

Evening News Script
1920 hrs

7th December 2025

:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang says it is time for Nagas to walk towards unity.
- Hornbill Bamboo Carnival begins at Nagaland Bamboo Resource Centre Sovima.
- Advisor Zaleo Rio inaugurates 13th Dimapur Night Carnival, urges participants to showcase character and warmth of people beyond culture and products.
- and, Nagaland and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla extend greetings on Armed Forces Flag Day.

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Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang urged the Naga people to move toward unity, warning that increasing divisions and fragmentation have become major obstacles to the State's progress. Speaking at the Advent Christmas Devotional Service at Unity Plaza in Kisama today, he said numerous groups and organisations — both overground and underground—have hindered development and pushed Nagaland toward a potentially irreparable situation marked by instability and lawlessness.

Reflecting on the Christmas message, Mr Zeliang said the nativity story illustrates how people from diverse backgrounds can be united by a shared hope. He praised the Nagaland Joint Christian Forum for bringing various Christian denominations together and encouraged extending this spirit of unity beyond the Church into all aspects of society.

Emphasising that unity does not mean uniformity, the Deputy Chief Minister said diversity among tribes and cultures should strengthen, not divide, the State. Mr Zeliang urged Nagas to forgive one another, look past differences and work collectively for harmony and progress.

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As part of the three-day extension of the Hornbill Festival, the Hornbill Bamboo Carnival was inaugurated today at the Bamboo Amphitheater, Nagaland Bamboo Resource Centre (NBRC), 6th Mile, Sovima. The event is organised by the Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency (NBDA). Speaking as the Special Guest, NBDA Chairman Nuzota Swuro highlighted the agency’s two-decade journey, acknowledging the pioneers and leaders who contributed to making the vision of bamboo-based development in Nagaland a reality. He outlined several key achievements of the agency wherein NBDA has implemented extensive commercial bamboo plantations under the National Bamboo Mission and National Mission on Bamboo Applications. To date, 45,621 hectares have been covered under bamboo plantations and 1,506 hectares under block plantations.

The programme highlights included the launch of the Coffee Table Book “Celebrating 20 Years of Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency: Fostering a Sustainable Future”, inauguration of exhibition stalls by the Special Guest, and a traditional dance performance by the Yimkhiung Soritsün Women Cultural Society, Chümoukedima.

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Advisor for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, Nagaland, Zaleo Rio, inaugurated the 13th edition of the Dimapur Night Carnival—an extension of the Hornbill Festival—at City Tower junction yesterday. Addressing the gathering, Mr Rio urged participants to showcase not only Naga culture and products but also the character and warmth of the people. He stressed the importance of ensuring that visitors have a memorable experience at the stalls and “leave with positive memories of the Naga people.”

The festival, he said, has grown stronger each year, evolving into a vibrant celebration of unity and resilience among Nagaland’s diverse communities. The Dimapur Night Carnival jointly organised by Dimapur Municipal Council, Dimapur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, and the District Administration will go on till December 10.

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Nagaland and Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla extended greetings on Armed Forces Flag Day. The day is observed on this day every year honouring the martyrs and uniformed personnel who have sacrificed for

the nation. In his message, Governor Bhalla said it is our solemn duty to admire the courage of those who laid down their lives or were injured in service, and to support their families who share in that sacrifice. He appealed to citizens to contribute generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, which supports serving personnel, battle casualties, war widows, and the welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen and their dependents. The Governor expressed hope that the day would inspire renewed patriotism and gratitude toward the Armed Forces.

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The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued show-cause notices to IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and Accountable Manager Isidro Porqueras seeking explanations within 24 hours on the massive flight disruptions that caused severe inconvenience and distress to passengers. The regulator attributed the chaos to the airline's failure to make adequate arrangements for the revised requirements under the approved Flight Duty Time Limit norms. The notice said, large-scale operational failures indicated significant lapses in planning, oversight and resource management. Earlier the government directed IndiGo to clear all pending passenger refunds for cancelled or disrupted flights without delay. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has mandated that refunds for all such flights be completed by 8 PM today.

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In Goa, 25 people have been killed in a blaze at a nightclub in North Goa's Arpora following a cylinder blast late last night. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant rushed to the spot and said most of the dead were the club's kitchen workers, and three to four tourists among those killed. Meanwhile, the Goa government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the fire incident.

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A special discussion on the 150th anniversary of the national song Vande Mataram will begin in Lok Sabha tomorrow. According to the official sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will initiate the debate in the Lok Sabha. Briefing the media earlier last week, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the full day discussion will start at 12 noon. He added, it was decided in the all party meeting chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla that the discussion on Vande Mataram will be conducted on Monday and the debate on Electoral Reforms on Tuesday.