

Evening News Script

1920 hrs

26th March 2026

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THE HEADLINES ::

- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio presents state budget 2026-27 with 77.44 crore surplus projected; terms budget as roadmap for Developed Nagaland at 2047
- State government announces 17 new budget initiatives
- MLA Achumbemo Kikon calls for greater responsibility towards ecological protection
- And, Governor Nand Kishore Yadav urges citizens to adopt energy-saving practices

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The second phase of the 8th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly resumed today. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, and Minister in charge of Finance, presented the State Budget for 2026–27 with an estimated surplus of 74.77 crore rupees for the financial year. However, due to a negative opening balance of 411.81 crore rupees, the state is projected to close the year with a deficit of 337.04 crore rupees. Earlier, the Chief Minister also tabled key reports, including of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Nagaland State Finance Commission, along with the supplementary demand for grants for 2025–26. Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton introduced two key bills, namely the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026, and the Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, both of which will be taken up for consideration and passage tomorrow. During Zero Hour, MLA Achumbemo Kikon raised serious concerns over environmental degradation in the state. Meanwhile, the house will take up a discussion on the state budget tomorrow.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has described the State Budget 2026-27 as inclusive, sustainable, and a strategic roadmap for a developed Nagaland by 2047. Addressing media after presenting the budget, Mr Rio said the 16th Finance Commission has discontinued the Revenue Deficit Grant for the state from 2026 to 2031. He said, this has reduced Nagaland's share in central taxes from 0.569 percent to 0.48 percent, resulting in a projected deficit of over 7,000 crore rupees. He said the state had projected over 8,100 crore rupees to the Commission but did not receive the expected amount. Noting that the issue has been raised with the Union Finance Minister, he said without adequate funds, the state may struggle to meet expenses such as salaries, pensions, debt servicing, and emergency needs. Mr Rio said, the state government has presented the current budget based on Central assurance of a minimum 4,500 crore rupees.

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The Nagaland government has announced 17 new budget initiatives with a total allocation of 62 crore rupees, aimed at inclusive human capital development, income generation for youth and women, education, and building a sustainable and resilient economy. The initiatives also seek to enhance the State's Gross State Domestic Product and revenue. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio during his budget presentation in the Assembly today. The initiatives include the Nagaland Strategic Water Resilience Initiative with an allocation of 24 crore rupees and the Chief Minister's Community Solar Partnership Initiative under the Nagaland Solar Mission with 11 crore rupees. The Nagaland Skill & Entrepreneurship Development Mission and the Nagaland Agro-based Produce Logistic Support Scheme have been allocated 5 crore rupees each, while the Chief Minister's Sports Advancement Initiative has been allotted 3 crores. A sum of 2 crore rupees each has been earmarked for the Training of Public Servants and Authorities, Innovation Seed Fund for Women, and the Nagaland Cleanliness Performance Incentive for Local Bodies. Meanwhile, 1 crore rupees each has been allocated to the Nagaland Academic Excellence Corpus, Chief Minister's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Incentives, Nagaland Open Learning Support Scheme, Revenue & Development Fund Mobilisation Cell, initiatives under the Green Economy, Nagaland Weavers Advancement & Market Formalisation, and the Integrated Land Revenue Mobilisation Initiative. Additionally, the Nagaland Community Wellbeing Initiative and the Nagaland Apprenticeship and Placement Exchange have been allocated 50 lakh rupees each.

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The Nagaland government has proposed an allocation of 100.57 crore rupees as grants to the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA). Announcing this as part of the state budget in Assembly today, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said, the amount represents a proportional share of the state development fund after accounting for statewide obligations including non-transferred departments. Congratulating the Eastern districts on the historic Memorandum of Agreement for creation of the FNTA, he said the State Government is making active efforts to expedite the process.

The Chief Minister also conveyed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's desire to launch the FNTA by April.



MLA Achumbemo Kikon today called for greater responsibility among legislators to balance development with ecological protection. Raising the issue on environment and climate change during Zero Hour in the Assembly, Mr Kikon said Nagaland is staring at an escalating environmental crisis, with rising temperatures, extreme rainfall, and degrading natural resources threatening livelihoods and food security.

Mr Kikon flagged alarming environmental degradation across hill regions, with rivers and natural springs drying up due to deforestation and unchecked borewell use. He underscored the need to modernize jhum practices, making them more efficient and environmentally friendly while preserving their cultural essence. He suggested several measures, including tree plantation to re-vegetate and rejuvenate hilltops and streams, mandatory plastic waste cleanliness drives twice every month, proper waste disposal systems, and maintenance of plastic-free zones. He also suggested banning of sand mining, gravel extraction, and construction of toilets along riverbanks. To address air pollution, he recommended relocating stone crushers outside town areas. Describing climate change as an urgent challenge, Mr Kikon said, all must think globally and act globally and urged collective responsibility from legislators, government agencies, and citizens.



The Government of Nagaland has allocated a total of 3,147.76 crore rupees as Gender Budget for 2026-27 to support women and girls under various schemes and initiatives to be taken up by different departments. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio laid the statement in the Assembly today. The initiatives with 100 percent provision include Aajeevika project with 131.28 crore rupees, and Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana with the allocation of 28.80 crore rupees. Other initiatives include Samagra Shiksha-Elementary Education with over 336.33 crore rupees, and Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) with 556.17 crore rupees.



Nagaland is set to join the global Earth Hour movement on March 28 to raise awareness on climate change and energy conservation. The Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has urged citizens, offices, and workplaces to mark the hour by switching off non-essential lights from 8:30 to 9:30 PM. Meanwhile, Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav also urged citizens to actively participate in the Earth Hour and adopt energy-saving practices to support environmental conservation. Lok Bhavan Nagaland will switch off non-essential lights and electrical appliances as a symbolic gesture. He said, Earth Hour goes beyond turning off lights, and serves as a powerful reminder of the shared

responsibility to protect the environment. Governor Yadav called on all citizens to commit to responsible and meaningful climate action.

