of-the-art facilities on 150-acre land (currently 5.5 acres) and said the State government envisaged to complete the project within the 15th FC period.

Housing: Out of the total 6,058 government buildings (offices and quarters) constructed since the State's inception till date, 1,142 houses were more than 50 years old and beyond

government proposed to replace 25% (i.e. 285) with new buildings at a cost of Rs 1.50 crore per building that would cost about Rs 427.50 crore.

General administration buildings: Out of the 12 districts, seven had constructed new office buildings for deputy commissioners (DCs) and the DCs of the remaining five districts – including Tuensang, Zunheboto, Kiphire and Wokha – were functioning from old dilapidated buildings, while there was similar requirement for the newly-created district of Noklak.

In this regard, the government has estimated Rs 100 crore for construction of five DC offices at the rate of Rs 20 crore per office.

Also, it mentioned that the five districts also required new offices for superintendents of police (SP), for which an amount of Rs 50 crore would be required (at the rate of Rs 10 crore per office).

Further, the memorandum proposed Rs 55 crore for construction of G+1 flat type building consisting of six flats (3BHK) quarters for all India service cadres like IAS, IPS and IFoS (excluding DC & SP) at the rate of Rs 5 crore per district.

School: The State government proposed Rs 720 crore for construction of five high schools in each of the 12 districts at the rate of Rs 12 crore per school, stating that out of the 1,913 government schools, around 15 of them were more than 50 years old.

Hospitals: Rs 100 crore was proposed for constructing new district hospitals at the rate of Rs 25 crore per hospital in Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto and Longleng.

New High Court complex: After Rs 256.55 crore was revised, an amount of Rs 61.71 crore was released and Rs 194.84 crore was required for completion of the new high court complex in Kohima. In this regard, the State government urged the 15th FC to consider providing grant.

Higher education: Rs 260 crore was proposed for 26 new constructions – one higher secondary school each in five districts, two higher secondary schools in seven districts and one college each in seven districts. The project was estimated at the rate of Rs 10 crore for each project.

Tourism: The government proposed Rs 120 crore for two eco-tourism centres in each district at the rate of Rs 5 crore per centre.

Civil aviation: Rs 90 crore was proposed for one small landing strip in 12 districts at the rate of Rs 7.50 crore per district.

Fire stations: The government proposed Rs 60 crore for construction of five fire stations in five districts and additional seven new stations in the other seven districts at the rate of Rs 5 crore per fire station.

Village guard: The government projected an amount of Rs 5 crore annually for infrastructure development like constructing barracks and camps for village guards.

DUDA: The government requested the 15th FC to grant Rs 50 crore annually for five years to acknowledge the development deficits of the Eastern Nagaland districts of Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire and Noklak on a par with other districts.

Power generation projects: Rs 1,115.59 was proposed for consideration of four hydro projects – 24-mw Zungki Hydro Electricity Project below Phelungre village in Kiphire district at a cost of Rs 317.81 crore, 42-mw Lower Tizu Hydro Electricity project at Moya and Phor in Kiphire district at a cost of Rs 456.86 crore, 24-mw Doyang SHEP Stage-III at Philimi in Zunheboto district at a cost of 241.22 crore and 10-mw Doyang SHEP Stage V at Philimi village in Zunheboto district at a cost of Rs 99.70 crore.

Establishment of 4th NAP Battalion HQ, Kohima: The government proposed Rs 425 crore for establishment of new 4th NAP Bn HQ (including cost of land) as the current location was proposed for construction of new Raj Bhavan complex.

Request for one time grant to waive off deficit

An amount of total accumulated deficits as on March 2018 including liabilities mentioned in the recommendation was Rs. 2864.18 Crore. (Rs. 1607.73 crore budget deficit, Rs. 1256.45 for development deficit, Rs. 92.50 crore liabilities for non release of state specific, Rs. 300 crore liabilities for non release of Eastern Nagaland and Rs. 863.95 liabilities for 40 SPA projects)

Towards this the state government had requested the FC-XV to recommend one time grant to waive both budgetary deficit as well as liabilities amounting to Rs. 2864.18 crore.

Budgetary deficit of Nagaland since 2010

Sl. No Year Budget estimate Revised Estimate

1. 2010-2011 -603.64 -601.44
2. 2011-2012 -602.30 -685.52
3. 2012-2013 -695.59 -891.52
4. 2013-2014 -899.45 -891.73
5. 2014-2015 -1252.45 -1252.85
6. 2015-2016 -1426.29 -1419.19
7. 2016-2017 -1194.35 -1657.88
8. 2017-2018 -1630.67 -1607.73
- 9 2018-2019 -1630.67

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Nagaland govt seeks Rs 7,928 cr from Finance Commission

[theshillongtimes.com/2018/11/28/nagaland-govt-seeks-rs-7928-cr-from-finance-commission/](https://www.theshillongtimes.com/2018/11/28/nagaland-govt-seeks-rs-7928-cr-from-finance-commission/)



Kohima: The Nagaland Government has sought an amount of Rs 7,928.43 crore for the overall development of the state from the 15th Finance Commission, a senior official said on Tuesday. Nagaland Finance Secretary Y Kikheto Sema while interacting with media-persons here revealed that the state government had submitted the requirement through the memorandum to the visiting team of 15th Finance Commission. A 14-member team of the 15th Finance Commission led by its chairman N K Singh arrived here Tuesday on a three day visit to hold talks with Nagaland government, officials said.

The Finance Commission team will hold meetings with Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, his cabinet colleagues and senior state government officials Wednesday. According to a memorandum of the Nagaland government submitted through the Finance Department to the 15th Finance Commission, out of the total requirement an amount of Rs 707.10 crore will be required annually for repair and maintenance of infrastructural assets which amounts to 3,535.50 crore for five year period under 35 departments.

The memorandum has also highlighted that due to the change of funding pattern from 1989-90 onwards, the state faced problems even for release of the monthly pay and allowances of the state government employees.

He said that the memorandum has pointed that Nagaland was created out of the political agreement and therefore the special category status should be seriously upheld to enable the state bring about development and progress. (PTI)

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15th Finance Commission begins visit to Nagaland

Kohima, Nov 27 (UNI) The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) led by the Chairman Nand Kishore Singh and members and other officials landed at Dimapur Airport this afternoon on a three-day visit to Nagaland.

On the arrival of the FFC team at Dimapur Airport, Nagaland Minister for Planning and Coordination, Land Revenue Neiba Kronu, Minister Soil and Water conservation, Women and Child Development Kashiho Sangtam, Commissioner Nagaland M. Patton, Deputy Commissioner Dimapur Sushil Kumar Patel and Commissioner of Police Dimapur Limasunep Jamir, received and felicitated them. After a brief rest in the VIP lounge in Dimapur Airport, the team accompanied by the two Nagaland Ministers left for Kohima by 2 choppers.

The 15th FC entourage include Nand Kishore Singh, Chairman 15th FC, Dr. Anoop Singh, Member 15th FC, Arvind Metha, Member Secretary 15th FC, Mukhmeet S. Bhatia, Jt. Secretary, Ravi Kota, Jt. Secretary, Antony Cyriac, Economic Advisor, Bharat Bhusan Garg, Director and OSD to Chairman 15th FC, Shikha Dahiya, Ritesh Kumar, Salam S. Singh, Pankaj Gera, Aniket, Mrs. Prem Kumar and Mrs. Gita Metha.

At Kohima, on their arrival at the Helipad, the Chairman accompanied by Secretary, Members and other officials of FFC-XV were received by the State Government Team which included Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton; Minister for Agriculture G. Kaito Aye; Minister for Planning and Coordination, Land Revenue Neiba Kronu; Chief Secretary Binchilo Thong; Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Temjen Toy; Director General of Police T. John Longkumer; Commissioner & Secretary H&FW, Himato Zhimomi; Secretary Finance, Y. Kikheto Sema; Deputy Commissioner Kohima; Superintendent of Police Kohima and other Liaison, Security and State Protocol Officers.

The team visited World War II cemetery and paid homage at the War memorial in Kohima. After laying wreath at the War memorial, the Chairman noted that he was honoured to visit the Kohima War Cemetery to be able to pay his respects for their supreme sacrifices.

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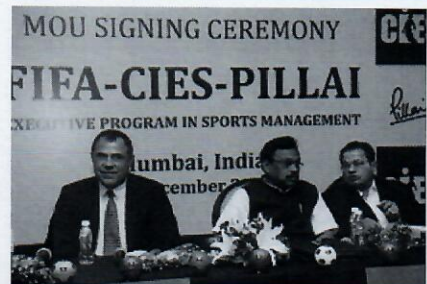
A Chinese delegation of 94 youths on a visit in Kolkata

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Kolkata, Dec 3 (UNI) As a part of international youth exchange programme, a group of 94 Chinese youths were on a visit to Kolkata till today.

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Karnataka sets life sentence for killing Police Constable

Nov 27, 2018, 7:14AM

Fifteenth Finance Commission to be on three-day visit to Nagaland from today

The Fifteenth Finance Commission will be on a three-day visit to Nagaland from today.

 NSD Logo

The 11-member team, visiting the state for deliberation of distribution of tax proceeds, will be headed by the Commission's Chairman NK Singh.


After reaching Kohima, the Commission will hold meetings with the representatives of the Rural Local Bodies, Urban Local Bodies and Tribal Hohos.

It will meet with the Chief Minister and state government officials tomorrow. A meeting will also be held with the representatives of political parties, trade, industries and Commerce. The team will make a field visit to Touphema-Tourist Village on Thursday before concluding its tour.

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Nagaland pushes finance panel for more funds

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio pushes for full central grant for centrally-sponsored schemes (CSS) and flagship programmes

By Bhadra Gogoi in Dimapur

Published 29.11.18, 1:28 AM • Updated 29.11.18, 1:28 AM

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Neiphiu Rio meets officials in Kohima on Wednesday.

Picture by Bhadra Gogoi

Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio on Wednesday said the state needs funds from the Centre's Consolidated Fund to supplement its revenues.

Holding a meeting with the 15th Finance Commission team in Kohima, Rio said the state required a lump sum amount each year for development programmes besides grants-in-aid to meet the cost of administration.

He requested the commission to recommend full central grant for funding centrally-sponsored schemes (CSS) and flagship programmes.

The Finance Commission team, led by its chairman N.K. Singh, arrived in Nagaland on Tuesday on a three-day visit to the state.

Rio said the state's financial position had deteriorated steadily, adversely affecting development activities. He added that the revenue deficit continued on account of 10 per cent increased tax devolution to the states from 32 per cent to 42 per cent.

The chief minister requested the commission to consider setting aside 25 per cent of the total devolution of share to the states for "special category" status as against the 11.53 per cent allocated by the 14th Finance Commission which was found to be insufficient.

"Out of the 25 per cent, 3 per cent each may be allocated to states having geopolitical implications like Nagaland," he said.

Rio said Nagaland was struggling to provide 10 per cent state share for centrally-sponsored schemes and flagship schemes because of resource constraints and a huge backlog of state share amounting to Rs 294.05 crore.

Because of this, he said, the state cannot access the central share of 90 per cent for these schemes, which has affected the infrastructure development in the state.

The Nagaland government also requested the commission to recommend one-time grant to waive budgetary deficit and liabilities of Rs 2,864.18 crore.

In a memorandum submitted to the commission, the government said total deficit accumulated as on March 2018 was Rs 2,864.18 crore, which includes Rs 1,607.73 crore budget deficit and Rs 1,256.45 crore development deficit.

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'Finance Commission is exceedingly sympathetic to needs of Nagaland'

By Our Correspondent / November 29, 2018 / Comments Off on 'Finance Commission is exceedingly sympathetic to needs of Nagaland'

Our Correspondent

Kohima, Nov. 28 (EMN): The 15th Finance Commission (FC) led by its chairman Nand Kishore Singh has said that the commission was 'exceedingly sympathetic' to needs, requirements and compulsions, the opportunities, and challenges of Nagaland. The team is currently in the state's capital Kohima holding separate interactive meetings with various stakeholders of the society.

Speaking to the reporters after a series of interactive meetings with the government, civil society, business and political bodies, the commission's chairman announced that the visiting team had 'full and very rich discussions' with various stakeholders and a detailed interaction with the state government, wherein the latter presented a memorandum to the 15th FC detailing its expectations from the award and recommendations of the FC for the period 2020-25.

He said the content of the state government's memorandum was very rich and the analysis very persuasive but the commission sought some clarifications from the government on the liabilities and unpaid arrears.

"This (15th) Finance Commission would like to take a very positive, sympathetic and innovative approach to fostering the development of the economy of Nagaland. The people of the state have immeasurable talent; its young population can make an enormous difference not only to Nagaland but India's economic development with the rich cultural diversity," Singh stated.

He informed that a thorough discussion and further consultations within the commission need to be done before the totality of the state's demands, in the light of the supplementary memorandum which is expected by January 2019, before they could arrive to any conclusion or form their recommendations for the state.

In a broad spectrum, the commission while acknowledging the heterogeneity of the Naga society, conveyed that it was impressed by the great strides that Nagaland has made on several important critical parameters, including the many indices on human development, the rates of literacy and infant mortality, where the state figured significantly above the national average.

"In terms of per capita income too, it does not compare unfavourably. The initiatives taken by successive governments of the state had enabled the comparative advantage of Nagaland..." Singh told journalists.

The team also informed that they felt Nagaland has made great strides in the area of horticulture and resource communitisation through the village councils and the village development boards (VDBs) which is unique to the state.

"We recognise that 75% of the area of Nagaland is under forest cover...quite a large percentage in dense forest contributing greatly to the national carbon sink and the contribution of Nagaland towards the environmental, ecological-friendly approach towards contributing to reducing the fossil fuel footprints is commendable and needs to be recognised suitably," Singh asserted.

He said, to harness the advantages that Nagaland has, the most important thrust areas were to increase connectivity, both air and road; and tourism.

"Tourism has a huge potential in Nagaland but to make it thrive would require improvement of road, rail and air connectivity. These areas rightly deserve encouragement and support. The priorities of the state government in this regard are appropriate and needs to be supported," the commission chair stated.

It is in this context that the state government made four types of proposals — what was presented to be the post devolution revenue deficit grants — INR 74,000 cr for the revenue deficit grants, INR 7,212 cr for critical infrastructure, INR 1,700 cr for village councils and urban bodies, INR 1,040 cr for disaster management, totalling over INR 80,000 cr in addition to critical connectivity projects, Singh pointed out.

He also felt that the request for national institutes, particularly management, engineering and medical colleges that almost every state has, is a legitimate aspiration to be able to harness a huge potential of the young population of Nagaland.

Regarding the decline of power economy in the state, Singh said this needed priority action. Bringing down transmission and distribution losses, improving billing cycles and improving collection, bridging the gap between the cost at which the power is purchased and the cost at which it is sold, and the losses therein need to be reined in because it can otherwise become a major haemorrhage for the state's economy. Towards this end, the commission encouraged the state to consider renewable energy, particularly solar energy, because solar panels cost have come down significantly, and in the new tender which had been floated centrally for large solar units, the cost of solar power is now almost turning out to be as comparative as the cost of fossil fuel power. A better balance between the traditional sources of power of fossil fuel and non-traditional sources, renewable in terms of solar and wind energy would be a very important and positive multiplier, it stated.

In terms of the revenue deficit grant, Singh reiterated that the commission would want to have a closer look at the figures and the additional data was expected from the state government by the end of January 2019.

Similarly, in respect of the state-specific grants on which the state government has sought some assistance, he pointed out the unresolved issue with the urban local bodies given the sensitivity of the state. But the state's cabinet sub-committee is expected to be in a position to find a suitable resolution so that the fund granted by the 14th FC can be utilised and also lay the foundation for the 15th FC towards further development of the urban towns of the state.

"In a broad sense, the commission is going back sanguine and enthused by the initiatives of the state government and by the development matrix which is currently on the go. We believe that these development initiatives have high priority and deserve fullest encouragement and support. It will be the endeavour of this FC to encourage and fully support the innovative measures which are currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of the state's economy which can improve the per capita income more significantly and can enable in harnessing the multiple comparative endowments that Nagaland has," the FC chairman stated.

On a lighter vein, the chairman of the commission remarked that the 15th FC to Nagaland was considered as a 'different kind' and was coined with the name 'FFC-XV', which stood for 'friendly 15th finance commission.'



Finance Commission To Take Innovative Approach For Development

Like

The FFC team held talks with a Nagaland government team led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, different political parties, Naga civil societies, rural and urban local bodies to discuss about their demands

29 November, 2018 by BW Online Bureau

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The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) would take a positive and innovative approach to fast-track the development of the economy of Nagaland, a top official of the commission has said.

A team of the FFC led by its chairman N K Singh is on a three-day visit of Nagaland.

The FFC team held talks with a Nagaland government team led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, different political parties, Naga civil societies, rural and urban local bodies to discuss about their demands on Wednesday.

"We have had a very full and rich discussion with all stakeholders in Nagaland while the state government presented a formal memorandum to the commission detailing their expectations from the award and recommendations of the FFC," Singh told a press conference here Wednesday.

Nagaland government has put forth four proposals which include post-devolution revenue deficit grants amounting to Rs 74,000 crore, on critical infrastructure development Rs 7,212 crore, Village Councils and Urban bodies Rs 1,700 crore and for disaster management Rs 1,080 crore totalling to Rs 86,834 crore, in addition to the critical connectivity projects.

"The commission is going back sanguine and enthused by initiatives of the state government and by the development metrics which currently are on the go," he said.

"It will be the endeavour of this FCC to encourage and fully support the innovative measures which are currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of Nagaland's economy which can improve the per capita income more significantly and enable it in harnessing its multiple competitive factors," Singh said.

