

SC asks CBI, trial court to ensure examination of victim-witnesses in Manipur sexual violence case

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Monday directed the CBI and the trial court to ensure the appearance and examination of two key victim-witnesses in the Manipur sexual violence case.

During the hearing of the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) pleas seeking cancellation of bail granted to two accused, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V Mohana said the trial should proceed expeditiously.

It directed the agency to ensure that the two victim-witnesses appear on the dates fixed by the trial court.

Additional Solicitor General D P Singh, appearing for the CBI, said the release of the accused on bail

could affect the willingness of the witnesses to depose.

"The victims were sexually assaulted in the worst possible manner...thereafter paraded and video-recorded," Singh said, adding that the trial had already commenced.

Senior advocate Shadan Far-asat, appearing for an accused whose bail has been challenged, submitted that the CBI had not been able to conduct the trial at the required pace. He said there were around 30 witnesses and that the case was at the second stage of the proceedings.

Justice Bagchi asked why the victims had not been available for examination.

Advocate Nizam Pasha, appearing for the victim-complainant, said that the previous date was a public holiday and the centres

where the victims were scheduled to depose were closed.

The court was also informed that one of the victims was suffering from dengue.

The CJI said that if a trial was fixed on a public holiday, the victims could not be expected to appear. He directed the authorities to ensure that at least one of the two witnesses appears on the next date of hearing.

Singh submitted that in cases of this nature, "if the accused are out, nobody will depose".

The CJI, however, emphasised that ensuring the safety of the witnesses was the authorities' responsibility.

"It's your obligation... witness protection," he said, adding that if the accused were found to be abusing the concession of bail, the court

would not hesitate to consider the matter. The bench indicated that it would be better to consider the bail issue after the two witnesses had been examined.

The court order directed the CBI to ensure that the two victim-witnesses are produced before the trial court on the dates fixed -- October 7, 9 and 28 -- and that their statements are recorded on those dates.

The trial court was also directed to comply with the order, while all parties were asked to fully cooperate. The proceedings are part of the Supreme Court's continuing monitoring of cases arising from the Manipur violence.

On September 17, the bench had expressed shock over scores of deaths in relief camps meant for the internally displaced per-

sons (IDPs).

It had directed the Manipur chief secretary to apprise it of the steps taken to probe, initiate criminal proceedings and ensure the safety of those living there.

The top court had asked the Manipur and Assam governments and others to consider setting up two special trial courts to exclusively hear CBI and National Investigation Agency cases arising from the 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur.

The ethnic violence in Manipur broke out on May 3, 2023, following a tribal solidarity march organised in the hill districts to protest the demand for Scheduled Tribe status by the majority Meitei community.

Hundreds have been killed, several hundred injured and thousands displaced since the violence broke out.

NSCN Provisional Govt questions Hebron group's peace campaign

KOHIMA, OCTOBER 5 (MExN): The NSCN Provisional Government has expressed scepticism over the arrival of a Hebron-based NSCN group led by Maj Gen (retd) Ramkath-ing Varah in Eastern Nagalim, which it said was undertaking a peace campaign and reconciliation effort between the factions led by Maj Gen (retd) Ang Mai and Yung Aung.

In a statement issued by its Political Coordinator for Eastern Nagalim, Angyo Jacob Tangshang Naga, the Provisional Government said it was closely scrutinising the group's movements and political activities in Eastern Nagalim and beyond.

It questioned the credibility of the Hebron-based group to speak on the Naga political issue, citing the "competencies" it had submitted on January 2, 2020.

The Provisional Government alleged that the document represented a departure from the established Naga political principle and reflected a divergence from the broader Naga aspiration. "Peace cannot be invoked as a pretext for their expansion nor can unity be preached by those whose own political conduct has contributed to division within the Naga national movement," it said.

The group also asserted that no organisation possessed the political mandate to redefine the Naga national position for its own convenience.

It said the Naga political issue could not be reduced to an arrangement acceptable to New Delhi or have the Naga national principle subordinated to constitutional limitations imposed by India. The Provisional Government also raised the issue of the killing of four of its cadres — Maj Sochipem Phungshok, Sgt Major Zairei, Sgt Bahnle Ahlahpyah and Sgt Thansomi Vashi — at Hongpei village on March 28, 2026.

It alleged that the Hebron-based NSCN had yet to provide a satisfactory explanation for the deaths.

"Until such serious matters are addressed, its sudden projection of itself as a harbinger of peace and unity will inevitably be viewed with suspicion," it said.

The Provisional Government cautioned Naga national workers and "brothers in arms" across different camps to remain vigilant against attempts to use the language of peace and reconciliation for political advantage.

