

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND, SHRI
P.B.ACHARYA DURING THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF
HORNBILL FESTIVAL OF NAGALAND ON 1ST DECEMBER 2016 AT
KISAMA.**

- **Hon'ble Chief Minister & Chief Host of Hornbill Festival, Shri T. R. Zeliang and the cabinet colleagues,**
- **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, our Guest of Honour**
- **Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary, Tourism & Host of Hornbill Festival, Shri C Apok Jamir,**
- **Justice Ajit Singh, Hon'ble Chief Justice, Guwahati High Court,**
- **Mr Richard Verma, Hon'ble US Ambassador to India**
- **Hon'ble Guests and Delegates from abroad,**
- **Senior officers from civil, police, army and paramilitary forces,**
- **Media friends**
- **Distinguished Invitees & Guests**
- **Brothers, Sisters,**

Good morning to you all.

Namaskar.

I welcome all the citizens, tourists from different countries, well wishers from other parts of our country for this festival of festivals – Hornbill Festival. Today is our 53rd Statehood Day also.

On this historic day, I remember the pioneers of our State and salute them for their valuable contributions, as well as the role they had played through their courage and good spirits to make Nagaland a beautiful State.

I extend my warm greetings to the people of Nagaland on the occasion of the 53rd Anniversary of our Statehood Day. Today 1st December is a day of celebration for us. On this day, 52 years ago people of Nagaland achieved statehood.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal ji along with Hon'ble Minister, Shri Atul Bora, Hon'ble M.P, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa and a host of MLAs from Assam have come to witness the Hornbill Festival. I am sure this will foster better inter-state relationship and also it is a great opportunity for us to solve many outstanding issues pertaining to both states.

My special thanks to Hon'ble Chief Justice Ajit Singh, Guwahati High Court for sparing his valuable time to make it convenient to witness the Hornbill Festival, the festival of festivals.

Mr Richard Verma, Hon'ble US Ambassador to India is the first Indian origin American to become the Ambassador of US to India. He met me in Raj Bhavan, Assam on 1st September 2015 when I was holding the additional charge of Assam. We specially welcome him.

We have extended invitation to many Chancellors/Vice-Chancellors of Universities from different parts of the country to come and witness the Hornbill Festival. Universities play a pivotal role in the advancement of any society and provide necessary connect to emotional integration between the people of different regions.

Apart from our 5(five) Universities in the State, thousands of our young men and women who have a hunger for employment with best education have fanned out all over the country. Nagaland has nearly 20 lakhs population and we are proud that nearly 300 thousand i.e. 3 lakhs of our youths are highly empowered educated youths.

I congratulate Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri T.R.Zeliang and the State Government for organizing this festival every year and I am very happy to be here as the Chief Guest for the Hornbill Festival. I value your warm hospitality which is a tradition of the Nagas.

Nagaland is a land of festivals. All the tribes of Nagaland have their unique and indigenous festivals. Hornbill festival which is also known as "Festival of Festivals" has gone a long way in giving a boost to tourism in our State and this is miniature representation of the rich art and culture, spotless beauty of Nagaland and it showcases the cultural diversity of the state. This Festival is an ideal way to revive, conserve and sustain the richness of the Naga heritage and culture. This festival is the symbol of our Unity amongst our all tribes.

I thank the Jakhama villagers for the traditional reception given to all of us and also the Guru Sangyusang Pongener of Ungma Village for the traditional Blessing bestowed on us.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji also acknowledged the warmth and hospitality of Naga people while inaugurating the Hornbill festival in 2014. He was overwhelmed by the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland.

Hornbill festival reminds us our roots, traditions and culture. It is understood that we adapt to modern methods and technologies, yet we cannot forget our old traditions and what is good from that we take forward with us. This is happening during festival times. This festival showcases that Nagaland is second to none.

With my close association with the people of Nagaland, I have noticed several times that Naga tradition shows spirit of community treating everyone with respect and a spirit of forgiveness.

Peace is a must in order to have growth and development. I am sure the Framework Agreement signed between NSCN-IM and Government of India will end in respectful peace in our State. I take this opportunity to appeal to all groups to join for permanent peace. Peace and stability are of high importance in promoting economic development of individuals and society at large.

We have to ensure that we live in harmony with one another, having unity, cutting across tribes and communities. This will be beneficial for the society. It is the duty of every citizen to bring peace

and development in the land. The tourism scene of the region will definitely change drastically. If tourism prospers, the quality of infrastructure will improve and it will bring more visitors as tourists to the State.

We may be numerically small but in terms of our potential, we are second to none and there is an enormous amount of energy of young people, natural resources that we can and we should contribute for the welfare of the State. During my two and a half years in this highest constitutional office in the State- as the Head of State, I have received much warmth and affection from all sections of society which I feel is precious and priceless.

With each passing year, I notice greater participation and greater number of visitors and more activities in the programme. International participation is also increasing and it has gained a national status.

I congratulate the State Government for this excellent work done and especially the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who has been taking personal interest and is, in fact, the driving force behind this festival. I value the efforts of all those- Government officials, especially Tourism and Art & Culture Department and also Non- Government bodies involved with this programme.

I am sure you all the guests will enjoy their stay in Nagaland and our hospitality and you will carry with you the sweet memories from Nagaland.

Wishing all artists and artisans who are participants in our Hornbill Festival a grand success in their life. You are our precious asset. We are proud of you.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

THANK YOU,

KUKNALIM,

BHARAT MATA KI JAI.
