

My dear citizens of Nagaland,

## **Namaskar**

1. On the occasion of the 66<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of our great nation, I extend to all of you my heartiest congratulations and warm greetings.

2. The essence of our Republic is expressed democratically through the will of our people. In keeping with this glorious tradition, a new Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi was elected to power in May 2014 at the Centre. The elections saw the highest ever turnout of voters in the history of general elections in the country, signifying the deepening commitment of the citizens for active participation in democratic decision making. The presence of Heads of South Asian countries in the swearing-in ceremony in New Delhi on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 was an affirmation of our collective desire to build good relations among the South Asian countries. It was also a recognition of our place in the world where, in terms of purchasing power, our economy is now the third largest in the world, behind China and the United States of America. Today, as I speak to you, the President of USA is also participating in the celebration of our Republic in New Delhi – a new milestone in relations between the largest democracy and the most powerful democracy in the world.

**3.** Our new emerging status in the world is driven by the efforts of people of the country. As we embark upon the journey of another year of our Republic, it is time to take stock not only of our achievements but also of the challenges that lie ahead. Nagaland, the 16<sup>th</sup> State of our Republic, is an equal partner in this great journey. The visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the State for inauguration of the Hornbill Festival on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 and his promise to visit again highlighted the importance the Central Government attaches to the progress of Nagaland and the North East.

**4.** Friends, peace is a pre-requisite for progress in any society. By and large, the law and order situation in the State of Nagaland remained peaceful. There were incidents of violence and tension along the inter-State border with Assam, particularly in Ralan area of Wokha district. Timely intervention by the district administration and police in the Disputed Area Belt (DAB) and meetings between the Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries and the Commissioners of the two States helped prevent further escalation of tension.

**5.** To bring about lasting peace in the State, the ongoing talks between Government of India and the Naga underground factions have to be brought to an amicable settlement. Even as the peace talks continue, the civil society yearns for a peaceful and enabling environment for progress. The State Government as facilitator will continue to pursue for an early solution to the Naga Political problem to bring permanent peace in the State.

**6.** Our people remain mostly dependent on agriculture. The productivity of foodgrains has increased from 700 kilograms per hectare in 1963-64 to 2,267 kilograms per hectare in 2013-14. Despite the progress, we remain deficient in rice production. The vision 2025 aims at overcoming this deficiency and achieving the dream of 'food for all'. As highlighted by Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Nagaland, the potential of organic farming, a natural strength of the north eastern region, requires to be tapped by our farmers.

**7.** Irrigation is critical to agriculture. 155 minor irrigation projects have been taken up for completion during this year for creation of irrigation potential of 8,835 hectares at a cost of Rs. 112 crore; 13 new projects have been sanctioned under the Integrated Watershed Development Program covering watershed area of 53,000 hectares for implementation in next 5 years. 16 meteorological stations across the State monitor the daily weather condition.

**8.** Horticulture offers income generating opportunities to our farmers. The focus this year is on establishing two centres of excellence: one for flowers in Hamlu Hangphoi village in Mon district and the other for temperate crops in Pfutsero in Phek district. Five farmers' schools will be set up for imparting technical know-how. Infrastructure for post harvest management is being given priority.

**9.** Meat being an important part of diet of the people of Nagaland, efforts are being made to increase meat production through peoples' participation. 125 piggery farmers, 45

poultry farmers and 30 goateries are being assisted by the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry this year. The production of fish is expected to reach 7,700 metric tons this year.

**10.** We are blessed with rich biodiversity and we have to guard against its degradation with combined efforts of all stakeholders. The Old Jalukie Joint Forest Management Committee has been awarded India Biodiversity Award 2014 in co-management category. Under the flagship National Afforestation Program 4,000 hectares will be afforested this year.

**11.** Rural development is critical for sustenance of the majority of our population. 1,663 Self Help Groups have been formed under the Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission. 3,321 houses have been constructed for families below the poverty line this year so far under Indira Awas Yojana. About 225 lakh person-days of work have been approved for Nagaland under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Assistance is being provided to meet special needs of backward areas in Mon, Tuensang, Wokha, Kiphire and Longleng districts under Backward Regions Grant Fund.

**12.** In education lies the future of our younger generation. 22 Government High Schools were upgraded to Government Higher Secondary Schools and 52 new private schools permitted during 2013-14. More than 47,000 students receive various matric scholarships today. Our younger generation must receive quality education. The State Council

of Education, Research & Training is making efforts to improve quality of teaching by conducting Teacher Eligibility Tests and establishing 17 study centers to train 5,000 teachers in 3 years. Similarly, to upgrade the quality of our higher education, 9 of our colleges have undergone assessment and accreditation. Kohima Science College has been upgraded to autonomous college status.

**13.** Drinking water is a necessity. Public Health Engineering Department aims to provide 84 Not Covered or Partially Covered habitations with drinking water supply this year. 36 habitations having water quality problems will be provided with water treatment units. 50,000 individual household toilets and 153 sanitary complexes are targeted this year under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The new building of the Directorate was inaugurated in September, 2014.

**14.** In the industries sector, assistance has been provided for setting up of 20 food processing units. State Vision Document on food processing industries has been prepared. Ministry of Textiles has accorded in-principle approval for setting up of Apparel and Garment Manufacturing Unit at Dimapur.

