



**RAJ BHAVAN
KOHIMA**

Press Release

**INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND SHRI.
R.N. RAVI**

Dear Brothers, Sisters and beloved Children of Nagaland,

Today, on the 73rd Anniversary of our nation's Independence Day, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all of you.

On this auspicious day we respectfully remember and pay our sincere homage to all the martyrs, who made supreme sacrifice, for the sake of unity and integrity of this great country. I also pay sincere tribute to all those who with their enterprises and endeavours built this nation great.

On this occasion I express my deep appreciation to the Armed Forces and Central Para-Military Forces of the Union, Police of the States and Security Agencies whose constant vigil, rock solid commitment and sacrifices have ensured the integrity and interests of our nation.

During the last 73 years, India has emerged as the largest democracy in the world. It has relentlessly and unwaveringly pursued the path of a secular plural democracy. It has built internationally credible institutions of law, justice and a robust free media. Its identity is its immense diversity of faith, language, culture and cuisine. Indeed, it is a beautiful mosaic in which multiple faith and cultures thrive.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is rising to its long awaited destiny. It has become the 5th largest economy of the world, on way to becoming the 4th largest soon. We are aspiring to be a \$ 5 trillion economy by 2025.

In the field of Science and Technology, with successful Chandrayan and Mangalyan missions to the Moon and Mars, our Scientists and Engineers have proved their technological prowess that they are second to none. We have secured our space based assets which are crucial for our development and security needs against any

misadventure of a hostile entity by demonstrating our defensive space based capabilities. At the frontiers of science and technology our Scientists and Engineers are making us proud every day.

In the field of medicine, the world, specially the developing world looks to us with a sense of gratitude for our advanced life saving drugs and equipments. India has emerged a preferred destination for global medical tourism specially for advanced medical procedures.

In order to unleash the creative energies of our 1.3 billion people especially the youth, we have laid solid foundations for innovation and enterprise. We are developing a thriving ecosystem of start-ups. India has become a favoured destination for global investment.

Prime Minister Modi's Cleanliness drive has become a mass movement. The Universal Service Obligation programmes are touching and transforming the lives of the most deprived and remotely located people.

In the midst of all round fast pace growth, it pains me when we don't see our Nagaland keeping pace with the advanced States of the Union, though in the last 55 years of Statehood, Nagaland has undergone significant transformation for the good.

On some of the parameters of human resource development, there has been remarkable progress. But we are acutely cautious of the vast unmet potential of our land and people.

The differential of growth and development between Nagaland and the advanced States of India is stark.

Our connectivity infrastructure is embarrassingly poor even in comparison to some of our North Eastern neighbours.

The increasing opportunity cost of our slow pace development **is stealing away the future of Nagaland.**

Our mothers, sisters and daughters whose equal partnership in growth is essential, continue to suffer relatively greater deprivation in terms of access to health care, nutrition, education and employment opportunities. The deprivation is more acute and embarrassing in comparison to some of our neighbours. They deserve urgent better attention.

To unleash the creative genius and entrepreneurial potential of our youth, we must create a **congenial atmosphere, free from fear of gun and multiple taxations.** They must have easy access to credit and technology.

Today, Nagaland is at the cusp of history.

A new dawn of peace and prosperity is beaconing Nagaland.

Friends, we must not miss this historic opportunity. On this solemn occasion, I urge you all to commit ourselves to a pledge for building a Nagaland of our dreams which is the envy of the most advanced States of the Indian Union.

On this day, I pray to God for his abiding grace on my people. I pray to Him for wisdom and strength in our pilgrimage to building a peaceful, progressive and prosperous Nagaland.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.

Kuknalim.