HISTORY OF NAGALAND

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General

Introduction

Major part of what is now Nagaland, excluding its eastern side consisting of Tuensang and Mon district, was formerly a district of Assam under the name Naga Hills. The district of Naga Hills was opened in 1866 with its headquarter at Samaguting in the west, in the foot hills, some 15 km inside from Dimapur. Later the district headquarter was shifted to Wokha, in the heart of the hills, in 1876. Two years later it was shifted to Kohima in 1878. Gradually more and more areas came under the administration. The present Tuensang and Mon districts came under administration in 1948.

In 1957 the then Tuensang Frontier Division of North East Frontier Agency (now Arunachal Pradesh) was separated from it and joined with Naga Hills to form Naga Hills Tuensang Area or NHTA in short. In 1961 the NHTA became a de-facto State under the name Nagaland with de-facto legislature and Ministry. In 1963 it was made a de-jure State

Location and Area

Nagaland is the eastern-most of the present (August 1978) twentytwo States of Indian Union. Of course the eastern most part of Assam, which lies on the north of Nagaland, extends some 45°east of Nagaland but its major portion lies on the west, and therefore Assam may not be called the easternmost State. Arunachal Pradesh no doubt is the easternmost part of Indian Union with its own legislature but it is a Union Territory. Therefore for all practical

purposes Nagaland may be called the easternmost State of Indian Union.

According to Census of 1981, Nagaland is situated approximately between 25° – 11′ – 55′′ and 27° – 2′ – 10′′ North latitude, and between 93° – 0′ – 20′′ and 95° – 17′ – 10′′ East longitude.

The State is triangular in shape having its vertex in the north and base in the south, and lies from north-east to south-west. It is bounded by Assam all along its west from north to south, Manipur in the south, Burma on the east and Arunachal Pradesh on the northern side of the eastern border. The total area of the State, according to 1971 census, is 16, 527 square kilometre. It is third smallest in size among all the States of Indian Union, first and second being Sikkim, (created in 1976) and Tripura (created in 1972) respectively. In respect of area the State is 27th part of Madhya Pradesh, the biggest State of India, and in respect of population it is 171st part of Uttar Pradesh which is the most populous State.

The State was created on 1st December as the 16th State of Indian Union and is inhabited by 5,16.449 people according to 1971 census. Of this total population of 5,16,449 the scheduled tribals are 4,57,602 which includes some Kukis, Kacharis and others who are not Nagas. So from population point of view the State may be called a tribal State and it is first of its kind in India, next being Meghalaya which came into being in 1972.

TOPOGRAPHY

Nagaland is a hilly State. The hills are a continuation of the Burma Arc being joined with the Sub-Himalayan ranges in the north and stretching into the hills of Manipur. The ranges stretch, in general from north-east to south-west. Between the ranges there are steep valleys, stretching from north-east to south-west.

The hills are low on the west where they meet the plains of Assam. From there they gradually rise to a height of about 1500 metre towards the east and spread to the farther end of

the State maintaining that height. Occasionally of course there are higher ranges and the two highest ranges are Japfu the highest point of which is 3014 metre above sea level and Saramati the highest point of which is 3840 metre. Japfu is situated in the southern part of the State whereas Saramati is on the extreme east, in fact it forms the boundary between Burma and the State of Nagaland.

The hills of Nagaland rise from the plains of Assam on the west and therefore naturally there are a few plain places within the boundary of this State. The most important of them is the plain of Dimapur. This plain starts from Chumukedima which is in the foot-hills of this State, and merges into the plains of Sibsagar district of Assam. The plains of Dimapur is about one hundred fifty square kilometre[1] in area and is situated in the south-west of the State. The town of Dimapur is situated here. Dimapur town, in Kohima district, is the most important business centre of the State. Another plain is found around Naginimora, in the mid-west of the State. The plain starts from the foot hills at Kongon village or more correctly speaking from Borjan Colliery and extends upto Dikhu river which is an important river of this State and has joined Brahmaputra. The area of this plain is about fifty square kilometre and it is an important business centre for the Konyak[2] area of the State. It is situated in Mon district. The third plain lies around Tijit in the north-western side of the State. It is about seventy five square kilometre in area. It is also in Mon district.

