

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says FNTA agreement will boost development of Eastern Nagaland
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio-led Nagaland delegation pushes for Centre to lift PAP, restore FMR
- Minister Jacob Zimomi terms Union Budget as a visionary roadmap towards Viksit Bharat
- And, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts students during 9th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the agreement signed between the Centre, Nagaland government and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) will enhance the development trajectory of Eastern Nagaland. Responding to a social media post by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, PM Modi termed it a historic agreement that will open new avenues of opportunity and prosperity for the people, adding that it reflects his government unwavering commitment to peace, progress and inclusive growth in the Northeast. The agreement was signed in the presence of Home Minister Shah in New Delhi yesterday. The agreement will pave the way for creation of Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority for six districts of Nagaland namely Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak, and Shamator, and devolution of powers in respect of 46 subjects to the FNTA.

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Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio led a high-level delegation to New Delhi and met senior Central leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to discuss important issues affecting the state. The delegation included Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, members of the state cabinet and Political Affairs Sub-Committee, along with Nagaland MPs Supongmeren Jamir and Phangnon Konyak. During the meeting with the Home Minister, Chief Minister Rio strongly urged the Centre to lift the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime in Nagaland. He said the state cabinet had repeatedly discussed the matter and the state government had written several times to the Centre seeking a review of the re-imposition of PAP. Mr Rio also raised the issue of the Free Movement Regime along the India-Myanmar border, calling for restoration of the earlier flexibilities. He stated that revisions to the system have caused hardship to Naga communities residing on sides of the border. The Union Home Minister assured that both matters would be examined with a positive approach.

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Nagaland PHED Minister, Jacob Zhimomi termed the Union Budget 2026-27 as a visionary roadmap toward a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Addressing media persons in Dimapur today on the budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Mr Jacob emphasized that the budget reflects the Modi government's long-term vision rooted in reform, action-oriented governance and people-centric development.

Mr Zhimomi highlighted the central theme of the budget as Atmanirbhar Bharat, aimed at making India economically self-reliant. He also underlined the importance of women-led development and cooperative movements, particularly the 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi' initiative, noting that cooperative societies will now be recognized as startups. In the context of Nagaland, the Minister said land and agriculture are major assets, which can serve as the foundation for local cooperative startups. He also described the budget as Yuva Shakti driven, lauding the focus on skilling, up-skilling and job generation. He said investments in education, agriculture, innovation, and human resource development aim to

ensure that no citizen or state is left behind. He added that the budget aims to make the Northeast the organic capital of India and revitalize the tourism sector by promoting the region's rich biodiversity. The minister said the budget addresses state-specific requirements in line with NITI Aayog recommendations, and expressed hope that Nagaland will effectively use the provisions of the Union Budget and contribute meaningfully to national development.

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The Regional Transport Authority, Dimapur and Chümoukedima have invited applications from eligible women for Two-Wheeler Pink Taxi Permits. A total of 15 permits each for Dimapur and Chümoukedima will be allotted to promote women empowerment and self-employment. The Pink Taxi Two-Wheeler scheme is exclusively for female indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland, aged 20 to 40 years. Application forms will be issued from February 9 at the District Transport Officer, Dimapur, and the last date for submission is 20th of February.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with students during the 9th edition of popular interactive programme Pariksha Pe Charcha. In a video released today, the Prime Minister spoke on how to overcome stress and anxiety during exams. During the interaction, Mr Modi advised students to trust their own unique learning patterns, emphasizing that no two individuals think or grow in the same way. He stressed the importance of having full faith in one's own pattern of preparation. The Prime Minister advised teachers to remain sensitive to the learning speed of each student. Highlighting the need for balance in life, he urged students to focus on both life skills and professional skills.

The Prime Minister concluded by saying that real confidence comes from being truthful to oneself. He added that comfort zones do not shape life but one's way of living does. Calling the absence of dreams a serious mistake, Mr Modi urged students to dream big, fear less, and draw inspiration from biographies.

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Turning to sports... The Under-13 ASMITA Zonal Football League 2025–26 (East Zone) kicked off yesterday at the Chümoukedima Football Stadium. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Deputy Director, Khelo India Events, Sports Authority of India, Abhinav Sharma, informed that the ASMITA platform has conducted more than 1,250 tournaments across 32 sports disciplines during the current financial year, benefiting over 1.5 lakh women athletes nationwide. He said ASMITA, which began in 2021, has expanded to include multiple sports even in remote districts, providing a vital pipeline for identifying young talent and promoting grassroots participation.

The East Zone includes Tripura, Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Nagaland. Nagaland is participating for the first time in the league, which will be played till February 10.

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In the final match of the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy 2025-26 Plate Group cricket today, Nagaland scored a total of 155 runs in the first innings against Bihar. In response, Bihar were 214 for 3 wickets at the end of Day one, taking a lead by 59 runs. Earlier, Nagaland won the toss and chose to bat first.

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And, Kevizhakho Suokhrie from Jotsoma today clinched the champion title of the 62nd Wrestling Meet of the Western Angami Youth Organisation held at Khouchiezhie, Kohima Local Ground. Fellow Jotsoma wrestler, Seyiejalie Gwirie, stood second, while Sielie Chüsi and Zasivikho Meyatsu secured third and fourth positions. In the Under-15 category, Thejasezo Sechü took first place.

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