The FFC chairman said the demands are there through the memorandum and the team will have further consultations within the commission and see the totality of the demands in the lights of the supplementary memorandum before coming to conclusions and firming our recommendations for Nagaland.

"We also had deliberations with village councils and village development boards, tribal organisations, trade and commerce and all political parties and they made oral and written memorandum to the commission," he said.

Singh said the commission is impressed by the great strides which Nagaland has made on several important critical parameters including the indices of human resource development - the rate of literacy, infant and maternal mortality rates are significantly above the national average.

He said that commission is greatly impressed with the interactions with village council and VDBs and the states approach towards the communitisation of resources which is unique to Nagaland.

Singh said the Commission recognises that 75 per cent of Nagaland is under forest with quite a large percentage in dense forest while most are moderate and open forest, which contributes greatly to the national carbon sync.

The contribution of Nagaland towards the environmental and ecological friendly approach towards reducing the fossil fuel footprint is commendable and needs to be recognised, the FFC chairman said.

He said the Nagaland government has also requested for setting up of national institutes, particularly management, medical and engineering college in the state to harness the huge potential of the young population of Nagaland.

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State

Finance Commission visits Tuophema



Nand Kishore Singh, Neiphu Rio and other dignitaries watching the cultural presentations at Tuophema Tourist Village on November 29. (DIPR)

DIMAPUR | Publish Date: 11/29/2018 10:52:42 AM IST

The 15th Finance Commission led by chairman, Nand Kishore Singh, visited Tuophema Tourist Village on November 29.

According to DIPR, chief minister, Neiphiu Rio and a host of dignitaries accompanied the team. A public reception for the team was organized at Amphitheatre, Tuophema Bawe. During the cultural program, Tuophema Cultural Troupe, Rengma Cultural Troupe and Lazami Cultural Troupe presented folk songs and dances. VDB secretary Tuophema, Krutsole Zumu welcomed the guests. The team also visited the Museum at Tourist Village, Tuophema Basa.

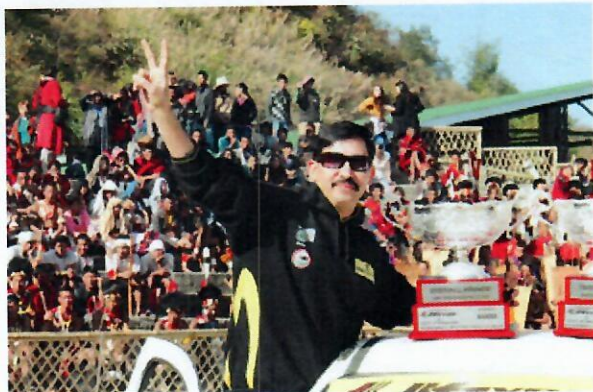
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15th Finance Commission visits Tuophema tourist village

By [EMN](#) / November 29, 2018 / [Comments Off on 15th Finance Commission visits Tuophema tourist village](#)



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, 15th FC chairman NK Singh and other dignitaries witnessing the cultural programme at Amphitheatre, Tuophema Bawe on November 29.

Dimapur, Nov. 29 (EMN): The 15th Finance Commission led by Chairman, Nand Kishore Singh, accompanied by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and a host of dignitaries, visited Tuophema tourist village on Nov. 29

A grand reception was arranged for the visiting team at the Amphitheatre, Touphema Bawe where an engrossing cultural programme was held. Tuophema Cultural Troupe, Rengma Cultural Troupe and Lazami Cultural Troupe presented folk songs and dances and entertained the guest. The team also visited the Museum at Tourist Village, Tuophema Basa, stated the DIPR in a news update.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Finance Commission team in Nagaland

PTI | Nov 28, 2018, 10.01 AM IST

KOHIMA: A team of the 15th Finance Commission arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to hold talks with Nagaland government, officials said.

The 14-member Finance Commission team is led by its chairman Nand Kishore Singh.

Meanwhile, interacting with mediapersons, Nagaland finance secretary Y Kikheto Sema appealed that the special status granted to Nagaland be upheld alongside the special funding pattern for all round development of the state. Kikheto expressed hope that the Finance Commission will understand the problems faced by the state in all fronts. On Wednesday, the commission will have meetings with Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, his cabinet colleagues and senior state government officials.



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Nagaland: Government Submits Memorandum to Finance Commission

November 30, 2018

2 Min Read

Guwahati: A memorandum submitted by the Nagaland government to the 15th **Finance Commission** highlighting the impact due to the change of funding in the previous years and a proposal for the next five years – 2020-21 to 2024-25. The memorandum also stated that the development fund received during 56 years i.e. since inception of the state from 1961-62 to 2017-18 is approximately Rs. 26781.39 crore.

The government stating that the stated fund is barely the cost of a major project in some states, also mentioned in its memorandum that “This amount excludes the flagship programs before 2014-15, which were not initially routed through the Consolidated Fund of the State and other direct funding schemes such as National Highways, etc.”

While acknowledging the grants provided by the central government to meet the establishment and administrative cost of the state, it was further stated in the memorandum

that due to huge expenditure requirements on account of salaries, wages and pension payments, the fund releases of the Government of India have not been adequate for infrastructure development of the state.

The memorandum also added, "Development has also been hampered due to non-settlement of the prolonged Naga political issue; in which the state had to focus its resources on maintenance of law and order rather than on development activities,".

"Although **Nagaland** is the second oldest state in the North East region, we have been left behind in many socio-economic and infrastructure development areas with the other sister states of the region," it observed.

After initiation of peace talks with the Government of India by the Naga Political Groups, the law and order situation has now improved substantially and now is the right time for the state to focus on socio-economic and infrastructure development, it stated.

The memorandum further viewed one of the main reasons why the state could not develop its socio-economic infrastructure was due to meagre fund released by the Government of India for development works.

It may be mentioned that a team of 12 members led by its chairman Nand Kishore Singh arrived in Kohima on Tuesday afternoon on a three-day official visit to the State.



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Nagaland govt proposes numerous infra projects to XV-FC

November 27, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS OF NAGALAND GOVT'S MEMO TO XV-FC

- ✓ Rs. 427.50 cr to replace 25% of govt offices & quarters
- ✓ Rs 720 cr to construct 5 schools in each of 12 districts @Rs 12 cr per school
- ✓ Rs. 100 cr to construct 5 DC offices @ Rs. 20 cr per office
- ✓ Rs. 50 cr to construct 5 SP offices @ Rs. 10 cr per office
- ✓ Rs. 55 cr to construct G+1 flat type buildings in all district hqs for IAS officers
- ✓ Rs. 100 cr to construct new district hospitals in Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto & Longleng
- ✓ Rs. 194.84 cr required for completion of New High Court Complex, Kohima
- ✓ Rs 260 cr to construct 26 new institutions of higher education
- ✓ Rs 260 cr to set up 2 rural eco-tourism centres in each district
- ✓ Rs. 90 cr to construct landing strip in each district
- ✓ Rs. 60 cr to set up 7 new fire stations
- ✓ Rs. 5 cr annually for infrastructure development for Village Guards
- ✓ Rs. 50 cr annually for 5 years to bring development deficit parity of undeveloped areas
- ✓ Rs.1115.59 cr for setting up four hydro projects
- ✓ Rs. 425 cr to establish new 4th NAP Bn HQ.

Our Correspondent

Kohima | November 27

The Nagaland government's memorandum to the 15th Finance Commission (XV-FC) delegation has made a myriad of proposals for the development of several infrastructural projects in the state.

The XV-FC delegation headed by its chairman, Nand Kishore Singh is currently on a three-day visit to the state from November 27 to 29.

Here are some key proposals on infrastructure

Housing: Out of a total of 6058 Nos of Government buildings (offices and quarters) constructed since the inception of the state till date, 1142 Nos of Government buildings are more than 50 years old, which are beyond repair and require replacement with new constructions. Most of these offices and quarters in the district headquarters and sub-divisions and are in dilapidated

buildings, it is proposed to replace 25%, that is, 285 with new buildings @ Rs. 1.50 crore per building which will cost about Rs. 427.50 crores.

General administration buildings: The memorandum stated that out of 12 districts, 7 districts have constructed new office buildings for the Deputy Commissioners (Collector); the remaining 5 district headquarters viz, Tuensang, Zunheboto, Kiphire and Wokha are functioning in old dilapidated buildings; there is further requirement for the newly created district of Noklak as well.

“It is estimated that an amount of Rs. 100 crores will be required for construction of 5 Nos of DC ‘5 offices @ Rs. 20 cr per office,” the memorandum stated.

Those districts also require new offices for the Superintendents of Police. An amount of Rs. 50 crores will be required for construction of 5 numbers of SP offices @ Rs. 10 cr per office.

The total amount required for (i), (ii) and (iii) above will be Rs. 205 crores, it added.

Schools: The memorandum stated that out of a total of 1913 government schools, around 15 school buildings are more than 50 years old. “Students face difficulties and hardships because the school buildings are in dilapidated state and not fully sheltered from the elements of nature such as winds, rain and sun,” it stated adding that an amount of Rs. 720 crores will be required for construction of five high schools in each of the 12 districts @ Rs. 12 crore per school.

Hospitals: Out of the 12 district hospitals, 4 district hospital buildings are more than 45 years old viz, Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto and Longleng, and are in a dilapidated state, the memorandum stated and sought that an amount of Rs. 100 crores will be required to construct new district hospitals in the above mentioned district headquarters @ Rs. 25 crore per hospital.

New High Court Complex: The memorandum stated that the

foundation stone at the site, with an area of 20 acres, was laid by Justice K.G Balakrishnan, the Chief Justice of India in 2007.

It stated that the project was started in 2008-09 under erstwhile Special Plan Assistance (SPA), initially with an estimated total project cost of Rs. 161.10 crores. However, due to discontinuation of SPA and resource constraints of the state, funds could not be provided, resulting in delays in the project.

“Due to delay and cost escalation, the estimated cost has been revised upward to Rs. 256.55 crores as per NPWD SoR 2016,” it stated adding that out of the total revised cost of Rs. 256.55 crores, an amount of Rs. 61.71 crores has been released for the project and the balance amount of Rs. 194.84 crores is required for completion of the project. It requested XV-FC to kindly consider grant of the same.

Higher Education: The state government requested 15th Finance Commission to undertake new construction of one higher secondary schools in each 5 district, two higher secondary schools in 7 districts (14 nos.) and one college each in 7 districts. The total amount required will be 26 new institutions of higher education @ Rs. 10.00 crore= Rs. 260 crore.

Tourism: With an aim to tap the natural splendor, rich cultural heritage in the state and to promote tourism in the rural area, it is proposed that two each of rural eco-tourism centres are set up in each district @ Rs. 5 crore per centre = $24 \times 5 =$ Rs 260 crores.

Civil aviation: The state government requested the Commission that small landing strips may prove to be the best option in providing inter-district connectivity.

It proposed that one small landing trip may be constructed in each of the 12 districts @ Rs. 7.50 crore= Rs. 90 crore.

Fire station: The memorandum stated that the department requires construction of five fire stations in five districts and additional 7 new stations in the other seven districts @ Rs. 5 crore per fire station= 12×5 Rs. 60 crores.

Village Guards: An amount of Rs. 5 crore would be required annually for infrastructure development such as barracks and camps for Village Guards, the memorandum stated.

Department of Under-Developed Areas: The state government requested that XV-FC to grant an amount of Rs. 50 crores annually for five years in order to bring the development deficits of this region at par with the other districts.

Power generation projects: The state government requested the FC-XV to consider four Hydro Projects- 24MW Zungki Hydro Electricity Project, 24MW Lower Tizu Hydro Electricity Project, 24MW Doyang SHEP Stage-III and 10MW Doyang SHEP Stage – V at the total project cost of Rs.1115.59 crores.

Establishment of 4th NAP Battalion: The memorandum stated that the present location of 4th NAP Battalion HQ at Thizama, Kohima is proposed for construction of a new the Raj Bhavan complex.

The state government is proposing to shift 4th NAP Bn HQ to a new location within the vicinity of Kohima. "It is estimated that an amount of about Rs. 425 crore would be required for establishment of the new 4th NAP Bn HQ," the memorandum stated and requested XV-FC to consider the proposal.

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Nagaland CM hails Finance Commission Members

Kohima, Nov 27 (UNI) Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today welcome the Fifth Finance Commission to Nagaland and said "Nagaland looks forward to the visit of Finance Commission for ensuring that we also become an equal and proud partner in the Nation's growth story."

Addressing the FFC Members and entourage on a dinner thrown by the Chief Minister this evening at his official residence, Rio said "I am sure the discussions and interactions over the next two days will help the Commission to understand the challenges we have in a diverse country like India. The recommendations of the Commission will help balance regional aspirations and expectations for optimal and balanced distribution of resources. This will ensure leveraging the relative strengths of all States and all regions. We have had a long period of struggle and violence in the State. The full potential and growth of the state has been impeded by the unresolved issue of the Naga political struggle. With almost 21 years of Peace Process and 3 years since signing of the Framework agreement, we are hopeful of a final settlement of the Naga Political Issue which is inclusive, honourable and acceptable to the people."

Rio said "One of our dreams is to make Tourism the mainstay of our Economy. This Saturday we will be launching the 19th Hornbill Festival which also coincides with our Statehood day on 1st of December. We also celebrate our Tribal Festivals – in various districts at different times of the year, now known as Mini Hornbill, and the culmination of all tribal festivals is at Kisama in Kohima as the Hornbill Festival. Over the years, the Hornbill Festival has become one of the most important tourism events, not only in India but also worldwide. The festival provides Nagaland the platform to showcase the unique culture of the Nagas in its full glory. It also portrays the love and determination of the Naga people for preserving tradition and culture, which is the hallmark of our identity."

Inviting the Delegate of FFC, Rio said "I wish the members of the Finance Commission had the opportunity to join in the Festival – however since Commission will be leaving for Manipur on 29th – we will give a flavour of the Festival in the cultural performances today and tomorrow. The performances also show that our youth are aspirational and enthusiastic to do more and to achieve more. This year Nagaland is playing the Ranji trophy for the first time and doing well. Our football players are excelling for various teams in the Indian Football League. Temsutula Imsong – a daughter of Nagaland is credited with the clean ghats of Varanasi. Another Naga woman – Chiewelou Thele – was adjudged the best trainee commando in her batch of police officers at Delhi Police and was chosen as the poster girl for Delhi Police. Jawans and officers of Naga Regiment have done the nation proud – be it at Kargil War, Bangladesh War or fighting Naxals in difficult terrains, there are stories of bravery and valor of Naga warriors that are recounted often. There are many more talented and spirited Naga boys and girls – from music to fashion to crafts – who are making the Nation proud with their accomplishments."

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GADWAL DEC 3(UNI):- Congress President Rahul Gandhi addressing a public meeting at Public Meeting Ground near Noble High School at Gadwal. District Jogenlamha Gadwal on

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Nagaland pushes finance panel for more funds

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio pushes for full central grant for centrally-sponsored schemes (CSS) and flagship programmes

By Bhadra Gogoi in Dimapur

Published 29.11.18, 1:28 AM • Updated 29.11.18, 1:28 AM

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Neiphiu Rio meets officials in Kohima on Wednesday.

Picture by Bhadra Gogoi

Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio on Wednesday said the state needs funds from the Centre's Consolidated Fund to supplement its revenues.

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State

CM pleads for generous funds from FFC

DIMAPUR, NOV 28 (NPN) | Publish Date: 11/28/2018 11:48:42 AM IST

Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio made a persuasive submission to the visiting 15th Finance Commission officials at the second-day of their 3-day visit to Kohima in which he highlighted the need for the government of India to pay lump sum to Nagaland out of the consolidated fund each year for development and also grant-in -aid towards meeting the cost of running the administration.

During the meeting with the 15th Finance Commission team at the Chief Secretary's Conference Hall Wednesday, Rio said the state finances began to deteriorate steadily and adversely due to discontinuance of grants to cover the Balance From Current Revenue (BCR) gap by granting Additional Central Plan Assistance (ACA) during the period of the 9th FC.

Further normative approach by the 13th FC also deprived the state of special category status and any special grants that led the state to struggle financially.

Due to normative approach at the end of the 13th FC, he said a huge budgetary deficit to the tune of Rs.1811.85 crore, that included liabilities of works completed but unpaid. Rio said revenue deficit continued on account of 10% increased tax devolution to states from 32% to 42% as this had not benefitted smaller states such as Nagaland. Rio said that aside 25% of total devolution of share of special category states as against 11.53% allocated by 14th FC was insufficient. He said out of 25% a percentage of 3% may be allocated to states having geopolitical implications like Nagaland.

He also explained that due to inability of the state in contributing 10% share for CSS and flagship schemes, the total accumulated shortage was Rs.294.05 crore and which had prevented the state from accessing the 90% central share for CSS and flagship schemes. He requested the 15th FC to recommend 100% central grant for CSS and flaashin

He also highlighted how the state had to negotiate high interest loans from HUDCO to construct 33 new buildings and the constraints in maintenance of old buildings some as old as 50 years due to lack of funds.



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Rio also informed that owing to the content of the soil frequent road maintenance was costly and the poor financial situation made it difficult for the state to maintain them. He said the finance needed for road maintenance for the period of 15th FC was estimated at Rs. 3458 crore besides proposal for the new Raj Bhavan complex (Rs.400 crore), completion of new high court complex, infrastructure for tourism and 14 other development works all totalling Rs.7212 crore.

