

Evening News Script

1920 hrs

25th March 2026

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio calls for unity, preservation of culture and language
- Lok Sabha MP S. Supongmeren Jamir clarifies Foothills Road compensation claims as baseless
- Budget session of Nagaland Legislative Assembly to resume tomorrow
- Nagaland Contractors & Suppliers Union seeks review of new contractor registration rules

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today underscored the need for unity, cultural preservation and promotion of the Tenyidie language. He was addressing the first Tenyimi Youth Cultural Festival at Naga Heritage Village, Kisama organized by the Tenyimi Union Nagaland. Emphasizing the importance of language, he urged the youth to actively learn and promote Tenyidie. He also suggested exploring its inclusion as a subject in schools, noting that preserving language is key to safeguarding identity and heritage. Highlighting the shared history and traditions of the Tenyimi people across different tribes and states, the Chief Minister said, these common values reflect their enduring legacy and collective identity. He noted that culture is not just rooted in the past but a guiding force for the future, and called on the youth to carry forward their heritage with pride and purpose in the fast-changing world.

Mr Rio also stressed that youth, guided by the elders, have a special responsibility in upholding customary laws and traditions. He added that unity among Nagas remains crucial, and platforms like Tenyimi Union Nagaland can foster reconciliation, brotherhood and progress.

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MP Lok Sabha S. Supongmeren Jamir has clarified that misinformation surrounding compensation for the Foothills Road project are baseless and misleading. The clarification comes in response to claims circulating on social media questioning the No Objection Certificate issued by 14 tribal Hohos, with demands that it be declared null and void. Mr Jamir stated that reports suggesting compensation for fully damaged properties would only be provided after approval from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways are incorrect. Mr Jamir described the Foothills Road as a vital infrastructure initiative aimed at improving connectivity and boosting economic growth across Nagaland. Emphasizing the need for constructive dialogue and consensus to address concerns amicably, the MP urged the State Government and concerned departments to take proactive steps in restoring trust among stakeholders, including Foothills Committee members, tribal Hohos, and affected landowners. He further stressed that effective coordination between all stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of the project. The MP called for a balanced approach that safeguards the interests of citizens while respecting the rights and concerns of all parties involved.

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The second phase of the 8th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly will resume tomorrow. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, who also holds the Finance portfolio, will present the State Budget for the financial year 2026–2027. During the two-day sitting, the House will take up discussions on matters of urgent public importance if any, presentation of CAG reports and the supplementary demand for grants for the year 2025–26, among other businesses. The general discussion on the State Budget is slated for 27th of March.

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The Nagaland Contractors & Suppliers Union (NCSU) has opposed the proposed new rules for the registration of contractors under the State Government, describing them as “impossible” and potentially harmful to the local contracting community. In a memorandum submitted to the Commissioner & Secretary of Works & Housing, Nagaland, NCSU highlighted concerns following a general body meeting held on March 24 at its Kohima headquarters. The Union cautioned that the new criteria could negatively impact the careers of contractors, and labeled the rules as “anti-poor” and detrimental to unemployed youths seeking to enter the contracting profession.

The NCSU insisted that it cannot accept the new rules unless they are finalized in consultation with its officials. The Union urged the government to review the new rules within 30 days from the submission of the memorandum. Further, the NCSU warned that failure to address their concerns could lead them to initiate agitation in the future.

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The Press Information Bureau, Kohima today organized a media workshop 'Varta' on the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) programme. Speaking at the discourse, Prof. Jayanta Choudhury, Head of Department of Rural Development and Planning, Nagaland University described the scheme as a promising step towards strengthening rural livelihoods and employment opportunities, adding that its implementation will be vital.

Prof. Choudhury further highlighted the need for active coordination among all verticals to make the proposed programme a success.

The workshop brought together media representatives to discuss key aspects of the scheme in its push towards Viksit Bharat.

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The Governor of Nagaland has declared 28th of March as working day for the State Government offices located in Kohima in view of the Financial Year Closing. In a notification issued by the Home Department, all Administrative Heads and Heads of Departments are required to ensure the attendance of the officers and staff of their respective Departments on the said date.

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Nagaland government has declared April 9 as a paid holiday for all eligible voters of the Koridang Assembly Constituency Bye-Election. The paid holiday applies to persons employed in Government departments, Banks and financial institutions, Private businesses, Industrial undertakings and any other establishments, including daily wage or casual workers to enable them exercise their franchise. The provision also extends to electors who work in shifts or are employed outside the constituency in industrial undertakings or other establishments. Such workers, including casual laborers, will also be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday.

However, the provisions do not apply to electors whose absence from work may cause danger or substantial loss to their employment or the establishment in which they are engaged.

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And, The Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority has forecast generally stable weather across the state till March 27, with a possibility of thunderstorms in some areas. Weather conditions are expected to change from March 28 onwards, with light rainfall likely in districts including Longleng, Mokokchung, Peren, Phek, Tseminyu, and Zunheboto. On March 29, light to moderate rain is expected in several locations, including Kohima, Chümoukedima, Mokokchung and Mon, while Longleng may receive heavy rainfall. Further, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds are also likely in some areas during the period.

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