Being formed of young hills, Nagaland is devoid of any plateau or valley, like adjacent hilly areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Burma. Hills are sharp and steep and so no plateau or tableland. However, near the plains on the western side there are a few valleys. Along the western side of the State, in the south, lies the valley of Ghaspani in

1. The total area of the State is 16,527 square kilometre according to 1971 census.

2. Konyak is one of the biggest tribes of the Naga.

Kohima district. This is a very fine valley but is covered by forests. In the mid-west of the State lies the valley of Baghty. It is a very fertile valley and lies in Wokha district. In this very district lies another valley, the valley of Bhandari. Merapani is another valley which is situated in this district, and it joins with the Sibsagar plains of Assam, on the mid-west of this State. This is also a fertile valley. All these valleys are very good for cultivation. On the north of it lies the valley of Lakhuni in Mokokchung district. These two valleys, Bhandari and Lakhuni, are contiguous to each other and have joined the plains of Assam. The northern most of the valleys is Tiru, commonly known as Tirupathar. It is covered by thick forests and lies in Mon district, the northernmost of the district of Nagaland.

Rest of the State is hilly with occasional small valleys here and there.

Rivers

The place being hilly and the expanse of the hills not being very large there are a few rivers which are quite small both in width and length till they leave the State.

However there are three drainage systems in this State and they are Tizu, Doyang and Dhansiri.

Originating in the mid-eastern side of the State, Tizu joins Chindwin of Burma. On its way Tizu is fed by Zunki which in turn is fed by Tsohyemung and Langnyu. Tizu is also called Ti-ho or Nantabik.

Doyang is the biggest river of this State. It originates in southern part of the State, flows northward, turn towards west and joins Brahmaputra in Assam. It has been fed by a number of small streams all along its way and thus has drained a greater part of the State.

Next is Dhansiri. It rises in the southern part of the State, flows north-west, and passing through the plains of Dimapur ultimately joins the Brahmaputra in Assam.

No river of this State is navigable in any season. In dry season they become almost dry and in rainy season they become torrential. Moreover due to the rocky nature of the terrain and deep valleys navigation is not possible. In the

plains of Dimapur a few small boats, which can be counted on fingers, are seen. Those are not for any navigation but for catching fish locally.

Fish is available in all these rivers. They vary in kind but mostly carp, the size varying from 10 to 75 centimetre. Average size of the catch is 40 to 50 centimetre and it weighs about two kilograms. The fish is very tasteful and it is relished by the people. The people of the south-eastern region bordering Manipur State sometimes dry the fish and preserve it. Otherwise it is taken fresh. Formerly fish was available in plenty but nowadays due to indiscriminate catching the stock has dwindled and in many places the village authorities have stopped fishing.

Lakes and Waterfalls

Lakes and waterfalls are conspicuous by their absence in Nagaland. There are places where water accumulates during rainy season and dries up in lean season. Unlike Meghalaya, which is also a hilly State of eastern India and where there are many waterfalls, in Nagaland there is no waterfall at all. Of course many small waterfalls appear during rainy season but they dry up within a short time.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

The region in which Nagaland is situated has an interesting history of its geological evolution. The rocks of this region, geologically speaking, are comparatively young ——about 140 million years old. The geo-scientists of various departments such as the Geological Survey of India, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Directorate of Geology and Mining of the Government of Nagaland suggest that this region that is the north-eastern part of the country, was under ocean which existed between India and Burma, and the land which now joins India and Burma did not exist that time but came up much later.

In that ocean took place marine deposition after deposition which is now represented by Disang shale, sand stone, phyllite, slate and lime stone. These rocks contain fossil remains of various marine organisms which were

thriving in the sea. Not only the marine deposits, but also submarine volcanic activities were taking place in the basin of this ocean. This is proved by the existence of agglomeratic and tuffaceous rocks in the eastern parts of this State.

The area remained full of water and the open sea condition continued till the Eocene period that is 65 million years hence when a huge crustal movement initiated the first phase of mountain building activity. The compressive forces gradually squeezed the area and finally uplifted the thick pile of already formed sedimentary and volcanic rock-layers from the bottom of the ocean, and thus gave rise to the first mountains. When thus the land condition was formed, the water receded to the south into the present day Bay of Bengal, south of the present region under discussion.

So the water receded and the land came up, but not fully, because still in some places, between the mountains, water continued to remain. In these basins Barail and still younger groups of sedimentary rocks were deposited during the later part of the geological history. Numerous fossils of ancient plants and invertibrate animals are present in these rocks and those have been found in the eastern regions of this State, in places like Pfutsero, Meluri and Kiphire etc.

After deposition of Barail, Surma and Tipma group of rocks, a second major earth movement took place in this region which gave rise to more north-east to south-east treading hills, ridges and valleys. Not only that, but that earth-movement gave more altitude to the already formed topographic level.