Rio also informed that payment of salary for the remaining two years was high on account of implementation of 7th Pay Commission w.e.f January 1, 2018 and the current 2018-19 carrying an additional burden of Rs.1272 crore. The second issue was RTE Act under which 1620 primary teachers and 1527 graduate teachers were appointed under SSA. However with new integrated scheme for SSA w.e.f. April 1, 2018 salaries have been halved and states asked to make up the shortfall.

Rio also informed about the recent monsoon calamity in the state which caused damages to roads, bridges and buildings estimated at Rs.1040.63 crore while cost of permanent and restorative work being Rs.189 crore.

Rio also said project cost for Nagaland's only medical college in Kohima was Rs.189 crore . The college is expected to be functional by 2020 with 100 seats. He said the state required Rs.154.97 crore for salaries and Rs.149.15 crore for operational cost during the period of 15th FC.

He also placed requirement for construction of multipurpose buildings in all district headquarters to preserve tribal heritage, tradition and culture estimated at Rs.120 crore.

He also mentioned about the new Greenfield airport at Chiethu near Kohima for which 645.20 acres were acquired and another 398 acres to meet all requirement. Rio expressed the hope that the 15th FC would be sympathetic to the requests keeping in mind the special circumstances that had led to creation of Nagaland.

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1 COMMENT

Nagaland Seeks Nearly 8,000 Crore From Centre For "State's Development"

A 14-member team of the 15th Finance Commission led by its chairman NK Singh arrived in Kohima on Tuesday on a three day visit to hold talks with Nagaland government,

[All India](#) | [Press Trust of India](#) | Updated: November 28, 2018 06:21 IST

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The state government had submitted the requirement through the memorandum. (File)

KOHIMA:

The Nagaland Government has sought an amount of Rs. 7,928.43 crore for the overall development of the state from the 15th Finance Commission, a senior official said Tuesday.

Nagaland Finance Secretary Y Kikheto Sema while interacting with reporters revealed that the state government had submitted the requirement through the memorandum to the visiting team of 15th Finance Commission.

A 14-member team of the 15th Finance Commission led by its chairman NK Singh arrived in Kohima on Tuesday on a three day visit to hold talks with Nagaland government, officials said.

The Finance Commission team will hold meetings with Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, his cabinet colleagues and senior state government officials Wednesday.

According to a memorandum of the Nagaland government submitted through the Finance Department to the 15th Finance Commission, out of the total requirement an amount of Rs.707.10 crore will be required annually for repair and maintenance of

infrastructural assets which amounts to 3,535.50 crore for five year period under 35 departments.

The memorandum has also highlighted that due to the change of funding pattern from 1989-90 onwards, the state faced problems even for release of the monthly pay and allowances of the state government employees.

1 COMMENT

He said that the memorandum has pointed that Nagaland was created out of the political agreement and therefore the special category status should be seriously upheld to enable the state bring about development and progress.

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Editorial

Just being special

By Nagaland Post | Publish Date: 11/28/2018 12:25:32 PM IST

It is obvious that Nagaland would need a good dose of special financial assistance from the Centre in order to sail past the critical financial crisis stage. This was reflected in the memorandum submitted by the state government to the visiting 15th Finance Commission team in Kohima on November 27. The deficit that was pegged at around Rs.1400 crore till 2017 has risen by around Rs.180 crore and stands at around Rs.1630 crore. The state government has appealed for a one-time grant-cum-waiver of Rs.2864.18 crore in order to get the state back on the rails of recovery. The 15th FC will have to look beyond its brief to suggest how the demands could be met. It is difficult to foresee any major shift in the recommendations of the FFC for Nagaland given the fact, that its role would be limited to the guidelines set for it. The planning would focus on demography and the GDP of a state and also linking outlays to outputs and outcomes. Demands for restoring the 'special category' status has been echoed by various tribe organisations in their representation to the 15th FC team in Kohima. On the other hand, the principle of the Modi government has been to view the "Special Category" status of various states with a "Multi-dimensional index". The obvious conclusion would indicate that the onus would be on performance merit rather than on the "Special Category" merit. Development rests on basic infrastructural foundations such as good roads, efficient power supply and honest implementation of programmes and schemes meant to benefit the majority of people. The Centre has made infrastructure as a priority in order to enable the wheels of development move unhindered. One of the big drawbacks for Nagaland is its bloated work force pegged at around 1.4 lakhs approximately for a population of around 19 lakhs. This would mean that around 7.4 % of the population are government employees cornering around 60% of the budget and leaving 92% with only 40% of the resources. The gap is too huge and needs serious contemplation and action. In simple economic parlance, it can be described as too much for too few. It also means

class of nouveau rich of bureaucrats and political class on one side and a small share for the fortunate few enjoying political patronage. The state government has to be accountable for the dismal power situation and the deplorable road conditions. What is needed is cutting down on losses and unnecessary and wasteful expenditure. Another revelation on how precious resources are being siphoned comes from recent revelations in the media about alleged irregularities/scams in the issuance of Drawal Authority(DA) from the finance department to various departments. It may be recalled that the organisations such as -ACAUT Nagaland, NPRAAF, NTC and CNTC - have exposed how funds to various government departments have been allotted twice for the same project, amount and place. It is quite strange that even after nearly 15 years during which the state received huge funds from the Centre, the state hasn't been able to show any visible signs of having progressed. States like Manipur, Meghalaya or Mizoram have received almost equal if not, slightly lesser amount but the infrastructures are visible-excellent roads, steady power supply, water supply and other basic amenities. One need only to look around who have the best cars, houses, cash and land to know who has been developed in Nagaland.

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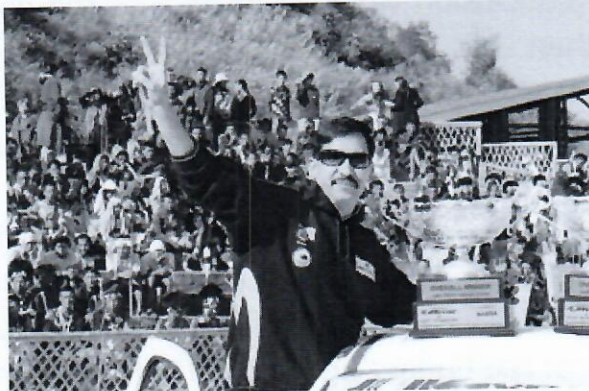
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15th Finance Commission team arrives in Nagaland



Nand Kishore Singh, right, being received after he and other members of the Finance Commission arrived at Dimapur Airport, on Nov. 27.

Dimapur, Nov. 27 (EMN): Members of the 15th Finance Commission led by its chairman Nand Kishore Singh landed at Dimapur Airport on Tue. Nov. 27. Updates from the DIPR informed about the arrival of the commission's leaders, and other officials.

Ministers and high ranking state government officials received them. After a brief rest at the VIP lounge at Dimapur Airport, the team, accompanied by the two ministers, left for Kohima by two helicopters.

Kishore Singh, chairman; Dr. Anoop Singh, member; Arvind Metha, member-secretary; Mukhmeet S Bhatia, jt. secy; Ravi Kota, jt. secy; Antony Cyriac, economic advisor; and Bharat Bhusan Garg, director and OSD to chairman. Other officials are Shikha Dahiya, Ritesh Kumar, Salam S Singh, Pankaj Gera, Aniket, Prem Kumar and Gita Metha.

On their arrival in Kohima, the commission was received by Nagaland government ministers and state government officers.

The commission members then visited the World War II Cemetery in Kohima and

15th Finance Commission: State govt. requires INR 1,08,872 cr.

Our Correspondent

Kohima, Nov. 27 (EMN): The state government has projected a total requirement of INR 1,08,872 cr. to the fifteenth finance commission (2020-25).

In a memorandum to the 14-member visiting team from the 15th finance commission (FC), the government of Nagaland highlighted the fund requirements of the state in detail under separate heads.

These include INR 96370.46 cr. as the projected revenue deficit during 2020-21 to 2024-25 (pre-devolution); INR 3535.50 cr. for maintenance of infrastructure assets; INR 4392.93 cr. for critical infrastructure requirements; INR 1212.45 cr. for grants to village councils (VCs) and village development boards (VDBs); INR 496.10 cr. for grants to urban local bodies; and INR 2864.18 cr. as a one-time grant to waive the budgetary deficit and liabilities as on 31st Mar. 2018.

According to the memorandum, an amount of INR 707.10 cr. would be required annually for maintenance of infrastructure assets of 35 departments which amounts to INR 3535.50 cr. for five year period under 35 departments, while an amount of INR 4392.93 cr. was put up for consideration to the FC for 14 critical infrastructure development including schools, housing, new Raj Bhavan, High Court complex, Duda, and strengthening of power sector through generation

Total requirement of fund during 15th finance commission

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (₹ in crore)
1	Projected Revenue Deficit during 2020-21 to 2024-25 (Pre-Devolution)	96370.46
2	Maintenance of Infrastructure Assets	3535.50
3	Critical Infrastructure Requirements	4392.93
4	Grants to Village Councils (VCs) and Village Development Boards (VDBs)	1212.45
5	Grants to Urban Local Bodies	496.10
6	One time Grant to waive the Budgetary deficit and liabilities as on 31st March 2018	2864.18
Total		108871.62
<i>say ₹108872.00 crore</i>		

projects among others.

The state government also highlighted that due to the change of funding pattern from 1989-90, liberal assistance to the state was restricted and the financial position of the state had deteriorated as the government of India had discontinued grant of fund for covering the balance from current revenue gap through additional central plan assistance.

It mentioned that the one-time special grant of INR 365 cr. from the centre in 2003 to wipe out the accumulated budgetary deficit had only brought relief to the state for a short period and the deficit had started to mount again as the state had to create avenues for appointment

of funds for development of Eastern Nagaland, thereby, the state faced a deficit of INR 1811.85 cr. when the 13th FC period ended.

Stating that while the 14th FC had recommended better and realistic financing for all the special category states, the state government mentioned that the increase of 10% tax devolution from the centre to the state by raising the states' share from 32 to 42% hardly made little difference for a revenue-deficit state like Nagaland and due to huge burden, the state continues to have a post-devolution deficit. The state's memo also pointed out that non-release of funds, particularly pertaining to 40 projects under special plan assistance (SPA), to Eastern Nagaland and state specific development projects had further accumulated the deficit for the state to INR 2864.18 cr. as on 31st March 2018.

The state government is hoping that the special category status to Nagaland should be seriously upheld, particularly in the backdrop of the peace process, to enable the state bring about development and progress.

It has been learnt that the state government had already submitted the memorandum to the commission earlier this year, but a supplementary memorandum could be made to the current visiting FC team after their meetings with various stakeholders.

Source: Nagaland Finance Department of the unemployed youth in the absence of other employment opportunities.

The state also highlighted the negative impacts of the 13th FC which had adopted a normative approach of awarding grant to all the states without taking into account that the state of Nagaland was created out of a political exigency, and the special category states were denied any special treatment. During this period (2010-15), it pointed out that the state had to suffer on several fronts: short assessment on salary requirements, reasons for huge number of government employees; loss on power and road transport; SCA untied; non-release of funds for state specific schemes; and non-release

Rio shares dreams and aspirations

Dimapur, Nov. 27 (EMN): Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Tuesday told members of the 15th Finance Commission that "one of our dreams" is to make tourism the mainstay of Nagaland's economy.

"This Saturday we will be launching the 19th Hornbill Festival which also coincides with our statehood day on 1st of December. We also celebrate our tribal festivals – in various districts at different times of the year, now known as Mini Hornbill, and the culmination of all tribal festivals is at Kisama in Kohima as the Hornbill Festival. Over the years, the Hornbill Festival has become one of the most important tourism events, not only in India but also worldwide. The festival provides Nagaland the platform to showcase the unique culture of the Nagas in its full glory.

"It also portrays the love and determination of the Naga people for preserving tradition and culture, which is the hallmark of our identity. I wish the members of the Finance Commission had the opportunity to join in the Festival – however since Commission will be leaving for Manipur on 29th – we will give a flavour of the Festival in the cultural performances today and tomorrow. The performances also show that our youth are aspirational and enthusiastic to do more and to achieve more," Rio told the commission during a dinner event at the State Banquet Hall in Kohima.

A press release from the chief minister's office informed Rio expressed hope that the discussions and in-

sion understand the challenges 'we have in a diverse country like India.'

"The recommendations of the Commission will help balance regional aspirations and expectations for optimal and balanced distribution of resources. This will ensure leveraging the relative strengths of all states and all regions. Nagaland looks forward to the visit of Finance Commission for ensuring that we also become an equal and proud partner in the nation's growth story," he said.

Citing the long period of struggle and violence in the state, Rio shared that the full potential and growth of the state has been impeded by the unresolved Naga political issue. "With almost 21 years of peace process and 3 years since signing of the framework agreement, we are hopeful of a final settlement of the Naga political issue which is inclusive, honourable and acceptable to the people."

The chief minister reminded the commission that this year Nagaland is playing in Ranji Trophy for the first time, and doing well. "Our football players are excelling for various teams in the Indian Football League. Temsutula Imsong—a daughter of Nagaland is credited with the clean ghats of Varanasi.

"Another Naga woman – Chiewelou Thele – was adjudged the best trainee commando in her batch of police officers at Delhi Police and was chosen as the poster girl for Delhi Police. Jawans and officers of Naga Regiment have done the nation proud – be it at

terrains, there are stories of bravery and valor of Naga warriors that are recounted often. There are many more talented and spirited Naga boys and girls – from music to fashion to crafts – who are making the Nation proud with their accomplishments.

"While it is heartening to see such achievements, one needs to also introspect and think as to what more can be done to ensure that our youth realise their true potential. Infrastructure development is key for helping Nagaland catch up with mainland states in terms of economic development. Connectivity within the state as also with other states of the Northeast will help create opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses," Rio said.

He said a great future beckons Nagaland with its location as the gateway to Southeast Asia, copupled with New Delhi's Act East policy. "The ongoing road projects in the state and pursuing Ciethu airport at capital Kohima, once completed can transform the state. With direct connectivity with mainland and Southeast Asia, there will be a huge market for our produce and products."

According to Rio, Nagaland's strength lies in organic farm produce, flowers and fruits. "The rare medicinal plants and herbs can help create jobs and boost the economy. We have a high literacy rate - higher than the national average. A young population which is fluent in English, IT savvy and with a progressive outlook can help transform the region

Rio places plight of Nagaland to Finance Commission

Dimapur, Nov. 28 (EMN): The government of Nagaland held a meeting with the 15th Finance Commission at the Civil Secretariat Complex, Chief Secretary's Conference Hall on Wednesday. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio welcomed the FC chairman Nand Kishore and his team to the meeting and expressed hope that the interaction would make the commission appreciate the "reasons and circumstances that make Nagaland unique and different from other states." "There will be need for the government of India to pay out of the Consolidated Fund of India; a lump sum each year for the development programme in the Nagaland; and grants-in-aid towards meeting the cost of administration," he said.

The CM stated that the financial position of the state had deteriorated significantly after the Centre discontinued funds to cover balance from current revenue (BCR) gap by granting Additional Central Plan Assistance (ACA) during the 9th FC, adversely affecting development activities. He added that the 'normative approach of the 13th FC affected the state by denying its 'special category' status

and any special grant or treatment, which was why the state found difficult to release pay and allowances to its employees on time.'

Rio said that a 'huge budgetary deficit of INR 1,811.85 crore, including the liabilities of works completed but not paid for' was witnessed at the end of the 13th FC. He further stated that the revenue deficit continued on account of 10% increased tax devolution to the states from 32% to 42% has not benefitted smaller states, particularly Nagaland.

The CM also requested the Commission to consider setting aside 25% of the total devolution of share to the states for the 'Special Category' states as against the 11.53% allocated by the 14th FC which is found to be insufficient. Out of the 25%, 3% each may be allocated to states having geopolitical implications like Nagaland. He pointed out that the state was struggling to 'provide 10% state share for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and flagship schemes due to resource constraints and a huge backlog of state share amounting to INR 294.05 crore because of which we cannot access the Cen-



File photo: Neiphiu Rio

tral Share of 90% for these schemes and this has affected the infrastructure development in the state.' He requested the 15th FC to 100% grant for CSS and flagship schemes as was intended in the 16 Point Agreement.

Rio said that the state has 'spent INR 389 crore in constructing 33 new directorate buildings and replacing old buildings through Negotiated Loan from HUDCO at a high rate of interest' as most buildings are more than 50 years old, thus burdening the state financially. He also said that roads in the state required regular maintenance due to frequent rains and bad terrains but have been left

unattended because of lack of funds.

He said that INR 3,458 cr. was required for infrastructural asset maintenance for the period of the 15th FC, and INR 7,212.10 crore was needed for 14 new development works to replace old offices; construction of a new Raj Bhavan, and completion of the new high court complex.

Rio said that the state would carry an additional burden of INR 1,272 cr. in the current year 2018-19 alone on account of 7th Pay Commission implementation in the state. He highlighted also the issue being faced by the state that it was asked to pay half the salary of teachers recruited in the

new integrated scheme of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SMSA) from April this year.

The total damage caused by the recent monsoon rains is estimated at more than INR 1040.63 cr. out of which the cost of permanent restorative works is estimated at INR 185.05 crore, he said. He added that the Indian government had sanctioned INR 189 cr. for a medical college at Kohima but the state would need INR 154.97 cr. for faculty and staff salary; and operational cost of INR 149.15 cr. during the period of the 15th FC.

Rio requested the Commission to "provide multi-purpose buildings in all the district headquarters to preserve our tribal heritage, traditions and culture at an estimated cost of INR 120 cr." He lamented that "Nagaland is the only State where there is no airport in the state capital. Therefore we have approached the Central Government for construction of a new Greenfield Airport at Ciethu near Kohima, for which 645.20 acres of land has been acquired. Another 398 acres is being acquired by the state to meet all requirements."

