

Evening News Script

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:::THE HEADLINES:::

1. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio says budget 2025-26 will drive economic transformation of the State
2. Chief Minister Rio to lead all-party delegation to meet Union Home Minister over suspension of Free Movement Restrictions
3. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio pushes for resumption of petroleum exploration in Nagaland
4. And, 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly passes two government bills

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today reiterated his strong conviction that the 2025-26 budget, with its innovative initiatives and enhanced allocations to key departments will drive the economic transformation of the State. In his concluding remarks on the discussion of the General Budget 2025-26, he acknowledged valuable inputs of several members during the discussions. On the Naga Political issue, Mr Rio expressed concern on the proliferation of factions and assured that the matter will be raised with the Ministry of Home Affairs. On the suggestion of sharing the Government's draft made on Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority, the Chief Minister said the House will be taken into confidence in due course of time. He emphasized that the 2025-26 budget is focused not only on welfare but also on economic growth, targeting employment generation. In response to concerns raised, Mr Rio acknowledged the need for increased funding in certain sectors, such as road infrastructure, and assured to address these issues. Assuring commitment to improving the state's finances, he outlined measures being taken to improve GST collection. The Chief Minister further underscored the government's ongoing efforts to promote economic growth, social welfare, and improved governance in Nagaland.

The Budget will be passed tomorrow.

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Initiating the discussion on the general budget 2025-26 in the ongoing Assembly Session today, Advisor IPR, L Imkong Imchen appreciated the Chief Minister for presenting a meticulous and skillfully balanced budget. On the Naga political issue, he said the delay in a solution has led to more factions and divisions among Nagas. Industries & Commerce Advisor Hekani Jakhalu termed the budget as futuristic, balanced, inclusive, and pro-youth, reflecting the Chief Minister's commitment to build capacities among youth. Tourism and Education Minister Temjen Imna Along expressed belief that the budget addresses the core needs of the people, while fulfilling the vision of the Chief Minister. On the upgrade of Khelhoshe Polytechnic Institute, he explained that AICTE Delhi has several criteria to upgrade such institutions, and appealed to the student community to be patient. He also commended the recognition of tourism

department as an industry. Advisors T N Mannen, G Ikuto Zhimomi, MLAs A Nyamnyie, Achumbemo, Dr Sukhato A Sema, Naiba Konyak, and Neisato Mero also participated in the discussion.

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In a significant move, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today proposed an all-party delegation under his leadership to meet with the Union Home Minister to express the concerns and sentiments of the people regarding the Centre's recent decision to suspend the Free Movement Restrictions (FMR) along the Indo-Myanmar border. This proposal comes after no response was received from the Centre to previous approaches.

In a statement, the Leader of the House highlighted the resolution unanimously adopted during the Fourth Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly in March last year on FMR along the Indo-Myanmar Border. He said, the resolution cited the unique age-old historical, social, cultural, tribal and economic ties of the Naga people living on both sides of the border, and appealed to the Government of India to reconsider its decision to suspend the regime. The Chief Minister also proposed that the concerns of the House expressed through the unanimous resolution passed on 1st March 2024 and the Cabinet decisions of 8th February 2024 and 6th January 2025 be communicated in an appropriate manner.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has advocated for the resumption of petroleum exploration and extraction in Nagaland, stating that it will improve the State's finances. In his concluding remarks on the discussion on "Exploration & Extraction of Petroleum Oil in Nagaland" in the Assembly today, he highlighted the state's rich oil reserves, with the first discovery made in Wokha district's Changpang in 1973, and production beginning in 1983. However, production ceased in 1994 due to non-payment of royalties and unauthorized extraction. Mr Rio emphasized that the Nagaland Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulations 2012 paved the way for exploration, with Metropolitan Oil and Gas Private Limited granted rights in Wokha District. He also highlighted the ongoing legal case related to the issue. The Chief Minister detailed ongoing efforts with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to resolve the deadlock. He reiterated the need for a state-specific policy, smaller exploration blocks, and a revenue-sharing mechanism to benefit Nagaland's citizens. Mr Rio further stressed that these measures would not affect the legal case but will help unlock the state's oil and gas potential, boosting its finances.

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The 6th session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) today passed two government bills. These are the Government Bill on The Rules for Administration of Justice and Police in Nagaland (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Nagaland Work-Charged and Casual Employees Regulation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025. The bills were introduced on the floor of the House by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio yesterday.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio proposed that the recruitment process for Gramin Dak Sevak in the Department of Post in Nagaland be referred to a select committee for a comprehensive review. In a statement made in the Assembly today, Mr Rio raised concerns that the absence of a local or state language as a third language in the selection criteria for Nagaland has resulted in candidates from

outside the state, who are unfamiliar with Naga languages, being selected for the posts. He noted that this is hindering effective delivery of service to citizens, and depriving locals of employment opportunities.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for the state's intervention, particularly to benefit the youth and improve service provision in the region.

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Akashvani Kohima today hosted a program to celebrate International Women's Day. Addressing the event, Programme Executive Khriesaneisa Rutsa acknowledged the numerous contributions of women across all areas of life. Reflecting on how their roles have evolved with changing times, he encouraged them to be nurturing grounds to bring out positive contributions for society's growth. Technician, Moa Jamir recognized the strength of women in overcoming challenges for themselves and also uplifting their families and communities. To mark the occasion, Programme Executive Ella Kayina said, Akashvani Kohima is broadcasting a range of programmes to raise awareness on women's progress.

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