The third major earth movement occurred during the pliestocene period, that is, only eight million years ago and it gave rise to the topographic configuration as we see now.

It may be noted that all these three major orogenic movements, as stated above, are time equivalents of the three successive earth movements in the great Himalayan mountains.

It has to be mentioned here that the evidences of recent earth movement, Neotectonic, have also been recorded from various parts of this State. In fact this entire region compris-

ing of Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, and then Andaman-Nicobar islands, Indonesian islands in the south, Himalayas on the north, Baluchistan in the west, all lie within a major geologically unstable and earthquake belt of the world. The so far known deepest focus earthquake of the world is located in a part of Indo-Burma mountain ranges in which lies the State of Nagaland.

In the east of India the Himalayas have a branch towards the Bay of Bengal. This branch has risen in the north in Tibet and has gone upto the western coast of the Gulf of Martaban in Burma. This range of low mountains occasionally broken by low hills lies like an arc of a circle, centre of which lies in about the Triple Pic mountain in Yunnan in China. This range, as it lies like a curve or an arc enclosing Burma is known as Burma Arc. It is also called Indo-Burma Fault. This Burma-Arc or Indo-Burma Fault is about 1200 km from the Himalayas to its southern end. It is high in the north and low in the south till it merges into the coastal plains in Burma. This Fault forms the boundary between the plains of Ganga and Brahmaputra on the Indian side and that of Chindwin-Irrawaddy in Burma. And the Arc contains, from north to south, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram in India and Arakan Yoma in Burma.

Nagaland is situated at the mid-north of this Arc. The State of Nagaland consists of Naga Hills which is limited by Patkai Bam in the north-east, Barail Range in the south-west, Saramati Range on the east and the plains of Assam on the west.

The Himalayas are a young and soft mountain, and the Arc being a branch of it is also young and soft. It has been seen that this Arc, like the Himalayas, was once under the Sea. It is believed that this area came above the water about 54 (?) million years before.

The State of Nagaland is situated in the mid-north part of the Burma-Arc. The landform of the State is marked by a series of sub-parallel hill ranges running in a north-east to south-west direction rising one after another towards east

with intervening valleys, which are never very wide. They are comprised of Tertiary Sequence the rocks of which belong to a fairly young mobile belt of the earth.

The rock sequence is represented by the Disang Group of lower and middle Eocene age, the Barail Group of upper Eocene and Oligocene age, the Surma and the Tipam group of Miocene age and the Namsang beds of Miopliocene age. The successive lithologic units as found in different sections are as follows:—

Age	Geosynclinal sediments of Nagaland	Thickness in metres
Recent & Pleistocene. Alluvium and high level terraces —		
	Unconformity	
Pliocane	Dihing Group	400
	Unconformity	
Mio-Pleiocene	Namsang beds	800
	Unconformity	1800
Miocene	Tipam Group | Girujan clay | Tipam Sandstone	2300
	Surma Group	900
	Unconformity	
Oligocene	Barail Group | Tikak Parbat | Baragolai	600 3300
	Naogaon	2200
Eocene	Disang Group	3000

The general geological sequence of the area is as follows:

Older Alluvium Deposit.	—	Clay, coarse sand, gravel and boulder.
Tipam group	—	Tipam Sandstone formation— Girujan clay formation
Surma group	—	Surma Sandstone formation
Barail group	—	Barail Sandstone formation
Disang group	—	Disang shale formation.

The Disang Group which is the oldest group of rocks consists of sequence of hard splintery shales of dark grey colour with thin sandstone beds and are exposed in the western part of the State. The rocks of this group are much crumpled. Quartz veining and pyrite dissominations are common. The Naogaon formation at the base of Barail group comprises of mostly well bedded sandstones with shale intercalations. The Baragolai formation includes sandstones and shales with several thin coal seams. The overlying Tikak Parbat formation shows the same lithology but is marked by thick coal seams. The coal bearing Barails occur as sub-parallel thrust slices within the Tipams. The Surma group presents alternation of shales and sandstones occasionally with conglomerates. The Tipam sandstones are characterised by hard ferrugineous sandstones with minor shales. They invariably occupy the high ridges in the State. The Girujan clay formation overlying the Tipams is made up of typical blue and mottled clays and argillaceous standstone beds. The broad Desai river valley, west of Changki, is occupied by Girujan clays comprised of blue and mottled clays, sandstones, conglomerates, grits etc. The Dihing over the Namsang beds is represented by clays, sands and pebble beds. The Alluvium comprises of clays, coarse sand, and gravels.