NDPP organises skill-based training programme for women

Our Correspondent

Kohima, Nov. 28 (EMN): To enable women access resources and opportunities towards self-reliance and sustainability, the women wing of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) organised a capacity building short-term training cum women's health seminar on Wednesday. It was a first of its kind in the state.

The five-day programme organised by the women wing of NDPP for Kohima district was launched at The Legacy, Bayavü Kohima, on Nov. 28 by Avio Tetso, president of the party for Kohima region.

Highlighting the concept of the training programme, NDPP Kohima region women wing president

capital' for a sustainable livelihood for women. She added that it is imperative for women to develop skills and specialise in the areas of one's interest owing to the family responsibilities they have to shoulder and the growing need to earn for a better living.

Meyase was confident that the programme would help the educated unemployed women in the state to get the required skills and opportunity to take up their own enterprises. She said the special programme was not confined to party members alone and that five beneficiaries were identified from the six constituencies under Kohima district though it was organised

a reality under the party's Common Minimum Programme on women and children.

Tetso, who launched the programme, maintained that women have outdone men in all aspects of life and progressing much faster than men. Stating that a good team can do great things, he appreciated the women wing of NDPP for coming up with the innovative idea of equipping women with skills. He also requested the trainees to go back and impart the skills they had acquired to other women.

Describing Neiphiu Rio as a 'visionary leader', he said with the government is emphasising

trust in the party and its leaders.

About 30 women from Kohima district have registered for the five-day training programme on cutting and tailoring, flower arrangement, bouquet and wreaths, hair and beauty, and baking. Meyase informed best trainees from each category would be given prizes -- sewing machine, oven, beauty kits and start-up seed money in flower arrangement.

The resource persons of the programme were Zenivonuo Nakhro (baking), Grace Swufor (hair and beauty), and Dziesevi Angami (Flower arrangement). Mhiesinguto Mark, senior project coordinator

t to either perish as fools'

Stating matter of fact that "a kingdom divided against itself will be ruined", Keyho was of the view that while no one expect the union to be dissolved, no one either expect the house to fall or expect it will cease to be divided.

"Either the opponents of this celebration will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become acceptable to all the Nagas be it in the south, north, east, west and central" stated Keyho.

However, until such time, he frankly stated that "leave us alone to determine for ourselves as in ancient times" will be a "contemptuous phrase".

Towards this, he maintained that 'we' cannot allow the generations to come to inherit a distorted history-which is our identity as a people and a nation and it will be theirs as well. Therefore, he cited three things that he felt are necessary for the Nagas viz. humility, reason and love.

"Those who feel they are right must humble themselves without opposing those who are wrong. And those who feel otherwise must exercise their will power to reason without influence" said Keyho and added that Nagas must learn to love each other as brothers and sisters but we can only learn to love right when we learn to forgive.

"If we believe what the forerunners have done is right we must stand united even if outside forces try to tear us apart that is what a nation must do. And Nagas must do likewise" he added.

No directive for collecting Christmas 'donations' — NSCN (R)

Dimapur, Nov. 29 (EMN): The NSCN (R) on Thursday said that many unwanted elements are taking undue advantage of the approaching Christmas season and collecting donations in the name of the organisation 'in and around UT1 Area' and warned such persons to stop their activities immediately.

"The Supervisor, UT1 Khekato Kinny (Kilonser) through MIP issues this general information that no such directives (for donations) has

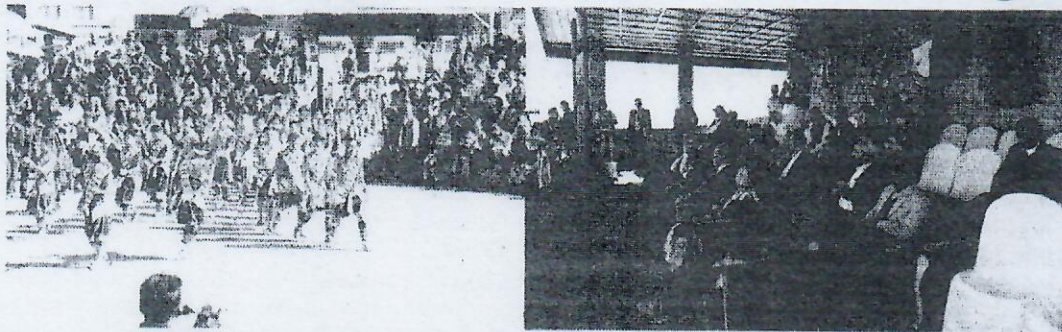
been or will be issued," the MIP stated in a press release.

The organisation also cautioned those people involved in 'such sordid activities' to stop their actions immediately and at the same time requested the business communities to cooperate and report if any such situations are faced by them. It also gave the phone number of the UT1 supervisor to be contacted at 9862746931/ 9485205557.

The MIP also warned that if anyone masquerading as

a NSCN(R) functionary and bringing disreput to the organisation, then such person would be dealt with strictly "with an iron hand" and would face severe consequences of serious nature. Meanwhile, it also stated that, if even after the issuance of this particular information, "any Business Personalities/Groups/party (s)" (sic) entertains such illegal activities, then they 'will be doing so at their own risk and will not reflect on the image of the NSCN (R) whatsoever'.

15th Finance Commission visits Tuophema tourist village



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, 15th FC chairman NK Singh and other dignitaries watch a cultural programme, at Tuophama Bawe on November 29.

Dimapur, Nov. 29 (EMN): The 15th Finance Commission led by Chairman, Nand Kishore Singh, accompanied by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and a host of dignitaries, visited Tuophema tourist village on Nov. 29

A grand reception was arranged for the visiting team at the Amphitheatre, Tuophema Bawe where an engrossing cultural programme was held. Tuophema Cultural Troupe, Rengma Cultural Troupe and

Lazami Cultural Troupe presented folk songs and dances and entertained the guest. The team also visited the Museum at Tourist Village, Tuophema Basa, stated the DIPR in a news update.

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15th FC: State govt proposes 400 Cr for new Raj Bhavan

Our Correspondent

Kohima | November 27

The state government today submitted a memorandum to the 15th Finance Commission delegation exploring financial assistance to develop a myriad of infrastructural projects.

The FC delegation led by Nand Kishore Singh is on a three day visit to the state from November 27 to 29.

On top of the list was the proposal to construct a new Raj Bhavan at Thizama, Kohima at the cost of Rs 400 Crores.

The memo reasoned that while the present Raj Bhavan, Kohima is located at a prime location, the area is only 5.5 acres, "which perhaps is the smallest Raj Bhavan in the country." It cited "acute accommodation problems" during the visit of dignitaries as another reason to construct a new Raj Bhavan in the New Capital Complex, Kohima for which an area of 150 acres, currently occupied by the 4th NAP Battalion has been identified. The battalion is to be shifted to a new location.

The area is about 15 kms from the proposed Chietu Greenfield Airport, Kohima, and within the vicinity of the bungalows of the CM and Cabinet Ministers.

The proposed new Raj Bhavan will have an area of 100 acres, out of which about 70% of land will be green field and open area; and 30% shall be utilized for construction of Governor's Residence, Governor's Secretariat, Banquet Hall, VIP guest house, quarters for officers, staff and security personnel, along with a helipad.

Proposals galore from state govt to 15th FC

- Rs. 427.50 Cr to replace 25% of govt offices & quarters
- Rs 720 Cr to construct 5 schools in each of the 12 districts
- Rs. 100 Cr to construct 5 DC offices @ Rs. 20 cr per office
- Rs. 50 Cr to construct 5 SP offices @ Rs. 10 cr per office
- Rs. 55 Cr to construct G+1 flat type buildings in all district hqs for IAS officers
- Rs. 100 Cr to construct new district hospitals in Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto & Longleng
- Rs. 194.84 Cr required for completion of New High Court Complex, Kohima
- Rs 260 Cr to construct 26 new institutions of higher education
- Rs 260 Cr to set up 2 rural ecotourism centers in each district
- Rs. 90 Cr to construct landing strip in each district
- Rs. 60 Cr to set up 7 new fire stations
- Rs. 5 Cr annually for infrastructure development for Village Guards
- Rs. 50 Cr annually for 5 years to bring development deficit parity of undeveloped areas
- Rs. 1115.59 Cr for setting up four hydro projects
- Rs. 425 Cr to establish new 4th NAP Bn HQ

Read about the proposals in detail on Page 5

Fire at Dzükou valley contained



A part of the Dzükou Valley which was affected by the fire reportedly caused by trekkers on November 26. (Photo Courtesy SAYO)

Our Correspondent

Kohima | November 27

A major fire catastrophe was averted today due to the brave and timely intervention of Southern Angami Youth Organisation (SAYO) volunteers.

The Dzükou fire which started on November 26 morning was successfully contained today. Confirming the news, SAYO President Zakieleto Tsükrü informed that around 60 volunteers were pressed into action for containing the fire starting from 7:00am till 4.30 pm. The volunteers had to trek pass difficult terrains to reach the burning areas of the valley.

Given the challenges of carrying water to the affected area, the volunteers were compelled to fight the fire at close distance with the help of sackcloths and using machetes (daos) to contain the fire. Meanwhile, SAYO officials informed that the persons responsible for starting the fire were trekkers who were camped at the South West area of Dzükou valley.

According to sources the fire reportedly spread from the campsite when the trekkers left a fire for cooking unattended while they were away to click pictures. SAYO officials informed that the persons involved were handed over to the concerned authorities as they have report-

edly admitted to their offences.

The defaulters were reportedly trekkers from Manipur, who the SAYO alleged were "illegal encroachers/trekkers" led by guides under the banner of Manipur Mountaineer Trekkers Association (MMTA).

The SAYO asked the authorities to take appropriate action at the earliest and book the culprits as per the law, "failing which the SAYO will take its own course of action." It also cautioned people against entering the valley without valid permits.

It meanwhile extended gratitude to the government agencies and authorities who rendered their services.

15th Finance Commission arrives in Nagaland

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 27 (MExN): Fifteenth Finance Commission (FCC) led by the Chairman Nand Kishore Singh and members and other officials landed at Dimapur Airport Tuesday afternoon November 27.

On arrival of the FCC team at Dimapur Airport, Nagaland Minister for Planning and Coordination, Land Revenue, Neiba Kronu, Minister Soil and Water conservation, Women and Child Development, Kashiho Sangtam, Commissioner Nagaland, M. Patton, Deputy Commissioner Dimapur Sushil Kumar Patel, IAS and Commissioner of Police Dimapur, Limasunep Jamir, IPS received and felicitated them. After a brief rest in the VIP lounge, Dimapur Airport the team accompanied by the two Nagaland Ministers left for Kohima.

The 15th FC entourage include Nand Kishore Singh,



The Fifteenth Finance Commission being received by Deputy Chief Minister, Home, Y. Patton and others at Kohima Helipad on November 27. (DIPR Photo)

Chairman 15th FC, Dr. Anoop Singh, Member 15th FC, Arvind Metha, Member Secretary 15th FC, Mukhmeet S. Bhatia, Jt. Secretary, Ravi Kota, Jt. Secretary, Antony Cyriac, Economic Advisor,

Bharat Bhusan Garg, Director and OSD to Chairman 15th FC, Shikha Dahiya, Ritesh Kumar, Salam S. Singh, Pankaj Gera, Aniket, Prem Kumar and Gita Metha.

At Kohima, on their arrival at the Helipad, the Chairman accompanied by Secretary, Members and other officials of FC-XV were received by the State Government Team which

included Deputy Chief Minister, Home, Y. Patton; Minister for Agriculture, G. Kaito Aye; Minister for Planning and Coordination, Land Revenue, Neiba Kronu; Chief Secretary, Binchilo Thong; Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Temjen Toy; Director General of Police, T. John Longkumer; Commissioner & Secretary H&FW, Himato Zhimomi; Secretary Finance, Y. Kikheto Sema; Deputy Commissioner Kohima; Superintendent of Police Kohima and other Liaison, Security and State Protocol Officers.

The team visited World War II cemetery and paid homage at the War memorial, Kohima. After laying wreaths at the War memorial, the Chairman noted that he was honoured to visit the Kohima War Cemetery to be able to pay his respects for their supreme sacrifices.

Stud
the e

ent's tenure ee months

nittee set up beriewed an Army at Longding

dy. speaker/ acting speaker, ouse advised the concerned sist from conflicting with the itive Council but to function e with the Executive Council. urther, the house endorsed xecutive council to official- mmunicate to the Rengma o to relieve Kenyung seng ether from the post of deputy ker, Naga Hoho or from the of president, Rengma Hoho e has not been doing justice to ssigned post because of hold- al posts."

eanwhile, the august house d with all seriousness on the ailing situation and killings gntst the Naga family by war- groups/factions. While con- nning all forms of violence in aga areas particularly in the ngrong areas, the house ap- ed to all groups to shun vio- e and maintain peace for the e of a united Naga family.

also took serious note on the t incident of atrocities ally carried out by the Indian y to innocent Naga people special reference to Longkho- illage of Longding District of achal Pradesh. The meeting gly asserted that it was a bla- misuse of power by the Army r the Armed forces special ers Act.

he House further noted with ntentment over the slow of ongoing peace process ability to bring honourable ical settlement on the part of nment of India, which has ted in further fragmentation complexities among the Naga es due to delaying tactics b- xhibited by the GoI.

Impressed with the strides Nagaland have made: 15th FC

Chizokho Vero

Kohima | November 28

The 15th Finance Commission chairman Nand Kishore Singh today said that the Commission is going back optimistic and enthused by initiatives of the Nagaland state government and by the current development metrics.

"It will be the endeavour of this 15th FC to encourage and fully support the innovative measures which are currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of the Nagaland's economy which can improve the per capita income more significantly and enable in harnessing its multiple competitive factors that Nagaland has," Singh said while addressing a press conference here at the state capital.

He expressed hope that the slogan of the government "Peace for development and development for peace" does not remain a mere slogan but has to be translated into action. "We are exceedingly sympathetic to the needs, requirement and compulsions, the opportunities and challenges of Nagaland," he asserted.

The Commission will have further consultations and see the totality of the demands in the lights of the supplementary before coming to conclusions and framing its recommendations for Nagaland, the chairman informed.

He said the Commission had full and rich discussion with all stakeholders in Nagaland which include village councils, VDBs, politi-



15th Finance Commission chairman NK Singh addressing the media in Kohima. (Morung Photo)

cal parties, trade, industry and commerce etc. Formal memorandum, representations detailing their expectations and demands were also presented to the Commission.

Singh said the Commission was impressed by the great strides which Nagaland has made on several important critical parameters with special mention on human resource development, rate of literacy, infant and maternal mortality.

Great strides have been made in the Horticulture sector, which has great scope in terms of organic farming, fruits, vegetables and agriculture productivity, he observed.

Maintaining that Nagaland coffee tastes great, Singh encouraged the state to find better avenues like entering into memorandum with South Africa.

Fruits and other vegetables offer great opportunities

for downstream development of those in terms of agro and agro based processing industries, Singh added.

three important trust areas needs encouragement - one is improve connectivity - air and road. Tourism offers a

huge potential but for this requirement, good connectivity becomes essential, he said.

He also encouraged the state to think greatly of renewable

energy, particularly solar energy. "Nagaland needs to take advantage not only on hydel potential but take advantage of the enormous amount of the land and sunshine."

Singh informed that the state government had submitted memorandum to the commission basing on four proposals on what they view to be the post devolution revenue deficit grants - totaling to Rs 86,834 crore, in addition to the critical connectivity projects.

15th FC secretary Arvind Mehta said one of the main economic earners of the state is going to be the tourism activities.

Where Nagaland can prosper:

- Horticulture, organic farming
- Export of Nagaland Coffee
- Agro based processing industries
- Tourism has huge potential

He also said the Commission was greatly impressed by interactions with village council and VDBs and the state's approach towards the communitisation of resources which is unique to Nagaland.

Recognizing that 75% area of Nagaland is under forest cover with quite a large percentage in the dense forest category while most are moderate and open forest, Singh said this contributes greatly towards reducing fossil fuel footprint, which he said, "is commendable and needs to be recognized."

He said to harness the advantage that Nagaland has,

State dinner and cultural show hosted for 15th Finance Commission

KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 28 (MExN): A state dinner and cultural show was hosted in honour of visit of the Chairman, member and officials of the 15th Finance Commission at the Banquet Hall, Office residence of the Chief Minister on November 27.

It was stated in a DIPR report that the Chairman of 15th FCDr.N.K.Singh, in his address mentioned that it was the duty of the Finance Commission to do whatever it could within the constraints of its constitution framework to contribute to the development of the state.

It stated that the Commission will join the distribution by the state government and will support the multiple endeavours in improving the quality of the infrastructure, both physical and social and will also further empower women and help in their contribution to the development of the state. "This Commission will assist the development of Nagaland and enable the government to realize what they believe is the destiny of the state," he said.

The Commission will also mitigate the challenges, contribute to their efforts and



CM Neiphiu Rio felicitating the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission during the dinner and cultural show hosted in honour of their visit at the Banquet Hall, Office Residence of the CM on November 27. (DIPR Photo)

will do their very best in encouraging the government for enabling Nagaland to reach its full potential and will take active participation in the endeavours of the present government.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio proposed the welcome speech. Regarding the long period of struggle and violence in the State by the unresolved issue of the Naga political struggle, he said that with almost 21 years of Peace Process and 3 years since signing of the Framework agreement, he was hopeful of a final settlement of the Naga Po-

litical Issue which is "inclusive, honourable and acceptable to the people fulfill their dreams and aspirations."

