

THE HEADLINES:

- 9th session of Nagaland Assembly adjourns Sine Die After passing key Bills & Resolutions
- Assembly passes FNTA Bill, Paving Way for Self-Governing Authority in Six Eastern Districts
- Unanimous Resolution at close of two-day NLA sitting seeks centre's review of PAP regime in Nagaland
- Chief minister Neiphiu Rio calls for technology-based monitoring of foreign visitors to ease pap restrictions



The ninth session of the 14th Nagaland Legislative Assembly was adjourned sine die today, bringing the two-day sitting to a close. During the session, the House discussed several issues concerning the state, including pension matters, situation along the Assam-Nagaland border, and the implications of the proposed Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment Bill, 2026. A significant highlight of the session was the passing of the revised Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026, providing for the creation of a regional authority with legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers over six eastern districts of the state. The House also unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to urgently review and withdraw the Protected Area Permit regime currently applicable in Nagaland, and restore the earlier relaxation. The assembly passed five other government Bills, while reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General, as well as various Assembly committees, were also presented before the House. Following completion of the listed business, Speaker Sharingain Longkumer adjourned the House sine die.



The Nagaland Legislative Assembly today passed the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) Bill, 2026, providing for the creation of a unique self-governing authority over six eastern districts of the state - Mon, Tuensang, Longleng, Kiphire, Noklak and Shamator. The Bill provides the FNTA with legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers to fulfill their social, economic, educational, cultural and linguistic aspirations. The Authority comprise 62 members, with 40 directly elected from territorial constituencies

on the basis of adult suffrage with one-third of the seats reserved for women. The FNTA will also comprise two members nominated by the Governor, while the 20 Eastern Naga MLAs from the Nagaland Legislative Assembly will be ex-officio members without voting rights. 12 legislators, including those from Eastern Nagaland participated in the discussion. Giving the concluding remarks, Chief Minister Rio congratulated the people of the state and expressed hope that the six districts of Eastern Nagaland would see comprehensive development and continue to work together for a greater Nagaland.



The Nagaland Legislative Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution to appeal to the Central Government to withdraw or relax the Protected Area Permit (PAP) regime in the state. The resolution was moved by Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton on the final day of the Assembly's ninth session. The resolution said that the PAP regime was hampering tourism, investment, business, cultural exchange and employment opportunities, particularly for young people. It also stressed that Nagaland remains committed to national security and working with the Central government on technology-driven systems to register and monitor foreign visitors.

The PAP regime, introduced under the Foreigners Protected Area Order, 1958, was relaxed for Nagaland in 2011. It was reimposed in December 2024. Taking part in the discussion, Tourism Minister Temjen Imna Along, said Nagaland's peaceful situation is distinct from neighbouring states and urged the Centre to reconsider the reimposition of the permit system. Industries and Commerce Advisor Hekani Jakhalu, said the PAP regime could discourage investors and prevent Nagaland's youth from fully benefiting from India's economic growth. She said Nagaland must not be left behind in the country's journey towards Viksit Bharat and called for policies that reflect the local circumstances of the state.

MLA Naiba Konyak also participated in support of the resolution



Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has suggested a technology-based system for monitoring foreign visitors, saying it could provide security safeguards while easing travel restrictions in the state. In his concluding remarks during the discussion on the Protected Area Permit regime, Mr Rio said security and development need not be opposing objectives, and regulation must evolve with changing realities. He said policies must respond to present-day circumstances

and mechanisms created in one period of history should not become permanent barriers to the aspirations of future generations.

Highlighting tourism and Hornbill Festival as an engine of economic activity, the Chief Minister said temporary relaxation of the PAP regime during the festival does not provide sufficient certainty for international tourists, investors and diplomats, who plan their visits months in advance. He said the existing restrictions have wider implications for tourism, investment, cultural exchanges and employment opportunities for Nagaland's youth. Mr Rio maintained that Nagaland remains committed to national security and called for a more permanent and practical regulatory arrangement.



At Zero hour, Advisor Achumbemo Kikon addressed the issue concerning compulsory singing and playing of Vande Mataram in the state. He noted that the government has taken serious note of the concerns raised during the previous sitting of the House and the sentiments of the people. Mr. Kikon said that a committee headed by Parliamentary Affairs Minister KG Kenye was constituted to examine the applicability of laws passed by Parliament in Nagaland in the context of Article 371A of the Constitution.

In a letter to NSF president, Mteitsuding Heraang, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs K.G. Kenye earlier appealed for calling off the agitation by the federation and said that the report submitted by the committee has been temporarily withheld following passage of Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, by both Houses of Parliament. The Bill is currently awaiting publication in the Gazette of India. Mr. Kenye informed that the committee has decided to revisit the issue after the final outcome of the legislation is known



The Naga Students' Federation has kept in abeyance the first phase of its agitation against compulsory playing of the revised Vande Mataram in government programmes and official functions. The NSF in a statement said the decision follows a communication from Nagaland Legislative Assembly President informing that the committee to examine the applicability of Laws passed by Parliament has been granted additional time to submit its report on the matter. The Federation said it will await the Committee's report. It also asked all educational institutions and affiliate bodies across Naga homeland not to include or invite any government functionaries as guest or invitee in

programmes and functions which involves singing or playing of Vande Mataram, until further directions from the Federation.