The age of the oldest formation i.e. Disang,occurring in this State is approximately of 54 million years (?) The major structural units of the area comprise of a number of sub-parallel thrusts arranged in an imbricate manner dipping in a south eastly direction. The parallel traverse faults have affected the entire sequence resulting in a north-westerly shift of the Barail coal measures and the overlying Tipams. Sub-parallel minor reversed faults are also observed parallel to the crest of the hills affecting the Tipam Sandstones.

Mineral Occurrences

No particular minerals have yet been discovered in this State. But however it is believed that petroleum and coal may be available in this State. In this connection it may be mentioned that coal deposits have been located in various

places of Mokokchung district of this State. Oil and gas have also been found along the foot-hills region of Wokha district. Besides coal, prospects of glass and clay are fairly good. Sandstone suitable for road metals also occur in abundance in this State.

Western part of Nagaland has been surveyed in details by Assam Oil Company and they had undertaken drilling in this area on Barsila, Bondersulia, Tiru Hills and Nichugard structures without any success, although in some of the wells, it is reported that they had obtained hydrocarbon indication. Subsequently, geological surveys have been carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) in parts of this State. It is revealed that a large thickness of sedimentary rock sequence of Tertiary age are exposed in this area. The boundary between the Naga Hills and Upper Assam plain is marked by a thrust fault—Naga Thrust. The rocks underlying the Naga Thrust are in general undisturbed. On the basis of these surveys alongwith the laboratory analysis of rock samples, it was assessed that this part of Nagaland holds good hydrocarbon prospects, particularly within the lower Tertiary sequence. Accordingly in 1973, ONGC had drilled a well in Chamang area of Wokha District which proved the existence of commercially exploitable hydrocarbon. With this intial success both extensive and intensive exploration plan has been drawn up which it is hoped will locate further hydrocarbon pool within this State.[3]

Mineral exploration work in western part of this State is limited to the systematic exploration for coal in the Jhanji-Desai Valley Coalfield. The existence of coal in commercial quantity in this coalfield was established only recently. The most promising coal seam of this coalfield is the "Top seam" which ranges in thickness from 1.5 to 2.2 metres and is seen to extend over a strike length of 8 km. For the proper assessment of reserves and quality the State department of Geology and Mining took up exploratory drilling in this coalfield from June, 1971. A total of ten boreholes involving

3. Compiled from the report of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Nazira.

850 metres of drilling have been drilled in the 'Changki Sector' of this coalfield so far. Exploratory drilling is still in progress in this coalbelt.

Besides coal, preliminary appraisal of clay and glass occurrences is also being carried out in different parts of this State.

Earthquake

One of the volcanic belts of the world passes through this State and so it lies in a highly seismically active zone, and therefore often earthquake of different magnitudes takes place.

On 10th January, 1869, an earthquake of 7.5 magnitude took place here. On 12th June 1897 an earthquake of 8.5 magnitude took place. In recent decades the earthquake took place on 29th July, 1947 (magnitude 7.75), on 15th August, 1950 (magnitude 8.6), and another on 8th July, 1975 (magnitude 6.7). In all these cases the epicentres were far away in Tibet, and they did not cause much damage to property.

Nagaland lies in a highly seismically active zone. History of past 100 years reveals that the area has been severely affected by the great Cachar earthquake of 10th January, 1869, the great Assam earthquake of 12th June, 1897 and often major earthquakes take place from time to time. During the Cachar earthquake of 1869 considerable damage was caused to property at Silchar. Earth fissures and sand craters were also very abundant. During the Assam earthquake of 1897 earth fissures and landslides occured in the then Naga Hills.

The earthquakes in the region are attributed to the various geological and tectonic features in and around this area such as great Himalayan Boundary Faulted Zone, Indo-Burma Fault, Shillong-Garo plateau and various small features in the region.

Taking into account the history of past earthquakes and the above tectonic picture in the area, Nagaland has been placed in zone V in the seismic zoning map of India prepared under the auspices of the I.S.I. In this zone the maximum seismic intensity may exceed IX MM in future.

This is a high intensity and would call for provisions which would be prohibitualy expensive. Since such high intensities are caused by very strong earthquakes only which occur after long intervals of time and also may not occur always close to the proposed alignment it is considered adequate if provision for a slightly lower intensity viz about VIII is made.