To make tourism the mainstay of our economy, Rio said the state has launched the Mini Hornbill a tribal festivals in various districts at different times of the year which will culminate at Kisama in Kohima as the Hornbill Festival from December 1.

Rio also highlighted the aspirational and enthusiastic performances of the Naga youths who have excelled in Ranji trophy and the Indian

Football League. He credited Temsutula Imsong for the cleaning the ghats of Varanasi, Chiewelou Thele, the best trainee commando of police officers at Delhi Police, the jawaans and officers of Naga Regiment for making the nation proud at Kargil War, Bangladesh War or fighting Naxals in difficult terrains, and the talented Naga boys and girls who have made the Nation proud with their accomplishments in the field of music, fashion and crafts.

Rio said the infrastructure development is helping Naga-

land catch up with mainland States in terms of economic development with connectivity within the State as also with other States of the North East which helps to create opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses. He also said Nagaland is also the gateway to South East Asia and with the Act East policy of Government of India there will be a huge market for our produce and products. The ongoing road projects in the State and pursuing Ciethu airport at capital Kohima, can also transform the State, he informed.

"The strength of our State lies in our organic farm produce, flowers, fruits, and the rare medicinal plants and herbs can help create jobs and boost the economy," the CM said. He also said Nagaland have a high literacy rate - higher than the national average and the young population is fluent in English, IT savvy and with a progressive outlook which can help transform the region into a hub for the services industry, Rio informed that a Call Centre is already operational in Kohima and is also pursuing for another call centre in Dimapur.

Nagaland govt's 15th FC stresses on

Our Correspondent
Kohima | November 28

The Nagaland state government today submitted a memorandum to the visiting 15th Finance Commission delegation, putting emphasis on the state's education sector. Officials of the 15th FC, led by Nand Kishore Singh are currently in Kohima for a 3 day visit to the state.

The memo while lamenting that no regional or national institutions worth mentioning have been established in the state since its inception, informed that Nagaland has only one central university, one ICAR and one NIT. The State does not have even a single medical or engineering college.

The memorandum stated that coupled with the meager central funds released, the centre has also not ensured rationalized distribution of regional and central institutions among the states of the region. It felt that the GoI should take steps to ensure that development activities are distributed equally to all states.

Rs 1200 Cr spend on edu outside Nagaland

The memo informed that due to the lack of higher education institutes in the state, more than 50% of students pursue further studies in other parts of India.

"This includes general studies as well as technical studies. It is estimated that more than 50,000 Naga students are studying outside the state; of which about 10,000 are in Shillong, 20,000 in

Delhi, 15, Kolkata," total ann ed Rs. 1200 that there of money

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Cultural show Finance Commission



Commission during the dinner and ball, Office Residence of the CM on

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Nagaland govt's memo to 15th FC stresses on education

Our Correspondent

Kohima | November 28

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"This includes general studies as well as technical studies. It is estimated that more than 50,000 Naga students are studying outside the state; of which about 10,000 are in Shillong, 20,000 in

Delhi, 15,000 in Bengaluru and 7,000 in Kolkata," the memo said, adding that the total annual expenditure is an estimated Rs. 1200 crores. Consequently, it said that there is no retention and circulation of money within the state.

The state government however claimed that the state has made "impressive gains" in the field of education despite shortage of physical and human infrastructure. Adding to the reported 79.55% literacy rate, the government also touted the GPS mapping of all schools in the state which was undertaken recently.

Rs. 720 crores required for constructing 5 schools

The memo meanwhile pointed out that Rs. 720 crores will be required for construction of 5 high schools in each of the 12 districts @Rs. 12 crore per school.

It added that most government school buildings here were constructed during the first few years of the state's inception, leaving them in a dilapidated state now. It informed that 15 school buildings are 50 years old and above and 230 school buildings (40- 50 years old) need major repair. Further it was revealed that 383 school buildings are 30-40 years old; 642 are 20-30 years old; 481 are 10-20 years old; and 162 are below 10 years old. All these require repair and timely maintenance.

The memo informed that the annual cost requirement for maintenance and repairs is Rs. 40 crores.

Is mock drill

Capacity building on basic fire fighting and its prevention at Wokha



techniques and measures. "Everyone should know how to handle fire extinguisher as it will save lot of lives," he said. He also added that the day's programme is to sensitise the citizens on how to prepare oneself in times of disaster and other natural calamities.

Assistant Sub Inspector, Wokha who also addressed the gathering before demonstrating the techniques said that fire incidents are classified as type A, B, C, and D. He also said that in last fourteen years, the country alone has lost more than 3 lakh people due to fire disaster. He shared on the prevention and measures of fire safety.

Later, the department demonstrated the tech-

Calls for reviving special category status, monthly honorarium as orgs meet 15th FC

Our Correspondent

Kohima | November 28

Various Naga organizations including the business community, Nagaland State Village Development Board Association (NSVDBA), Tribal Hohos, Political Parties, Nagaland State Village Councils, and Urban Local Bodies met with the 15th Finance Commission. Besides submitting formal petitions and memorandums, the representatives of these bodies also impressed upon the FC during the interaction.

Business orgs apprise FC on the challenges faced by the community

The representatives of Trade, Industry and Commerce, represented by Kohima Chambers of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Mokokchung Chambers of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), Dimapur Chambers of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), Zynorique, YouthNet and Entrepreneurs Associates met with the FC on November 27.

In a memorandum submitted to the FC, the group stated "We are confident that the 15th Finance Commission will sagaciously provide innovative funds, like the seed capital, to enable Nagaland state become an asset to the Nation.



Representatives of trade, industries & commerce with 15th FC chairman and others in Kohima on November 28. (Morung Photo)

Developing entrepreneurship, human capital and key infrastructure will unveil a new Nagaland. We hope the 15th Finance Commission will make this happen."

The team apprised the Commission about the challenging realities of accessing formal credits from banks to nurture entrepreneurship in Nagaland.

It also requested the Commission for a onetime provision of an Innovative Seed Capital of Rs 500 crores to be customized to support local entrepreneurs with soft loans for job generation and propelling entrepreneurship.

"This seed capital would generate meaningful jobs

to at least 25,000 youth in the state within 5 years," the memorandum stated.

The team also highlighted the need to develop human capital and contextual skills.

It requested the Commission to fund the state with vocational training institutions and establishment of traditional skill resource centre in all districts and fund for Research & Development.

"Such measures will directly mitigate rampant migration for jobs outside Nagaland," the memorandum stated.

The team also highlighted the importance of developing the air connectivity,

Air cargo, rail, warehouses, logistics and land transport subsidies.

NSVDBA appeals for grants

The Nagaland State Village Development Board Association (NSVDBA) requested the 15th FC to provide Matching Cash Grant (MCG) of Rs 100 crores to VDB fixed deposit.

It also sought the help of the Commission for the promotion of Micro Financing activities through VDBs, a total of Rs 714 crores for 1428 VDBs.

It also sought grants for payment of monthly honorarium to village functionaries, grant-in- to VDBs

household allocation (Rs 189.95 crore for five years), special assistance for women scheme and other infrastructure and basic development (Rs 535.50 crore for five years).

Tribal Hohos request 'special category status'

Tribal Hohos of Nagaland stated that the 5th FC introduced the concept of Special Category States in 1969 to provide certain disadvantaged states with preferential treatment in the form of Central Assistance and tax-breaks, where the State of Nagaland was included to avail such 'special category status.' Unfortunately, the Special Grants were discontinued from the 9th Finance Commission resulting in huge financial deficits.

The Tribal Hohos in a representation requested the 15th Finance Commission to consider the restoration of "Special Category Status" besides others by giving preferential treatment in the form of central assistance and tax-breaks to enable the state to accelerate the path of economic development of the state.

Political parties request for investment and monitoring agency

The Political parties in its joint memorandum

stated "For a state like Nagaland, in order to catch up with the rest of the country, we will need to develop twice or thrice the present speed, since the rest of the country is also continuing to grow. For this, there will be a need for huge special investment," it stated.

It urged 15th FC to create a Monitoring Agency to supervise such funds provided to the state.

Further, it requested the Commission to make the allocation for Nagaland based on "our unique and special status."

NSVDBA wants fund at par with PRI

Nagaland State Village Councils in its representation put forward a proposal to 15th FC to grant fund for the village councils in the state of Nagaland at par with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) of various states in India for the interest and welfare of the rural public and for better local self governance.

Urban Local Bodies

The Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) apprised the Commission on the 33% women reservation issue and the resolution of the same and requested the 15th FC to release grants to the urban local bodies as projected by the government.

MEX

PAC-NCD withdraws

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 28 - The Nagaland Peace and Reconciliation Committee (PAC), Naga, has withdrawn the proposal submitted on November 30 in view of the arrest of the culprits. PAC pressed appreciation to the Government of Nagaland for the arrest of the culprits. Mean while, to punish the culprits, the PAC-NCD has stay alert and report to the Government of Nagaland on the activities, in order to maintain festive season in our district.

KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 28

The Government of Nagaland has announced the 15th Finance Commission will be held under the theme "Make the State of Nagaland South East Asia" and deal with Artificial Intelligence, Smart Security etc. The resource will be from Estonia and Finland.

KMC informs on

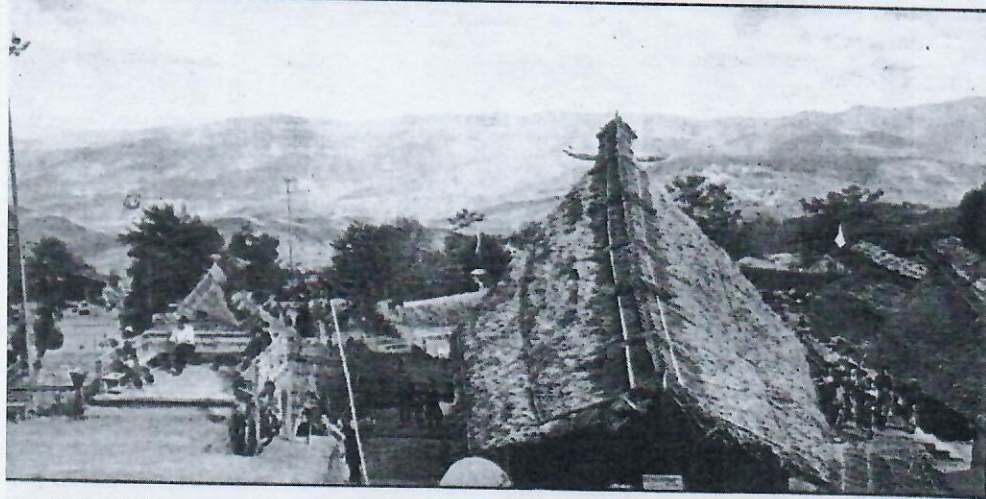
KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 28 - The Kohima Municipal Corporation (KMC) Kovi Meyase has parking of local taxis and the Old Assembly Secretariat. All concerned have been directed for compliance.

D

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 28 - The District Administration and Chamber of Commerce and Industry have decorated all the shops including to put up decorations by judge the best decorated shops and be awarded with citation and certificate. The business community has been advised to maintain

FESTIVAL: 1 DAY TO GO

Chief Minister Rajnath Singh to grace inaugural ceremony



At the Sema Heritage Village where the 2018 edition of the Hornbill Festival starts on December 1. (Morung File Photo)

Permits norms for foreign tourists
Foreign tourists no longer need to enter Nagaland, according to a brochure brought out by the Department of Tourism, Nagaland. Under the new rules, the foreigners only have to register themselves at the local Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) of the district they visit within 24 hours of their arrival in Nagaland. However, citizens of Pakistan, India, and China still need to obtain a PAP/RAP from the Home Department. One can apply for the same at Nagaland House in Delhi.

hi, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi.
Phone: +91-11-23012296.

Pony & Cart Ride

The animal husbandry & veterinary services, Government of Nagaland is launching Hornbill Festival Pony & Cart Ride on December 1 at Pony Farm, above Japfii Christian College Kigwema. Advisor for animal husbandry & veterinary services R. Khing will formally launch the event at 2 PM.

Taxi rate for hire/contract

The All Nagaland Taxi Association (ANTA) with HQ in Kohima has notified taxi rate for hire/contract for Hornbill Festival 2018.

The whole day charges from 8 AM to 6 PM have been fixed at Rs. 2500 in and around Kohima jurisdiction. Half day charges from 8 AM to 1 PM would be Rs. 1800.

For dropping of passenger to Dimapur by local taxi, the rate has been fixed at Rs. 2500 for which NOC from the ANTA HQ Kohima would be required. ANTA stated that the stated rates are meant for Hornbill Festival 2018 only. Contacts: ANTA helpline- 9436694693. Office: 0370- 2290147.

Read on Page 5

Kohima Police issues traffic advisory

'Nagaland received Rs 26781.39 Cr as development fund during 56 years'

'State could not develop socio-economic infrastructure due to meager fund released by GoI'

Our Correspondent

Kohima | November 29

Nagaland state government in its memorandum submitted to the 15th Finance Commission stated that the development fund received during 56 years i.e. since inception of the state from 1961-62 to 2017-18 is approximately Rs. 26781.39 crore.

The memorandum said that the stated fund is barely the cost of a major project in some states.

"This amount excludes the flagship programs before 2014-15, which were not initially routed through the Consolidated Fund of the State and other direct funding schemes such as National Highways, etc.," the memorandum stated.

While acknowledging the grants provided by the central government to meet the establishment and administrative cost of the state, the memorandum stated that due to huge expenditure requirements on account of salaries, wages and pension payments, the fund releases of the Government of India have not been adequate for infrastructure development of the state.

"Development has also been hampered due to non-settlement of the prolonged Naga political issue; in which the state had to focus its resources on maintenance of law and order rather than on development activities," the memorandum added.

"Although Nagaland is the second oldest state in the North East region, we have been left behind in many socio-economic and infrastructure development areas with the other sister states of the region," it observed.

After initiation of peace talks with the Government of India by the Naga Political Groups, the law and order situation has now improved substantially and now is the right time for the state to focus on socio-economic and infrastructure development, it stated.

The memo further viewed one of the main reasons why the state could not develop its socio-economic infrastructure was due to meager fund released by the Government of India for development works.

Allegation to Dzükou valley fire produced before Court

Police station on November 28 and have been remanded in police custody for 72 hours. He said the matter now rests before the Court.

The eight arrested, were part of the 15 team from the Manipur Mountaineering and Trekking Association (MMTA) who went to Dzükou valley in connection with the ongoing Manipur San-

gai Festival.

According to a report in *The Sangai Express*, the eight mountaineers of MMTA which include two girls fled towards Nagaland side of Dzükou valley after a wild fire broke out in the valley. The team leader of the MMTA has since then claimed their innocence.

15th FC visit: Nagaland places Rs 7928.43 cr requirement for overall development



Deputy Chief Minister, Y Patton receiving the Chairman of the 15th FC, Nand Kishore Singh on arrival at the Kohima helipad

KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 27: The Nagaland Government has sought an amount of Rs 7928.43 crore for the overall development of the State during the period of Fifteenth Finance Commission starting 2020-21 to 2024-25.

According to a memorandum of the State government submitted through the Finance Department to the team of Fifteenth Finance Commission, out of the total requirement an amount of Rs 707.10 crore will be needed

annually for repair and maintenance of infrastructural assets which amounts to 3535.50 crore for five year period under 35 departments.

The department wise requirement include: Roads & Bridges - Rs 350 cr, Housing - Rs 30 cr, CAWD - Rs 15 cr, Police Engineering Project - Rs 25 cr, Education - Rs 40 cr, Medical - Rs 20 cr, PHE - Rs 10 cr, Power - Rs 60 cr, Nagaland State Transport - Rs 7 cr, Information & Pub-

lic Relations - Rs 5 cr, Jails - Rs 7 cr, Fire & Emergency Services - Rs 3.50 cr, Tourism - Rs 10 cr, Art & Culture - Rs 5 cr, Land Resources - Rs 10 cr, Treasuries & Accounts - Rs 5 cr, Geology & Mining - Rs 7.50 cr, Youth Resources & Sports - Rs 10 cr, Agri & Allied Departments - Rs 10 cr, Supplementing of deficient training infrastructure of the Industrial Training Institutes in Nagaland - Rs 3.60 cr, Technical Education - Rs 10 cr, Excise - Rs 3 cr, Home Guards - Rs 2 cr, Village Guards - Rs 3 cr, Higher Education - Rs 5 cr, Mechanical - Rs 3 cr, Law & Justice - Rs 5 cr, Forest - Rs 10 cr, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry - Rs 5 cr, Sericulture - Rs 5 cr, New and Renewable Energy - Rs 5 cr, Printing & Stationery - Rs 3 cr, Irrigation - Rs 8 cr, State Legislature - Rs 1.50 cr and Civil Supplies - Rs 5 cr.

Another Rs 4392.93 crore with annual requirement of Rs 878.59 crore would be required for critical infrastructure development under 14 departments, which include New Raj Bhavan - Rs 400 cr,

(Cont'd on Page 12)

Rio looks forward to 15th FC recommendations

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 27: Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio today looked forward to the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission that would help address the bottlenecks and development gaps of Nagaland and give the flexibility to make the right interventions of the people.

Speaking at the State Dinner for the 15th Finance Commission today at State Banquet Hall, Rio said that the recommendations of the Commission would help balance regional aspirations and expectations for optimal and balanced distribution of resource, adding this would ensure leveraging the relative strengths of all states and all regions.

"Nagaland looks forward to the visit of Finance Commission for ensuring that we also become an equal and proud partner in the Nation's growth story," he said.

