

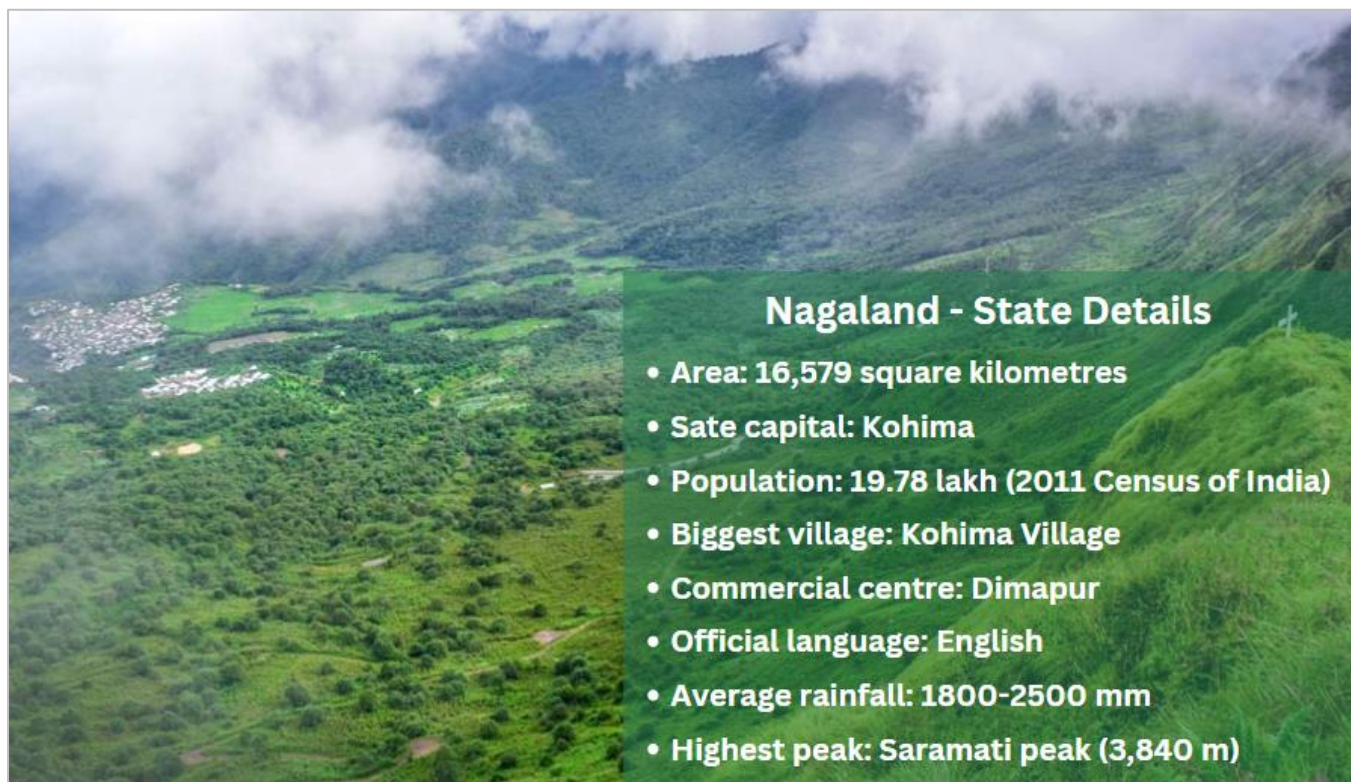
NAGALAND STATEHOOD DAY

Honouring Tribal Splendour

December 01, 2023

Rolling green hills, lush forests, spectacular valleys and mountains and rich flora and fauna – it is the imagery conjured up when one thinks of Nagaland. One of the seven sister States, Nagaland is bound by Assam in the west, Myanmar in the east, Arunachal Pradesh and part of Assam in the North and Manipur in the South. The state was formed on **December 1, 1963**, and since then the day is annually celebrated as **Nagaland Statehood Day**.

