

THE HEADLINES:

- Seventh session of 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly commences today.
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio says government working vigorously to improve revenue collection.
- 3. Advisor Hekani Jakhalu raises serious concerns on unemployment crisis in Nagaland.
- Nagaland Legislative Assembly defers scheduled discussion on Prohibition of Satanic Worship.

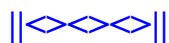


The two-day seventh session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly, NLA commenced today with obituary references. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio led the House in paying homage to late Governor La Ganesan, while Speaker Sharingain Longkumer made an obituary reference to late Nungsangyapang, former legislator. During the question hour, the members raised concerns on issue of backward reservation, PMGSY-III road, plans for easing traffic congestion in the state capital and protected area permit and border fencing. During the zero hour, MLA Pongshi Phom raised concern on the GST collection and requested for setting up of GST grievances redressal committee to enhance the revenue of the state. Two new government bills were introduced by Chief Minister Rio - The Nagaland State Finance Commission Bill, 2025, The Nagaland Flood Plain Zoning Bill, 2025. Speaker Longkumer announced that the bills would be taken up for discussion and passage on September 4. Chairpersons of various Committees also presented multiple reports on varied issues.



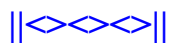
Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today said the State Tax Department has been working vigorously over the past several months to improve revenue collection. Responding to concerns raised by MLA, Pongshi Phom on the issue of GST in the state during Zero Hour, he highlighted initiatives taken by the department including plugging revenue leakage, and improving compliance.

While acknowledging growing revenue from the market, he said, a significant portion of GST collection still comes from government work contract. Mr. Rio outlined Tax deduction at Source and Tax Clearance certificate as two key mechanisms to prevent tax evasion. Appealing for public cooperation, he urged citizens to demand GST bills, prefer digital transactions, and report tax evasion, even through social media channels. Mr. Rio assured to set up a GST Grievances Committee, comprising business representatives, government officials, and experts. He also called on the people to adopt tax-paying habits and contribute to the state's growth.



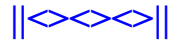
Advisor for Industries and Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu, has raised serious concerns about the deepening unemployment crisis in Nagaland, warning that without urgent, multi-stakeholder intervention, the state's future remains uncertain. Initiating a discussion on the topic 'Unemployment in Nagaland' on the first day of the Assembly Session today, Ms. Jakhalu highlighted that with one of the youngest populations in the country, Nagaland's demographic advantage is at risk of becoming a liability. Citing data from the 2011 Census, she noted that youth aged between 15 and 35 make up approximately 40 percent of the population constituting around eight lakh individuals.

To address this growing crisis, Ms. Jakhalu outlined five key interventions such as education reform, skill development, Internships and apprenticeships through a proposed "Youth Employment Scheme", support for entrepreneurship, and revival of the private sector. The Advisor called upon legislators, educators and parents to prepare the youth to explore diverse career paths.



The Nagaland Legislative Assembly has deferred the scheduled discussion on the issue of the Prohibition of Satanic Worship. The matter, raised by MLA Kuzholuzo (Azo) Nienu as one of urgent public importance, was slated for discussion in the House today. However, it was postponed following a request from the Speaker and the Chief Minister, who cited the need for further research on the subject. Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the Assembly session, MLA Nienu expressed concern over the alleged rise in Satanic practices in the state. He stressed that such practices, often linked to immoral and criminal behaviour, pose a serious threat to Nagaland's Christian identity. Mr. Nienu questioned how effective action could be taken without an open discussion in the Assembly. He further pointed out that several states,

including Bihar, Maharashtra, and Assam, have already enacted state-level ordinances on similar issues. While acknowledging that identifying such practices may fall under the purview of the Church, MLA Nienu asserted that it is the government's responsibility to ensure such harmful activities do not go unchecked.



Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today said that the state cabinet had decided not to implement the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border, citing concerns of division among Naga communities living across the international boundary. He was responding to a supplementary question raised by MLA Achumbemo Kikon on the first day of the seventh session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly. Mr. Rio pointed out that while the Protected Area Permit (PAP) and FMR are in place in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram, the situation in Nagaland remains stable with law and order under control.

On the issue of PAP, Rio pointed out that while the Hornbill Festival has boosted tourism by attracting visitors to the state's rich culture and traditions, restrictions have discouraged both foreign and domestic tourists. In this regard, he said the cabinet had written to the Home Ministry seeking exemption for Nagaland.



MLA Kuzholuzo (Azo) Nienu has urged the Nagaland Government not to take any hasty decisions regarding the job reservation policy. Speaking during the State Assembly session today, he said, that any hasty decision on the ongoing issue could lead to greater confusion rather than promoting a clearer understanding among the Naga tribes. While expressing his support for the five tribes that have raised concerns about the reservation policy, Mr. Nienu said that he does not endorse the agitation initiated by these tribes.

The MLA also suggested that the State Government should announce a solution based on the latest population and employment data available in the state.

