



**ENCYCLOPAEDIA
OF**

Nagaland

LIMA SASAI AIER

Encyclopaedia
of
NAGALAND

Volume 1

सदभे
REFERENCE



Lima Sasai Aier

ANMOL PUBLICATIONS PVT. LTD.

NEW DELHI - 110 002 (INDIA)

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PREFACE

Nagaland, the 16th state of the Indian Union was born on 1st Dec. 1963. It is bounded by Assam in the west and north, Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh in the north east, and Manipur in the south. On the east it shares India's international boundary with Myanmar, Burma. The state is divided into seven districts : Kohima, Phek, Mokokchung, Wokha, Zunheloto, Twensang and Mon. The terrain is hilly, rugged and mountainous. The highest peak is Saramati in the Twensang district which is 3840 metres above sea-level. The average height of the peaks is between 900 and 1200 metres. The main rivers that flow through the state are Dhansiri, Doyang, Dikhu, Tizu and Melak. There is no waterfall in Nagaland. The only lake well known is Lacham to the east of Mehiri. The hill sides are covered with green forests. In the Angami region, the terraced fields are a feast to the eyes.

The population of Nagaland is entirely tribal. The Nagas belong to the Indo-Mongoloid family. The fourteen major Naga tribes are the Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Khemungan, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sema, Yimchunger and Zeliang. The Chakhesangs were earlier known as Eastern Angamis and are a combination of the Chakri, Khezha and Sangtam sub-tribes. Now the Chakhesang tribe is spilt further; Pochury's who were earlier a part of it now claim a distinct entity. Each tribe has their own languages and cultural features. Literacy is 61.30 %. The population has shown a steady upward trend. The Naga's have different stories about their origin. The Angamis, Semas, Rengams and the Lotha's subscribe to the Kheza-Kenoma legend. It is said that the village had a large stone slab having magical properties. Paddy spread on it to be dried doubled in quantity by evening. The three sons of the couple who owned the stone used it by rotation. One day there was a quarrel between the sons as to whose turn it was. The couple, fearing bloodshed, set fire to the stone which as a result cracked. It is believed that the spirit in the stone went to heaven and the stone lost its miraculous properties. The three sons thereafter left Kheza-Kenoma, went in different directions and became the forefathers of the Angami, Sema and the Lotha tribes. According to another legend, to which the western Angamis subscribe, the first man evolved from a lake called Themiakelku zie near Khonoma. The Rengmas believe that until recently they

and Lothas formed one tribe. The Aos and the Phoms trace their origin to the Lungterok (six stones) on the Chongliemdi hill. Some people believe that these Indo-Mongoloids are 'kiratas' frequently mentioned in the old Sanskrit literature of whom 'Nagas' were a sub-tribe.

The hill tribes in the areas now known as Nagaland had no generic term applicable to the whole race. The word 'Naga' was given to these hill tribes by the plains people. This proved to be a great unifying force to the tribes now classified as Naga. Nagas are of sub-medium height, the facial index is very low, the nasal index corresponds to a medium nose, the hair is generally straight, the skin is brownish yellow. The eyes significantly do not show Mongolian form.

It could broadly be said that they are straight forward people, honest, hardworking, sturdy and with a high standard of integrity. They are lacking in humility and are inclined to equate a kind and sympathetic approach with weakness. The Nagas have a very strong sense of self respect and would not submit to anyone riding roughshod over their sentiments. The Angamis are politically the most conscious group. The Zeliang and Pochury tribes in Kohima district are comparatively simple and unsophisticated. The Tuensang tribes are un-spoilt children of nature. A striking characteristic of the Naga tribes is their hospitality and cheerfulness. To be greeted with a smiling face while travelling on the roads is a common experience. A visitor to Naga village is heartily received and entertained with a surfeit of rice-beer, which is generally served by the lady of the house or her young daughter with a warmth which is unforgettable.

The book is an asset for all scholars, researchers, teachers, students and ofcourse, the general readers.

— *Lima Sasai Aier*

INTRODUCTION

Pronunciation is a hill state located in the far northeastern part of India. It borders the state of Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh and part of Assam to the north, Myanmar to the east and Manipur to the south. The state capital is Kohima, and the largest city is Dimapur. With a population of nearly two million people, it has a total area of 6,401 sq mi (16,579 km²). - making it one of the smallest states of India.

History

The early history of Nagaland is the customs, economic activities of the Naga tribes. The people were originally referred to as Chingmee (Hill People) or Hao (Tribes) in the history of Manipur. The Naga tribes had socioeconomic and political links with tribes in Assam and Burma - (officially called Myanmar by the current ruling military junta) even today a large population of Naga inhabits Assam. Following an invasion in 1816, the area along with Assam came under direct rule of Burma. This period was noted for the oppressive rule and turmoil in Assam and Nagaland. When the British East India Company took control of Assam in 1826, they steadily expanded their domain over modern Nagaland. By 1892, all of modern Nagaland except the Tuensang area in the northeast was governed by the British. It was politically amalgamated into Assam. The Christian missionaries played an important part in converting Nagaland's Naga tribes in Christianity.

After the independence of India in 1947, the area remained a part of the province of Assam. Nationalist activities arose amongst Naga tribes, who demanded a political union of their ancestral and native groups damaged government and civil infrastructure, and attacked government officials and civilians from other states of India. The Union government sent the Indian Army in 1955, to restore order. In 1957, the Government began diplomatic talks with representatives of Naga tribes, and the Naga Hills district of Assam and the Tuensang frontier were united in a single political entity that became a Union territory - directly administered by the Central government with a

large degree of autonomy. This was not satisfactory to the tribes, however, and soon agitation and violence increased across the state - included attacks on Army and government institutions, as well as civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes. In July 1960, a further political accord was reached at the Naga People's Convention that Nagaland should become a constituent and self-governing state in the Indian union. Statehood was officially granted in 1963 and the first state-level democratic elections were held in 1964.