With Kohima as the capital city, the state consists of 16 administrative districts, inhabited by 17 major tribes along with other sub-tribes. The state has a population of about 19.78 lakh people (2011 Census). Nagaland's official language is English while **Nagamese**, a kind of pidgin Assamese, has become the common lingua.



FORMATION OF NAGALAND

Until 1957, the region we today call Nagaland was just a district of the state of Assam, known to people as 'The Naga Hills'. The leaders of various Naga tribes formed the Naga People's Convention (NPC) in August 1957 and in July 1960, a delegation of the party met with the then Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and demanded a separate state for the Nagas within the

Indian Union to be known as “Nagaland”. A 16-point agreement was arrived at, which provided for the formation of Nagaland.

On 4th September 1962 with the bill for the formation of Nagaland receiving President’ assent, the State of Nagaland Act, 1962 was passed. Nagaland was formally inaugurated on **December 1, 1963**, as the 16th state of India. Since then, **December 1** has been celebrated annually as Nagaland Statehood Day.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE¹



There are 17 tribes living in Nagaland, each having its traditions that they zealously protect. These are:

Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Kachari, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Kuki, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sumi, Tikhir, Yimkhiung, and Zeliang.

Nagaland also has a rich linguistic tradition with as many languages as there are tribes.

Even within the language of a particular tribe, there are several dialects. For instance, in some tribes like the Angami, every village has a slightly different variation even within the

same dialect. This makes inter-tribe and intra-tribe communication very difficult. The 17 tribes of Nagaland also have sub-tribes and each can be distinguished by the colourful and intricately woven traditional dresses, beautifully designed jewellery and beads that they adorn.

Nagaland’s Festivals Linked to Agriculture

Nagaland is the *Land of Festivals*, with each tribe having its festivals and customs. The tribes consider their festivals to be sacrosanct and participation in the festivities is a must for all the tribespeople.

Most of Nagaland’s festivals revolve around agriculture as that is the main occupation of the people in Naga society. Over 71% population of Nagaland is directly dependent on agriculture.



¹ <https://nagaland.gov.in/pages/nagaland-profile>

Nature could not have been kinder to Nagaland. There are **650 indigenous species of medicinal and aromatic plants** in the state. There are about **71 bamboo species**, and **12 cane species**. The faunal diversity includes about **67 common wild animals**, **519 bird species**, **149 fish species** and several **reptiles** and **amphibians**. There are about **360 orchid species** in Nagaland. The great Indian hornbill is one of the most famous birds found in the state and the state's most important festival is also named after this bird. Nagaland is also known as the “**Falcon Capital of the World**” as it is the primary stopover roosting site for Amur falcons in places like Wokha, Longleng, Peren, Dimapur, Phek etc.



Amur Falcon



Great Hornbill



Bamboo



Rhynchostylis retusa

Nagaland State Symbols



Mithun



Blyth's Tragopan



Rhododendron arboreum



Alder

² <https://nsbb.nagaland.gov.in/biodiversity-in-nagaland/#:~:text=There%20are%20about%2071%20bamboo,number%20of%20reptiles%20and%20amphibia ns.>

Agriculture and Allied Services

Nagaland is predominantly an agrarian economy with **71%** of its population dependent on agriculture. About 79% of the state's total cultivable area is under horticulture plantations. **Terrace** and **jhum cultivation** are the two methods by which crops are grown in the state. Major horticulture crops grown in the state include **banana, passion fruit, orange, pineapple and potato**. Paddy is also grown in the state.

Other cash crops grown in the state include **rattan** and **bamboo**. Several varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants also grow abundantly in Nagaland's vast forests. Notably, **Naga Tree Tomato** and **Chakhesang Shawl** have received Geographical Indications (GI) Tag.

