

Morning News Script

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12th June 2026

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A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Centre and the Governments of Nagaland and Assam for the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas along the Assam-Nagaland border. The MoU was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Pal Singh, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shah termed it a historic moment and said the initiative will enhance the prospects of oil and natural gas exploration and also opens up possibilities for mineral mining as well.

The Home Minister said that oil extraction capacity in the region which is currently ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 barrels per day is expected to go up to more than tenfold through this MoU. Mr Shah informed that a single field alone holds the potential for recoveries exceeding 15 thousand crore rupees.

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Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has termed the signing of the Tripartite MoU for 'Mineral Oil Operations in the Assam-Nagaland boundary areas' as a historic milestone. Expressing gratitude to the Central Government, Mr Rio said its commitment to peace, stability, and development in the Northeast had made the agreement possible. He also thanked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the Government of Assam for their cooperation and goodwill. Mr Rio said the MoU reflects the maturity of relations between the Nagaland and Assam and their shared commitment to regional development. He noted that while unresolved border issues had hindered resource development for decades, the MoU provides a framework that will benefit both present and future generations.

Mr Rio said, the agreement will unlock the economic potential of Sectors A to F along the Assam-Nagaland border, enhancing economic activity, resource management, inter-state cooperation, and creating new opportunities for the people. The Chief Minister added that the MoU marks a new era of brotherhood, collaboration, and shared prosperity between the two states.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio highlighted the state's development achievements, governance reforms and key infrastructure needs during the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog in New Delhi yesterday. Addressing the meeting, Mr Rio reaffirmed Nagaland's commitment to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and highlighted the State's progress in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in gender equality. He outlined several governance reforms, youth empowerment initiatives, women's entrepreneurship programmes, digital governance measures and efforts to strengthen agriculture, tourism and the green economy. He also highlighted initiatives in education, skill development, artificial intelligence, and sports. Seeking continued support from the Centre, the Chief Minister requested financial assistance for major infrastructure projects, including the Foothill Road, Greenfield Airport at Ciethu, establishment of IIT and AIIMS, railway expansion, inland waterways, agarwood cultivation and strengthening of power facilities. Chief Minister Rio expressed confidence that the deliberations would further strengthen cooperative federalism and contribute towards building a stronger, more resilient and developed India.

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In sports... The FIFA World Cup 2026 kicked off in Mexico City after a grand opening ceremony last night. Co-host Mexico defeated South Africa by 2-0 in the inaugural match at the Azteca stadium. The clash marks the beginning of the biggest world cup of the history, featuring 48 teams and 104 matches across Canada, Mexico and United States.

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And in weather... Nagaland is likely to witness heavy rainfall in isolated areas today and tomorrow. India Meteorological Department has forecast rainfall activities accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning across the northeast region till the 17th of this month.

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