

Evening News Script

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THE HEADLINES :-

- Nagaland Legislative Assembly begins first phase of budget session
- Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla outlines vision to make Nagaland developed by 2047
- Nagaland in talks with Center for state-specific policy on petroleum and natural gas exploration
- And, Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls for dialogue and diplomacy amid war in West Asia

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The first phase of the Budget Session of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) commenced today with the house opening for the first time with the National Song Vande Mataram followed by the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana. Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla delivered his maiden address to the Assembly. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio made obituary references to Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Ajit Anantrao Pawar and former Minister and sitting Member of the 14th NLA Imkong L. Imchen. Speaker Sharingain Longkumer also made obituary references to former members N. Kielu, Dr. Khasu Kath, P. Mongchua, and Nkhao Lotha. Meanwhile, MLA Kūzholuzo Nienu moved the motion of thanks on the Governor's address. The debate on the Motion of Thanks will be taken up tomorrow. The next sitting will also feature Question Hour, discussion on matters

of urgent public importance, laying of annual administrative reports, introduction of Government and Private Members' Bills and resolutions, among other items.



Governor of Nagaland Ajay Kumar Bhalla today outlined the State Government's vision of becoming an effective partner in the national journey towards Viksit Bharat. Delivering his maiden address at the opening of Phase I of the NLA Session, he said his Government aspires to transform Nagaland into a developed state by 2047 in line with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Governor stated that the Government will soon complete three years in office, and conveyed gratitude to citizens and to the House for their continued support. He reaffirmed that his Government remains committed to a peaceful settlement of the Naga Political Issue. Congratulating the people of Eastern Nagaland on the historic signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority, Mr. Bhalla described it as a testament to the Government's commitment to ensuring equitable and inclusive development and addressing the aspirations of all sections and communities in the State.

Emphasising the importance of the upcoming Census, the Governor said the first phase for Nagaland will be conducted from July 1 to 30, while self-enumeration will be available from June 16 to 30. He urged for full cooperation to ensure proper and successful conduct of the Census. Mr. Bhalla added that the Government remains focused on human resource development as the most crucial component for accelerating growth in the state. The Governor expressed confidence that the Session would witness constructive deliberations on matters of public importance while upholding the highest democratic standards.



Nagaland has surpassed its GST collections target for the current financial year. Stating this during the 8th Assembly Session today, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla said GST revenue as of January 31, 2026 stood at 987.38 crore rupees, exceeding the 2025-26 target of 949 crore rupees. The Governor also noted that as of December 2025, Nagaland had recorded the highest GST growth in India at 37 percent, and attributed the achievement to systematic, technology-driven and data-led reforms by the State Government.



Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla said that the state government has initiated discussions with the Center to develop a State-specific policy for exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas in Nagaland. Addressing the Assembly today, the Governor highlighted the urgent need for Nagaland to expand its own revenue base to support growing developmental demands. He emphasised the importance of responsibly harnessing the state's rich natural resources particularly petroleum and natural gas reserves, which have remained unexplored for decades.

The Governor also highlighted other substantial mineral resources in the State, including coal, nickel-cobalt-chromium bearing magnetite, and limestone. He said scientific and sustainable development of these resources could enhance revenues, promote industrial growth, generate employment, and accelerate overall economic progress. Calling for collective cooperation, the Governor urged all stakeholders to build sustainable and self-reliant sources of revenue for the State.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed deep concern at the current situation in West Asia, and said India supports resolution of all disputes through

dialogue and diplomacy. He said this at a joint press meet with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney in New Delhi.

Earlier, India and Canada exchanged three agreements in different areas including cooperation in critical mineral, renewable energy and culture, following delegation-level talks between the Prime Ministers.



The Centre has issued a cautionary letter to States against possible violence in India in the wake of Israel-US strikes against Iran. The Union Home Ministry has written a letter to all States and Union Territories asking them to identify pro-Iran radical preachers giving inflammatory sermons. The letter underscores the need for intensified intelligence sharing and preventive action to avert any law and order breakdown. Meanwhile, conflict in West Asia has intensified as Iran and joint forces of Israel and US launched new wave of missile and drone attacks.



Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian has reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to accelerating development in the Northeast towards a Viksit Bharat. He is on a two-day visit to Tuensang district. Today, he chaired a meeting with the District Administration to assess the implementation of Central schemes, and assured Centre's support for infrastructure and welfare initiatives in the region. During his visit, Mr Kurian toured St. John Higher Secondary School, Government Fish Farm at Thimlak, District Hospital, and also held interactions with tribal and civil society leaders from Tuensang.



And, Nagaland Bee Keeping & Honey Mission, NBHM, today entered a Memorandum of Understanding with ICICI Foundation. The agreement aims to promote Nagaland Honey through expansion and upgradation of the honey processing plant, strengthen market linkages and create better growth opportunities for beekeepers across the state. The signing took place at NBHM's

office, Chumoukedima, in the presence of Secretary to Chief Minister and Team Leader NBHM, Sentiwapang Aier, and ICICI foundation Zonal Head, Pungouthing Tunzalion, and other officials.