Insurgencies were quelled in the early 1980s. Violence had re-erupted and there was conflict between rebel group factions till the late 1990s. On 25 July, 1997, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral announced that the Government after talks with Isaac group of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) declared a ceasefire or cessation of operations with effect from 1st August, 1997 for a period of three months. The ceasefire has since been extended.

Geography and Climate

Nagaland is largely a mountainous state. The Naga Hills rise from the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam to about 2,000 feet and rise further to the southeast, as high as 6,000 feet. Mount Saramati at an elevation of 12,552 feet is the state's highest peak - this is where the Naga Hills merge with the Patkai Range in Myanmar. Rivers such as the Doyang and Diphu to the north, the Barak river in the southwest and the Chindwin river of Myanmar in the southeast, dissect the entire state.

Nagaland is rich in flora and fauna. About one-sixth of Nagaland is under the cover of tropical and subtropical evergreen forests - including palms, bamboo and rattan as well as timber and mahogany forests. While some forest areas have been cleared for *jhum* - cultivation - many scrub forests, high grass, reeds and secondary forests, pangolins, porcupines, elephants, leopards, bears, many species of monkeys, sambar, deers, oxen and buffaloes thrive across the state's forests. The Great Indian Hornbill is one of the most famous birds found in the state.

Nagaland has a largely monsoon climate with high humidity levels. Annual rainfall averages around 70-100 inches - concentrated in the months of May to September. Temperatures range from 70 degrees to 104 degrees Fahrenheit. In winter, temperatures don't generally drop below 39 degrees Fahrenheit, but frost is common at high elevations.

Culture and People

The tribes of Nagaland are Sumi, Lothas, Angami, Ao, Kuki, Chakhesang, Chang, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Phom, Pochury, Rongmei, Rengma, Sangtam, Yimchungru, and Zeliang, of which the Konyaks, Angamis, Aos, Lothas and Sumis are the largest Naga tribes. Tribe and Clan traditions and loyalties play an important part in the

life of Nagas. Weaving is a traditional art handed down through generations in Nagaland. Each of the major tribes has its own unique designs and colours, producing shawls, shoulder bags, decorative spears, table mats, wood carvings and bamboo works. Tribal dances of the Nagas give an insight into the inborn reticence of the people. War dances and dances belonging to distinctive tribes are a major art form in Nagaland. Some of these are Moatsu, Sekrenyi, Tuluni, Tokhu Emong and Gan-Ngai.

Language

Nagas speak 60 different dialects belonging to the Sino-Tibetan family of languages. Nagamese, a variant language form of Assamese and local dialects is the most widely spoken market language. Every tribe has their own mother tongue language but communicate with each other in Nagamese. As such Nagamese is not a mother tongue of any of the tribes and nor is it a written language. English, the official state language is widely spoken in official circles and is the medium for education in Nagaland.

Religion

Christianity is the predominant religion of Nagaland. The census of 2001 recorded the state's Christian population at 1,790,349 (90.02% of the state's population), making it one of the three Christian-majority states in India, and the only state where Christians form 90% of the population. The state has a very high church attendance rate in both urban and rural areas. The largest of Asia's churches dominate the skylines of Kohima, Dimapur and Mokokchung. Among Christians, Baptists are the predominant group constituting more than 75% of the state's population.

Nagaland is known as "The most populated Baptist state in the world". The state's population is 1.988 million, out of which 90.02% are Christians. 75% of the state's population profess the Baptist faith, thus making it more Baptist than Mississippi (in the southern United States), where 52% of its population is Baptist.

Catholics, Revivalists, and Pentecostals are the other Christian denomination numbers. Catholics are found in significant numbers in parts of Wokha district as also in the urban areas of Kohima and Dimapur.

Hinduism and Islam are minority religions in state, at 7.7% and 1.8% of the population respectively. A small minority, less than 0.3%, still practise the traditional religions and are mainly concentrated in Peren and the Eastern districts.

Sobriquets/ Nicknames

- "Gateway of Nagaland", "The Commercial Hub (of Nagaland)", "Melting Pot" - Dimapur
- "Highland City", "Misty City" - Kohima

- “Cultural capital (of Nagaland)”, “Picture perfect city”, “Aomolung”, - Mokokchung
- “Rice Bowls of Nagaland”, “Land of milk and pig fat” - Jalukie valley; Tsurang-Changki valley
- “Serpentine town” - Tuensang

Administration

The Governor of Nagaland is the constitutional head of state, representative of the President of India. He possesses largely ceremonial responsibilities. A 60-member Vidhan Sabha is the state of ministers, led by a Chief minister - all elected members of legislature - forms the government executive. Unlike most Indian states, Nagaland has been granted a great degree of state autonomy, as well as special powers and autonomy for Naga tribes to conduct their own affairs. Each tribe has a hierarchy of councils - at the village, range and tribal levels dealing with local disputes.

There is a special regional council for the Tuensang district, elected by the tribes of the area. The state is divided into eleven districts.