Rio also highlighted that the full potential and growth of the state has been impeded by the unresolved issue of the Naga po-

litical struggle. He hoped of a final settlement of the Naga political issue, which is inclusive, honourable and acceptable to the people.

Stating that Nagaland dreams of making tourism the mainstay of its economy, Rio said disclosed that Saturday, the 19th Hornbill Festival would be launched, which also coincides with the Statehood Day on December 1. He informed the visiting delegates that Hornbill Festival has become one of the most important tourism events, not only in India but also worldwide.

He wished the members of the Finance Commission had the opportunity to join the festival.

Stating that infrastructure development is key for helping Nagaland catch up with mainland states in terms of economic development, Rio said connectivity within the state as also with other states of the Northeast would help create opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses.

(Page News Service)

Consensus eludes JPC on Citizenship Amendment Bill

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 27: Bangladeshi nationals including Hindus should not be granted citizenship as proposed in the Citizenship Amendment Bill, opposition members Tuesday suggested saving India is a secular

The bill seeks to grant citizenship to people from minority communities -- Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians -- from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India

for voting," Agarwal told PTI after the three-hour-long meeting.

The ruling NDA has maximum members in the 30-member panel.

During the meeting, the opposition members moved claus-

Rio invites former state CM's to Hornbill Festival

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 27: Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio has invited the former Chief Ministers of Nagaland--Dr. S C Jamir, K.L.Chishi, T.R.Zeliani and

Singh and Ambassador of the United States of America to India, Kenneth I. Jester who will grace the programme as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour

Congress member said if all the proposed amendments come into

ligion.

The Meghalaya and Mizoram

Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and West Bengal. (PTI)

15th FC visit: Nagaland places Rs 7928.43 cr

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Housing - Rs 427 cr, GA Buildings (CAWD) - Rs 205 cr, School - Rs 720 cr, Hospitals - Rs 100 cr, New High Court Complex, Kohima - Rs 194.84 cr, High Education - Rs 2560 cr, Tourism - Rs 120 cr, Civil Aviation (Small landing strips) - Rs 90 cr, Fire Stations - Rs 60 cr, Village Guards - Rs 25 cr, Development of Under-development Areas - Rs 250 cr, Strengthening of Power Sector through Generation projects - Rs 1115.59 crore and Establishment of 4th NAP HQ - Rs 425 cr.

Fifteenth Finance Commission led by the Chairman Nand Kishore Singh are in Kohima on a three-day official visit starting today to hold talks with different government agencies, civil societies and tribal hohos on the requirements of the State for the period 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Beside others, the 14 member team of the Commission also includes Member Dr. Anoop Singh, Member Secretary Arvind Mehta, Joint Secretaries Mukhmeet S. Bhatia and Ravi Kota, Economic Advisor Antony Cyri-

ac and Director & OSD to Chairman 15th FC Bharat Bhusan Garg.

On their arrival, Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton and Minister for Planning & Coordination and Land Revenue, Neiba Kronu, Minister for Agriculture, G. Kaito Aye and Minister for Soil and Water Conservation, Women and Child Development Kashiho Sangtam and high ranking state bureaucrats led by Chief Secretary, Binchilo Thong DGP T John Longkumer received them.

The team visited World War II cemetery at Kohima and paid homage at the war memorial.

Since afternoon, the Commission had closed door meetings with representatives of the Rural Local Bodies that is Village Council Members and Village Development Boards from Chuchuyimlang Village Mokokchung, Nagaland State VDB Association, Moya Village Council, Kohima Village Council, Lapa Village Council Mon and VDB women members of Khuzama and Kohima Village. They also met with

representatives of the Urban Local Bodies - Kohima, Dimapur and Mokokchung Municipal Councils, Tuensang and Mon Town Council and Tribal Hohos - Chakhesang Public Organisation, Eastern Naga Public Organisation, Eastern Naga Women Organisation, Ao Senden, Angami Public Organisation, Sumi Hoho, Lotha Hoho and ENSE.

On Wednesday, the Commission will have meetings with the Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and some of his cabinet colleagues, Chief Secretary and the State Government Officials in the morning, with representatives of the Political Parties - NDPP, NPF, BJP, NPCC, JD(U), NPP, NCP and LJP in the afternoon and with representatives of Trade, Industries & Commerce in the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary, Nagaland Civil Secretariat.

On the third day of their visit, the Commission will make a field visit to Touphema Tourist Village in the morning and will then proceed to Imphal by helicopters.

(Page News Service)

Pakistan army's patronage, and students were being influenced too. "We have about 6,000 Kash-

fine there, but terror groups are trying to put people in and mix them up," he added. (NDTV)

Dy CM office clarifies

(Cont'd from Page 1)

the Home Commissioner to re-submit the file to him immediately, which was submitted to Chief Secretary on the same day itself.

The Media Cell stated that the Chief Secretary on the November 19, has unilaterally written in the note-sheet saying "Shri. Rupin Sharma may be posted as OSD, Nagaland House, New Delhi and continue to draw salary from-PHQ...". The Chief Secretary also took photocopy of his own file noting and e-mail to both Resident Commissioner, Nagaland House, New Delhi and to Rupin Sharma before obtaining Government approval. Thereafter, the file was sent to the Chief Minister Office directly for approval by-passing Dy.CM, though both the CM and Dy. CM were out of station.

"On learning this, the Dy. CM had admonished him for flouting rules and office procedure and advised him not to take unilateral decision till the matter is further discussed. Dy. CM also asked the Chief Secretary what was the urgency for unilateral

decision in recommending posting of an Officer who is on compulsory wait," the media cell stated.

The deputy Chief Minister also questioned Chief Secretary in circulating his own file note sheet in WhatsApp Group and e-mailing the same to both RC Nagaland House, New Delhi and Rupin Sharma.

The media cell stated that the Chief Secretary called back the file from CMO and changed the file note sheet and redirected through the Dy.CM

"As such, there is no personal about Dy.C.M and the Chief Secretary as portrayed in the media by the NPF but it all about rules and office procedure and there is no question of threatening or abusing the Chief Secretary since the Dy. CM. has high esteem for the Office of the State bureaucratic head," it stated.

It also asked the NPF Press Bureau not to try to politicize the issue without knowing the truth as the public are wise enough to understand cheap political propaganda. (Page News Service)

FFC becomes Friendly Finance Commission for Nagaland

Asserts for a very positive, sympathy and innovative approach for fast track development



FFC Chairman Nand Kishore Singh and Secretary Arvind Mehta during the press briefing at SC conference hall on November 28, 2018.

KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 28: The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) has asserted to make a "very positive and sympathy and innovative approach to fast track the development of the economy of Nagaland".

The assertion was made by the 8-member team of FFC led Chairman Nand Kishore Singh during a media briefing held at Chief Secretary's conference hall

here on Wednesday after holding series of closed door meetings with the State government led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, political parties, Naga civil societies, rural and urban local bodies, trade and commerce bodies of the State since yesterday.

"The people of Nagaland have immeasurable talent and they can make enormous difference not only to Nagaland but

India's economic development with the rich cultural diversity," Singh said.

"We have had a very full and rich discussion with all stake holders in Nagaland while the state government presented a formal memorandum to the commission detailing their expectations from the award and recommendations of the FFC," Singh said.

"We also had deliberations with Village Councils and Village Development Boards, tribal organizations, trade and commerce and all political parties and they made oral and written memorandum to the commission," he said.

"From a broad spectrum, we were able to have very insulated interaction with all the stake holders in Nagaland," said Singh.

He said that the Commission is impressed by the great strides which Nagaland has made on several important critical parameters including the indices of

human resource development - the rate of literacy, infant and maternal mortality rates are significantly above the national average. In terms of per capita income too, it does not compare unfavourably.

The initiatives taken by successive government of Nagaland have enabled the comparative advantage of Nagaland to gather momentum, he said while citing the instance great strides in the area of Horticulture, which has a great scope in terms of organic farming, fruits, vegetables and agriculture productivity and also the Nagaland coffee tastes.

Fruits and other vegetables offer great opportunities for downstream development of those in terms of agro and agro based processing industries, he said.

He said that Commission is greatly impressed with the interactions with village council and VDBs and the state's approach

towards the communitisation of resources which is unique to Nagaland.

Stating the Commission recognises that 75% of Nagaland is under Forest with quite a large percentage in dense forest while most are moderate and open forest, he said this contributes greatly to the national carbon sync.

The contribution of Nagaland towards the environmental and ecological friendly approach towards reducing the fossil fuel footprint is commendable and needs to be recognized, he said.

The Chairman maintained that in order to clearly harness the advantage that Nagaland three important trust areas were brought forth which needs encouragement - one is improve connectivity, that is air, rail and road while the priorities of the government in this regard are appropriate and needs support.

(Cont'd on Page 12)

Rio seeks 100% Central Grant for CSS

Pol parties, orgs seek financial &

FFC becomes Friendly Finance Commission for Nagaland

(Cont'd from Page 1)

He said that the state government has put forth four proposals which include the post devolution revenue deficit grants amounting to Rs 74,000 crore, on critical infrastructure development - Rs 7212 crore, Village Councils and Urban bodies - Rs 1700 crores and for Disaster Management - 1080 crore totaling to 86834 crore, in addition to the critical connectivity projects.

He said the state government has also requested for national institutes - particularly management, medical and engineering college to be able to harness the huge potential of the young population of Nagaland.

Expressing that Nagaland has certainly shown signs of improving GST realization, he said Nagaland's own revenue as part of the overall expenditure needs this momentum to be sustained.

The award would be governing from 2020 to 2025 and improved GST performance and revenue realization would be greatly advantageous, he said.

He said that the issues on working of the power economy deserves priority action in Nagaland by bringing down transmission and distribution losses, improving billing cycle and collection, bridging the gap between the cost of purchase and sale needs to improved otherwise it can become major haemorrhaging in Nagaland's economy.

He said that the Commission has encouraged the government to think greatly of renewable energy, particularly solar energy. "Nagaland needs to take advantage not only on hydro potential

amount of the land and sunshine," he said.

These are all areas which the FFC would like to support and encourage while finalizing their recommendations within the framework of the constitutional mandate, he said.

In terms of revenue deficit grants, he said the Commission wants to have a closer look at the figures and have asked for some more data from the government which will be possible by end of January 2019.

Similarly on the state's specific grants, he said the issue of ULB would be sorted out by the cabinet committee for utilization of the awards of the 14th Finance Commission to lay foundation for the 15th FC awards to be utilized.

The commission, he said "is going back sanguine and enthused by initiatives of the state government and by the development metrics which currently on the go".

"We believe that the developmental initiatives have high priority and deserve the fullest encouragement and support. It will be the endeavour of this FCC to encourage and fully support the innovative measures which are currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of the Nagaland's economy which can improve the per capita income more significantly and enable in harnessing its multiple competitive factors that Nagaland has," he said.

He expressed hope that the slogan of the government "Peace for development and development for peace" does not remain a mere slogan but has to be translated into action.

thetic to the needs, requirement and compulsions, the opportunities and challenges of Nagaland," he asserted, while adding that "the demands are there and we have had discussions and we will have further consultations within the Commission and see the totality of the demands in the lights of the supplementary before coming to conclusions and firming our recommendations for Nagaland.

On the lighter vein, Singh said Nagaland happens to be the 14th state the FFC has visited and this FFC for Nagaland is a different kind of Commission as first letter in FFC has been changed to 'Friendly' to coined as "Friendly Finance Commission to Nagaland". He also said that the FCC is delighted to celebrate its first anniversary in Nagaland.

The FFC chairman was also appreciative of the unique cultural event, presented by the state government stating that it was an extraordinary feast of the cultural diversity, talent and heterogeneity of the Nagaland society. "We were greatly enriched with such presentations and it is heartening to see the great unity in diversity of Naga society," he added.

FFC secretary, Arvind Mehta said one of the main economic earners of the state is going to be the tourism activities and they have the unique ability that they are planning to get into the e-commerce sites for economic multiplier.

On Thursday, they will make a field visit to Toupheema Tourist Village in the morning and then proceed to Imphal in Manipur

Chief Secretary's conference hall ence not only to Nagaland but eters including the indices of VDBs and the state's approach (Cont'd on Page 12)

Rio seeks 100% Central Grant for CSS Says, state's financial position has deteriorated steadily

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 28: Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio today said that to supplement the revenues of Nagaland, there would be need for the Government of India to pay out of the Consolidated Fund of India, lump sum each year for the development programmes in Nagaland and grant-in-aid towards meeting the cost of administration.

Speaking during the meeting with the 15th Finance Commission at Civil Secretariat Complex, Rio stated that State financial position has deteriorated steadily, adversely affecting development activities due to the Government of India discontinuing the grant of funds to cover the Balance from Current Revenue (BCR) Gap by granting Additional Central Plan Assistance (ACA)

during the period of the Ninth Finance Commission.

He added that the normative approach of the Thirteenth Finance Commission has affected the state by denying its Special Category status and any special grant or treatment and State struggled to even release of pay and allowances to its employees on time.

At the end of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, a huge budgetary deficit of Rs. 1811.85 crores, including the liabilities of works completed but not paid for, he said.

He further stated that the revenue deficit continued on account of 10% increased tax devolution to the States from 32% to 42% has not benefitted the smaller States, particularly Nagaland

He also requested the Com-

mission to consider setting aside 25% of the total devolution of share to the States for the Special Category States as against the 11.53% allocated by the Fourteenth Finance Commission which is found to be insufficient. Out of the 25%, 3% each may be allocated to States having geopolitical implications like Nagaland.

He pointed out that, one area in which Nagaland is struggling is providing 10% State Share for CSS and flagship schemes due to resource constraints and a huge backlog of State share amounting to Rs. 294.05 crores because of which it cannot access the Central Share of 90% for these schemes and this has affected the infrastructure development in the State.

(Cont'd on Page 11)

Kohima reels under scarcity of water

KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 28: Water woe once again in the State, especially Capital Kohima where water is scarce throughout the year, despite having sources to tap water.

State Government has been trying to convince the landowners to tap the running water from the river and streams. But due to land disputes the projects could not be taken off. Government was trying to tap water from the river in Dzukou but due to landowner dispute the

crease of population and expansion of Kohima, augmentation of water supply has not improved much. With the onset of dry season the dwellers of Kohima town would once again have sleepless nights to fetch water from whatever available sources they have, while water tankers would have heyday business.

Dozens of water tankers are lined up throughout 24/7 at the main source at Zubza river by now. Shortage of water was also

ists is during this season where Hornbill Festival is held from December 1-10 at Kisama and in and around Kohima.

Ahead of the much awaited Hornbill Festival, a water supply line was disrupted since a month and the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is on a war footing to restore the supply line which has affected some colonies in the town.

Department source said water supply has been disrupted

Pol parties, orgs seek financial & socio-eco requirements from 15th FC

KOHIMA, NOVEMBER 28: Various bodies in Nagaland including the trade & commerce, VDB, Urban Local bodies and political parties have approached the 15th Finance Commission for support and consideration of financial as well as socio-economic requirements to take forward Nagaland towards development and progress.

In this, the representatives of Trade, Industry and Commerce represented by KCCI, MCCI, DCCI, Zynorique, YouthNet and Entrepreneurs Associates apprised the Commission about the challenging realities of accessing formal Credits from banks to nurture entrepreneurship in Nagaland.

The team requested the Commission to favourably provide a one time Seed Capital of Rs. 500 crores to be customized to support local entrepreneurs with soft loans for Job generation and propelling entrepreneurship.

This was favourably ac-

knowledgeed by the Commission, the Team said while also highlighting the need to develop human capital and contextual skilling.

The team also highlighted the importance of developing the air connectivity, Air cargo, rail, warehouses, logistics and Land transport subsidies.

The Nagaland State Village Development Board Association (NSVDBA) requested the 15th FC to provide Matching Cash Grant (MCG) of Rs. 100 crores to VDB fixed deposit.

It also sought the help of the Commission for promotion of Micro Financing activities through VDBs. For 1428 VDBs, an amount of Rs. 714. crores is required.

It also sought grants for payment of monthly honorarium to village functionaries, grant-in-aid to VDBs household allocation (Rs. 189.95 crore for five years), special assistance for

(Cont'd on Page 12)

Bakeries served 'improvement notice'

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 28: In view of the Hornbill Festival and the coming of the festive season, Food Safety Officer and staff carried out inspection of bakeries. During the inspection, 5 bakeries- M/S United Bakery, New Minister Hill, Kohima; M/S J.A. Bakery, Lerie Chazou, Kohima; M/S Modern Bakery, Mid-

ma; and M/S M. Bakery, A.G. Colony, Kohima were found in unhygienic conditions, using of ingredients which has exceeded best before date, storing of finished products in the bedroom, using of newspaper etc.

An Improvement Notice under Section 32 of the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 was served to the proprietors for com-

Rio seeks 100% Central Grant for CSS

(Cont'd from Page 1)

He requested the Fifteenth Finance Commission to recommend 100% Central Grant for funding CSS and Flagship Programmes as was intended in the 16 Point Agreement

Rio also mentioned that the State is struggling with financial burdens caused by short release of funds. One relates to the provision of Specific Grants by the Thirteenth Finance Commission for implementation of specific need based projects based on which works have been completed.

He added that the state is struggling to maintain infrastructure created during the initial years of Statehood due to resource constraints.

Most of the government buildings are now more than 50 years old and beyond repair but the Government despite resource constraints, during the last 10 years spent Rs. 389 crores constructing 33 new Directorate buildings and replacing old buildings through Negotiated Loan from HUDCO at a high rate of interest, adding further to the financial burden of the state.

