

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

1. Budget Session of Nagaland Legislative Assembly concludes
2. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio says budget 2026-27 reaffirms commitment to equitable development
3. FNTA Bill 2026 referred back to state government for further review
4. And, State Assembly passes Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

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The 8th Session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly concluded today. During the proceedings, the House deferred the FNTA Bill, and passed the Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill. Several appropriation bills were approved by voice vote, including those related to the supplementary demands for 2025–26, and Budget 2026–27. Discussions were also held on demands for grants for the coming financial year. The House also constituted various financial and non-financial committees and the panel of chairpersons for 2026-27. After concluding all business, the Budget session was adjourned sine die.



Several members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly today participated in the general discussion on the State Budget 2026–27, expressing broad support while also raising key developmental concerns. Initiating the discussion, NPF MLA Hekani Jakhalu described the budget as visionary and inclusive, aimed at bringing farmers, women and youth into the state’s growth journey.

Ms Jakhalu also lauded the budget's gender-focused approach to support women. BJP MLA A. Pangjung Jamir also supported the budget, while calling for sanctioning of a new Administrative Office building at Tuli and commissioning more sports disciplines under the CM's Sports Advancement Initiative.

NPF MLA KT Sukhalu raised concern over growing drug abuse and called for stronger policy interventions. He also suggested review of the NLTP Act for better regulation and public welfare. Meanwhile, NPF MLA Tongpang Ozukum called for the need to complete the Trans-Nagaland Highway (Foothill Road). NPF MLA Dr. Kekhrielhoulie Yhome commended the budget as 'rare' bringing improved fiscal prudence and management. While Independent MLA Dr. Neisatuo Mero called it pragmatic and responsive to people’s aspirations. NPF MLA Achumbemo Kikon, emphasized that the State Government had carefully considered the demands put forward by the Eastern Nagaland People’s Organisation. He clarified that deferment of the FNTA Bill should not be misinterpreted or blamed on the state government.

RIO:

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said the state budget 2026-27 reaffirmed the government’s commitment to balance and equitable development across all districts, leaving no one behind. In his concluding remarks on the general discussion on the state budget today in Assembly, the Chief Minister said, this budget marks a transition towards a more resilient fiscal framework where efficiency, transparency and accountability guide every rupee spent. He said, through convergence across departments and a whole-of-government approach,

the government will ensure that implementation remains time-bound and impact-driven.

Responding to MLA Hekani's belief that the allocated funds would be used judiciously, the Chief Minister said

On MLA's A Pangjung Jamir's remark, he said...

On concerns raised by MLAs Tongpang Ozukum and Achumbemo Kikon on Trans-Nagaland Highway Foothill Road, Mr Rio said,

Acknowledging MLA KT Sukhalu's concerns on NLTP Act, the Chief Minister said,

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The Nagaland Legislative Assembly has referred the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) Bill, 2026 back to the state government for further examination. The Bill, introduced yesterday by Deputy Chief Minister in-charge of Home Yanthungo Patton, was listed for consideration and passage today. However, Parliamentary Affairs Minister KG Kenye informed the House that the Eastern Nagaland Legislators' Union, after consultations with the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation, had flagged certain gaps between the Bill and the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement signed last month. Citing 'contentious issues', Mr Kenye suggested that the Bill be sent back to the government instead of being passed in its current form. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said that the issue of granting legislative powers to the proposed FNTA body is still under review by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which had sought the opinion of the Solicitor General of India, adding that the Ministry has requested more time before taking further action.

Mr Rio noted that the government remains committed to equitable development in Eastern Nagaland and is in constant touch with the Ministry on the matter. Taking note of the developments, NLA Speaker Sharingain Longkumer directed that the FNTA Bill be deferred to the next emergent session, and referred it back to the state Government for necessary examination.



The State Legislative Assembly has passed the Nagaland Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, on the final day of the session today. The Bill was moved by Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton and was adopted by voice vote. The legislation seeks to rationalise provisions across 12 state laws by decriminalising minor and technical offences. Instead of criminal penalties, the Bill introduces civil penalties, compounding mechanisms, and administrative adjudication. It also provides for graded and proportionate monetary penalties based on the severity of violations, while enabling digital compliance systems, ensuring transparency, and promoting time-bound decision-making. The Bill seeks to reduce regulatory uncertainty, improve ease of doing business in the State, encourage voluntary compliance based on trust, while retaining stringent penalties for serious offences affecting public order, health, safety, or revenue.



Speaker Sharingain Longkumer today lauded members of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly for their commitment and constructive participation as he adjourned the 8th session of the 14th Assembly. Addressing the House at the close of the session, Mr Longkumer said that the Assembly had completed five days of sittings in the first phase and two days in the second phase, successfully transacting all listed business. He expressed satisfaction over the depth of engagement by members on issues of vital importance and commended their unwavering dedication in discharging legislative responsibilities. The Speaker extended his gratitude to all members for their cooperation, dignified conduct, and meaningful contributions throughout the proceedings of the House.

Mr Longkumer also called upon senior officers and heads of departments to endure the challenges and continue delivering their best, leaving behind a legacy for future generations.



