



**:: THE HEADLINES ::**

- Nagaland Assembly passes two Government Bills.
- Nagaland Assembly discusses on Critical Role of MSMEs in improving state's economy; Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio says development of MSMEs remains key priority of state government.
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio proposes boosting LAPD funds to promote small-scale entrepreneurship.
- Online registration portal for Yuva Sangam - Phase VI begins.



The Nagaland Legislative Assembly today passed The Nagaland Town and Country Planning (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2025 and The Nagaland Shops and Establishments (First Amendment) Bill, 2025 by voice vote. On the fourth day of the ongoing eight session of the 14<sup>th</sup> NLA, several Annual Administrative Reports 2025-26 of various departments were laid in the House by the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Ministers and other ministers. Mhathung Yanthan, Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, also presented four reports on action taken by the government on observations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in its previous reports. Earlier the proceedings began with question hour followed by obituary reference to former MLA Dr Longrineken. A discussion on the Critical Role of MSMEs in Improving Nagaland's Economy was also taken up.



Members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly today underscored the Critical Role of MSMEs in Improving Nagaland's Economy during a discussion in the House. Initiating the discussion, Advisor, Industries and Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu described MSMEs as the silent engine of society that creates jobs and contributes significantly to economic growth without relying on government support. The Advisor also called for introducing a state-level public procurement policy.

Participating in the discussion, Advisor Nyusietho Nyuthe emphasized the need for skill training and harnessing the potential of natural resources to address unemployment among youths.

Advisor Kudecho Khamo also urged for stronger policy interventions and active participation from banks to sustain economic growth led by MSME.

MLAs Wangpang Konyak and Jwenga Seb also participated in the discussion.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today said that the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) remains a key priority of the state government as it plays a crucial role in employment generation and economic growth. Replying to a discussion on 'Critical role of MSME in improving Nagaland's Economy' in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister informed that nearly 50,000 enterprises have been registered in the state under the Udyam Registration Portal as of March 9 this year, with the majority being micro enterprises. Mr. Rio said that since its inception, 777 MSMEs have been created

under the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative, involving a total project investment of 65.31 crore rupees.

He also informed that at present, 13 MSME development projects are under implementation in the State. In addition, 15 new projects have been submitted to the Ministry of MSME for approval to strengthen industrial infrastructure and promote cluster-based development. Mr. Rio said, under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, over 3,700 beneficiaries have been supported under the scheme over the last five years. The Chief Minister also highlighted several initiatives aimed at strengthening the MSME ecosystem, including the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme and the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, under which more than 25,000 applications have been received in the state.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today suggested enhancing the Local Area Development Programme (LADP) funds to help elected members promote small-scale entrepreneurship in their constituencies. Speaking in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said legislators should identify and support youth in their constituencies to start small businesses such as barber shops, tailoring, electrical work, plumbing, carpentry and electronic repair services.

He said, instead of depending on the banks or agencies, it will be more of nano-entrepreneurs which require minimal investment around 10 to 50 lakh rupees with annual turnovers of about 25 lakh rupees. By supporting these small ventures locally, Mr. Rio said villagers would no longer need to travel long distances to towns for basic services, which often leads to unnecessary expenses. The Chief Minister therefore proposed that the

additional LADP allocation be specifically targeted towards skill development for youth at the constituency level.

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Chief Minister & Minister-in-charge of NSDMA, Neiphiu Rio today informed the State Assembly that forest fire incidents at Dzukou Valley since 2023, were reportedly due to human errors or carelessness. He said that so far, no person of such incidents has been identified or apprehended. Replying to a question raised by MLA Naiba Konyak, Mr. Rio said, the State has taken various measures to prevent forest fires at Dzukou valley. The Chief Minister added that Watch Towers and Early Warning Systems will be set up including procurement of Firefighting Equipments among others

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Online registration portal for Yuva Sangam - Phase VI under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) initiative has begun. Ministry of Education has informed that interested youth in the age group of 18-30 years, including students of Higher Education Institutions, NSS, NYKS volunteers, and young professionals, are eligible to apply through the official portal at: [ebsb.aicte-india.org](https://ebsb.aicte-india.org) and [ekbharat.gov.in](https://ekbharat.gov.in). Yuva Sangam is a flagship Youth Exchange Programme of the Department of Higher Education, aimed at strengthening emotional bonds and fostering mutual understanding among young citizens from different States and Union Territories.

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