Districts	District Headquarters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimapur District • Kiphire District • Kohima District • Longleng District • Mokokchung District • Mon District • Peren District • Phek District • Tuensang District • Wokha District • Zunheboto District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimapur-Chumukedima • Kiphire • Greater Kohima • Longleng • Greater Mokokchung • Mon • Peren • Phek • Tuensang • Greater Wokha • Greater Zunheboto

Urban Centres

Major Cities and Towns

- Dimapur
- Kohima
- Mokokchung
- Tuensang
- Wokha

- Mon
- Zunheboto

Urban Agglomerations

There are four urban agglomeration areas with population of more than 40,000 in the state which are:

Rank	Metropolitan/Agglomeration Area	District	2001 Population Census
1	Dimapur-Chumukedima	Dimapur District	230,106
2	Greater Kohima	Kohima District	99,795
3	Mokokchung Metropolitan Area	Mokokchung District	60,161
4	Greater Wokha	Wokha District	43,089

Major (Non-District Headquarter) Towns

- Tuli town
- Naganimora
- Changtongya
- Tizit
- Tseminyu
- Bhandari
- Akuluto
- Pfutsero

Economy

Macroeconomic Trend

This is a chart of trend of gross state domestic product of Nagaland at market prices estimated by *Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation* with figures in millions of Indian Rupees.

Year	Gross State Domestic Product
1980	1,027
1985	2,730
1990	6,550
1995	18,140
2000	36,790

Nagaland's gross state domestic product for 2004 is estimated at \$1.4 billion in current prices.

Agriculture is the most important economic activity in Nagaland, with more than 90% of the population employed crops include rice, corn, millets, pulses, tobacco, oilseeds, sugarcane, potatoes and fibres. However, Nagaland still depends on the import of food supplies from other states. The widespread practice of *jhum* - clearing for cultivation - has led to soil erosion and loss of fertility, particularly in the eastern districts. Only the Angami and Chakesang tribes in the Kohima and Phek districts use terracing techniques. And most of the Aos, Lothas and Zeliangs in Mokokchung, Wokha and Peren districts respectively cultivates in the many valleys of the district. Forestry is also an important source of income. Cottage industries such as weaving, woodwork and pottery are also an important source of revenue. Tourism is important, but largely limited due to insurgency since the last five decades.

Transportation

The railway network in the state is minimal. The length of broad gauge lines is 12.85 km. The length of National Highway roads is 365.38 km and state roads is 1094 km. There is one airport in Dimapur and another is being planned for Kohima, the state capital.

Railways

Railway: North East Frontier Railway

- Broad Gauge-12.85 km
- Total-12.85 km

[Data Source: N. F. Railway, CME Office, Guwahati-781011]

Highways

National Highways with the towns served:

Length: 365.38 km

- NH-61 - Kohima, Wokha, Tseminyu, Wokha, Mokokchung, Changtongya, Tuli
- NH-39 - Dimapur-Kohima-Mao-Imphal (216 km)
- NH-36 - Dimapur-Doboka-Nagonan (170 km)
- NH-150- Kohima-Jessami via Chakhabama-Pfutsero (120 km)
- NH-153- Mokokchung-Jessami via Tuesang-Kiphire (333 km)

State Highways

Length: 1094.60 km

- Chakabama-Mokokchung Via Chazuba and Zunheboto
- Kohima-Meluri
- Mokokchung-Mariani

- Mokokchung-Tuensang
- Namtola-Mon
- Tuensang-Mon-Naginimora
- Tuensang-Kiphiri-Meluri
- Wokha-Merapani Road

[Source: Office of The Chief Engineer, P.W.D., Kohima, Nagaland]

Airways

- Name of the airport - Dimapur
- Distance from the State Capital - 70.0 km
- Town Nearest to the Airport - Dimapur

District of Nagaland

Dimapur District

Dimapur is a district of Nagaland state in India. Its headquarter is Chumukedima.

Kiphire District

Kiphire is the newly formed ninth district of Nagaland which was carved out of Tuensang District. It is bounded by Tuensang District in the north, Phek District in the west and Myanmar in the east. It is headquartered at Kiphire, which is at an altitude of 896 m above sea level. The major cities of this district are Seyochung, Sitimi, Pungro and Kiphire. Saramati (3,841 m), highest peak in Nagaland, is located in this district. Kiphire also has an earth station. Kifatong village is another tourist destination in the district. Sangtam (Eastern), Yimchunger and Sema are the predominant tribes.

Kohima District

Kohima district is a district of Nagaland state in India.

Villages of Kohima District

- Kewhima Village or Kohima Village
- Viswema Village
- Kidima Village
- Khuzama Village
- Kezoma village
- Kezo Basa/Town
- Sakhaba village

- Phesama Village
- Mima Village
- Pfuchama Village
- Jakhama Village
- Kigwema Village
- Jotsoma Village
- Khonoma Village
- Meriema Village
- Gariphema Village
- Tuophema Village
- Botsa Village
- Nerhema Village
- Chiephobozou Village
- Chiechama Village
- Chedema Village
- Thizama Village
- 32 Rengma Nagas' villages

Longleng District

Carved out of Tuensang District, Longleng is tenth district of Nagaland. It is bordered by Mon District in the north, Mokokchung District in the west and Tuensang District in the south. The district's headquarter is Longleng, which is at an altitude of about 1,066 m above sea level. Tamlu and Longleng are the major towns in the district. Phom is the main language spoken here. Its main river is Dikhu.

Mokokchung District

Mokokchung is a district of Nagaland state in India. The town of Mokokchung is its headquarters. It is the home of the Ao Naga tribe. It covers an area of 1,615 km². It is bounded by the state of Assam to its north, Wokha to its west, Tuensang to its east, and Zunheboto to its south.

