

Evening News Script

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THE HEADLINES: -

- Second part of Parliament's Budget Session resumes on stormy note
- President Droupadi Murmu emphasizes on education's role in shaping values, employment
- Nagaland Government allots 15 crore rupees under Chief Minister's Life Insurance Scheme
- And, Advisor, Industries and Commerce Hekani Jakhalu expresses optimism on startups in Nagaland

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Both Houses of Parliament have witnessed noisy scenes on the first day of the second part of the Budget Session following protests by DMK and Congress over remarks of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on the implementation of National Education Policy in Tamil Nadu. Opposition parties led by the Congress also demanded a detailed discussion in Parliament on doubts that have arisen on the integrity of the electoral process after alleged discrepancies in voter lists. Lok Sabha took up Bills of Lading Bill, 2024 for consideration and passing, while Rajya Sabha passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024. Both Houses have been adjourned for the day.

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President Droupadi Murmu today emphasized that education is not just a means of acquiring knowledge and skills. It is also a means of developing life values such as morality, compassion and tolerance within a human being, she said. The President was addressing the convocation ceremony of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar in Haryana.

Noting that education makes an individual employable as well as aware of social responsibilities, she encouraged them to adopt an entrepreneurial mindset and be job creators, and not just job seekers. Through this, the President said, they will be able to use their knowledge and skills in a better way for the welfare of the society and contribute in making India a developed nation.

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Nagaland Government has implemented transformative initiatives to improve the quality of life of its citizens. One such prominent initiative is the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CMHIS), which continues to be a key priority of the Government. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in his Budget Speech for 2025-26 informed that altogether 12,047 beneficiaries have availed the scheme in the current financial year. A total of 19,446 treatments were provided during 2024-25 for an amount of 50.62 crore rupees. Further, 66 hospitals both within and outside the State, are empaneled under the scheme. On the Chief Minister's Life Insurance Scheme (CMLIS), over three lakhs ninety nine thousand beneficiaries have enrolled since its launch in October last year. Till date, 30 beneficiaries have claimed benefits under the scheme. The renewal of CMLIS is scheduled for October 2025, with 15 crore rupees allocated for the next year's premium to ensure continued coverage. CMLIS follows an open enrolment model, allowing more families to enroll throughout the year. Meanwhile, the other initiative include entrepreneurship development through the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative wherein an amount of 50 crore rupees has been allocated for 2025-26.

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The state Department of Industries and Commerce, is hosting the Nagaland Edition of the States' Startup Ranking, Knowledge Exchange Workshop, in collaboration with the Commerce Ministry's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Addressing the inaugural programme at Kohima today, Advisor, Industries and Commerce Hekani Jakhalu expressed enthusiasm for the Startup Nagaland program, emphasizing its role in India's growing startup ecosystem. While acknowledging that entrepreneurship is a relatively new concept in the state, Ms Jakhalu pointed out that Nagaland has remained in the "aspiring leadership" category for three years. However, she assured that efforts are on to improve rankings by 2026, and expressed

confidence that the workshop would motivate stakeholders to work towards achieving better rankings.

In the keynote address, DPIIT Director Dr. Sumeet Jarangal, said startups need guidance with a holistic approach, highlighting key schemes such as the Fund of Funds, Credit Guarantee Fund, and India Seed Fund Scheme. Delegates from across the state are participating in the two day workshop.

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Nagaland government has more than 222 crore rupees in outstanding liabilities under the National Pension Scheme (NPS) as of 31 March 2023. This was reported in the State Finances Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 31, 2023, which was presented during the latest state Assembly session. The report revealed that, there were 32 thousand 760 employees under NPS as of March 31, 2023. During 2022-23, a total of 350.65 crore rupees was received in subscriptions, including both employee and government contributions. However, the government transferred only 332.83 crore rupees to the trustee bank. This shortfall, added to existing balance of 204.24 crore rupees from the previous year, resulted in 222.07 crore rupees in liabilities, the report said.

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The Nagaland transport department has updated on the long proposed Tizu-Zungki inland waterways project in its Annual Administrative report 2024-25 laid during the recently concluded Assembly session. It said, joint inspection and hydrographic survey of National Waterways-101 Tizu-Zungki was carried out by a team from IWAI Regional office, Guwahati, along with state officials from 25 to 30 October, 2024. The final report of the joint survey is still awaited. The department also said, preparation of detailed project reports are underway for development of Doyang, Nouna, and Shilloi Lake aimed at boosting waters sports and tourism.

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Under Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) programme, 22 livelihood projects with outlay of 180 crore rupees is being implement in the Eastern Nagaland regions. In its Annual Administrative report 2024-25 presented during the recently concluded Assembly session,

Department of Under Developed Areas reported that the physical progress of infrastructure sector of PM-DevINE livelihood projects stood at 50 percent. Projects include Integrated Animal Husbandry Unit with Fishery at Namthai, Integrated Farming at Longchang village, Home Stay at Tamkoang village, Pig and poultry feed making centres - one each at Chenwetnyu village and Chenmoho village -, and blacksmithy and metal craft centre at Sheanghah Lokyo village in Mon district.

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The Directorate of Technical Education has opened applications for three-year diploma courses at state-run Polytechnics for the academic session 2025-26. Programs offered include Civil, Mechanical, Automobile, and Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Computer Science, Fashion Technology, Architecture Assistantship and Interior Design. The courses are open to candidates who have completed class 10. Those who have appeared HSLC or HSSLC final exams can also apply. Interested candidates can collect the application forms from the department and government Polytechnics, or download them from the website www.dte.nagaland.gov.in. The deadline of submission is 29th of this month.

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