



**RAJ BHAVAN  
KOHIMA**

***Press Release***

Hon'ble Governor, Nagaland Shri R.N. Ravi, the Chief Host of the Hornbill Festival 2019, during his inaugural address welcomed the guests from far and near and also various participating troupes.

Today being the 57<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of Nagaland, he paid rich tribute to the Naga leaders who, under extremely challenging circumstances, secured for the people, the Nagaland State with special status. He paid tribute to their extraordinary courage, political vision and strategic foresight. He exhorted the people not to forget the leaders who get the Nagaland State and reminded them that history has not been kind to those who ignore or forget their heroes and martyrs.

Governor praised the rich cultural heritage of Naga tribes and underscored the need to correct certain uncharitable distortions to Nagas' history by some colonial administrators. He wondered how could the Naga tribes with their centuries old village republics that efficiently managed their social, economic, political and strategic needs for so long be called behind in civilization. He told that unfortunately some people erroneously equate civilization with modernity and urged the scholars, especially Naga scholars to do deep dive researches into the rich civilizational history of tribes of Nagaland. He told that a new dawn for Nagaland is breaking and urged the 2 million people of Nagaland to help build a new Nagaland free from fear of gun and corruption, a new Nagaland based on the Foundations of Transparency, Accountability and Rule of Law.

At this crucial juncture when the final settlement that would ensure enduring Peace is within the grasp, Governor urged the people to strengthen the spirit of Unity so palpable during the Hornbill Festival.

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