Administration

The administrative headquarters of Mokokchung district is located at Mokokchung town and the head of administration is Deputy Commissioner. Mokokchung has three subdivisions, namely Tuli, Mangkolemba and Changtongya. The Deputy Commissioner of Mokokchung is Abhishek Singh, who is an officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Geography

The physiography of the district shows six distinct hill ranges. The ranges are more or less parallel to each other and run in Northeast or Southwest directions. The district lies between 93.53 and 94.53 degrees longitude and 25.56 degrees latitude. The entire District of Mokokchung is conveniently subdivided into ranges. The main valleys are Tsurang, Changki and Milak Valleys. The district is agriculturally and industrially among the most progressive districts in the state, along with Dimapur and Kohima. Major agricultural regions are Changki-Longnak, Tsurang, Milak and Dikhu valley regions. Tuli-Milak region and Changki-Longnak valley are the major industrial areas.

Demographics

Mokokchung district recorded a population of 227,230 (2001 census). Christianity is the predominant religion with 95% of its population being Baptist. The district was the first to embrace Christianity in the later part of the 19th century and continues to be the Main Baptist belt of India. Impur, the centre of Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang (ABAM), *i.e.* Ao Baptist Churches Convention, and the largest convention affiliated with the Nagaland Baptist Churches Convention, is located at the heart of the district.

Education

District's literacy rate of 84.6% (2001 census) is the highest in the state and one of the highest in the entire country. The district has been declared a fully literate district in 2007, to become Nagaland's first 100 percent literate district. With 1004 females for every 1000 males, it has the 7th healthiest sex ratio among the 538 districts of India in the 0-6 age group population (2001 census).

Politics

Politically, it is one of the most important districts in Nagaland. It sends 10 of the 60 legislators of the state assembly. Presently four of its legislators are in the ruling DAN government while the other six belong to Congress, the main opposition party in the state. Alichen-Mokokchung-DEF is the largest urban agglomeration area of the district.

Major Ranges

- Ongpangkong
- Asetkong
- Changkikong
- Japukong
- Langpangkong
- Tsurangkong

Land Use

- Total land 1615 km²
- Forest Department purchased land 49.66 km²
- Agriculture 180.39 km²
- Villages and towns 10.50 km²
- Horticulture 8.12 km²
- Different development departments 386.07 km²
- Degraded land 982.62 km²

Important Urban Centres

- Alichen-Mokokchung-DEF
- Tuli town
- Mangkolemba
- Changtongya

Largest Villages (2001 Census)

- Chuchuyimlang- 9,524
- Chuchuyimlang Village -7,846
- Chuchuyimlang Compound -1678
- Changki- 7,718
- Ungma- 7,189
- Longjang- 7,005

Industrial Regions

- Changki Valley
- Tsurang Valley
- Lower Milak-Tuli Region
- Dikhu-Chichung Valleys

Administrative Towns

- Mokokchung
- Tuli
- Mangkolemba
- Changtongya
- Longchem
- Alongkima
- Kobulong

- Ongpangkong
- Chuchu town

Semi-urban Settlements

- Alongtaki
- Waromung Compound
- Dibuaia Compound
- Longjang Compound
- Mokokchung Compound

Blocks

- Ongpangkong North
- Ongpangkong South
- Kobulong
- Changtongya
- Tuli
- Mangkolemba

Nagaland Legislative Assembly Constituencies

- Alongtaki
- Jangpetkong
- Impur
- Angetyongpang
- Koridang
- Aonglenden
- Mokokchung town
- Mongoya
- Tuli
- Arkakong

Media

- All India Radio, Mokokchung
- *Ao Milen* (daily newspaper in Ao)
- *Tir Yimyim* (daily newspaper in Ao)

Mon District

Mon district is the northernmost district of Nagaland. It is bounded by the state of Arunachal Pradesh to its north, Assam to its west, Myanmar to its east, Longleng

District to its southwest and Tuensang District to its south. The town of Mon is its district headquarters.

Culture

This district is the home of the Konyak Nagas and it is interesting to see tattooed faces wearing feathers. Konyaks are adept artisans and skilled craftsmen. Here you can find excellent wood carvings, daos (machetes), guns, gunpowder, head brushes, headgear, necklaces, etc. made by these artisans and craftsmen. The most colourful festival of the Konyaks, "Aoling Monyu", which is observed during the first week of April every year, is a spectacle worth watching.

Local Government

Konyaks are ruled by hereditary chiefs known as Anghs, and the institution of Anghship is only prevalent among the Konyaks. It is an exciting experience to pay a visit to the Angh's house at Chui, Mon Tangnyu, Sheangha, Chingnyu, Wakching and Jaboka. The Angh's house is the largest in the village, with a display of skulls in the front. The Konyaks have tattoos on their face and body. The older males wear large earrings made of boar horn and wear a loincloth only. Some carry a machete called dao or a gun. The older women wear a short piece of cloth wrapped around their waist only. They carry bamboo baskets on their backs or tie children to their backs with cloth. They weave wonderful designs on their handwoven shawls. During festivals, the males wear colourful shawls and headgear decorated with feathers, and dance with daos or spears chanting rhythmically. They also farm land in the hills by clearing the forests by controlled burning called "Jhum". They also brew a home brewed liquor made out of rice. Konyaks used to be headhunters before Independence. Some younger konyaks are giving up their traditional way of life and adopting modern customs.

Prominent Attractions

Shangnyu Village

Ruled by the chief Angh, Shangnyu village is one of the prominent villages in Mon district. There is a wonderful wooden monument measuring 8 feet in height and 12 feet in breadth - believed to be constructed by heavenly angels. Carvings of human beings and other creatures are engraved on this monument. Memorial stones are also found in front of the Angh's palace. History records that good and friendly relationships existed between Shangnyu and Ahom Kings.

Chui Village (basti)

This is a prominent village near Mon, the district Headquarters. It is ruled by

the Angh of Chui Basti. The Angh's house is the biggest in the village and has a display of skulls of enemies supposedly killed by him and his forebears in the times past. The Konyaks used to be headhunters in the 19th century.