He also mentioned that being a hilly and land locked state, regular maintenance of roads is unavoidable due to loose and instability of the soil, maintenance of roads is frequent and high, and due to poor financial condition leaves no resources for repair

and maintenance.

The total fund required for maintenance of the infrastructural assets for the period of the Fifteenth Finance Commission have been worked out to Rs. 3458.00 crores.

He also highlighted on the required funds for new infrastructure on the construction of the New Raj Bhavan, completion of New High Court Complex, replacement of old and dilapidated Schools, hospitals, strengthening of power sector, infrastructure for tourism, etc. and the amount projected is Rs. 7212.10 crores against 14 new infrastructure development works.

Rio also informed the Commission that the requirement of salary for the remaining 2 years of the Fourteenth Finance Commission is going to be high on account of two factors-the first being adoption of the 7th Pay Commission for the employees of the State Government with effect from 1st January 2018. Since Nagaland had already adopted the Central Pay pattern for its employees, it was imperative to implement the 7th Pay Commission recommendations for the State employees as well. The current year 2018-19 alone carries an additional burden of Rs. 1272.00 crores on account of pay revision.

The second issue relates to compliance with the Right to

Education Act (RTE), under which 1620 Primary Teachers and 1527 Graduate Teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and 931 Subject Teachers under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) were recruited. These teachers were appointed on regular basis through open recruitment examinations and paid regular salaries. However, under the new integrated scheme of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SMSA) from 1st April 2018, their salaries have been reduced by half, and states have been asked to bear the balance amount

He emphasized that this year during the monsoon, the State witnessed disaster of huge magnitude caused by heavy rainfall in which roads, bridges, buildings etc. suffered extensive damage all over the State. The total damage has been estimated to be more than Rs. 1040.63 crores, out of which, the cost of permanent restorative works is estimated to be Rs. 185.05 crores.

After 56 years of Statehood, Government of India has recently sanctioned establishment of a Medical College at Kohima with a project cost of Rs. 189.00 crores. The college is scheduled to start functioning by the year 2020 with an intake capacity of 100 seats. The State will require additional recurring expenditure of Rs. 154.97 crores on account

of salaries for its faculty and staff, and operational cost of Rs. 149.15 crore during the period of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

Rio requested the Finance Commission to consider providing Multi-Purpose Buildings in all the District Headquarters in order to preserve our tribal heritage, traditions and culture at an estimated cost of Rs. 120 crores which can be used as Cultural Centres to host the festivals of the tribes, for meetings, seminars, workshops.

He also lamented that Nagaland is the only State where there is no airport in the State capital. He informed that the state has approached the Central Government for construction of a new Greenfield Airport at Ciethu near Kohima, for which 645.20 acres of land has been acquired. Another 398 acres is being acquired by the State to meet all requirements.

He hoped that the Commission would be sympathetic to their requests, keeping in mind the special circumstances that have brought this State into existence.

Opening remark was delivered by Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance, Temjen Toy, IAS. Power point presentation by State government. Remarks and discussion on the 15th FC by chairman, Nand Kishore Singh.

(Page News Service)

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

erney held at Peren

for the above mentioned age category 18 for which attested copy of Birth

form can be obtained for the Sports during office hours. The application copies of latest passport sized photo at the time of selection test. Interested to contact the following officials: Coach - 878775436 and Zhato Nagi, (Page News Service)

friendly Finance Commission for Nagaland

amount of the land and sunshine," he said.

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"We believe that the developmental initiatives have high priority and deserve the fullest encouragement and support. It will be the endeavour of this FCC to encourage and fully support the innovative measures which are currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of the Nagaland's economy which can improve the per capita income more significantly and enable in harnessing its multiple competitive factors that Nagaland has," he said.

He expressed hope that the slogan of the government "Peace for development and development for peace" does not remain a mere slogan but has to be translated into action.

"We are exceedingly sympa-

According to sources, the started from one house and spread quickly after LPG cylinders exploded. At least 3 cylinders exploded but timely intervention of fire brigade prevented the fire from spreading. No casualties have been reported but properties worth lakhs have been destroyed in the fire.

(Page News Service)

thetic to the needs, requirement and compulsions, the opportunities and challenges of Nagaland," he asserted, while adding that "the demands are there and we have had discussions and we will have further consultations within the Commission and see the totality of the demands in the lights of the supplementary before coming to conclusions and firming our recommendations for Nagaland.

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(Page News Service)

acute drinking water scarcity a

(Page News Service)

Pol parties, orgs seek financial

(Cont'd from Page 1)

women scheme and other infrastructure and basic development (Rs. 535.50 crore for five years).

It informed the 15th FC that the State of Nagaland has been exempted from the purview of the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution due to the existence of traditional local self-government bodies like the Village Councils and the Village Development Boards (VDBs).

Tribal Hohos of Nagaland informed that the state of Nagaland Act, 1962 was enacted on 4th September, 1962, as a result of the Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962 and the State of Nagaland became the 16th State under the Union of India w.e.f. 01.12.1963.

It stated that the 5th Finance Commission was pleased to introduce the concept of Special Category States in 1969 to provide certain disadvantaged states with preferential treatment in the form of Central Assistance and tax-breaks, where the State of Nagaland was included to avail such "special category status." Unfortunately, the Special Grants were discontinued from the 9th Finance Commission resulting in huge financial deficits to the State of Nagaland over the last many years.

The Tribal Hohos of Nagaland in a representation requested the 15th Finance Commission to consider restoration of "Special Category Status" besides others by giving preferential treatment in the form of central assistance and tax-breaks to enable the state to accelerate the path of economic development of the state.

The Political parties in its joint memorandum stated that Nagaland was created out of an extreme Political necessity. A solemn agreement the 16 Point Agreement had been signed between the Government of India and the people of Nagaland to end a violent turmoil where thousands had shed their blood. At the time of the creation of the

State, it was further an admitted fact that the State was not economically viable and therefore a special Point No. 11 had been included in the 16 Point Agreement which reads as follows: 1. Financial Assistance from the Government of India to supplement the revenues of Nagaland, there will be need for the Government of India to pay out of the Consolidated fund of India ((a) Lump sum each year for the Development program in the Nagaland and (b) Grant-in-aid towards meeting the cost of administration.

It stated that a total of Rs. 26,781 crore as plan outlay has been spent in Nagaland since the inception of the state, fifty years ago, in 1963.

"For a state like Nagaland, in order to catch up with the rest of the country, we will need to develop twice or thrice the present speed, since the rest of the country are also continuing to grow. For this, there will be a need for huge special investment," it stated.

It also urged 15th FC to create a Monitoring Agency to supervise such funds provided to the state.

Further, it requested the Commission to make the allocation for Nagaland based on "our unique and special status."

Nagaland State Village Councils in its representation put forward a proposal to 15th FC to grant fund for the village councils in the state of Nagaland at par with the Panchayati Raj institutions of various states in India towards the interest and welfare of the rural public and for better local self governance.

The Urban local bodies in Nagaland stated that while the state cabinet has recently formed a cabinet sub committee to look into the issue arising out of the 33% women reservation and is also due to hold its meeting with the tribal hohos to resolve the impasse, it requested the 15th FC to grants to the urban local bodies as projected by the government. (Page News Service)



Chairman 15th FC, Nand Kishore Singh with representatives of Trade Industries & Commerce during their meeting at the Chief Secretary's Conference hall, Secretariat Complex, Kohima on November 28.

Assam NRC: Govt to form a panel to plan the fate of excluded in the final list

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 28: The government has decided to constitute a high-level committee to chalk out plans on undocumented people after the final list of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is published in Assam, officials said.

The decision to set up the committee, comprising representatives from the Centre and Assam government, was taken at a meeting convened by Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday, which was attended by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal among others.

"The high-level committee will see what to do with those people who will be left out from the final list of the NRC," a senior official who attended

in the draft NRC, have submitted applications for inclusion of their names in the list of Assam's citizens and have given relevant documents claiming they are Indian citizens.

The proposed committee will examine all available options for the undocumented people in Assam, the official said.

The official, however, refused to disclose whether the government will consider granting them work permit.

With nearly six lakh people submitting the applications for inclusion in the final NRC, it means 34 lakh people have not yet come forward to claim that they are Indians, probably they may not have proper documents, another official said.

Following a directive by the Supreme Court, the process of filing claims and ob-

108-yr-old man turns Mizoram's oldest voter

AIZAWL, NOVEMBER 28: Rochhinga, aged 108, was considered to be the oldest voter in Mizoram as the election to the 40-member state Assembly ended peacefully on Wednesday.

Rochhinga, a Presbyterian Church elder and a resident of Zemabawk North in Aizawl East-I constituency, came holding a walking stick along with one of his neighbours.

Also among the voters were persons aged 106, 104 and 96.

"I never miss voting in elections. It is our duty. If we fail in our duty, then how can we question when the government will fail in its duty?" Rochhinga told PTI after casting vote.

His neighbour said that the centenarian has a keen interest in political developments.

Aged 106, Darrohnuni, who exercised franchise at Kawrthah polling station-III under the Hachhek seat along the Mizoram-Tripura border, was the second oldest person to cast her vote.

Wrapped in woolens, Darrohnuni came in a wheelchair pushed by her granddaughter.

Another woman, 104-year-old Aiziki of Lunglei Chanmari was cast her vote to elect the next government in Mizoram.

She came along holding a walking



सत्यमेव जयते

Government Ministry of Mi

11th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya
Lodhi Road, New De

Vacancy Notice

Applications are invited for filling up of the post of Se
Delhi under the Ministry of Minority Affairs on depu



Age of Mokokchung district emerged as the winner of Mr Nagaland 2018 event held at the State Academy Hall, Kohima on Thursday. The event was organised by the Naga Singing & Fitness Association (NBBFA).

Badminton tourney concludes at Peren

ing, he appealed for continuation of Badminton Tournament with greater enthusiasm in the years to come. He said playing any game enables us to know our own ability and provides satisfaction. The function was chaired by SDOR&B PWD Peren, Asembe. The winners in Men's singles,

Women's singles, Men's doubles, Women's doubles, Mixed doubles were awarded with citations and cash awards. The gathering was enthralled with special melody presentation by Kediri-ale. Vote of thanks was delivered by Thefuradi Zumvii, DSO and member secretary Organising Committee. (Page News Service)

Govt may review law

pay a fine of Rs 50,000 if he fails to comply with the inquiry report submitted by an internal complaints committee or doesn't report the number of cases in the annual report. The Justice J. S. Verma panel had recommended an employment tribunal instead of an internal committee to probe complaints. (Courtesy: The Hindu)

Govt employees directed to attend statehood programme

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 29: In view of the 55th Nagaland Statehood Anniversary celebration on December 1 at the Secretariat Plaza, Kohima, all government employees have been directed to attend the function at 9 a.m. positively. (Page News Service)

No Sociology teacher in CGHSS

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 29: The Chümoukedima Town Student's Union (CTSU) has disclosed that Chümoukedima Government Higher Secondary School has no Sociology subject teacher after the transfer of Mhathung Ezung, Department of Sociology and that no replacement has come. The CTSU said for the past consecutive years the school has been producing cent percent result in the HSSLC, also securing star marks in the subject of Sociology, considering one of the best Government Higher Sec-

ondary School in the state. The Union said that despite appeals made on this matter by the school authority and also the Student's Union, to the District Education Officer on 17/10/18 (Ref no CTSU-F/Pre/17-18/5), till date no response has been received from the concern department. "Since the pleading has been done several times, from now on we deem the concern authority responsible for any failure in the progress of the institution," it said. (Page News Service)

15th FC visits Tuophema tourist village

DIMAPUR, NOVEMBER 29: The 15th Finance Commission led by Chairman, Nand Kishore Singh visited Tuophema Tourist Village today. Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio and a host of dignitaries accompanied the team. Public reception of the team was held at Amphitheatre, Tuophema Bawe. During the cul-

tural program Tuophema Cultural Troupe, Rengma Cultural Troupe and Lazami Cultural Troupe presented folk songs and dances. VDB Secretary Tuophema, Krutsolie Zumu welcomed the guests. The team also visited the Museum at Tourist Village, Tuophema Basa. (Page News Service)

Onset of 'secondhand' festive season

(Cont'd from Page 1) Streets, footpaths and alleys in the towns are flooded with secondhand garments and used items. This would also add flavour to tourist attraction. Currently India is in the top list for importing used clothes. The import of used clothes requires a licence from the government, with the condition of 100% re-export. This segment accounts for about 30% of the imports. Used garments enter the Indian retail market through two channels-smuggling from special economic zones (SEZs). Also there is a channel of payment of

around Rs 50 a kg at custom checkpoints. The import and export of used garments are a big business. Global used clothing trade rings up over 4 billion dollars per annum - but it is a socially reasonable practice, according to a report. People may not realize that when they donate used clothing in countries such as the United States, United Kingdom and other rich European Countries, the majority will find its way into foreign markets. The leading export destinations include Poland, Ghana, Pakistan, Ukraine and India. (Page News Service)

Nagaland wish list submitted to 15th FC

Correspondent

KOHIMA, NOV 27 (NPN): Nagaland has submitted a memorandum to Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) reflecting the impact due to the change of funding in the previous years and a proposal for the next five years – 2020-21 to 2024-25. A team of 12 members led by its chairman Nand Kishore Singh arrived here on Tuesday afternoon on a three-day visit.

State finance secretary Kikheto Sema informed media persons Monday evening that the memorandum for 2020-21 to 2024-25 was submitted on August 16 and supplementary memorandum was under preparation for submission during the FC's visit. He said the FC members would be meeting State government officials and private agencies during their visit and leave for Imphal on November 29.

Meanwhile, the memorandum projected Rs 3,535.50 crore for the five-year period for repair and maintenance; Rs 1,115.59 crore for four hydro projects and Rs 4,392.93 for critical infrastructural development.



Nand Kishore Singh being received by Y. Patton and other, Tuesday.

Impact on changing of funds: The memorandum pointed out that the state's finances suffered due to change in funding pattern by the 9th FC during 1989-90 in which grant of fund was discontinued, instead of providing liberal assistance to cover Balance from Current Revenue (BCR) gap through Additional Central Plan Assistance (ACPA).

It was also pointed out that due to the change in funding pattern from 1989-90 onwards, the State faced problems even in releasing monthly pay and allowances to government

employees even as the government was unable to undertake developmental activities, which affected the overall socio-economic condition of the State.

During 2003, a one-time special grant of Rs 365 crore was provided by then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to wipe out accumulated budgetary deficit which was a great relief for the State.

However, it said this one-time grant was only for a short period and the deficit started mounting because the state had to create avenues for providing jobs in the absence of other

avenues since the formation of Nagaland.

State spends 58% on salary and pension: The memorandum submitted to the FFC mentioned that since the number of government employee was very high, the annual growth rate of salary and pension was equally high. It said these two components alone consumed about 58% of the total revenue expenditure.

Also, it stated that about 67% of the revenue expenditure was spent on account of salary, wage, pension and interest payments and thus very little fund was left for maintenance of infrastructural assets and other developments activities.

Impact of 13th FC: Refreshing the impact of 13th FC, the State government pointed out that the FC had adopted a normative approach of awarding grant to all the States without considering that Nagaland was the only State created out of political exigency. It pointed out that the special-category State was not given any special treatment as the same yardstick was applied to all the

States, following which Nagaland suffered a lot during the 13th FC period.

Impact of 14th FC: The memorandum maintained that the 14th FC took into account the adverse awards of the 13th FC and recommended considerably better and realistic financing for all the special category States. It pointed out that though the increase of

10% tax devolution raised the share of states from 32% to 42%, it made little difference for revenue deficit states like Nagaland.

While appreciating the 14th FC for considering considerably better revenue deficit grant to Nagaland, the State still continued to have a post devolution deficit due to the huge burden. (Cont'd on p-7)

Request for one time grant to waive off deficit

An amount of total accumulated deficits as on March 2018 including liabilities mentioned in the recommendation was Rs. 2864.18 Crore. (Rs. 1607.73 crore budget deficit, Rs. 1256.45 for development deficit, Rs. 92.50 crore liabilities for non release of state specific, Rs. 300 crore liabilities for non release of Eastern Nagaland and Rs. 863.95 liabilities for 40 SPA projects)

Towards this the state government had requested the FC-XV to recommend one time grant to waive both budgetary deficit as well as liabilities amounting to Rs. 2864.18 crore.

Budgetary deficit of Nagaland since 2010

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3.	2012-2013	-695.59	-891.52
4.	2013-2014	-899.45	-891.73
5.	2014-2015	-1252.45	-1252.85
6.	2015-2016	-1426.29	-1419.19
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Further, the memorandum explained that the percentage of distribution of share of Central taxes was not too favourable to Nagaland, as compared with some other North-eastern States. The State government appealed to FFC to distribute State share of Central taxes equitably to all the North-eastern States on need basis, with special consideration for Nagaland, taking into account the provision of point 11, clauses 1 & 2 of the 16-point Agreement. Rs 3,535.50 for repair and maintenance: State government has urged the FFC to consider granting Rs 3,535.50 crore for repair and maintenance of infrastructural assets during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25. The memorandum submitted to the FC stated that the amount had not reflected the statement relating to State finance under statements 1-4.

Requirement of critical infrastructure: The State government asserted that Nagaland did not have any national or regional institution worth mentioning, neither medical nor engineering college and that there was a huge gap in critical infrastructure that was required to cater to the needs of the people. Out of the many requirements, the State urged the 15th FC to consider and grant the following projects:

New Raj Bhavan, at Thizama, Kohima with a required amount of Rs 400 crore with start-of-the-art facilities on 150-acre land (currently 5.5 acres) and said the State government envisaged to complete the project within the 15th FC period.