Studies made in U.S.A. and other advanced countries reveal that intensity VIII corresponds to horizontal seismic ground acceleration of 1972 cm/sec.[2] The wide range of acceleration figure is due to the fact that structure founded on soft filled up ground experiences much larger acceleration than the structures founded on hard rock.

The choice of the seismic factor depends upon the type of structure, the ground condition and the economic aspects etc. Considering all these points a provision of 15% gravity (15g) may be considered adequate.

VEGETATION

The average altitude of the State is 1500 metre except the foot-hills on the west and occasional high hills and ravines inland. The land-form is hilly and there is no valley or plateau inside the State. The average rainfall is 200 cm and the number of the rainy days (2.5 mm) is between 175 to 180.

Since the evaporation is low, the amount of rainfall (2000 mm) should have been sufficient to keep the vegetation green for ever, but it is not so for two reasons. Firstly due to hilly condition of the land the water does not stand and due to porosity of the earth the retention power is much less. Secondly the trees and plants cannot stand the cold which lasts for six months. As a result all the undergrowth, grass and shrubs start drying up from December and by January it looks like a dry land. But from March it feels the advent of spring and gets a few showers and so it starts becoming green again.

However the condition is neither uniform all over the State nor it does apply to all the vegetation. In fact some trees are found to shed all the leaves and some do not shed

all but some. But so far undergrowth and grass are concerned they invariably dry up in winter. Moreover the condition differs from foot-hills to hills and hills to high hills.

In lower altitude the trees remain evergreen than deciduous and in the higher altitudes it is more deciduous than evergreen. And at further height it is evergreen again. Thus we find that the State consists of three kinds of forests such as: Evergreen up to 1000 metre altitude and Mixed deciduous from 1000 to 2000 metres and again evergreen from above 2000 metre. There are few hills above 2000 metres and the most important ones of them are Saramati on the east, Japu on the south and Wokha in the middle. These hills have got Alpine type of forests and remain green throughout the year.

In the forests are found bamboo in plenty, a kind of palm leaf in good quantity and some cane, over and above varieties of trees. The trees are of various sizes. Some are as small as of 30 cm girth and some are as big as of 500 cm 5 metre girth. It seems incredible to have so big trees but it is a fact; and the people use it for gates of the village and in the morungs.

Some more important species of trees are:—

Important Tree Species

(1) Champa (Michelia champaca), (2) Bonsum (Phoebe goalparensis), (3) Amari (Amoora wallichii), (4) Sam (Artocarpus chaplasha), (5) Simul (Bombax ceiba), (6) Gamari (Gmelina arborea), (7) Am (Mangifera indica), (8) Hollock (Terminalia myriocarpa), (9) Gogra (Schima wallichii), (10) Walnut (Guglans regia), (11) Jamun (Syzygium cumini), (12) Urium (Bischofia javanica), (13) Bogipoma (Chikrassia tabularis), (14) Koroi (Albizzia procera), (15) Owtenga (Dillenia indica), (16) Khokan (Duabanga sonneratioles), (17) Jia Poma (Lannea coromandelica, old name Lannea grandis), and (18) Terminalia citrina (Hilika).

FAUNA

Major part of the district being covered by forest and

jungles it is natural that there will be lots of animal life. In fact there were plenty of birds and animals and reptiles. But in the wake of modern civilisation which has brought guns to this region after the Second World War, those have been killed indiscriminately (previously also there were guns but those were mostly hand made and muzzle-loading). It may be noted here that the people eat meat of any animal, sometimes including snakes. And so the fauna wealth is no more a wealth now but practically some 'museum pieces'. However still the following birds and animals are found in the jungles of this district.

The birds are: White vulture, Black partridge, Grey partridge, Jungle bush guai, Grey Jungle fowl, Common peafowl, Common green pigeon, Blue rock pigeon, Spotted dove, Roserignee, Koel, Spotted owlet, Great horned owl, House swift, Hoopoe, Malabar pied hornbill, Mahratta woodpecker and Common babbler.

Among the animals, the most common are: Wild Boar, Barking Deer, Himalayan Black Bear, Wild Goat, Jackal, Jungle Cat, Indian Porcupine, Royal Bengal Tiger, Assamese Macagu, Leopard, Wolf, Wild Dog, Pangolin, Python, Land Tortoise, Stag, Elephant and other snakes.

CLIMATE

Nagaland enjoys monsoon climate with a difference. The difference is this that unlike the plains of Assam here the winter is quite severe and the summer months are also rather cold. In winter the night temperature comes down to even 1° Celsius in some places in January and February which are the coldest months,. But the average may be accepted as 3° Celsius or more. In summer it is not at all hot but cool, and the highest summer temperature on the average is 25° Celsius or 77° Fahrenheit. But in the plains the average minimum temperature is 6° Celsius or 43° Fahrenheit, and the average maximum summer temperature is 34° Celsius or 85° Fahrenheit.