Longwa Village

One of the biggest villages in Mon district, it is an interesting sight to see. As the village straddles an international boundary line, one half of the Angh's house falls within Indian territory, whereas the other half lies under Myanmar control. However, the whole village is controlled by the Angh and the village Council Chairman. Another interesting feature of this village is that the Angh of the village has 60 wives and his jurisdiction extends up to Myanmar and Arunachal Pradesh.

Veda Peak

This highest peak of the district is approximately 70 km east of Mon. The peak offers a clear sight of both the rivers Brahmaputra and Chindwin on a clear day. There is a waterfall on the precincts of this peak and this area is also considered as one of the best locations in the whole of Konyak countryside.

Peren District

Peren is the eleventh and the newest district of Nagaland, formed as a result of bifurcation of Kohima District. It is bounded by Assam state and Dimapur District in the west and northwestern part respectively, Kohima District in the east and Manipur state in the south. Peren District is headquartered at Peren (about 1,445 m above sea level). Tening and Peren are the major towns of the district. Most of the inhabitants belong to the Zeliang and Kuki tribes.

Phek District

Tuensang District

Tuensang District is the largest and the eastern most district of Nagaland, a state in North-East India. Its headquarter is Tuensang. Tuensang is one of the original three districts, along with Mokokchung and Kohima formed at the time the state was created. Over the decades, the district has gradually diminished in size with the carving out of Mon, Longleng and Kiphire districts from it.

The district shares a long and porous international border with Myanmar all along its eastern sector. It is bounded by Mon in the north east, Longleng in the North, Mokokchung and Zunheboto in the West and Kiphire in the South. Nagaland's highest peak, Mount Saramati (3840 metres) is located in this district. Dikhu and Tizu are the main rivers of the district. Likhimro Hydro project was commissioned in 2001.

Changs, Sangtams, Yimchunger-Tikhir and Khiamungans are the main indigenous tribes of this district. Besides, Aos and Semas form a significant part of the district's population. Christianity is the main religion though animistic beliefs are still practised by a small minority specially along the Myanmarese border.

Wokha District

Wokha is a district of Nagaland state in India, it covers an area of 1,628 km² and has a population of 1,61,098.

Zunheboto District

Zunheboto is a district of Nagaland state in India. It is bordered on the east by Mokokchung District, Kohima District in the south and Wokha District on the west. Headquarter is at Zunheboto.

Zunheboto is also the home to the Sumi Nagas, a warrior tribe of Nagaland. Head hunting was practiced extensively till the advent of the American missionaries who converted the warriors to Christians and thus the gruesome practice was stopped. Today the people are peaceful and hardworking, practicing agriculture as their main occupation. A hilly place, Zunheboto is covered by evergreen forests and surrounded by small streams and rivers. Today it is home to the Nagaland University whose campus is situated in the village of Lumami in the sub division of Akuluto. This has become the cultural centre for the people of Nagaland, as all the Nagas irrespective of tribes come in droves to study.

Battle of the Tennis Court

The Battle of the Tennis Court was the turning point in the Battle of Kohima in North East India from April 4 – June 22, 1944.

By April 5 the British had been forced back onto the Kohima ridge.

The Kohima ridge consisted of features such as Garrison Hill, Jail Hill, Field Supply Depot (FSD) Hill, and Detail Issue (DIS) Hill; these areas, along with the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Charles Pawsey's Bungalow, were used as the main lines of defence which was held by 4th Royal West Kents and supporting troops from the Assam Rifles and Assam Regiment. As they were cut off they were supplied by air by the Royal Air Force. The Japanese launched a series of attacks into the northeast region of the defences on April 8, and by April 9 the British and Indians there had been forced back out of the DC's Bungalow to the other side of the tennis court. The other positions came under heavy attack and the perimeter shrunk.

On April 13, the troops defending near the DC's bungalow and the tennis court came under increasingly heavy artillery and mortar fire, and had to repel frequent

infantry assaults. This area was the scene of some of the hardest, closest and grimmest fighting, with grenades being hurled across the tennis court at point-blank range. But on April 14 the Japanese did not launch an attack and on the 15th British troops on Kohima ridge heard that the British 2nd Division was attacking along the Dimapur-Kohima road and had broken through Japanese road blocks.

On the April 17, the Japanese tried one last time to take the ridge. They successfully captured the FSD to the Garrison Hill positions. But on the morning of April 18 British artillery opened up from the west against the Japanese positions, which stopped the Japanese attacks. Elements of the British 2nd Division, 161st Brigade and tanks from XXXIII Corps pushed into the area northwest of Garrison Hill and forced the Japanese from their positions. The road between Dimapur and Kohima had been opened, and the siege was lifted.

The Japanese who had been fighting to capture Kohima did not retreat at once, many of them stayed in the positions which they had captured and fought tenaciously for several more weeks. By the morning of May 13, most of the positions in the Kohima region had been re-taken by the British and Indian forces; a few, among them the DC's bungalow, were still holding out against the Dorsets and their supporting tanks.

Around May 15 the Japanese 31st Division began to withdraw and fresh British troops from XXXIII Corps began to reinforce and relieve members of the 2nd Division and 33rd and 161st Indian Brigades. The *battle of the Tennis Court* was over and troops of the British Fourteenth Army began an advance, with the relief of Imphal, which would continue until Burma had been recaptured.

