



**NAGALAND
PICKLEBALL
ASSOCIATION**

Corporate Identity Number : U85410NL2025NPL014059

Registered Office

Mobile

E-mail

Under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013)

: PURANA BAZAR LAKE VIEW, JORPUKHURI

DIMAPUR, Dimapur : 797112, Nagaland

: +91 87875 72753

: nagalandpickleballassociation@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

A Historic Milestone for Northeast: Inaugural Mithun-Rhino Pickleball Championship 2026 Commences Tomorrow

Dimapur, Nagaland, 13th March 2026 — The Nagaland Pickleball Association (NPA), in affiliation with the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), is poised to script sporting history as the **Inaugural Mithun-Rhino Pickleball Championship 2026** gets underway tomorrow, 14th March 2026. The championship, which marks Nagaland's first-ever major interstate pickleball competition, will be held at **The Fitness House (TFH)**, Dimapur, with the Inaugural Function scheduled at 10:00 AM.

Tomorrow's Inaugural Programme — 14th March 2026

The inaugural function will begin at 10:00 AM at The Fitness House, Dimapur. The programme will be chaired by **Mr. Kakivi Chishi**, Vice President of the Nagaland Pickleball Association. Distinguished guests gracing the occasion include:

Chief Guest: Shri Sharingain Longkumer, Hon'ble Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly

Honoured Guest: Shri Charlie Sekhose, Sr. Vice President, NPF

The programme will open with a prayer by **Dr. Husezo Rhakho**, President of Asia Highland Partners, followed by a Welcome Address from **Nathan Kaurinta Zeliang**, President of the Nagaland Pickleball Association. Greetings will be extended by **Nazneen Rahman**, Secretary of the Assam Pickleball Association and Northeast Development Officer of the IPA, underscoring the spirit of Bonds of Friendship that defines the event's ethos. Speeches by the Honoured Guest and Chief Guest will be followed by the commencement of matches.

About the Championship

The Mithun-Rhino Pickleball Championship 2026 — named after two iconic animals emblematic of Northeast India — is the first-ever championship of its kind in Nagaland and is set to establish a precedent for organised pickleball tournaments across the Northeast region. The event features competitive matches across multiple categories, drawing players who participated in the recently concluded Team Nagaland Trials at The Fitness House, Dimapur.

The championship is scheduled across two days: the Inaugural Function on 14th March 2026 at 10:00 AM and a Closing Function on 15th March 2026 at 5:00 PM — both at The Fitness House, Dimapur.

Prize Pool

The championship carries a total prize pool of ₹2,00,000, along with trophies and certificates for champions and top performers. Prize money breakdown for the Open Category is as follows:

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Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	₹15,000	₹10,000
Mens Doubles	₹20,000	₹10,000
Mixed Doubles	₹20,000	₹10,000
Veterans 40+	₹20,000	₹10,000
Veterans 45+	₹20,000	₹10,000
Women's Doubles	₹20,000	₹10,000

Beyond the competitive arena, the championship embodies NPA's larger mission of promoting sportsmanship, discipline, youth potential, healthy living, and interstate sporting friendship — serving as a platform for sports diplomacy and community engagement across the region.

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INAUGURAL
MITHUN-RHINO
PICKLEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
2026

INAUGURAL FUNCTION

Date : 14-03-26
Time : 10:00 AM

Venue : The Fitness House,
Dimapur, Nagaland

Chief Guest : Shri Sharingain Longkumer
*Hon'ble Speaker
Nagaland Legislative Assembly*

Honoured Guest : Shri Charlie Sekhose
Sr. Vice President, NPF

ORDER OF THE PROGRAMME

Chairperson : Mr. Kakivi Chishi
*Vice President
Nagaland Pickleball Association*

Opening Prayer : Dr. Husezo Rhakho
President of Asia Highland Partners

Welcome Address : Nathan Kaurinta Zeliang
President, Nagaland Pickleball Association

————— **BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP** —————

Greetings : Nazneen Rahman
*Secretary, Assam Pickleball Association
Northeast Development Officer, IPA*

————— **SPECIAL NUMBER** —————

————— **PRESENTATION** —————

Honoured Guest Speech : Shri Charlie Sekhose
Sr. Vice President, NPF

Chief Guest Speech : Shri Sharingain Longkumer
*Hon'ble Speaker
Nagaland Legislative Assembly*

————— **MATCHES COMMENCE** —————

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