Rainfall is on the average 200 cm (80") and the rainy days (2.5mm) are 180. It covers a period of nine months of

the year, greatest concentration being in July and August. More rainfall is experienced in the northern area of the state than in the south.

To go round the year, towards the end of winter season, in February-March, the sky is clear almost throughout the day, with occasional cloudiness in the afternoon but clear again at night. This time high wind blows almost throughout the day beginning at about noon and ending at about midnight or early in the morning. Sometimes it blows throughout the day and night. It blows so high that sometimes damage is caused to tin roof buildings (but not to the traditional Naga houses of thatch roof because those are constructed strong and low). The wind generally blows from south-west and at times the velocity rises upto 100 kilometres per hour. In April the wind stops. The plains do not experience this wind.

A few drops of rainfall in February, a few showers in March and a little more in April. May witnesses several showers and monsoon sets in from June.

The sky is clear and the day is bright in March, April and May. Temperature also gradually rises but suddenly falls during shower. Sometimes hailstorms occur in March and April, and during the hailstorm the temperature falls down and suddenly it becomes cold.

Monsoon sets in, in the middle of June and continues upto the middle of September. It brings heavy rain, mostly in shower but there are very few days without drizzling. Towards the end of the rainy season of course, the rainy-days (2.5 mm) are less in number. Here the rain comes without any warning and so it is difficult to forecast.

During the rainy season the average relative humidity is 85% but at times it goes up to 90% to 95% and as such it is rather damp during monsoon.

The hottest month is July though it is not at all hot but rather cool (25°C). From September the temperature starts coming down and by November it is regular cold. From October to January a cold wind blows from the high range of Saramati which lies in the east of the State. This wind gets

mixed up with North-East Monsoon and it brings cold to eastern side of the State. The coldest month is January but March is also cold. Sometimes storms occur during the onset of South-West Monsoon in March-April and again during the onset of North-East Monsoon in September-October. Whenever there is depression in Bay of Bengal, Nagaland gets clouded sky, drizzling and rainfall. Sometimes the intensity is greater than in Gangetic West Bengal; it begins one day earlier and lasts one day after. Frost falls in Aghunato, Zunehboto, Phek, Wokha, Pfutsero etc. towns and several other places but not everywhere. From November to February the mornings are bright but then by 11 a.m. or 12 noon the sky becomes clouded and it becomes cold, and again the night becomes clear.

The Spring can be felt to some extent only in April and May.

Thus the analysis of climate reveals that practically two seasons—winter and rainy—dominate the year. Spring and Autumn are nominal and shortlived.

Since the air is thin (because of altitude), the sun is vertical and the sky is clear, if a pair of trousers are kept outside in winter for drying, the side facing the sun will be drying but the other side which is in shade will remain as it is.

In summer, during hot sun, inside the house is pleasant but outside is hot and rather scorching. The effect of sun is so strong that the pitch of the road melts just like in Calcutta. This is due to thin air.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME NAGA

Nagaland is mainly inhabited by the Nagas. So before we go into the details of the history of this State it is necessary to try to trace the origin of the word Naga.

Nagaland is almost entirely inhabited by Naga tribes except some Kukis, Kacharis, Garos, Mikirs and Bengalees and Assamese etc in the plains sector. Not only Nagaland, but parts of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Burma are also inhabited by different Naga tribes. Though nowadays they are known by the common name Naga, originally they

did not have any generic term for the whole of the race.[4] Even the different tribes also did not have common name for themselves, but used to be denoted by a specific name for a group of villages.[5] Though this was the condition in the closing decades of 19th century, in the later part of the 20th century the people of a wide area are known by the generic term Naga. The process of absorbing more tribes under the name Naga is continuing. Naturally the question comes as to how the name Naga came to be used.