The fighting within the 6th Brigade's area was documented by Major Boshell, who commanded 'B' Company, 1st Royal Berkshires, in the 6th Infantry Brigade:

"To begin with I took over an area overlooking the Tennis Court... The lie of the land made impossible to move by day because of Japanese snipers. We were in Kohima for three weeks. We were attacked every single night... They came in waves, it was like a pigeon shoot. Most nights they overran part of the battalion position, so we had to mount counter-attacks... Water was short and restricted to about one pint per man per day. So we stopped shaving. Air supply was the key, but the steep terrain and narrow ridges meant that some of the drops went to the Japs. My company went into Kohima over 100 strong and came out at about 60.

"This battle was ultimately to prove to be the turning point of the Battle of Kohima which was the turning point of the Burma Campaign. Earl Louis Mountbatten, the Supreme Allied Commander in the theatre, described Kohima as" probably one of the greatest battles in history... in effect the Battle of Burma... naked unparalleled heroism... the British/Indian Thermopylae.

Battle of Kohima

The Battle of Kohima (the “Stalingrad of the East”) was the turning point of the Japanese U Go offensive into India in 1944 in World War II. It was fought from April 4 to June 22 1944 around the town of Kohima in northeast India.

The battle took place in two stages. From April 3 to April 16, the Japanese attempted to capture Kohima ridge, a feature which dominated the road by which the major British and Indian troops at Imphal were supplied. By mid-April, the small British force at Kohima was relieved, and from April 18 to June 22, British and Indian reinforcements counter-attacked to drive the Japanese from the positions they had captured. The battle ended on June 22 when British and Indian troops from Kohima and Imphal met at Milestone 109, ending the siege of Imphal.

Background

The Japanese plan to invade India, codenamed U-GO, was originally intended as a spoiling attack against the Indian IV Corps at Imphal, to disrupt the Allied offensive plans for that year. The commander of the Japanese Fifteenth Army, Lieutenant General Renya Mutaguchi, enlarged the plan to invade India itself and perhaps even overthrow the British Raj. The objections of various superior HQ were eventually overruled by War Minister Hideki Tojo.

Part of the plan involved sending the Japanese 31st Division (which was composed of 58 Regiment, 124 Regiment, 138 Regiment and an Independent Mountain Artillery battalion) to capture Kohima and thus cut off Imphal, and then exploit to Dimapur. The division’s commander, Lieutenant General Kotoku Sato was unhappy with his role. He had not been involved in the planning of the offensive, and had grave misgivings about their chances. He had already told his staff that they might all starve to death.

In common with many senior Japanese officers, Sato considered Mutaguchi a “blockhead”. He and Mutaguchi had also been on opposite sides during the split between the *Toseiha* and *Kodoha* factions within the Japanese Army during the early 1930’s, and Sato believed he had reason to distrust Mutaguchi’s motives.

Preliminary Moves

Starting on March 15, 1944, the Japanese 31st Division crossed the Chindwin River near Homalin and moved northwest along jungle trails on a front almost 60 miles (97 km) wide. Although the march was arduous, good progress was made. The left wing of the division, 58 Regiment, commanded by the division’s Infantry Group commander, Major General Shigesaburo Miyazaki was ahead of the neighbouring formation (Japanese 15th Infantry Division) when they clashed with Indian troops

covering the northern approaches to Imphal on March 20. The Indian troops were the Indian 50 Parachute Brigade under Brigadier Hope-Thompson, at Sangshak. Although they were not Miyazaki's objective, he decided to clear them from his line of advance. The battle continued for six days. The Indian troops were desperately short of drinking water, but Miyazaki was handicapped by lack of artillery. Eventually, as the Japanese 15th Division's troops joined the battle, Hope-Thompson withdrew.

50 Parachute Brigade lost 600 men, Miyazaki about 400. Miyazaki also captured some of the food dropped by the RAF to the defenders of Sangshak. However, his troops, who had the shortest and easiest route to Kohima, were delayed by a week.

Meanwhile, the commander of the British Fourteenth Army, Lieutenant General William Slim, had belatedly realised the strength of the force moving on Kohima. (It had originally been thought that the Japanese would move only a regiment across the forbidding terrain). Kohima had few fighting troops; the vital base of Dimapur thirty miles to the north had none.

As part of the hasty reinforcement of the Imphal front, the Indian 5th Infantry Division were flown from the Arakan front, where they had just participated in the defeat of a subsidiary Japanese offensive at the Battle of the Admin Box. While the main body of the division went to Imphal, Indian 161st Infantry Brigade (with 24 Mountain Artillery Regiment, Indian Artillery), were flown to Dimapur. The British 2nd Division, 23 Long Range Penetration Brigade (originally part of the Chindit force), and Indian XXXIII Corps HQ under Lieutenant General Montagu Stopford were also ordered to move there by road and rail.

Siege

Kohima ridge runs roughly north and south. The road from Dimapur to Imphal climbs to its northern end and runs along its eastern face. North of the ridge lay the densely inhabited area of *Naga Village*, crowned by *Treasury Hill* and *Church Knoll*. (Baptist and other Christian missionaries had been active in Nagaland over the preceding half century). South and west of Kohima Ridge were *GPT Ridge* and the jungle-covered *Aradura Spur*.

In 1944, Kohima was the administrative centre of Nagaland. The Deputy Commissioner was Charles Pawsey. His bungalow and its gardens and tennis court stood on the hillside at a bend in the road.

