



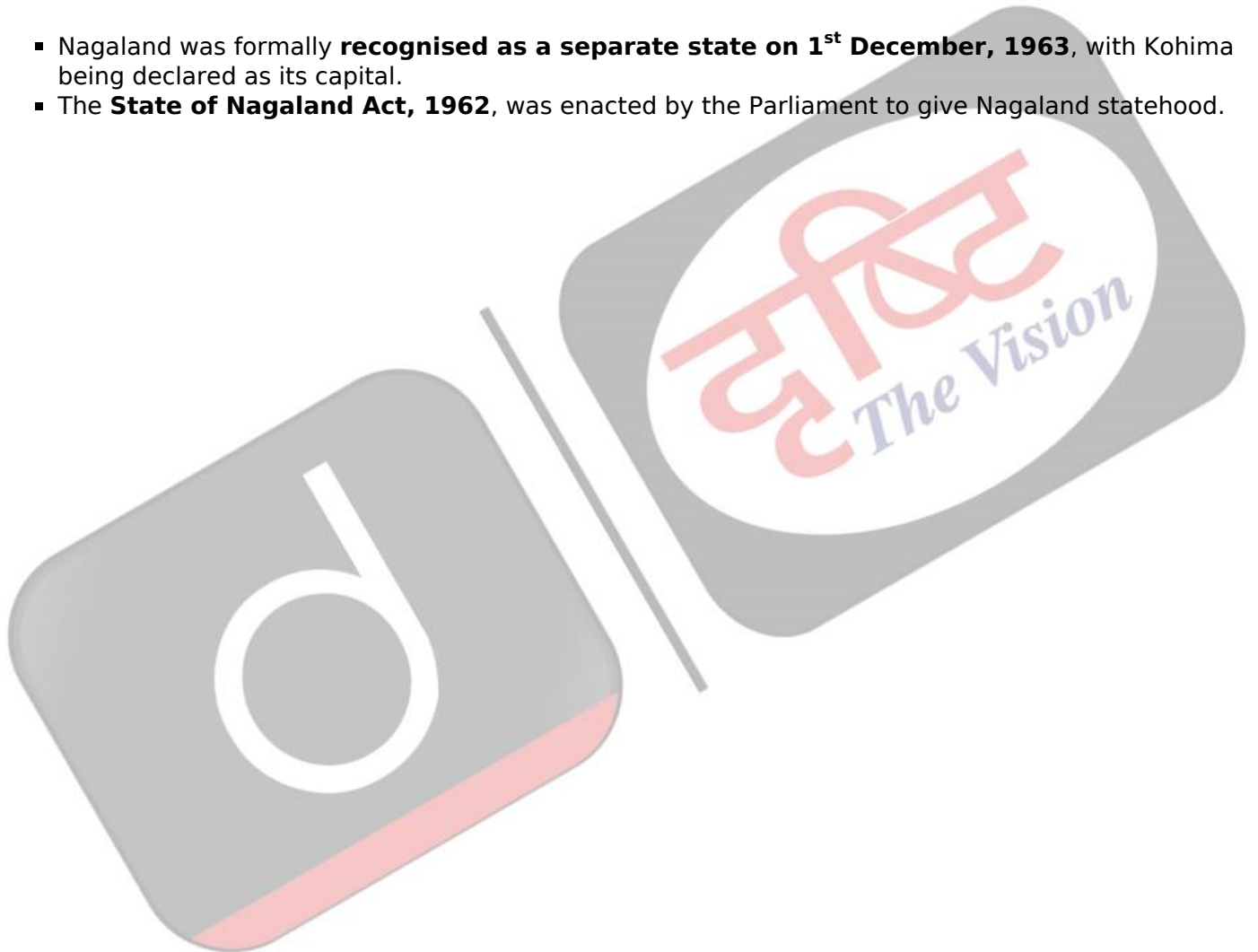
Nagaland Statehood Day

Why in News

Recently, **Nagaland** has celebrated its **59th Statehood day** on December 1st 2021.

