

THE HEADLINES:

- 1. Nagaland celebrates 63rd Statehood day emphasizing progress and vision ahead**
- 2. 26th edition of Hornbill Festival commences with vibrant festivities**
- 3. Winter session of Parliament begins; Prime Minister Modi says it is not just a ritual, but it fuels efforts to take India towards development**
- 4. Nagaland joins global observance of World AIDS Day**



Nagaland is celebrating its 63rd Statehood Day today, marking its formation as the 16th state of India in 1963. Addressing the state-level celebration at Kohima, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio paid tribute to the pioneers and leaders who safeguarded Naga identity and worked towards a brighter future.

The Chief Minister also reiterated his appeal for an early resolution of the Naga Political Issue.

The Chief Minister highlighted new sanctioned projects, including 31 multidisciplinary indoor stadiums and 28 futsal grounds across districts, and earmarking three lakh rupees per Assembly Constituency as 'District Sports Fund' from 2025-26 onwards. He also announced the launch of 'Providing Access to Core Employability Skills' programme by the Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department to enhance job readiness among rural youth. The Chief Minister virtually inaugurated 120 Children and Adolescents Libraries, Digital Infrastructure facilities, and the Nagaland Scholarship Nodal Cell. Other releases include documented books on Traditional Attires and Ornaments of 10 Indigenous Tribes, the DREAM Nagaland publication, and books under PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launch of StateSync App, Discover Kisama App, and Nagaland Entrepreneurship Impact Forward 2035. Forty accredited journalists received tablet computers, and sanitation vehicles were flagged off for Urban Local Bodies. Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated an exhibition titled Journey of Nagaland Down the Decades, showcasing the state's evolution since its formation.



President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have wished the people of Nagaland on their statehood day. In a social media post, The President said that the state's tribal diversity and unique heritage remain a source of pride. Prime Minister Modi highlighted the glorious Naga culture, describing it as one rooted in service, courage and compassion and widely admired across the country.



The 26th edition of the Hornbill Festival commenced with vibrant festivities at the Naga Heritage Village in Kisama today. The 10-day festival officially opened with the sounding of the traditional Gong by Chief Host Nagaland Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Host Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The event drew prominent dignitaries, including Ambassador of France Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of Ireland Kevin Kelly, Ambassador of Switzerland Maya Tissafi, Austrian Trade Commissioner Hans-Jörg Hörtnagl, British Deputy High Commissioner Andrew Flemming, and Business Head, Mia by Tanishq, Shyamala Ramanan as Honoured Guests. The opening ceremony featured a dynamic mix of musical performances and cultural showcases, setting an energetic tone for the festival ahead.



Governor of Nagaland Ajay Kumar Bhalla today highlighted Hornbill Festival as a powerful symbol of the state's rich cultural heritage and collective resilience. Addressing the inaugural event, he said the Festival reflects the depth of traditions and responsibility to safeguard them for future generations. Highlighting Nagaland's ecological sensitivity, he urged stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism, adopt environmentally responsible practices, and ensure that festival benefits reach grassroots communities. The Governor said, Hornbill Festival can serve as a model of balanced and sustainable development, and urged people to celebrate with it responsibility, and pride.



Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said the Hornbill Festival reflects the Nagas ways of life, and celebrates the state's rich traditions and vibrant culture.

Mr Rio highlighted the festival's growth over the years to a unique global platform fostering collaborations and partnerships amid a festive cultural atmosphere. Welcoming visitors, he highlighted that the celebrations extends beyond Kisama, with programmes held across six districts. The Chief Minister

urged every visitor to act as an ambassador of Nagaland and share its culture back to their own communities.



The winter session of Parliament began today. The Session will provide a total of 15 sittings spread over a period of 19 days. The Lok Sabha was adjourned early following the opposition uproar on various issues including Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in various States and Union Territories. Amidst ruckus during the day, The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 was passed voice vote. In the Rajya Sabha, Members welcomed Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan who presided the house for the first time today.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Winter Session is not just a ritual, but it fuels efforts to take India towards development. Addressing the media ahead of the session, Mr Modi said, India's economic rise today is reaching remarkable heights. He said, this momentum gives renewed confidence to the push for a developed nation. The Prime Minister added that India has proven that democracy can deliver.

Mr Modi urged all parties that negativity may have some utility in politics, but ultimately nation building requires a positive mindset.



Nagaland joined the global community today in observing the World AIDS Day under the theme 'Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response'. At a programme held in District Hospital Dimapur, Mission Director, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Keveduyi Theyo, highlighted that Nagaland continues to record the second-highest adult HIV prevalence rate in India at 1.37 percent. He stressed the urgency to create a resilient and inclusive approach that protects vulnerable groups and strengthens public health systems to achieve the goal of ending AIDS by 2030.

He urged stakeholders to combat stigma and emphasized upon compassion, and protecting the rights and dignity of people living with HIV. In Kohima, the Nagaland State AIDS Control Society inaugurated the NSACS stall at Kisama as part of the commemoration of World AIDS Day. Addressing the event, Nagaland Commissioner and Secretary for Health and Family Welfare, and Chairman of NSACS, Anoop Khinchi, called for compassion over stigma, emphasising the need to uphold dignity for all.

During the programme, several ICTCs and PPTCT units were felicitated, and participants took a pledge to mark World AIDS Day.

