

**THE HEADLINES:**

- **Ireland’s Deputy Ambassador calls Hornbill Festival a declaration of Nagaland’s vibrant culture**
- **Advisor Hekani Jakhalu calls for supporting traditional weaving to preserve Naga culture**
- **North Eastern Council release nearly 5 crore rupees for Nagaland in November**
- **Lok Sabha debates election reforms; Rajya Sabha holds special discussion on 150 years of Vande Mataram**



**Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Ireland, Raymond Mullen today described Hornbill Festival as more than a celebration, calling it a declaration of identity, creativity, culture, and confidence. Speaking on the 2nd day of the International Hornbill Festival Mon Edition 2025 at Konyak Heritage Complex in Mon, he said the event showcases the immense potential of Nagaland.**

**Appreciating the rich culture and traditions of the Konyaks, Mr Mullen said the festival inspires creativity and cultural preservation. Highlighting the shared instincts between Ireland and Nagaland, he expressed hope for further collaborations in education, sports, business and people-to-people exchanges. Highlights of the day included vibrant cultural performances from various local troupes as well as from Assam, alongside indigenous games. The Mon Edition is also displaying a stretch of stalls selling ethnic wears, traditional handicrafts and culinary items. Meanwhile, the ninth-day of the Hornbill Festival at Naga Heritage Village in Kisama continued to draw visitors in large numbers. The celebrations for the day began with the Cultural Show at Unity Plaza, hosted by Minister P. Bashangmongba Chang, alongside co-host Advisor Zhaleo Rio. Distinguished guests, included Air Chief Marshal, Amar Preet Singh, and Territory Manager (Retail), Shillong, Bharat Petroleum Subhash Chandra Mynam. The day’s line-up showcased diverse performances from several Cultural Troupe from across Nagaland.**



The two-day 11th edition of the Naga Loinloom Festival, concluded today at Weavers Place, Diezephe village, in Chumoukedima. Speaking at the event Advisor, Industries & Commerce, Hekani Jakhalu emphasised the need to protect and promote Naga identity, culture and traditions, through continued support to indigenous weaving practices. She highlighted efforts of a high-level task force set up by the DoNER Ministry to create a more structured support system for traditional crafts in Nagaland. Stressing the growing demand for natural fibres and dyeing techniques, Ms Jakhalu urged weavers to promote unique products such as organic cotton and eri silk. The Advisor assured the Department's continued support for uplifting weavers and safeguarding the state's textile heritage. The two-day festival featured craft workshop, live weaving demonstrations, a weaving and warping competition, and an exhibition-cum-sale, among others.



The North Eastern Council (NEC) has released 4.78 crore rupees for Nagaland in November supporting various development projects. These include heritage and cultural centres, youth and sports infrastructure, and initiatives to preserve indigenous traditions, while promoting tourism and local enterprise. In total, NEC allocated 56.2 crore rupees to the eight North Eastern states last month.



Nagaland has officially renamed the Governor's residence from 'Raj Bhavan, Nagaland' to 'Lok Bhavan, Nagaland'. In a notification issued on 3 December, Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor of Nagaland, Thavaseelan K, stated that the move follows a directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the approval of the Governor. The new name is effective immediately.



The Lok Sabha has taken up discussion on election reforms. Initiating the discussion, Manish Tewari of Congress said, the Election Commission should table the reasons for the carrying out Special Intensive Revision (SIR). He said, SIR is ongoing in many states in the country, but the Election Commission has no legal justification to hold SIR. Mr Tewari claimed that the Constitution does not provide for SIR of Electoral Rolls. He also suggested that either VVPAT should be counted in full or the country should revert to paper ballots.

Also participating in the discussion, Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Anil Desai suggested moving back to ballot papers for voting.



**Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the national song Vande Mataram became a symbol of patriotism, sacrifice and national consciousness, which paved the way for the freedom movement. Initiating the discussion on the 150th Anniversary of Vande Mataram in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Shah said, this immortal work is a creation that awakens a sense of duty and devotion towards Mother India. He said, Vande Mataram was needed during the freedom struggle, even now as well as when the country becomes Viksit Bharat in 2047. The Minister said, the discussion on Vande Mataram in Parliament will help future generations understand its true importance and glory.**



**President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the National Handicrafts Awards for 2023 and 2024 in New Delhi today. These prestigious national accolades celebrate exceptional artistic mastery and underscore the Government's commitment to preserving and promoting India's rich and diverse handicraft heritage. Addressing the gathering, the President said that art connects people to various cultures and to one another. She noted that handicraft is not just a cultural identity but also an important component of people's livelihoods.**

**President Murmu highlighted that 68 percent women are in the workforce of Handicraft sector and development of this sector will also ensure women empowerment. A total of 12 artisans received the Shilp Guru Awards for 2023 and 2024, while 36 crafts people got the National Awards for both years.**



**Managing Director of TRIFED, M Rajamurugan, called on Director General of Police, Nagaland, Rupin Sharma, at the Police Headquarters in Kohima yesterday. During the meeting, the officials discussed potential collaboration for the procurement of tribal products crafted by women members of the Nagaland Police Family Welfare Association. The aim is to integrate these handcrafted goods into the TRIFED retail marketing network.**