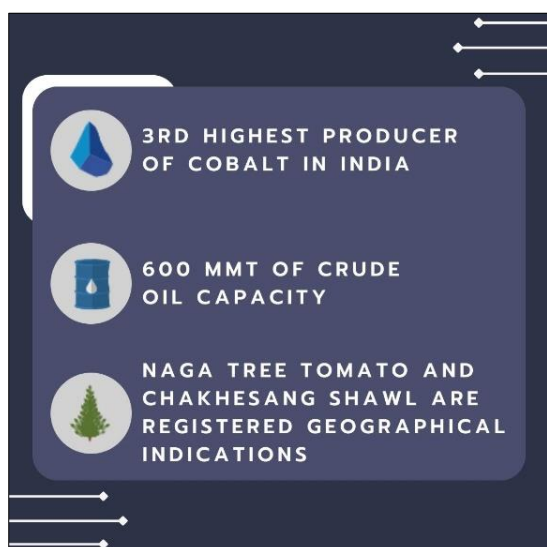
Naga Ghost Chilli⁴

Naga chilli, considered one of the world's hottest chillies based on the Scoville Heat Units (SHUs), is grown in Nagaland. Known variously as the *Bhoot Jolokia*, *Raja Mircha*, *Naga Morich* and *Ghost pepper*, the chillies are the gem of the northeastern region of India, particularly Nagaland where they are extensively grown. The chillies were named after the Naga tribes and were awarded the GI certification in 2008. In 2021, the chillies were exported to London, UK, via Guwahati by air for the first time in a major boost to exports of GI products.



Apiculture

Nagaland has the potential to produce 10,000 MT of honey and 10 MT of wax. The Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission aims to produce 4 Lakh bee colonies scientifically.



Mining

Nagaland has more than **1,000 MT of high chemical-grade limestone** reserves in the eastern region and unexploited reserves of around **600 MMT** of Crude Oil. Nagaland is the third highest of cobalt in India. There are also more than 20 MT of hydrocarbon reserves underneath seven oil belts, spread across five districts of Nagaland.

Sericulture

Mulberry, Muga, Eri and Tassar varieties of silk are widely cultivated in Nagaland. Raw silk

³ <https://www.investindia.gov.in/state/nagaland>

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1739945#:~:text=The%20chilli%20from%20Nagaland%20is,consignment%20of%20fresh%20King%20Chilli.>

production in the state stood at 315 MT in 2021-22, which is about 20% higher than that in 2020-21.

The Government of India is also promoting the sericulture industry in the state in the Northeast through various initiatives such as its North Eastern Region Textiles Promotion Scheme (NERTPS). Under this scheme, 400 women stakeholders have been trained in the art of silk reeling and weaving.

State of the Economy

According to the Nagaland Economic Survey of 2021-22, the growth rate of the economy during the year was estimated at **6.68%**. In absolute terms, the real growth of the economy has been estimated to increase from ₹17,772 crore in 2020-2021 (QE) to ₹18,992 crore in 2021-2022 (AE). In terms of sectoral growth, the state as a whole has also bounced back to the pre-pandemic trajectory.

EDUCATION IN NAGALAND⁵

Nagaland is one of the top states in the country with a robust literacy rate. According to the Census of India 2011, Nagaland's literacy rate was **79.55%** which is much higher than the national literacy rate of **74.04%**⁶. The literacy rate for women is estimated to be **76.11%** while that for men is estimated to be **82.75%**. The female literacy rate in the state is higher than the national rate which was recorded to be **65.46%**.

The female literacy rate in the state has increased by 14.61% over the last 10 years. The district of **Mokokchung** has the highest literacy rate of **91.6%** with a male literacy rate of 92.2% and a female literacy rate of 91%.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF NAGALAND

Nagaland has much to offer to travellers with its rich cultural heritage, fascinating cuisine marked with the use of several local spices and herbs as well as breathtaking landscapes. Tourists can also enjoy the dances and listen to the songs of various tribes. There is a nascent café culture that is coming up in cities like Kohima and Dimapur. Nagaland offers people opportunities to enjoy serene rural life by staying in homestays in heritage villages like Tuophema or bask in the lap of nature in tranquil villages like Dzulekie.