- Nagaland was formally **recognised as a separate state on 1st December, 1963**, with Kohima being declared as its capital.
- The **State of Nagaland Act, 1962**, was enacted by the Parliament to give Nagaland statehood.

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Nagaland

▪ Historical Background:

- After India became independent in 1947, the Naga territory **initially remained a part of Assam**. However, a **strong nationalist movement began seeking a political union of the Naga tribes**, and extremists demanded outright secession from the Indian union.
- In **1957, the Naga Hills region of Assam and the Tuensang frontier division to the northeast were brought together** under a single unit directly administered by the Indian government.

- In **1960** it was resolved that Nagaland should become a constituent state of the Indian union. Nagaland achieved statehood in **1963**, and a democratically elected government took office in 1964.

▪ **Geography:**

- It is bounded by the Indian states of **Arunachal Pradesh** to the northeast, Manipur to the south, and Assam to the west and northwest and the country of Myanmar (Burma) to the east. The state **capital is Kohima**, located in the southern part of Nagaland.
- Nagaland has a **Monsoonal (wet-dry) Climate**. Annual rainfall averages between 70 and 100 inches and is concentrated in the months of the **southwest monsoon (May to September)**.

▪ **Biodiversity:**

- **Flora: Forests cover about one-sixth of Nagaland.** Below 4,000 feet are tropical and subtropical evergreen forests, containing palms, rattan, and bamboo, as well as valuable timber species. Coniferous forests are found at higher elevations. Areas cleared for **jhum (shifting cultivation)** have a secondary growth of high grass, reeds, and scrub jungle
- **Fauna: Elephants, tigers, leopards**, bears, several kinds of monkeys, sambar deer, buffalo, wild oxen, and the occasional rhinoceros live in the lower hills. Porcupines, **pangolins** (scaly anteaters), wild dogs, foxes, civet cats, and mongooses also are found in the state.

- **Mithun** (Gayal) is the state animal of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Blyth's tragopan** is the state bird of Nagaland.

▪ **Tribes:**

- The **Konyaks are the largest tribe**, followed by the **Aos, Tangkhuls, Semas, and Angamis**.
- Other tribes include the Lothas, Sangtams, Phoms, Changs, Khiem Hungama, Yimchunger, Zeliangs, Chakhesangs (Chokri), and Rengmas.

▪ **Economy:**

- Agriculture employs **about nine-tenths of the population**. Rice, corn (maize), small millets, pulses (legumes), oilseeds, fibres, sugarcane, potato, and tobacco are the principal crops.
- Nagaland, however, still **has to depend on imports of food from neighbouring states**.

▪ **Protected Areas in Nagaland:**

- **Intanki National Park**
- **Singphan Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary**
- **Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary**

▪ **Major Festival:**

- The **Hornbill Festival** is a celebration held every year from 1 to 10 December, in Nagaland.
- The significance of the festival lies in the fact that it is not an ancient festival, and it was **started in the year 2000 to popularise Nagaland among the tourists**.

Nagas

- Nagas are a **hill people who are estimated to number about 2.5 million** (1.8 million in Nagaland, 0.6 million in Manipur and 0.1 million in Arunachal states) and living in the remote and mountainous country between the Indian state of Assam and Burma.
 - There are **also Naga groups in Burma**.
- The Nagas **are not a single tribe, but an ethnic community** that comprises several tribes who live in the state of Nagaland and its neighbourhood. Nagas belong to the **Indo-Mongoloid**

Family.

- There are **nineteen major Naga tribes**, namely, Aos, Angamis, Changs, Chakesang, Kabuis, Kacharis, Khain-Mangas, Konyaks, Kukis, Lothas (Lothas), Maos, Mikirs, Phoms, Rengmas, Sangtams, Semas, Tankhuls, Yamchumgar and Zeeliang.

Source: PIB

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