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:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads Independence Day celebrations; announces AI skilling, free online coaching.
- Nagaland celebrates 80th Independence Day with renewed call for peace.
- Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launches and inaugurates various projects across Nagaland.
- Chief Minister Rio says Nagaland has been worthy partner in country's collective quest to attain greatness.

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The Nation celebrated its 80th Independence Day today. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the Independence Day celebrations from the iconic Red Fort in Delhi. For the first time the national song Vande Mataram was rendered at the Red Fort. Addressing the nation, Prime Minister Modi described the chanting of 'Vande Mataram' as a historic moment.

Prime Minister Modi said that India has successfully overcome several unprecedented crises while progressing towards the goal of a developed nation by 2047. He said the government's approach, guided by the principle of Nagrik Devo Bhava, ensured that arrangements made during the past decade proved effective in times of crisis. Prime Minister Modi said since 2014, India has entered into Free Trade Agreements with nearly 40 countries, creating enormous opportunities for Indian businesses and exporters. The Prime Minister called upon the country's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSMEs, to make full use of these opportunities and ensure that Indian products reach markets across the world. Prime Minister Modi said government has decided that one crore youth will be given training in AI skilling in the next one year. Prime Minister said, a talent hunt

will be launched across villages, cities and schools to identify talent among children aged five to 15 years. He said, the children's talent will be identified, and they will be given special training to help them become good players for the country. Prime Minister Modi also announced to provide free online coaching for poor and middle class family for various public examination.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has urged all parties to support the implementation of women's reservation in Parliament and state assemblies without making it a political fight.

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Nagaland today joined the nation in celebrating the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervor and a renewed call for peace, unity and development. The state-level celebration was held at the Nagaland Secretariat Plaza, Kohima. For the first time, Vande Mataram was rendered during the state-level Independence Day celebration. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio hoisted the National Flag and took the Rashtriya Salute from 14 parade contingents. On the occasion, Chief Minister Rio also launched the Nagaland Integrated Information System and virtually inaugurated the NISS Hub of DIPR, Kohima. He also launched the Education Management Information System under the School Education Department among other projects. In addition, the Chief Minister virtually inaugurated the 10 MW Solar Power Plant at Hovukhu, Niuland, under the New and Renewable Energy Department and virtually commissioned the Naga Model Integrated Settled Farming at Boke Botsa in Kohima District under the Water Resources Department. Mr. Rio also released two books documenting the Traditional Attires and Ornaments of the Indigenous Tribes of Nagaland, published by NHHDC.

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Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today called for collective efforts to build a more developed, self-reliant and prosperous Nagaland. In his address at the state-level celebration of Independence day at the Secretariat Plaza, Kohima, he said Nagaland, the 16th State of the Union, along with the other States in the country has been a worthy partner in its collective quest to attain greatness for the nation on many fronts. On the Naga political issue, Mr Rio

said the State Government reiterated its demand during its meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in February this year.

On Eastern Nagaland, the Chief Minister said the State Government has wholeheartedly supported the aspirations of the people for the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority. He assured continued State support for the early constitution and operationalisation of the FNTA. Mr. Rio also expressed concern over the recent devastating monsoon, landslides and flash floods, particularly in Mon district.

He said an Inter-Ministerial Central Team from the Ministry of Home Affairs had assessed the damages to facilitate recovery and rehabilitation assistance. On law and order, the Chief Minister said the situation in the State remained largely peaceful. He condemned the IED blast targeting Assam Rifles personnel in Chümoukedima district, in which one personnel was killed and four injured. He said the investigation has been taken over by the NIA and those responsible must be brought to justice. Mr. Rio said State Police registered more than 407 NDPS cases and arrested 677 accused persons between January 2024 and May 2026 as part of the ongoing War on Drugs. The Police has also acquired 550 new vehicles under Police Modernization assistance from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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The 80th Independence Day was also celebrated across the districts of Nagaland today. Delivering his address in Tseminyu, Health & Family Welfare Minister P. Paiwang Konyak announced that his Department has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, seeking approval for the establishment of a new Greenfield AIIMS at Nagaki City, Chümoukedima. Speaking at the celebration in Peren, Deputy Chief Minister, T, R Zeliang highlights the major achievements and priorities of the Government across governance, infrastructure, peace, education, health, youth and economic development. In Zunheboto, Minister for Public Health Engineering and Cooperation, Jacob Zhimomi hoisted the National Flag and inspect the parade. Advisor for Agriculture, Mhathung Yanthan attended the celebration in Wokha, while Minister for Housing and Mechanical Engineering Bashangmongba Chang attended the program in Shamator. In Noklak,

Advisor for Social Welfare, Wangpang Konyak flagged off an Agri-Link Transportation Truck, an initiative of the District-level Implementation and Monitoring Committee aimed at providing logistical support to local farmers, promoting entrepreneurship and generating employment under the Chief Minister’s Micro Finance Initiative. Addressing the occasion in Chümoukedima, Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, CL John said that in order to achieve power security and long- term self-sufficiency, the power department has proposed development of three new Hydro power projects in the state. Highlights of the day celebration included presentation of district awards, exhibition stalls, cultural and music performances, besides exhibition matches.

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