

# NAGALAND

*Past and Present*



HARGOVIND JOSHI

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Nagaland, the land of enchanting beauty and charm with its rich diverse cultures, festivities of its various tribes and sub-tribes inhabiting the eastern most state bordering Myanmar is endowed with rich natural flora and fauna, lush green hills and valleys, rivers, resounding echoes of music, dance and gay festivities make it a special place in our nation of diverse cultures. Nature has also gifted this land with many rich resources like forest, minerals, fertile soil, abundant rainfall, moderate cool climate and dust free environment which are waiting to be utilised for economic development of the state and its people.

The State is divided into seven districts: Kohima, Phek, Mokokchung, Wokha, Zunheboto, Tuensang, and Mon. The maximum length of the border State is about 255 km while the breadth does not exceed 145 km. The terrain is hilly, rugged and mountainous.

This book is designed to present the state and all related issues in one place. Amidst the plenty of literature on Nagaland, this book is unique—which presents the entire discussion in encyclopaedic way.

Once a hot bed of insurgency—Nagaland remained disturbed for years. And thus, the developmental efforts were hampered badly. What are the actual Naga problems? The chief causes of insurgency and hostility are elaborately discussed in the chapter 'A State of Union'. As 'cease-fire and Nagaland problem' is a hot news currently, this book gives the interpretation of the issue.

Rs. 375

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**ISBN 81-87606-10-X**

**NAGALAND:  
PAST AND PRESENT**

Edited by  
RICHARD JONES

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1519

# NAGALAND PAST AND PRESENT



*Edited by*  
**HARGOVIND JOSHI**

**AKANSHA PUBLISHING HOUSE**  
NEW DELHI-110 059 (INDIA)

AKANSHA PUBLISHING HOUSE

R 37-B, Vani Vihar, Uttam Nagar

New Delhi - 110 059

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954.164

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*Nagaland: Past and Present*

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First Edition 2001

ISBN 81-87606-10-X.

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PRINTED IN INDIA

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Published by M.P. Misra for Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi and  
Printed at Mehra Offset Press, Delhi.

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## **PREFACE**

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Nagaland, the sixteenth State of the Indian Union, came into being on December 1, 1963. The state has an area of 16,579 square kilometres, extending on the north-east frontiers of the country. It is bounded by Assam in the west and north, and in the north-east by the Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh. The southern boundary is shared with the State of Manipur, while the eastern limits of the State are on the international boundary between India and Myanmar.

Nagaland, the land of enchanting beauty and charm with its rich diverse cultures, festivities of its various tribes and sub-tribes inhabiting the eastern most state bordering Myanmar is endowed with rich natural flora and fauna, lush green hills and valleys, rivers, resounding echoes of music, dance and gay festivities make it a special place in our nation of diverse cultures. Nature has also gifted this land with many rich resources like forest, minerals, fertile soil, abundant rainfall, moderate cool climate and dust free environment which are waiting to be utilised for economic development of the state and its people.

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In preparing this book we have liberally drawn the material from different authoritative sources. Hence no claim of originality. The aim of reproducing the material is to share the erudition and fruits of painstaking research of all those great scholars by a wider readership.

I am deeply beholden to all those men of letters whose writings I have cited or substantially made use of. I am also grateful to my friends and family members who have inspired me for the present venture. Last but not the least, I am thankful to Sri M.P. Misra for undertaking publication of this book.

— HGJ

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## NAGALAND: CURRENT SCENARIO

Area:	16,579 sq km
Population:	12,09,549
Capital:	Kohima
Principal Languages:	Angami, Ao, Chang, Konyak, Lotha, Sangtham, Sema, and Chakhesang.

### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Like other inhabitants of the north eastern region, the Nagas too have their share of legends and folklore regarding their origin and evolution through the ages. Nagas are basically tribal people and every tribe had its own effective system of self government from times immemorial. In the 12th and 13th centuries, gradual contact with the Ahoms of present day Assam was established, but this did not have any significant impact on the traditional Naga way of life. However, in the 19th century the British appeared on the scene and ultimately the area was brought under British administration. After Independence, this territory was made a Centrally administered area in 1957, under the administration of governor of Assam. It was known as the Naga Hills Tuensang Area. This failed to quell popular aspirations and unrest began. Hence, in 1961 this was renamed as Nagaland and given the status of State of the Indian Union which was formally inaugurated on 1 December 1963. Situated in the extreme north-east of the country, Nagaland is bounded by Arunachal Pradesh in the north, Assam in west, Manipur in south and Burma (Myanmar) in the east.

## 2 Nagaland: Past and Present

### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the main occupation of 90 per cent of population in the State. Rice is the important staple food. Area under *jhum* cultivation is about 73,000 hectare and under terraced cultivation is 61,000 hectare during 1993-94.

### INDUSTRY

The process of industrialisation in the State is in its infancy but the need to have more industries has been well recognised. The Nagaland Sugar Mill at Dimapur has an installed capacity of 1,000 tonnes per day. There is a pulp and paper mill at Tuli and a plywood factory at Tizit. A *Khandsari* mill with a daily crushing capacity of 200 metric tonnes is in operation. Handloom and handicrafts are important cottage industries which are mainly being managed by cooperative societies. An industrial growth centre near Dimapur is under construction. The Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation is the premier promotional organisation in providing guidance and capital assistance to entrepreneurs. The Mini Cement Plant at Wazeho has commenced production.

### IRRIGATION AND POWER

Minor irrigation works are mostly meant to divert small hill streamlets to irrigate valleys used for rice cultivation. Under minor irrigation, surface minor irrigation covered 1,070 hectare and ground water covered 150 hectare during 1992-93. Number of electrified villages stands at 1,200. Nagaland has achieved cent per cent electrification of rural areas. A 24 megawatt hydro-electric project is under erection at Likim-ro.

### TRANSPORT

#### Roads

Road network consists of national, state and district roads with total length of 9,351 km. The Nagaland State

Transport operates on 111 routes daily with a total route kilometrage of 12,932 km.

### Railways/aviation

Dimpaur is the only place where rail and air services are available. There is a bi-weekly Indian Airlines boeing service connecting Dimpaur with Guwahati and Calcutta.

### FESTIVALS

Some of the important festivals are *Sekrenyi*, *Moatsu*, *Tuluni* and *Tokhu Emong*. All tribes celebrate their distinct seasonal festivals with a pageantry of colour and a feast of music.

#### Area, Population and Headquarters of District

<i>District</i>	<i>Area (sq.km)</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>
1. Kohima	4,041	3,87,581	Kohima
2. Mokokchung	1,615	1,58,374	Mokokchung
3. Mon	1,786	1,46,699	Mon
4. Phek	2,026	1,,02,156	Phek
5. Tuensang	4,228	2,32,906	Tensang
6. Wokha	1,628	82,612	Wokha
7. Zunheboto	1,255	97,218	Zunheboto

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