Nagaland offers some incredible places to trek for those who are thrilled to scale mountains, or simply with a desire to explore the woods, the flowers and the wild vegetation. During a visit to the state in 2022, the President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu said that there is a tremendous potential for tourism in Nagaland⁷.

⁵ https://statistics.nagaland.gov.in/storage/statistical_data/2018/2381601170534.pdf

⁶ <https://knowindia.india.gov.in/profile/literacy.php>

⁷ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1873102>

Nagaland at a Glance



The Hornbill Festival⁸

The Hornbill Festival has become a popular event for capturing and showcasing the colourful culture of the state. The festival is a 10-day extravaganza that celebrates the rich traditions, food habits, lifestyles, songs and dances of all the Naga tribes and is the largest celebration of the Indigenous Warrior Tribes of Nagaland. The festival is called **Hornbill**, also known as **Dhanesh** bird, which occupies an important place in the culture and folklore of the Naga tribes.

The Hornbill Festival - also called the “Festival of Festivals”- is celebrated to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote the cultural heritage of Nagaland. Festival highlights include Traditional Naga Morungs, exhibition and sale of arts and crafts, food stalls, herbal medicine stalls, flower shows and sales, cultural medley – songs and dances, fashion shows, beauty contests, traditional archery, Naga wrestling, indigenous games, and concerts.

Glimpses of The Hornbill Festival



⁸ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1777290>

Over the last few years, Nagaland has scripted history in development thanks to various schemes and initiatives of the Government of India. These initiatives have provided the catalyst for the development of the state.

Eklavya Model Residential School: There are three Eklavya Model Residential Schools in the state and as many as 712 students are enrolled in these schools.

Scholarship Schemes: As of September 30, 2023, more than **₹320.8 crore** has been given as scholarships to a total of **14.43 lakh** students.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Under this flagship scheme of the **government 91.8 thousand** new LPG gas connections have been provided to households to ensure smoke-free kitchens.

PM Awas Yojana (Urban): **21,535 houses** have been **completed** in Nagaland under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

PM Awas Yojana (Grameen): Under the PM Awas Yojana (Grameen) scheme as many as **8,805 houses** have been **completed** in the state. Out of this, **7,969 houses** belong to women or are owned jointly, which means that **90%** of the houses completed under PMAY(G) belong to women.



PMAY(U) house of beneficiaries Muvalila Sangtam and Thsankiu Kipz in Tuensang, Nagaland

Jal Jeevan Mission: Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, in which tap water connections are provided to homes, **2.9 lakh** connections have been made.

Start-Up India: There are **47 new start-ups** in the state as of September 30, 2023, that have been set up under the Start-Up India scheme of the government. **Twenty-five** companies have been categorised as start-ups led by women or by women entrepreneurs. This means that more than **53%** of the start-ups in Nagaland are **led by women**.

Increased Connectivity: Over **863km** of **National Highways** have been constructed in the state. Under the **RCS-UDAN** scheme, **four new air routes** have been operationalised in the

state along with **one new airport** which is at Dimapur. Nagaland also got its **second railway station** on the Dhansari-Shokhuvi railway line after a gap of more than 100 years. The last railway station in the state was inaugurated at Dimapur in 1903⁹.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen): Over **1.49 lakh** household **toilets** have been constructed in the state since 2014 under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Financial Infrastructure

- More than **3.82 bank accounts** have been opened in the state under the **PM Jan Dhan Yojana** to facilitate financial inclusion.
- There have been over **3.66 lakh enrolments** for accidental insurance under the **PM Suraksha Bima Yojana**.
- **1.61 lakh enrolments** under **PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**.
- Over **29 thousand** beneficiaries of the **Atal Pension Yojana**.
- **₹3.36 crore** was given to provide affordable working capital loans under the **PM SVANidhi Scheme** to **2,159 beneficiaries**.