The various British and Indian service troop encampments in the area gave their names to the features which were to be important in the battle e.g. "Field Supply Depot" became *FSD Hill* or merely *FSD*. The Japanese assigned their own codenames to the features; for example, Garrison Hill was known as *Inu* (dog) and Kuki Piquet as *Saru* (monkey). These were frequently-used names, and not generally as memorable

as the British names which are used in most histories. Before 161 Brigade arrived, the only fighting troops in the area were the newly raised Assam Regiment and some of the paramilitary Assam Rifles. Late in March, 161 Brigade deployed in Kohima, but were then ordered back to Dimapur. The Assam Regiment fought delaying actions against the main body of the Japanese 31st Division to the east of Kohima from April 1, while Miyazaki's troops from the south were probing Kohima on April 3. 161 Brigade had been ordered forward again, but only one battalion, 4/The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (now part of the Queen's Regiment) arrived in Kohima before the Japanese cut the road west of the ridge. Besides this battalion, the garrison consisted of a raw battalion (the Shere Regiment) from the Royal Nepalese Army, some companies from the Burma Regiment, some of the Assam Regiment which had retired to Kohima and various detachments of line-of-communication troops. The garrison numbered about 2,500 and was commanded by Colonel Hugh Richards.

The siege began on April 6. The garrison was continually shelled and mortared, in many instances by Japanese using weapons captured at Sangshak and from other depots, and was slowly driven into a small perimeter on Garrison Hill. They had artillery support from the rest of 161 Brigade, themselves cut off two miles away at Jotsoma, but as at Sangshak, they were very short of drinking water. The dressing stations were exposed to Japanese fire, and wounded men were hit again as they waited for treatment. Some of the heaviest fighting took place around the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow and tennis court, in what became known as the battle of the Tennis Court. By the night of April 17, the defenders' situation was desperate.

Relief

The British 2nd Division had begun to arrive at Dimapur in early April, having moved from Southern India where they had been training for amphibious landings. By April 11, Fourteenth Army had about the same number of troops in the area as the Japanese. The British 5th Brigade of the 2nd Division broke through to relieve 161 Brigade in Jotsoma on April 15. The British 6th Brigade took over 161 Brigade's defensive position (the "Jotsoma Box"), allowing 161 Brigade with air, artillery and armour support to launch an attack over the 5 miles (8.0 km) to Kohima on April 18. After a day's heavy fighting, 161 Brigade broke through and started to relieve the Kohima garrison. By now, Kohima resembled a battlefield from the first World War, with trees smashed and the ground covered in craters.

Under cover of darkness the wounded were brought out under fire. Although contact had been established it took a further 24 hours to secure the road between Jotsoma and Kohima. During April 19 and into the early hours of April 20 the British 6th Brigade steadily replaced the original garrison and at 06:00 hours the garrison commander (Colonel Richards) handed over command of the area. Miyazaki continued

to try to capture Garrison Hill, and there was heavy fighting for this position for several more nights, with high casualties on both sides.

Counter-offensive

Meanwhile, the other two brigades of 2nd Division tried to outflank both ends of the Japanese position in *Naga Village* and on *GPT Ridge*. The monsoon had by now broken, and the steep slopes were covered in mud, making movement and supply very difficult. After promising starts, both moves failed because of the terrain and the weather, and from May 4, the Division concentrated on the Japanese centre along Kohima Ridge. The Japanese had reorganised their forces for defence. Their Left Force under Miyazaki held Kohima Ridge with four battalions; the Centre Force under Sato himself held *Naga Village* with another four battalions. The much smaller Right Force held villages to the north and east.

To support their attack on the ridge, the British had now amassed 38 3.7 inch mountain howitzers, 48 25-pounder field guns and 2 5.5 inch medium guns. The RAF also bombed and strafed the Japanese positions. The Japanese could oppose them with only 17 light mountain guns, with very little ammunition.

Nevertheless, progress was slow: tanks could not be used, and the Japanese were very deeply dug in, their positions well-concealed and mutually supporting. Japanese posts on the reverse slope of *GPT Ridge* repeatedly caught British troops attacking *Jail Hill* in the flank, inflicting heavy casualties, and prevented them capturing the hill for a week. Two successive commanders of British 4th Infantry Brigade were killed in the close-range fighting on *GPT*. However, the various positions were slowly taken. The last was the DC's bungalow. On May 13, the British finally bulldozed a track to the summit overlooking the position up which a tank could be dragged. A Lee tank crashed down onto the tennis court and destroyed the Japanese trenches and bunkers, thus finally clearing Kohima Ridge.

The terrain had been reduced to a fly- and rat-infested wilderness, with half-buried human remains everywhere. The conditions under which the Japanese troops had lived and fought were described by several British sources as "unspeakable".

Yet more Allied reinforcements had arrived. 33 Brigade (part of Indian 7th Division) had been fighting since May 4, and had captured Kuki Picquet, FSD and DIS on May 11. 114 Brigade and the Division HQ joined the fighting on May 12, and (with 161 Brigade under command) concentrated on capturing *Naga Village* from the north. 268 Indian Motor Brigade was used to relieve the brigades of British 2nd Division and allow them to rest, before they resumed their drive southward along the Imphal Road. Yet when the Allies launched another attack on May 16, the Japanese continued to defend *Naga Village* and *Aradura Spur* tenaciously.

Japanese Retreat

The decisive factor was the Japanese lack of supplies. Since the offensive started, they had to make do with meagre captured stocks and what they could forage in increasingly hostile local villages. This was partly due to the British 23 LRP Brigade, which had been operating behind the Japanese 31st Division. They had cut the Japanese supply lines and prevented them foraging in the Naga Hills to the east of Kohima. The Japanese had mounted one resupply mission, using 17 captured jeeps to carry supplies forward from the Chindwin, but they brought mainly artillery and anti-tank ammunition rather than food.