There are several views expressed by scholars regarding the origin of the word Naga. Some believe that the word Naga has evolved from the Sanskrit word *Nagna* which means naked. It is so because the Nagas are proverbially known by the paucity of their clothes—in fact they used to cover their private part, with a loin cloth and so were practically naked or nude. But this view does not seem to be tenable because in Sanskrit literature the wild inhabitants of the hills have also been described as Kiratas.[6] Another view is that the word, for the same reason of nudity, has come from the Hindustani word *Nanga,* meaning naked. This view is also not tenable because the Hindustani speaking people have never before come in so close a contact with the Nagas as to give them a name. Another view that it nas originated from Bengali word *Nangta* meaning naked is also not tenable due to the same reason as in the case of Hindustani. Moreover the Bengalees have come in more close a contact with Garos (on the Mymensing border) who are accustomed to a greater degree of nudity than the Nagas, but the Bengalees have not used the word *Nangta* or *Naga* to Garos.[7] Another view is this that the word Naga has originated from *Naga* meaning Snake or king of snakes. Mythologically, princess Ulupi was a Naga Kanya, that is daughter of the king of snakes. She was married by the third Pandava brother Arjuna of

4. Notes on the Wild Tribes Inhabiting the so called Naga Hills, in our North-East Frontier of India, a paper read by Lieutenant Colonel R.G. Woodthrope, 1881, in the Meeting of the Anthropological Institute.

5. Ibid.

6. Chathrojee, S.K. Kirato Janakrti, 1950.

7. W. Robinson, A Descriptive Account of Assam, 1841, pp. 380-98.

Mahabharata fame. Ulupi's residence is generally identified with Hanima in the south-west of Nagaland. Since this area was under the kingdom of Nāga-raj, that is, king of snakes or king of the *Naga* tribe, the people are known as Naga, a derivative of the word *Naga.* A fifth view says that throughout India the words 'Naga Sannyasi' are applied to the naked mendicants. As the naked Sannyasis are called *Naga* so also the naked people of this area are called Naga. This is not likely, because the term is not applied to other nude tribes of India, particularly Garos. A sixth view is that the word Naga has originated from a Kachari word *naga* meaning a young man and hence a warrior. The seventh view, as expounded by Peal, Gait, Holcombe, Elwin etc says that the word has originated from root of some tribal word *nok* or *noka* which means 'folk'. It is also suggested that the word *nok* or *noka* has some connection with Sanskrit word *loka* meaning people. This view is not tenable because an insignificant word of the Garos of Meghalaya or Nocte Nagas of Arunachal Pradesh cannot give the name to such a comparatively great number of people, whereas the Garos themselves are not called Naga. It may be noted here that most of the major Naga tribes call themselves otherwise, for example Aos call themselves *Aor,* Angamis call themselves *Tenyiema,* Lothas call themselves *Kyon* and Semas call themselves *Swemi.* Another view, that the word Naga has originated from Assamese word *Noga,* meaning naked. Often Assamese 'O' is pronounced as 'A' in Bengali. Therefore Assamese *Noga* becomes *Naga* in Bengali. Since there are many Bengalees in Assam and many of them came in close contact of the British Administrators, it is likely that they have introduced the term *Naga.* It may be noted that this people have been referred to as *Noga* in the historical chronicles of Assam, even in the thirteenth century. Though this view cannot explain all the pros and cons and extention of the generic term to all the people to whom it is applied now, it satisfies most of the requirements as to the origin of the word. Still now Assamese word for the Nagas is *Noga.* It is widely used

in Assam, and there is no other word to substitute it. In fact *noga* is a purely Assamese word and is in use in Assamese literature all through.

It has to be noted that originally the word *noga* or for that sake *naga* used to be applied to the naked people of the hills who used to come in contact with the plains people of Assam. Gradually the name was applied to a greater number of people and ultimately it has become a generic term for many tribes. It is very likely to extend further and include still greater number of people.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME NAGALAND

During British rule the Nagas did not grumble about the administration. Rather, it was the Nagas who wanted protection from its more aggressive brethren and appealed for extension of administration into their area, and the British Government responded well. This way gradually the administration extended all over the then Naga Hills. But still then they were not united. Only in the later part of the British rule of seventy years (1876–1947) the different Naga tribes felt that they were Nagas, and probably the foreign Christian Missionaries also influenced such thinking.

When the Simon Commission visited Kohima in 1927 the Naga leaders pleaded that they should be left alone when the Britishers go away. Probably from that time the thought came that it is the land of the Nagas. By the middle of this century the thought gained ground and some people started writing Nagaland instead of Naga Hills in their correspondences. Thus in the analogy of England, Scotland, Thailand etc the term Nagaland came into use. Officially the term came into being in 1961 when the de-facto State of Nagaland was formed. That time it used to be written as Naga Land. Later it settled down as Nagaland, sometime after the State of Nagaland was formally inaugurated on 1st December, 1963.

