

**SPEECH OF SHRI P.B. ACHARYA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND AT
THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF HORNBILL FESTIVAL AT KISAMA ON 1ST
DECEMBER, 2015**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fifty-two year's back, on this auspicious day, we attained Statehood on 1st December 1963. We fondly remember our dynamic Prime Minister Shri Modiji, who inaugurated this Hornbill Festival last year and his clear message was "Unless North East Progresses, India cannot develop". Statehood day is a joyous occasion when all people of Nagaland can recall with pride, enthusiasm and satisfaction, the multifarious and significant achievements made by them during the past years.

We celebrate Hornbill Festival to commemorate our Statehood and resolve to preserve our distinct culture and traditions. So this is the time to review along with our festivities how much we have been able to march in this direction.

I congratulate the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, all MLAs and the State Government for organizing this wonderful festival every year, which aims to preserve, promote and protect the unique cultural diversity and rich traditions of Nagaland. I am happy to say that all invitees and visitors will see and experience for themselves the warm hospitality which is a tradition of the Nagas.

I take this opportunity to welcome all International guests, mainland guests and people from all the eleven districts of Nagaland. Now, Kisama village has become a very popular village all over the country as well as abroad. We have 16 major tribes and many sub-tribes and they are showcasing their beautiful culture, dance, music and foods, handloom and handicrafts. Today we have mini Nagaland here. All the tribes are equal and no tribe is second to other. Every tribe has its own distinct identity and grandeur of their culture, which our guests may be able to see for themselves. We have our indigenous games and you can have a glimpse of our sports. We have handloom/handicrafts stalls and the products are domestically made. There are indigenous designs and colours in each shawl and each piece is unique. The possessor of the product will be very proud to have one. Feel Nagaland and enjoy its products. When you interact with the Naga village youths, you will experience joy and rebound their happiness or joyous mood with loud laughter expression.

Every tribe has its own festival and throughout the year Nagas are fortunate to have festivals and festivities. The month of December in Nagaland is an auspicious month and Christmas is celebrated all people enthusiastically to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. People celebrate this memorable day in various ways.

Nagaland has achieved remarkable progress over the last five decades, particularly in the fields of education and healthcare. Nagaland is very rich in bio-diversity, both flora and fauna. This bio-diversity would ensure that tourism and investment would come to the state. We must face the multifarious tasks that confront us today with courage, determination and self confidence. There is tremendous potential in Nagaland; the youth have tremendous vibrant and creative energy. We have to improve the quality of the life of the weaker sections. I have faith that it can be done through the collective and concerned efforts by all sections of the society. Each and every citizen of Nagaland – irrespective of their place and position has contributed in the growth of our State, without which the change we see in the social and economy sectors would not have been possible.

Ours is an agricultural society. Our organic produce must have a proper market and our *kissans* should be a prosperous record.

Peace has been the most cherished goal for the State for all these years. We have to have peace in order to have growth and development. We have to ensure that we live in harmony with one another, have unity cutting across tribes and communities. We have endured many hardships, and today the overwhelming majority of Nagas feel that social cohesion, harmony amongst tribes and communities and economic well being is more important to us.

We are marching towards an era of peace and development. Violence has no place in society in democracy. Tourists and visitors must realize that Nagaland is peaceful and vibrant. This picturesque setting for the festival gives a heavenly feel to them. Unity in diversity is the peculiarity of our country.

We all know that this festival was witnessed by our Hon'ble Prime Minister last year. During his speech he has told us to introspect and look back at what has been achieved over the last 50 years and what ground remains to be covered. Today, Government of India under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modiji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has signed a historic framework agreement with the NSCN (IM) on 3rd August 2015 sixty years after first insurgent shots. This 'Frame work Accord' can serve as a new paradigm for security and federalism, reconciling respectfully the aspirations of the Nagas with the larger vision of a strong India. Modiji stated during his speech at the signing ceremony, - "peace, security and economic transformation in the north-east". The expectation is that the Naga peace accord will greatly serve India's security and economic interests in the strategically important eastern frontier. Modiji described the accord as "historic". On this auspicious occasion, I appeal to all the factions to join the peace process for a graceful and permanent solution of the Naga problem. Let us work together to make our Nagaland a great and prosperous state.

With this few words, I once again wish you all on the occasion of our 52nd Statehood Day and an enjoyable celebration of the Hornbill Festival. I hope you all take back pleasant memories from here so that you come back again and continue to bless our state with your leadership qualities. I congratulate all the officials and individuals, departments and NGOs who have worked hard and sacrificed their time and energy to make this event happen. And also my best wishes to the organizers, sponsors, volunteers and all participants whose hard work has realised the 2015 Hornbill festival. Your support and hard work will definitely build on the success of this great festival.

With these words, I declare the Hornbill Festival 2015, Festival of Festivals, open.

THANK YOU : KUKNALIM BHARAT MATA KI JAI