By the middle of May, Sato's troops were starving. He considered that the HQ of Japanese 15th Army were neither taking any notice of his situation (as they had issued several confusing and contradictory orders to him during April) nor exerting themselves to move supplies to his division. He began pulling his troops back to conserve their strength, thus allowing the British to capture Kohima Ridge. On May 25, he notified 15th Army that he would withdraw on June 1 unless he was supplied. (For a divisional commander to retreat without orders or permission from his superior was unheard-of in the Japanese Army.) Finally on May 31, he abandoned *Naga Village* and other positions north of the road, in spite of orders from Mutaguchi to hang on to his position.

Miyazaki's detachment continued to fight rearguard actions and demolish bridges along the road to Imphal, but were eventually driven off the road and forced to retreat eastwards. The remainder of the division retreated painfully south, but found very little to eat: most of what few supplies had been brought forward across the Chindwin had been consumed by other Japanese units, who were as desperately hungry as Sato's men. Many of the 31st Division were too enfeebled to drag themselves further south than Ukhrul (near the Sangshak battlefield), where hospitals had been set up, but with no medicines, medical staff or food.

Indian XXXIII Corps pushed southwards along the road. On June 22, the leading troops of British 2nd Division met the main body of Indian 5th Infantry Division advancing north from Imphal at Milestone 109, thirty miles south of Kohima. The siege of Imphal was over.

Aftermath

The British and Indian forces had lost around 4,000 men, dead, missing and wounded. The Japanese had lost more than 5,000 men in the Kohima area fighting.

After ignoring army orders for several weeks, Sato was removed from command of Japanese 31st Division early in July. The entire Imphal offensive was broken off at the same time. Slim had always derided Sato as the most unenterprising of his

opponents, but Japanese sources blame his superior, Mutaguchi, for both the weaknesses of the original plan, and the antipathy between himself and Sato which led to Sato concentrating on saving his division rather than driving on distant objectives.

This battle was ultimately to prove the turning point of the Burma Campaign. Earl Louis Mountbatten described it as “probably one of the greatest battles in history... in effect the Battle of Burma... naked unparalleled heroism... the British/Indian Thermopylae”.

RAF Supply

At both Kohima and Imphal, the army relied entirely on supply by the Royal Air Force (RAF) until the road from Dimapur was cleared. At Kohima the main problem was dropping of air delivered logistics accurately on to the narrow ridgelines.

By the end of the battle the RAF had flown 19,000 tons of supplies and 12,000 men into Kohima and Imphal, and flown out 13,000 casualties and 43,000 non-combatants. The increasing dominance of the RAF by this stage of the Burma Campaign was a major contributor in helping the Allies turn the tide of the war in this theatre.

Victoria Cross

Two Victoria Crosses were awarded during the battle:

- Lance Corporal John Pennington Harman, 4th Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 161st Indian Infantry Brigade, 5th Indian Division
- Bvt. Captain John Neil Randle, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Norfolk Regiment, 2nd Division

Memorial

Kohima has a large cemetery for the Allied war dead maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery lies on the slopes of Garrison Hill, in what was once the Deputy Commissioner's tennis court which was the scene of the Battle of the Tennis Court. The epitaph carved on the memorial of the 2nd British Division in the cemetery has become world-famous as the Kohima Epitaph. The verse is attributed to John Maxwell Edmonds (1875 -1958), and is thought to have been inspired by the epitaph written by Simonides to honour the Greek who fell at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC.

*“When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Their Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today”*

Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1958 (India)

The Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order states that a Protected Area Permit (PAP) is required for non-Indians to visit certain areas in India (mainly in the North-East).

Certain requirements have to be fulfilled in order to get this permit. Indian citizens, who are not resident in these areas need a Inner Line Permit (ILP) to enter these places. The Inner Line Permit is significantly easier to get.

Requirements

- Tourists have to travel in groups of at least 4
- They have to travel with a registered travel agent
- In some areas only certain entry/exit points are allowed. In certain areas non-Indians cannot enter at all
- Citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar can get the PAP only with approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs

Normally the PAP has a duration of 10 days, with the option of extending for another 7 days. The PAP is issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the different authorities of the concerned Indian provinces can also issue the PAP, and also the Indian missions abroad. Normally the travel agent will take care of getting the PAP for the tourists.

Areas for which a PAP is Required

- Parts of Jammu and Kashmir
- Parts of Himachal Pradesh
- Parts of Uttar Pradesh
- All of Arunachal Pradesh
- All of Nagaland
- All of Manipur
- All of Mizoram

Areas for which the PAP Requirement was Lifted

- Assam
- Meghalaya
- Tripura
- Sikkim

Problems

At the moment only a touristic visit is a widely accepted purpose for a non-Indian's visit to a protected area. However, there are also other legitimate reasons why a non-Indian would want to visit these areas, for example if such a person is married to a native person of this area to visit his in-laws. For this purpose much more time than 10 days is required. As a consequence native people from the concerned areas

who are married to a non-Indian or having children of a different nationality cannot settle permanently in their native area with their family because it is not possible to get a permanent permit for their non-Indian family-members.

One of the intended purposes of this policy was to protect the culture of the native people living there from the influence of outsiders. However, since it is quite easy for Indians to get an Inner Line Permit many Indians from other regions of India are moving to these regions. It is doubtful whether a large number of permanently residing Indians (from a significant different cultural background compared to the tribals) are having a lesser impact on the culture of the tribals than temporary visiting tourists.

Technically Indians with NRI status (*i.e.* Indians who are staying abroad for more than 6 months) are not eligible for the Inner Line Permit and therefore have to apply for a Protected Area Permit if they wish to visit the concerned areas. Of course this means that even native people of these areas have to apply for a Protected Area Permit once they become NRI. The same applies for PIO Card holders and Overseas Citizens of India.

Furthermore, there are no border controls at the protected areas' land borders, so if someone "looks native," he/she can travel undetected in the protected area even if he/she does not have proper documentation.