It asserted that Eastern Nagalim was not a political vacuum or a territory where any organisation could unilaterally establish authority or dictate terms under the guise of peace.

"Eastern Nagalim will not accept Indian political influence through Hebron disguised as reconciliation," it said.

The statement added that any genuine initiative for Naga unity must be based on political integrity and adherence to the "fundamental Naga national principle". It further cautioned that any attempt to "breach our peaceful fabric" in Eastern Nagalim would not be tolerated.

NEC releases Rs 42.63 crore to Northeast states, regional agencies

Nagaland gets Rs 11.92 cr

SHILLONG, OCTOBER 5 (MExN): The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total of Rs 42.63 crore during September 2026 to support development projects across the North Eastern Region (NER), including Rs 35.21 crore to the eight North Eastern states and Rs 7.42 crore to regional institutions and agencies.

According to an official NEC update, the funds were allocated for projects related to infrastructure, capacity building, technology, education, culture, agriculture, tourism, skills and community development.

Among the states, Nagaland received Rs 11.92 crore for initiatives including Cluster-Based Coffee Value Chain Development and a Cultural Activity Complex at Pfutseromi village for the Chakhesang tribe.

Mizoram received Rs 6.29 crore for the ongoing auditorium at Bethel Veng in Champhai, cultural tourism infrastructure at Vangchhia, Mizo ginger cultivation, IT-based mineral mapping and community infrastructure in Siahia district.

Assam received Rs 4.42 crore for student hostels at Bineswar Brahma Engineering College in Kokrajhar and initiatives for the Singpho community in Tinsukia.

Sikkim received Rs 4.17 crore for town CCTV surveillance and a Multi-Purpose Hall at Government Degree College, Rhenock.

Arunachal Pradesh received Rs 3.40 crore for a nursing hostel at District Hospital, Yingkiong, the Acheso tourism complex in Dibang Valley and the Ziro Signature View Point.

Tripura received instalments for ongoing projects, including a Model Haat for tribal youth, Khumulwng Eco-Park upgrades and programmes associated with the 150th birth anniversary of Birsu Munda.

Manipur received instalments for medicinal plants documentation, a Museum-Library at the Tribal Research Institute and river debris collection units.

The Rs 7.42 crore allocation to regional institutions and agencies included Rs 2.88 crore to the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NECDF) for bamboo artisan clusters, Rs 2.35 crore to the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms

Development Corporation (NEHHDC) for handloom skill development, and Rs 1.24 crore to the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) for remote school STEM laboratories.

The allocation also included contributions to NEDFi, NIT Meghalaya, IIM Shillong, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC).

During September 2026, the NEC also recorded the completion and closure of 14 major infrastructure projects with a combined value of Rs 45.48 crore.

In Meghalaya, completed projects included the construction of school buildings at Mawthadraishan in West Khasi Hills at a cost of Rs 4.75 crore and development of the Cultural Complex of Seng Khasi Ri Raid Laban at Lum Shat Sngi Kenches Trace, Shillong, at Rs 9.28 crore.

In Nagaland, the Development of Music and Youth Activity Centre at Yasogei, Kohima, costing Rs 9.17 crore, and the construction of an auditorium and basic amenities at Phek Government High School at Rs 1.92 crore were completed.

Arunachal Pradesh's construction of a Girls Hostel (G+1) at JN College, Pasighat, costing Rs 4.27 crore, and Sikkim's Backward Community Scheme for the Limboo Community, at Rs 4.53 crore, were also completed.

In the agriculture sector, three projects in Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong districts of Assam were declared closed.

These included key identified services at Lumbajong Development Block, sanctioned at Rs 4.97 crore; Sarmen Hanse village in Lumbajong Development Block, at Rs 1.97 crore; and Chhinthong Block in West Karbi Anglong, at Rs 4.61 crore.

Together, the three projects represent NEC support of Rs 11.55 crore for service delivery and rural development.

Several sector-specific initiatives also reached closure, including seven bamboo processing prototype processors through NECBDC at a cost of Rs 2.10 crore, an IT Education Programme covering 150 schools in Mizoram at Rs 11.08 crore, AVGC and IT-ITES training gap-funding, the AI and Emerging Technologies Seminar, NSSS 2026 and the She-Friendly Programme covering 20 institutions in Shillong.

Job Fair in Dimapur on Oct 9

DIMAPUR, OCTOBER 5 (MExN): The District Employment Exchange, Dimapur, in collaboration with the National Career Service Centre for Differently Abled (NCSCDA), Dimapur, will organise a job fair on October 9 to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed jobseekers in the private sector.

The job fair will be held from 10:30 am to 3 pm at the District Employment Exchange, Dimapur, Lane-1, towards Zion Hospital, Purana Bazar, Dimapur.