Housing: Out of the total 6,058 government buildings (offices and quarters) constructed since the State's inception till date, 1,142 houses were more than 50 years old and beyond repair, thus requiring new construction. Towards this, out of the 1,142 buildings, the government proposed to replace 25% (i.e. 285) with new buildings at a cost of Rs 1.50 crore per building that would cost about Rs 427.50 crore.

for DCs and the DCs of the remaining five districts – including Tuensang, Zunheboto, Kiphire and Wokha – were functioning from old dilapidated buildings, while there was similar requirement for the newly-created district of Noklak.

In this regard, the government has estimated Rs 100 crore for construction of five DC offices at the rate of Rs 20 crore per office. Also, it mentioned that the five districts also required new offices for superintendents of police, for which an amount of Rs 50 crore would be required (at the rate of Rs 10 crore per office). Further, the memorandum proposed Rs 55 crore for construction of G+1 flat type building consisting of six flats (3BHK) quarters for all India service cadres like IAS, IPS and IFoS (excluding DC & SP) at the rate of Rs 5 crore per district.

School: The State government proposed Rs 720 crore for construction of five high schools in each of the 12 districts at the rate of Rs 12 crore per school, stating that out of the 1,913 government schools, around 15 of them were more than 50 years old.

Hospitals: Rs 100 crore was proposed for constructing new district hospitals at the rate of Rs 25 crore per hospital in Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto and Longleng.

New High Court complex: After Rs 256.55 crore was revised, an amount of Rs 61.71 crore was released and Rs 194.84 crore was required for completion of the new high court complex in Kohima. In this regard, the State government urged the 15th FC to consider providing grant.

Higher education: Rs 260 crore was proposed for 26 new constructions – one higher secondary school each in five districts, two higher secondary schools in seven districts and one col-

lege each in seven districts. The project was estimated at the rate of Rs 10 crore for each project.

Tourism: Government proposed Rs 120 crore for two eco-tourism centres in each district at the rate of Rs 5 crore per centre.

Civil aviation: Rs 90 crore was proposed for one small landing strip in 12 districts at the rate of Rs 7.50 crore per district.

Fire stations: The government proposed Rs 60 crore for construction of five fire stations in five districts and additional seven new stations in the other seven districts at the rate of Rs 5 crore per fire station.

Village guard: The government projected an amount of Rs 5 crore annually for infrastructure development like constructing barracks and camps for village guards.

DUDA: The state requested the FFC to grant Rs 50 crore annually for five years to acknowledge the development deficits of the Eastern Nagaland districts of Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire and Noklak on a par with other districts.

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NAP battalion HQ: The government proposed Rs 425 crore for establishment of new 4th NAP Bn HQ (including cost of land) as the current location was proposed for construction of new Raj Bhavan complex.

CM hopes FFC recommendations will help balance regional aspirations

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In his speech, the chief minister spoke about the positive and hopeful prospects of arriving at a final settlement to solve the long pending Naga political issue after almost 21 years of peace process and three years of signing the framework agreement.

Rio reiterated that the state government dreamt of making tourism as the mainstay of its economy for which it has launched various tourist events such as Hornbill Festival to coin-

cide with the statehood day on December 1 including other tribe festivals in other districts billed as 'mini hornbill festivals'.

He also mentioned about the achievements of Naga youths in sports fields -playing Ranji trophy for the first time, Naga lads excelling in Indian Football League; a Naga woman-Temsutula Imsong-credited with clean ghats of Varanasi; Chiewelou Thele adjudged as the best woman trainee commando and poster girl for Delhi Police; Naga jawans and officers of Naga Regiment doing the nation proud at Kargil, Bangladesh war or fighting Naxals.

Rio also spoke on the need for improved connectivity with other NE States as Nagaland is also a gateway to South East Asia and having potential to further

develop under the Act East Policy.

He pointed out that the strength of Nagaland was in organic farming, floriculture and horticulture.

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With high literacy rate, he said the state has a young population fluent in English, IT savvy and progressive outlook that can transform the region into a hub for services industry. In this regard, he spoke about a Call Centre already operational in Kohima and plan for another in Dimapur.

Rio sought the help and support of FFC to help improve development by giving flexibility and right interventions in its recommendations to the government of India.

State proposes Rs 1,08,871.62 crore from 2020-21 to 2024-25

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The details are provided in the table below

Sl. No	Particulars	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
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The basic requirement included 50% grant of matching share, grant-in-aid to each household

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Tribal hohos urge FFC to restore spl. category status

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The memo, submitted to FFC chairman, was signed by representatives of Chakhesang Public organization, Eastern Naga Peoples' Organization, Eastern Naga Women Organization, Ao Senden, Angami Public Organization, Sumi Hoho, Lotha Hoho, Eastern Naga Students' Federation and Pochury Women Organization.

Sources told Nagaland Post that the memorandum highlighted Article 371(A) through which the state had once enjoyed a special status. However, since the special category in funding and development was discontinued, the hohos urged the FFC to restore the status. They also sought special attention for the two-lane Trans Nagaland

the economic growth of the state. Further, the tribal hohos also informed FFC that the Chiethu Greenfield airport was a commitment of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

As major funding from the Centre had been blocked for urban local bodies, it was learnt that FFC chairman shared his concern about the 33% women reservation and asked why Municipal election were not being held.

To this, sources said the tribal leaders pointed out that though local body elections were much needed, there were issues conflicting Article 371(A). They also clarified that the hohos had no intention to discriminate women. The hohos expressed optimism to resolve the issue with the help of the cabinet sub-committee setup to look in to the matter.

Supplementing the hoho leaders, a women representative requested FFC to continue the flow of funds till such time the issue was resolved through the cabinet sub-committee. Sources said the FFC took note of the genuine issues of

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the economic growth of the state. Further, the tribal hohos also informed FFC that the Chiethu Greenfield airport was a commitment of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

As major funding from the Centre had been blocked for urban local bodies, it was learnt that FFC chairman shared his concern about the 33% women reservation and asked why Municipal election were not being held.

To this, sources said the tribal leaders pointed out that though local body elections were much needed, there were issues conflicting Article 371(A). They also clarified that the hohos had no intention to discriminate women. The hohos expressed optimism to resolve the issue with the help of the cabinet sub-committee setup to look in to the matter.

Supplementing the hoho leaders, a women representative requested FFC to continue the flow of funds till such time the issue was resolved through the cabinet sub-committee. Sources said the FFC took note of

FFC sympathetic to state's demands

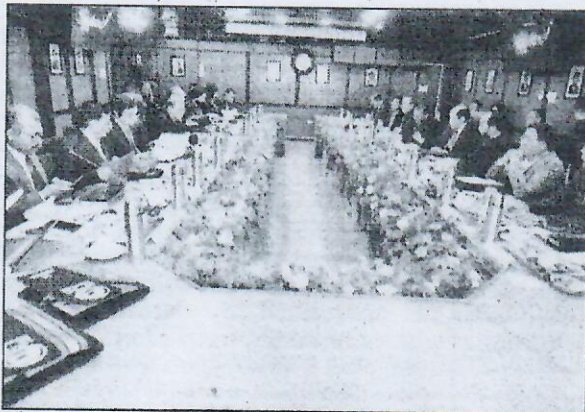
Correspondent

KOHIMA, NOV 28 (NPN): Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) chairman NK Singh commented that the memorandum submitted by the State government was "persuasive and argued forcibly", even as he remarked that FFC sympathised with the challenges and requirements of the State.

Wrapping up its two-day visit to the State with a series of meetings with various stakeholders, FFC for the first time convened a press conference at the chief secretary's conference hall here on Wednesday evening.

Narrating the sequence of meetings held with different stakeholders in the State in the last two days, the chairman said the team members were highly impressed with the State's "unique" cultural heritage, adding that it greatly enriched them.

Singh observed that Nagaland was a State with young population and "enormously talented" people who could make a huge difference in the development of the State.



The meeting with the 15th Finance Commission officials in progress on November 28. (DIPR)

region and India, adding FFC would provide support Nagaland while finalising its recommendations within the framework of its constitutional mandate.

Acknowledging the role played by various tribal institutions on several critical fronts, the chairman commented that in many human development indices, Nagaland was significantly above the national average. While pointing out the potential for development in areas like horticulture, he observed that the functions of village councils and village development boards were unique, and so was the State's approach towards

communitisation.

To harness the potentials of Nagaland like tourism, he stressed on increased connectivity through airways and roadways, adding the priorities of the State government were appropriate and required to be supported.

Singh said the State government had submitted four types of proposals totalling Rs 86,834 crore – post devolution revenue deficit grants of Rs 74,000 crore, Rs 7,212 crore for critical infrastructure, Rs 1,700 crore for VC and urban bodies and Rs 1,040 for disaster management.

He remarked that

proposals for institutes of management, medical and engineering courses were legitimate to meet the aspirations of the State's young population and needed to be encouraged.

Mentioning that Nagaland had shown an improvement in GST realisation, the chairman added that improved GST performance and realisation would be greatly advantageous. He appreciated the overall presentation of the State government.

FFC seeks clarification: To queries by journalists on the request of State government for one-time grant to waive deficit and liabilities, the chairman replied that FFC had sought clarification from Kohima on the liabilities and in what manner its request for revenue deficit grant was rejected, adding the commission would wait for a response from the State government.

On urban local bodies, Singh exuded confidence that the issue could be resolved through the cabinet sub-committee so that pending fund earmarked by FFC can be sanctioned.

(Cont'd on p-7)

High voter turnout in Mizoram, MP

AIZAWL/BHOPAL, NOV 28 (AGENCIES): In a peaceful poll, Mizoram recorded 80% voter turnout Wednesday while in Madhya Pradesh the voter turnout was around 75%.

The final turnout is likely to be higher in Mizoram. A total of 209 candidates, including 18 women, contested from 40 assembly seats.

"Serchhip with 81% recorded the highest turnout, while Aizawl with 65% was the lowest," chief electoral officer Ashish Kundra said.

Bru refugees voted at 15 polling booths at Khamnum in Mamit district of Mizoram, close to the border. Of the 11,987 registered Bru voters, 56.46% voted.

The official said the highlight of the day in Mizoram was that over 10,000 elderly voters exercised their franchise with a 108-year old man, 106-year old woman on wheel chair and 103-year-old man coming out to vote.

Around 75 per cent polling was recorded till 6 p.m. in Madhya Pradesh's 227 assembly constituencies against 72.13 per cent recorded in 2013 assembly polls, Election Commission officials said in New Delhi.

(More on p-7)

CM pleads for generous funds from FFC

DIMAPUR, NOV 28 (NPN): Nagaland chief minister Neiphiu Rio made a persuasive submission to the visiting 15th Finance Commission officials at the second-day of their 3-day visit to Kohima in which he highlighted the need for the government of India to pay lump sum to Nagaland out of the consolidated fund each year for development and also grant-in-aid towards meeting the cost of running the administration.

During the meeting with the 15th Finance Commission team at the Chief Secretary's Conference Hall Wednesday, Rio said the state finances began to deteriorate steadily and adversely due to discontinuance of grants to cover the Balance From Current Revenue (BCR) gap by granting Additional Central Plan Assistance (ACA) during the period of the 9th FC.

Further normative approach by the 13th FC also deprived the state of special category status and any special grants that led the state to struggle financially.

Due to normative approach at the end of the

of Rs.1811.85 crore, that included liabilities of works completed but unpaid. Rio said revenue deficit continued on account of 10% increased tax devolution to states from 32% to 42% as this had not benefitted smaller states such as Nagaland. Rio said that aside 25% of total devolution of share of special category states as against 11.53% allocated by 14th FC was insufficient. He said out of 25% a percentage of 3% may be allocated to states having geopolitical implications like Nagaland.

He also explained that due to inability of the state in contributing 10% share for CSS and flagship schemes, the total accumulated shortage was Rs.294.05 crore and which had prevented the state from accessing the 90% central share for CSS and flagship schemes. He requested the 15th FC to recommend 100% central grant for CSS and flagship programmes as was intended in the 16 Point Agreement.

He also highlighted how the state had to negotiate high interest loans from HUDCO to construct

of old buildings some as old as 50 years due to lack of funds.

Rio also informed that owing to the content of the soil frequent road maintenance was costly and the poor financial situation made it difficult for the state to maintain them. He said the finance needed for road maintenance for the period of 15th FC was estimated at Rs. 3458 crore besides proposal for the new Raj Bhavan complex (Rs.400 crore), completion of new high court complex, infrastructure for tourism and 14 other development works all totalling Rs.7212 crore.

Rio also informed that payment of salary for the remaining two years was high on account of implementation of 7th Pay Commission w.e.f January 1, 2018 and the current 2018-19 carrying an additional burden of Rs.1272 crore. The second issue was RTE Act under which 1620 primary teachers and 1527 graduate teachers were appointed under SSA. However with new integrated scheme for SSA w.e.f. April 1, 2018 salaries have been halved and states asked to make up

NNC/FGN terminates service

DIMAPUR: NNC/FGN has terminated the service of Leacy Kughato Swu, who was allegedly involved in the tax demand on new building construction of Aoyim Baptist Church, with immediate effect.

In a press release, NNC/FGN Sumi region Midanpeyu Vikihe Zhi-momi stated that the "government" did not authorise the accused to collect tax from the church building construction and business establishment.

Claiming that the accused was not given any assignments, the NNC/FGN said he has brought disgrace to "government" and the society.

Further, NNC/FGN Sumi region stated that, henceforth, the "federal government" would not bear any responsibility for any issues that may arise concerning the said individual shall not reflect on FGN in any manner.

CM pleads for generous funds from FFC

(From p-1)

Rio also informed about the recent monsoon calamity in the state which caused damages to roads, bridges and buildings estimated at Rs.1040.63 crore while cost of permanent and restorative work being Rs.189 crore. Rio also said project cost for Nagaland's only medical college in Kohima was Rs.189 crore. The college is expected to be functional by 2020 with 100 seats. He said the state required Rs.154.97 crore for salaries and Rs.149.15 crore for operational cost during the period of 15th FC. He also placed requirement for construction of multipurpose buildings in all district headquarters to preserve tribal heritage, tradition and culture estimated at Rs.120 crore. He also mentioned about the new Greenfield airport at Chiethu near Kohima for which 645.20 acres were acquired and another 398 acres to meet all requirement. Rio expressed the hope that the 15th FC would be sympathetic to the requests keeping in mind the special circumstances that had led to creation of Nagaland.

FFC sympathetic to state's demands

(From p-1)

The chairman remarked that the commission was going back genuinely encouraged by the State government's development initiatives and added that these deserved fullest support. He said it would be FFC's endeavour to encourage and fully support the innovative measures currently underway to accelerate the growth momentum of Nagaland's economy and improve per capita income significantly. Singh also informed the media that the team had coined FFC as "Friendly Finance Commission" and said the members were delighted to celebrate the first anniversary of the FFC on Tuesday in Nagaland. The FFC members would visit Toupheema village on Thursday, before taking off for Manipur by helicopter.

Eateries asked to maintain hygiene

(From p-1)

He said no colouring agents must be added to chilly, turmeric and jeera powder. On the recent lift on blanket ban on imported fish, Zehol revealed that further checks were also conducted at the auction centre and urged wholesale fish sellers to handle fish hygienically and store in freezers. FSO also informed the FBOs of the ground work being currently being undertaken to make trade licensing and registration online and assured them of support. CMO Dimapur, Dr Vikato Kinimi, who also spoke on the occasion, appealed to stall owners of the upcoming night carnival to maintain proper hygiene. He said the district health may conduct check if necessary. Dr. Kinimi also urged FBOs present to maintain proper hygiene and sanitation.

Finance Commission visits Tuophema

DIMAPUR: The 15th Finance Commission led by chairman, Nand Kishore Singh, visited Tuophema Tourist Village on November 29.

According to DIPR, chief minister, Neiphiu Rio and a host of dignitaries accompanied the team. A public reception for the team was organized at Amphitheatre, Tuophema Bawe. During the cultural program, Tuophema Cultural Troupe, Rengma Cultural Troupe and Lazami Cultural Troupe presented folksongs and dances. VDB secretary Tuophema, Krut-solie Zumu welcomed the guests. The team also visited the Museum at Tourist Village, Tuophema Basa.



Nand Kishore Singh, Neiphiu Rio and other dignitaries watching the cultural presentations at Tuophema Tourist Village on November 29. (DIPR)

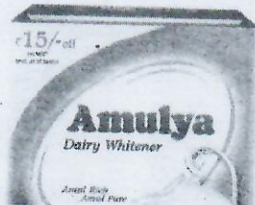
State bags IITF Silver Medal



Suresh Prabhu handing over the medal to Nagaland pavilion officials on November 27.

DIMAPUR: Nagaland was awarded the "Silver Medal" fair on November 27. The state pavilion received the

Wake up with richer, tastier Amulya.



**55th
NAGALAND
STATEHOOD**

Anniversary

1st December 20
Venue: Secretariat

PROGRAMME

9:00 HRS — Chief Minister arrives & receives salute
— Speech by Hon'ble Chief Minister
— "Nagaland at 55" — a video presentation by DIPR, N

Weapons Handling — Nagaland Police

Drill Display — IR (Mahila) Platoon

March Past —

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| i. DEF Kohima | v. IR Platoon I |
| ii. 4 th NAP Bn. | vi. IR Platoon II |
| iii. Village Guards Platoon I | vii. IR Platoon III |
| iv. Village Guards Platoon II | |

Band Display —

- i. Police Brass Band
- ii. Police Pipe Display
- iii. V.G. Brass Band

Cultural Display —