

Morning News Script
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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said the proposed Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) is aimed at addressing longstanding developmental gaps in the six eastern districts and ensuring equitable development across the state. Speaking during the discussion on the FNTA Bill, 2026, Mr. Rio said the Authority will cover Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire, Noklak and Shamator, with provisions for decentralised governance and dedicated financial and planning mechanisms. He said the initiative follows the February 5, 2026 Memorandum of Agreement between the Centre, Nagaland Government and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO).

The Chief minister said the state has also sought an increase in the proposed Special Development Grant from 5,000 crore rupees to 10,000 crore rupees. He maintained that Article 371(A) safeguards will remain untouched, while the revised Bill provides legislative powers to the FNTA over transferred subjects and departments, in consultation with the Centre.

The Nagaland Legislative Assembly passed the Bill by voice vote, with Rio expressing hope that it would accelerate comprehensive development in Eastern Nagaland.

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Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton yesterday informed the Assembly that the Nagaland Home Department has constituted a Special Investigation Team to probe alleged fraudulent drawal of multiple salaries, including salary along with life pension, by government employees. He was replying to a starred question raised by MLA Kuzholuzo Nienu on salary drawal by Nagaland Police personnel. Mr. Patton said the alleged cases involved employees drawing salaries from more than one source within the State Government, including personnel

of the Nagaland Police. He said PIMS is the sole deciding factor for salary drawal following the introduction of the E-Pay System, while the sanctioned strength of posts is being strictly adhered to.

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The proposed revision of minimum wages in Nagaland is awaiting Cabinet approval, with Finance Department currently re-examining Labour Department's proposal. Responding to a question raised by MLA Nuklutoshi during question hour yesterday, Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang said the State Advisory Board had proposed revised daily wages of 297 rupees for unskilled, 355 for semi-skilled, 400 for skilled and 450 rupees for highly skilled workers. The existing minimum wages, fixed in 2019 are 176 rupees for unskilled, 210 for skilled Grade-II and 235 rupees for skilled Grade-I workers. Mr. Zeliang said the revised proposal was vetted by the Law and Justice Department in May, 2025 and concurred with by the Finance Department in June 2025. A Cabinet memorandum was subsequently submitted in August 2025. However, following the Cabinet meeting on March 23, 2026, the Finance Department was directed to re-examine the proposal. The deputy chief minister said the matter will be placed before the Cabinet again after the department submits its observations and assured that it will be settled at the earliest.

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Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton yesterday said that the Assam-Nagaland border situation is currently under control and added that the State Government closely monitoring developments and strengthening coordination with Assam following confrontations on 25th and 26th August this year. He said this while responding to a query from Advisor Achumbemo Kikon. Mr. Patton said a Border Level Peace Committee had been activated following a joint meeting of the Wokha and Golaghat district administrations to prevent further confrontations and ensure the safety of residents. Mr. Kikon also raised concerns over alleged crude oil survey activities by ONGC in the disputed area belt on the Assam side. Mr. Patton said future eviction or plantation drives in the border areas

will be undertaken through proper coordination between the two states to avoid unilateral action.

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Governor Nand Kishore Yadav and Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio have extended greetings to all celebrating the occasion of Janmashtami. In his message, Governor Yadav said the festival, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, reminds people of the values of truth, righteousness, compassion, selfless service and harmony. He expressed hope that the occasion would strengthen unity, mutual respect and brotherhood. Chief Minister Rio also extended greetings, saying the occasion may inspire peace, harmony and goodwill and strengthen the bonds of unity among the people.

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