According to the District Employment Officer, Dimapur, the initiative aims to connect jobseekers with prospective employers and facilitate suitable employment opportunities.

Talent Acquaintance and Quickserv are among the participating employers. Vacancies are available for positions involving in-

ternational voice and non-voice processes, HR trainee roles and other opportunities.

For international process positions, vacancies are available in Jaipur, Indore, Ahmedabad and Bangalore, with eligibility ranging from Class 12 pass to graduates, depending on the position. The advertised salary packages range from Rs 17,000 to Rs 44,000, along with benefits such as accommodation, travel assistance and relocation benefits for selected positions.

HR trainee positions are also available for graduates who passed out in or after 2022. Both freshers and experienced candidates can apply, with work-from-home opportunities available for the positions.

Interested jobseekers may contact 70056 94403 or +91 7005619124 / 9990666408 for further information, the organisers said.

CSU calls for peaceful agitation over Kohima-Jessami road project

KOHIMA, OCTOBER 5 (MExN): The Chakhesang Students' Union (CSU) has announced a peaceful democratic agitation on October 7 demanding the termination of EPC contractor M/s Ratna Infrastructure Projects Pvt. Ltd. from the NH-29 two-lane Kohima-Jessami road project and accountability from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) over the delay in execution of the project.

The agitation will be held at 12 noon at Glory Peak Junction, Menyitsuda Colony, Pfuetero, the union said in an appeal issued on Monday.

The CSU said the road is a lifeline for the Chakhesang community and people of neighbouring districts and is used daily by students, patients, families, workers and traders.

"Lives have been lost, students continue to suffer, accidents have become

a recurring reality, patients endure immense hardship while travelling for medical care, and businesses along the route are bearing heavy losses," the union said.

It said years of delay and the continuing condition of the road had caused immense hardship and risk to people using the highway.

The union said despite repeated assurances and opportunities, the situation remained concerning and asserted that "continued assurances are no longer enough".

"We demand accountability and termination, not another extension of suffering," the CSU said, appealing to citizens to participate in the agitation.

In a directive issued on October 5, the CSU said the decision to initiate the democratic agitation was taken following an Emergency Presidential Meeting held on October 1 at the Multi-Purpose Hall, North Kikruma.

The meeting discussed the alleged failure of EPC contractor M/s Ratna Infrastructure Projects Pvt. Ltd. and NHIDCL to complete the NH-29 Two-Lane (Kohima-Jessami Road) Package-II Project, it said.

The union directed all its affiliated and subordinate units to depute at least 10 volunteers each for the agitation.

Nearby villages have been requested to depute at least 20 volunteers each, while all units have been directed to submit the names of their volunteers to the CSU office for record.

The union said light refreshments would be provided to participants.

The CSU urged concerned citizens to extend solidarity and support to the peaceful democratic agitation, scheduled for October 7 at Glory Peak Junction, Menyitsuda Colony, Pfuetero.

CAT to hold Circuit Court sitting in Kohima on Oct 8-9

KOHIMA, OCTOBER 5 (MExN): The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Guwahati Bench will hold a Circuit Court sitting at Kohima, Nagaland, on October 8 and 9 through hybrid mode, officials said.

The sitting will be conducted by a Division Bench comprising Rajinder Singh Dogra, Member (Judicial), and Mallika Arya, Member (Administrative).

The Judicial Member will attend the proceedings physically at Kohima, while the Administrative Member will join virtually.

Dogra is scheduled to arrive in Kohima on October 7 and depart on October 11, 2026.

The CAT has requested the Nagaland government to make necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Circuit Court, including a suitable and convenient venue equipped with facilities for hybrid hearings.

The state government has also been requested to reserve a VIP suite for Dogra from October 7 to 11, along with transport and security facilities. He may also be declared a State Guest during the visit.

Necessary accommodation and transportation arrangements have been sought for six officers accompanying the Bench during the same period.

The state government has further been requested to provide the required infrastructure for conducting the Circuit Court in hybrid mode, including computers, printers, scanners and copying facilities at the court premises.

A computer set has also been requested at the hotel accommodation of the accompanying officers to facilitate the preparation and transcription of court orders.

For the smooth functioning of the Circuit Court, the CAT has also requested the deputation of one Group-D/MTS staff member during the period.

NFR marks DHR heritage with Sukna Station Mahotsav

MALIGAON, OCTOBER 5 (MExN): The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) organised the Sukna Station Mahotsav on October 3 to celebrate 146 years of the architectural heritage buildings of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. NFR General Manager Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, along with senior railway officials and distinguished dignitaries, attended the programme, which highlighted the railway's efforts to preserve its historic assets and promote community participation. During the celebration, Shrivastava inaugurated the newly renovated Sukna Museum, which showcases the history and operational legacy of the DHR. He also released the first volume of the DHR Collector's Edition on its heritage and history. Students from Narayana School, Siliguri, and Sukna School presented cultural performances during the event.