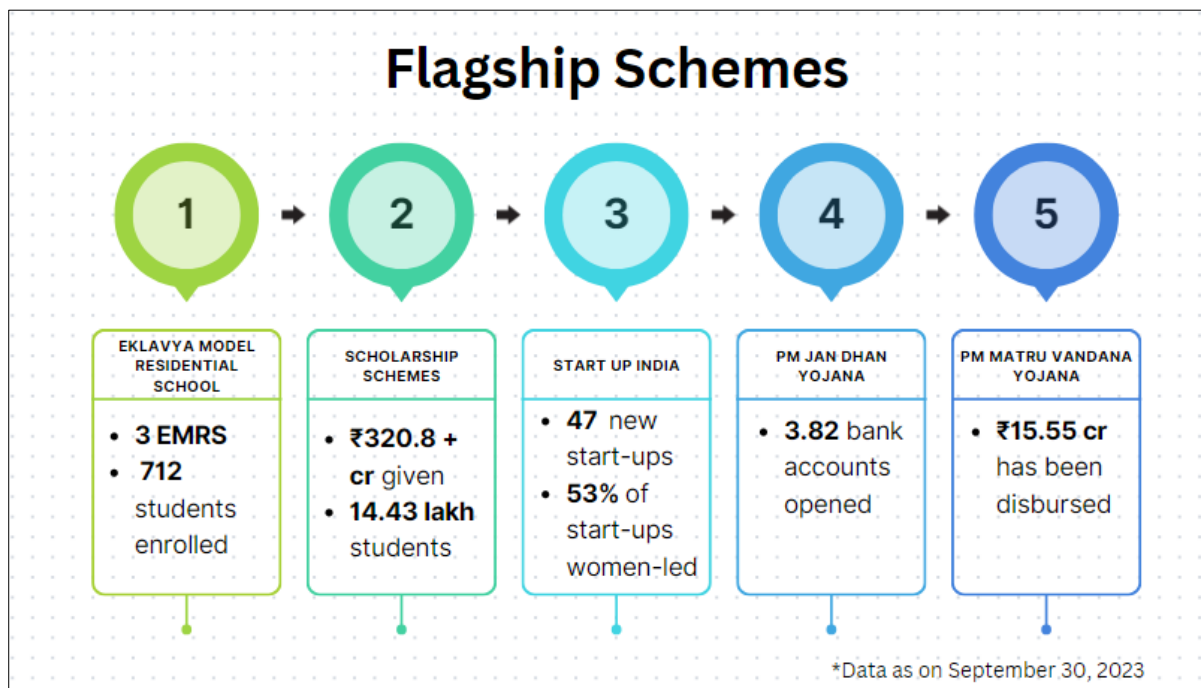
Women Empowerment

- More than **1.13 lakh women and children** have received benefits under **POSHAN Abhiyaan**.
- Under the **SUKANYA Samriddhi Yojana** over **21 thousand accounts** for girl children have been opened in the state and **₹70.04 crore** has been deposited in these accounts.
- A total of **₹15.55 crore** has been disbursed under the **PM Matru Vandana Yojana**.

Healthcare Infrastructure

- Under the **Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana**, **6.24 lakh Ayushman Cards** have been created.
- There have been **50,741 authorised hospital admissions** amounting to **₹95.89 crore**.
- There **384 Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres** functional in Nagaland.
- And under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**, **5.42 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health Cards** have been created.
- Under the **PM Janaushadhi Pariyojana**, **20 Janaushadhi Kendras** are operational in Nagaland.

⁹ <https://newsonair.gov.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=446683>



Apart from this several other schemes like PM KISAN, PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras and PM Garib Kalyan Yojana are also underway in Nagaland to facilitate development and aid the empowerment of the people of the state.

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