

THE HEADLINES:-

- **Union Finance Minister Sitharaman presents Union Budget for the year 2026-27; says it is aimed at ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’.**
- **Prime Minister Modi hails Budget 2026-2027; describes it as historic.**
- **Nagaland Deputy CM Patton congratulates welcomes strong focus of Union Budget on North-Eastern Region.**
- **ILRC NSF applauds ANTA for enforcing ILP norms, urges tighter public transport checks.**

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today presented the Union Budget for the year 2026-27 in the Lok Sabha. This was the 9th consecutive Budget presented by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Terming the budget Yuva Shakti-driven, the Finance Minister highlighted substantial strides in poverty reduction and improvement in the lives of country's people. She said, this years' budget is inspired by three Kartavya of accelerating economic growth, to build capacity of the people and to provide resources, amenities and opportunities to every family, community, region and sector. The Minister announced that Biopharma SHAKTI with an outlay of 10 thousand crore rupees will be launched to develop India as a global Biopharma manufacturing hub in the next five years.

For the labour-intensive Textile Sector, the Finance Minister announced to launch the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj initiative to strengthen khadi, handloom and handicrafts.

On the importance of Artificial intelligence in governance, the Finance Minister said, adoption of technology is for the benefit of people including farmers, women, youth and Divyangjan to access newer opportunities. The Finance Minister highlighted the government's vision for increasing farmers' income, empowering Divyangjans, and the vulnerable to access mental health and trauma care and focus on the Purvodaya States and the North-East Region to accelerate development and employment opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that this budget is the first one in the second quarter of the century, leading towards the vision of India becoming a developed nation by 2047. Addressing the Post Budget Press Conference in Delhi, Ms Sitharaman said that the budget is aimed at ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’. The Finance Minister added that in this year's budget health has been given equal importance, with special emphasis on mental health. She noted that through the budget, India is primarily looking at building an ecosystem with structural reforms, which will continue.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hailed the Budget 2026-2027 and described it as historic. In a video message, Mr Modi said, this budget is the foundation for country's journey towards a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He said, the budget reflects the aspirations of 140 crore Indians and strengthens the reform journey and charts a clear roadmap for Viksit Bharat. He said, this year's budget will give India's Reform Express new energy and new momentum.

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Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister, Y. Patton, congratulated Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on presenting the Union Budget 2026–27, describing it as visionary and aligned with the goal of a Viksit Bharat under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He welcomed the strong focus on the North-Eastern Region, highlighting support for high-value agriculture, including agarwood cultivation, and measures for animal husbandry, fisheries, rural entrepreneurship, and MSMEs to boost livelihoods in Nagaland. Mr Patton also appreciated the emphasis on infrastructure, skilling, allied health, services, and continued support for handloom, handicrafts, and village industries, terming the Budget inclusive and growth-oriented.

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The Inner Line Regulation Commission (ILRC) of the Naga Students' Federation has appreciated the All Nagaland Taxi Association (ANTA) for directing its units to strictly verify Inner Line Passes (ILP) and deny services to non-ILP holders. The ILRC said ANTA's decisive step reflects a responsible approach towards effective ILP implementation in line with the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873, and strengthens efforts to protect the rights and identity of indigenous people. However, the ILRC expressed concern over credible reports of non-ILP holders attempting to enter Nagaland by misusing Nagaland State Transport and other public transport services. It urged the State Government, Transport Department, NST authorities and law-enforcement agencies to strictly enforce ILP checks at all entry points and take action against violations. Reiterating that ILP is a statutory safeguard, the ILRC said it will continue to closely monitor the situation.

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Prime Minister's flagship platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, PRAGATI, has marked a significant milestone with the successful conduct of its 50th meeting. Since its launch by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015, PRAGATI has transformed governance by enabling real-time monitoring and resolution of key infrastructure projects and public grievances through direct Prime Ministerial review. Over a decade, PRAGATI has helped accelerate decision-making, resolution of issues causing delay in key infrastructure projects, and instilled a strong culture of accountability. Today, in this special series, we take a look at the projects related to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(V/C : To boost the country's civil aviation infrastructure, 38 projects with a total investment of 90 thousand 978 crore rupees are being monitored under PRAGATI led Ecosystem. Out of these projects, three projects with a total investment of 21 thousand 694 crore rupees have been reviewed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under PRAGATI, and all the projects have been commissioned. These projects are Navi Mumbai International Airport, Construction of New Greenfield Airport at Pakyong and Construction of Greenfield International Airport at Mopa in Goa. The directions issued during PRAGATI reviews strengthened accountability, improved inter-ministerial and State-level coordination, facilitated timely resolution of implementation bottlenecks, and enhanced overall monitoring. A total of 53 issues has been raised on Project Monitoring Group Portal across 19 projects and of these, 51 issues have been resolved. The issues were broadly distributed across key categories, primarily relating to land acquisition, forest and environmental clearances and construction-related approvals. The PRAGATI-led monitoring framework has played a key role in fast-tracking civil aviation projects and strengthening India's airport infrastructure across the country.

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Desi Rewind from Mokokchung won Fusion of the Bands 3, a Hindi music talent hunt organised by the Indian Army's 3 Corps under Operation Sadbhavna. The grand finale held Rangapahar Military Station, featured six finalist bands. Jack in the Box won first runners-up and Nikato Tamang and The Band secured second runners-up position. The event was graced by the Governor of Manipur and Nagaland, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, along with 3 Corps GOC Lt Gen Abhijit S. Pendharkar and former Governor and Chief Minister Dr S. C. Jamir. The competition saw 35 bands participate in the online preliminaries, narrowing down to 12 for the semi-finals and six for the finale. The Muse received the special encouragement award for their young members.

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and, Young Indian shuttler Devika Sihag clinched her maiden BWF Super 300 crown after Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei retired midway through the women's singles final of the Thailand Masters at Bangkok today. The 20-year-old from Haryana was leading 21-8, 6-3 when world No. 68 Goh, a two-time former world junior champion, pulled out due to a hamstring injury, handing the Indian the biggest title of her career.

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