POPULATION

Nagaland is inhabited by 516,449 people according to

1971 census. In 1961 the population was 369,200. Thus in ten years the population has increased by 39.88 percent. This is much higher than all-India average for the same period which is 24.75. This increase is due to two factors. Firstly due to modern medical facilities available to almost all the villages the death rate has come down. On the other hand because of the same medical facilities and child care the infant mortality also has come down. Secondly there has been an influx of population from other States for business and for service. Of the people coming from outside this State, Muslims from Bangladesh constitute a good number. They have spread to all the stations and outposts, not to speak of the towns, and they are mainly engaged in selling fish, shoe and tailoring works.

Of the total population of 516,449 the number of male is 276,084 and that of female is 240,365. This gives a disconcerting deficit sex ratio of 933 females per 1000 males. The deficit is because of the fact that most of the outsiders are staying here without their female counterparts. Otherwise, the sex ratio of the Nagas is a plus one. Of the total population of 516,449 the tribals are 457,602. This tribals include, Kukis, Kacharis, some Garos and Mikirs etc, apart from the Nagas. Though the overall sex ratio is 933, the sex ratio of the Nagas, at least some tribes, is much higher. For example the sex ratio of the Aos is 1037 and that of the Lothas is 1034.

TRIBES AND CLANS

Originally Nagas were not known by the names of the tribes as they are known now, but by the name of a group of villages. Gradually they have settled down to the tribe names as are found now, but still then the process of amalgamation or separation is going on. For example, Phoms were formerly included in Konyak tribe but now they are separate. In as late as 1948 some three tribes such as Chakruma, Khezhama and Sangtam together formed into one tribe called Chakhesang. This name was formed by taking Cha of Chakruma, Khe of Khezhama and Sang of Sangtam. Some small tribes

such as Makware, Chirr, Tikhir etc claim to be separate tribes now but then the nearby bigger tribes claim them to be an offshoot of theirs.

However at present, according to 1971 census, there are sixteen Naga tribes and four non-Naga tribes inhabiting Nagaland. They are all Scheduled Tribes. They are given below.

Naga Tribes

Population (According to 1971 Census)

1.	Ao	:	74,016
2.	Konyak	:	72,319
3.	Sema	:	64,909
4.	Chakhesang	:	43,438
5.	Angami	:	42,994
6.	Lotha	:	36,657
7.	Sangtam	:	19,315
8.	Phom	:	18,019
9.	Chang	:	16,075
10.	Kheimungan	:	14,338
11.	Yimchunger	:	14,145
12.	Zeliang	:	13,883
13.	Rengma	:	8,194
14.	Tikhir	:	2,795
15.	Mokware	:	2,501
16.	Chirr	:	692

Non-Naga Tribes

Population (According to 1971 Census)

1.	Kuki	:	6,205
2.	Kachari	:	4,330
3.	Garo	:	934
4.	Mikir (Karbi)		519

Of the Naga tribes, many Konyaks are living in Burma and many Rengmas are living in Assam. Of the non-Naga

tribes Kukis are mainly living in Manipur, Garos and Mikirs are mainly living in Garo Hills and Karbi-Anglong respectively (What was formerly Mikir Hills is now Karbi Anglong and Mikirs now call themselves Karbi. Anglong means Hills in Mikir language). Kacharis are scattered in many places of Assam with greater concentration in Cachar district.

Regarding their place of living in Nagaland it may be noted that Ao and Lothas live in the west of the State. Kacharis, Garos and Mikirs live in West and South-West of the State. Kukis and Zeliang-Roungs live in the south-west. Angamis live in south and south-west. Chakhesangs live in the south-east. Semas live in the centre of the State. Konyaks and Phoms live in the north and north-east. Rengmas live in mid-south. Chang, Sangtam, Yimchunger Kheimungan, Makware, Chirr and Tikhir live in the eastern side of the State which borders Burma. Some of the eastern tribes including Konyaks are very close to Burma border and do have matrimonial and kinship relations with the villages on the Burma side.

There is no caste system among the Nagas or anyone of the tribes mentioned above. But each of the Naga tribes is divided into several or as many as twenty clans. Clans are mainly based on forefathers or such other things by which one group of people is differentiated from others. The bigger the tribe, the more is the number of clans. Of late (1950s onward) there has arisen a kind of *Gotro* or family lineage among almost all the tribes. This has grown out of an important man of that family whose name is used by his progeny as the surname. This has got nothing to do with clan system, but in course of time such family name may become a clan name.

Generally marriage in the same clan is prohibited but nowadays modern educated young men and women are often violating it.