

## Evening News Script

1920 hrs of 3rd September, 2025

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### :: THE HEADLINES ::

- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio calls for Naga Unity and cultural pride
- Power Department clarifies smart meter replacement in Dimapur to be free of cost
- Nagaland explores global opportunities in culture and economy with visiting diplomats
- PAC endorses Ungma statement, calls for unified Naga political vision

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has called for unity among Nagas and renewed pride in cultural heritage. Speaking at the Mungmung Mini Hornbill Festival of the Sangtam community in Longkhim today, he emphasized the uniqueness of the Naga identity, and importance of preserving and promoting tribal tradition.

Reaffirming the state government's commitment to cultural promotion, Mr Rio highlighted the role of festivals and community events in safeguarding indigenous heritage. On the issue of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority, Mr Rio said the state government is committed to facilitating an early and amicable resolution. He urged the people to set aside internal differences and unite for development as the nation moves towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Chief Minister was joined by Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, and Advisor H. Sethrongyü Sangtam, among others.

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The Department of Power, Electrical Division Dimapur, has clarified that there will be no cost for installation or replacement of smart meters in the district. It said, the initiative is being carried out under the Central Government's Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme. The Department informed that no additional charges or security deposits will be taken while shifting from post-paid to pre-paid meters, and existing deposits will be adjusted. It added that the replacement is mandatory as per Electricity Rules 2020 and government notifications. Smart meters are also being installed in government offices, industries and commercial establishments to improve power supply under RDSS.

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The state government, through the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), hosted a Roundtable with visiting Indian Foreign Service Officers at Kohima yesterday. The special guests included High Commissioner of India to Maputo, Mozambique, Robert Shetkintong, and Consul General of India in Vancouver, Canada, R. Masakui, visiting the state as part of the Mid-Career Training Programme of the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service. Chairing the meeting, Advisor to the Chief Minister and IDAN Chairman Abu Metha, highlighted Nagaland's transformation from conflict to a state of opportunities in culture, sports, and tourism. He urged for leveraging Indian Missions abroad to promote Nagaland globally.

Tourism Minister Temjen Imna Along underscored Nagaland's safe environment, cultural richness, and aspiration for economic growth through its creative economy. Presentations by IDAN and TaFMA showcased the state's potential in music, arts, handlooms, and festivals. The meeting explored opportunities for collaboration in traditional sports, e-sports, and exchange programs for athletes and coaches. Both the visiting IFS officers urged for stronger global and market linkages, and cultural diplomacy. The Roundtable concluded with a shared commitment to position Nagaland as a hub of the creative economy in Asia.

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Nagaland has issued a total of 14,446 Inner Line Permits (ILPs) to tourists as of August 21 this year. Replying to a starred question by MLA Kevipodi Sophie

yesterday, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister in-charge of Home and Border Affairs, Yanthungo Patton, said 30,873 ILPs have been issued under other categories from January 1 to August 21.

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The recent meeting of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) chaired by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, unanimously endorsed the Ungma Statement of 23rd August, which upheld the unity, courage, and a shared future for the Naga people. The Committee also expressed support for the call for all Naga Political Groups, with the backing of Tribe Hohos, to come together and pursue a unified political vision based on Naga historical and political rights. It resolved to resume peace talks at the political level to expedite negotiations. The PAC also reaffirmed resolutions adopted during the 12th September 2024 Consultative Meeting, which included recognition of the ongoing Indo-Naga dialogue and its adherence to ceasefire principles despite several challenges, called for further efforts to strengthen unity within Naga society, and appealed to the Government of India to elevate the peace process by appointing a high-level interlocutor. The PAC meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Ministers Y Patton and TR Zeliang, both Members of Parliaments, Ministers, Advisors, and MLAs.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has said that the state has not made any new appointments for primary teachers since 2023, with the exception of 43 candidates appointed on compassionate grounds. In response to a query by MLA Kuzholuzo Nienu in the Nagaland Assembly yesterday, Mr Rio highlighted that the state is currently facing a significant shortage, with 1,115 vacancies for primary teacher positions. Further, the Chief Minister disclosed that a total of 1,257 primary teachers have retired since 2018.

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Responding to a separate question by MLA Nuklutoshi on the CFC Food Processing unit at Youngyimsen in Mokokchung, Chief Minister Rio said the project is nearing completion. Civil work is completed, half of the plant and machinery is installed, he said, attributing delays to the pandemic, technical issues with fund releases, and pending government grants. Mr Rio clarified that the project land consists of one acre leased for 30 years and two acres donated.

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And, Commissioner of State Taxes organised a one-day training programme on GST for drawing and disbursing officers, registered dealers, and key stakeholders in Wokha today. Addressing the event, Deputy Commissioner of Wokha, Vineet Kumar, highlighted taxation as a key aspect of strengthening governance. He stressed that a strong government, supported by adequate revenue, ensures stability and equal opportunities for all societal sectors.

Mr Kumar noted that both direct and indirect taxes are crucial, as they provide resources needed for infrastructure, welfare programmes, and law enforcement. Participants from various departments, local businesses, and trade associations actively took part in the training.

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