Artist Ajay Sarkar presented a live nail art demonstration, following which the artwork was formally handed over to the Station Manager of Sukna. Following the programme, the NFR General Manager flagged off the 125-year-old heritage locomotive 780B and a flat wagon restored after 36 years at the historic Tindharia Railway Workshop. The Giddappa-har siding was also restored and reopened after 21 years to strengthen the operational capacity of the DHR.

Nagaland: 3,000 runners take part in State Level Half Marathon

DGP Rupin Sharma calls for drug-free future

KOHIMA, OCTOBER 5 (MExN): The State Level Half Marathon was held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, Kohima on October 5 under the banner 'SPANDAN', organised by the 78 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) (Sechü-Zubza) in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Government of Nagaland.

A total of 3,000 runners from across the state participated in the event across three age-group categories for both men and women, with the best timing recorded at about one hour seven minutes, a press release received here stated.

Nagaland Director General of Police Rupin Sharma, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, termed the event a unique occasion and expressed hope that the winners would continue to participate in such events.

He appealed to the Sports Authority to select the best talents for participation in long-distance and middle-distance running, and hoped that the best participants would be sponsored and selected by the SAI for better training and coaching to compete at the interna-

tional level.

The DGP said such events should become a regular feature to create a good platform for the youths of the state.

Addressing the athletes, Sharma said, "Today, our state stands at a crucial crossroads. This marathon is not just about crossing a finish line or winning prizes—it is a powerful movement toward building a progressive, healthy, and completely drug-free future for our state. When our youth choose the running track, they choose health, they choose purpose, and they reject the path of substance abuse. Every single step you take today is a stride toward unity, peace, and national integration."

He urged citizens and the youth to come forward, support the runners, and let the message of collective harmony echo from Kohima to every corner of the nation.

Delivering his welcome address, Commandant 78 Bn CRPF Deven Bho-sle briefed about the word SPANDAN (Sports for Peace and Development Across Nations), describing it as a 'Hello India Scheme' initiative by the Sports Authority of India to provide financial and technical assistance to Central Armed Police Forces like the CRPF and BSF to promote peace, physical fitness, foster national integra-

tion, youth engagement and strengthen social harmony through community sports in border and conflict-affected regions.

He said the core objective of SPANDAN was to foster social harmony, organise grassroots sports culture and youth development encompassing multiple regional disciplines including football, badminton and volleyball, alongside half marathons.

Bhosle asserted that the Half Marathon event was far more than just a race for medals or a test of physical endurance, but a collective stride towards building a healthier, united society that represents the shared commitment to fostering community harmony, empowering the youth, and voicing a strong collective stance for peace and national integration.

A total of 60 cash prizes amounting to an aggregate value of Rs 6.30 lakh were distributed to the top finishers during the closing ceremony. A cash prize of Rs 30,000, Rs 20,000, Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 respectively, and Rs 5,000 each for runners placed from 5th to 10th position, were awarded to the winners and runners-up along with medals.

In the Male 1st category (ages 18 to below 30 years), the winners were Jonathan sanem respectively, while in the Female 1st category (ages 18 to below 30 years), the winners were Songmo, Chongso and Tsumian respectively.

In the Male 2nd Category (ages 30 to below 45 years), the winners were Jonathan Yezenthung and Banglo Konyak respectively, while in the Female 2nd Category (ages 30 to below 45 years), the winners were Cekrotalu, Sentinaro and Tiapenla Amer.

In the Male 3rd category (above 45 years), the winners were N. Pichong, Shipemo and W.R. Joseph respectively, while in the Female 3rd category (above 45 years), the winners were T. Roslyn Lotha, Vilhousieno and Mezo Nenio respectively.

With inputs from DIPR

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Educational Qualification: Master's degree or higher, preferably in Business Administration, Management, Rural Development, or a related field.

Work experience: Minimum 3–5 years of experience in business development or marketing preferably in artisan/handloom/textile sectors. Strong experience in market research, buyer engagement, order management, and business-to-business (B2B) business-to-customer (B2C) sales.

Salary: Will be competitive and shall be commensurate with experience

Job posting: Kohima, Nagaland

Application Procedures: Detailed CV should be sent to recruitments@neida.org.in by **October 15, 2026**.

“Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for next stage of the selection process”

“Candidates-in-waiting for Government Jobs are discouraged from applying for the above posts.”

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