**15.** Maintenance and repair of roads in district and sub-divisional headquarters has provision of Rs. 45 crore this year under the Thirteenth Finance Commission Award. An amount of Rs. 30 crore is earmarked during this year for foothill connectivity road. On housing front, construction of Chief Minister's residential complex and Ministers' bungalows at Kohima, PWD Office Complex at Dimapur,

and new building of Nagaland House Delhi at R.K. Puram are in good progress.

**16.** Availability of electricity is the key driver of the economy. A major challenge is to plug commercial losses. An IT project is under implementation in 9 towns of the State to improve management of energy audit and accounting. Steps for harnessing sustainable renewable energy are also being taken. 1 MW hydro project at Tsutsung river in Mokokchung district and 300 KW project at Noi roi river in Peren district are nearing completion. 955 solar street lights are being installed in the State this year. Solar powered LED lights are being installed in the State Civil Secretariat.

**17.** While most of our population lives in rural areas, we are urbanizing rapidly. Nagaland recorded the highest rate of urbanization at 66.70% in Census 2011. This requires sustained efforts in providing urban infrastructure and services. Housing projects in Medziphema and Tseminyu towns are being taken up under Rajiv Awas Yojana. Housing projects for urban poor are ongoing in Dimapur and Kohima.

**18.** The Nagaland State Transport, with its fleet of 193 buses, is operating 180 scheduled services across the State providing affordable public transport.

**19.** Friends, it is a matter of great satisfaction that we enjoy better health compared to most other States in the country as brought out by Sample Registration Survey conducted in 2014. Our health indicators such as Infant Mortality Rate, Birth Rate, Death Rate and Natural Growth Rate show this.

Significant improvements have been made in detection of tuberculosis cases, bringing patients under treatment and increasing the number of cured patients. Once an endemic Iodine Deficiency Disease State, we have now brought down this disease to a negligible level. Our fight with malaria and AIDS continues. We have been able to reduce HIV incidence appreciably. These achievements show that with determined efforts nothing is impossible for us.

**20.** Taking care of the old persons and other weaker sections of our society is the bounden duty of the Government. 4,464 women are being assisted with pension for widows. 3,161 indigent citizens above 80 years of age and 44,527 citizens in the age group 60 to 79 years are being assisted with old age pension. 1,258 Self Help Groups have been formed so far under the Transformative Livelihood Intervention Project covering 17,000 women in 223 villages.

**21.** The Department of Underdeveloped Areas (DUDA) has taken up several developmental projects and capacity building activities under the Under Developed Areas Programmes (UDAP) and also under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) which caters to the special needs of the people living in remote, inaccessible and difficult terrain of international border.

**22.** One of our countrymen, Shri Kailash Satyarthi, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly for 2014 for his struggle against exploitation of children and for right of children to education. It would be a fitting tribute to his

distinguished work if we guard against deprivation of helpless children from their rights including education.

**23.** It is a matter of pride for us that two players from Nagaland represented the country in Sepaktakraw sport in the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games 2014 held in South Korea. Our under 14 team won the 55<sup>th</sup> Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2014. Our girl NSS volunteers, Guides and NCC cadets have earned laurels at national level and represented the country abroad. They hold aloft beacon for our talented youth.

**24.** The fifteenth Hornbill Festival was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji as the Chief Guest on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 creating history in the annals of the premier festival. The festival was celebrated with the motto "Made in Nagaland". For the first time "The Great Hornbill Adventure Trail" was organized with an aim to taking Hornbill Festival to different districts of Nagaland. The festival attracted 1,72,404 tourists to the Naga Heritage village. Among other host of dignitaries from abroad and within the country, the event also hosted the two Chief Ministers from neighbouring Myanmar as part of Act East Policy. In the cultural field, a folk amphitheatre has been inaugurated in the Directorate of Art & Culture.

**25.** The State is passing through financial difficulties. The Fourteenth Finance Commission has submitted its report to the Central Government. It is hoped that it will be more favourable to us. However, it is also clear that we cannot make ends meet unless we substantially increase revenue.

Taxation Department has been set a target of Rs. 326 crore during this year.

**26.** The police and fire services provide security and safety to the citizens. Apart from the normal crime control activities, the 26,000 strong Nagaland Police facilitated smooth conduct of the parliamentary election in the State. In addition, we lent 10 companies to Assam and West Bengal for conduct of parliamentary elections there. The Directorate of Civil Defence and Home Guards is engaged in training and capacity building activities.

**27.** Our fire and emergency services, working with the motto “WE SERVE TO SAVE”, are required to be expanded. Fire stations at Longleng and Peren have been completed while construction of fire stations is going on at Chiephobozou, Kohima, Mokokchung and Zunheboto. Property worth Rs. 18 crore is estimated to have been saved so far this year in responding to emergency fire calls on 101.

**28.** The Rajya Sainik Board has not only introduced schemes for welfare of ex-servicemen, it has energized the Zilla Sainik Welfare Offices to address grievances of ex-servicemen and widows and facilitated recruitment of Naga youth in defence forces.

**29.** My dear citizens, I have highlighted some of the initiatives and achievements as well as the challenges we have to meet. As we draw satisfaction from and take pride

in our achievements, we also have to commit ourselves to meeting the challenges before us with renewed energy and dedication. Let us work towards realizing the vision for a better future for ourselves and our children.

**Kuk-Na-Lim**

**Bharat Mata Ki Jai**