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Mizoram

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Mizoram

Mizoram is a hill state in India’s far north-east. It went from a hill district of Assam to a Union Territory, then to a state after a peace accord. This lesson covers its name, its history, its bamboo dance and its Blue Mountain.

At a glance

Four key facts on this topic

01 **1987** Statehood on 20 February.

02 **1986** Peace Accord on 30 June.

03 **Cheraw** The bamboo dance.

04 **Phawngpui** The Blue Mountain.

What does Mizoram mean?

1 Name and Place

1.1 What does Mizoram mean?

The name is built from three Mizo words. Mi means people, zo means hills and ram means land.

So Mizoram is the land of people residing in the hills. It is also called the Land of Blue Mountains.

1.2 Who are its neighbours?

Mizoram shares borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh. It also touches Tripura, Assam and Manipur.

The Mizo people, mainly the Lusei tribe, form the majority of the population.



Memory hook only. Not a surveyed map.

9. **Think it through:** How many countries? See answer ↓

Quick check 1. True or false: Mizoram shares borders with both Myanmar and Bangladesh. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in

How did Mizoram get its name?

2 Lushai Hills to Mizoram

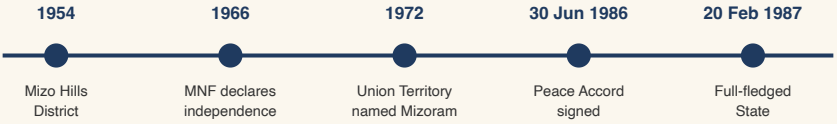
2.1 What was Mizoram called earlier?

Earlier, Mizoram was recognised as the Lushai Hills District of Assam. In 1954 the name changed to Mizo Hills District.

2.2 When did it get its present name?

In 1972 the Mizo Hills District was declared a Union Territory. It was then given its present name, Mizoram.

From hill district to state



Dates as reported by Incredible India and The Assam Tribune.

10. **Think it through:** Name or status? See answer ↓

Quick check 2. True or false: Mizoram was once the Lushai Hills District of Assam. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What was the Mizo Peace Accord?

3 The Mizo Peace Accord

3.1 What was the conflict?

The Mizo National Front, led by Laldenga, declared independence from the Indian Union on 1 March 1966. Mizoram was then a hill district of Assam. The unrest that followed lasted about 20 years.

3.2 How did it end?

The Peace Accord was signed in Delhi on 30 June 1986. It was between the Government of India and the MNF.

Laldenga signed for the MNF. Union Home Secretary R. D. Pradhan signed for the Centre.

3.3 What is Remna Ni?

Remna Ni means Peace Day. Mizoram marks it every year on 30 June, the day the Accord was signed.

The Accord has stood the test of time, and Mizoram is now counted among the more peaceful states.

11. **Think it through:** Accord or statehood first? See answer ↓

Quick check 3. True or false: The Mizo Peace Accord was signed on 30 June 1986. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: assamtribune.com

When did Mizoram become a state?

4 Statehood in 1987

4.1 When did Mizoram become a state?

Mizoram was accorded full-fledged statehood on 20 February 1987. Statehood was a prerequisite for putting the Accord into effect.

4.2 What happened on the day?

Chief Secretary Lalkhama read out the proclamation at Aizawl's Parade Ground. The 30-member UT Assembly became a 40-member State Assembly. Hiteshwar Saikia was appointed the first Governor of the new state.

12. **Think it through:** What changed in the Assembly? See answer ↓

Mizoram timeline

Year	Event
1954	Lushai Hills renamed Mizo Hills District
1 March 1966	MNF declares independence
1972	Union Territory, named Mizoram
30 June 1986	Peace Accord signed in Delhi
20 February 1987	Full-fledged statehood

> **Quick check 4.** True or false: Mizoram became a full-fledged state on 20 February 1987. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

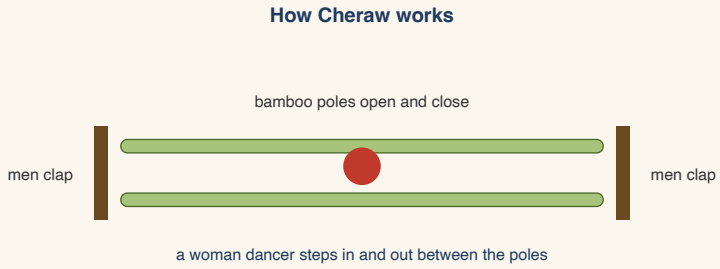
What is the Cheraw dance?

5 Cheraw: The Bamboo Dance

5.1 What is Cheraw?

Cheraw is a traditional dance of the Mizo people. It is also called the Bamboo Dance.

Six to eight long bamboo poles are laid in pairs on the ground. Men sit at the ends and clap them open and shut to a beat.



Memory hook only. Not to scale.

5.2 Who dances, and where is it seen?

Women step and dance between the moving poles. They must keep perfect time to avoid getting their feet caught.

Cheraw is performed at festivals such as Chapchar Kut. Women often wear a feathered headgear called vakiria and a woven skirt called puanchei.

5.3 Where does it come from?

Its exact origin is hard to trace. One tradition says it was first danced to help the soul of a woman who died in childbirth.

Treat that as a tradition, not as proven history.

> 13. **Think it through:** Who holds the poles? See answer ↓

> **Quick check 5.** True or false: In Cheraw, men clap the bamboo poles while women dance between them. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: humansofnortheast.com

What are Phawngpui and Dampa?

6 Phawngpui and Dampa

6.1 What is the Blue Mountain?

Phawngpui, the Blue Mountain, is Mizoram's highest summit. It rises to about 2,157 metres in Lawngtlai District.

It lies on the south-east border and overlooks a bend in the Chhimtuipui River and the hills of Myanmar. A thin layer of cloud over the hills gives it the name.

6.2 What lives there?

Wild animals here include the goral, serrow, barking deer, sambar and leopard. Tamdil Lake lies in the area.

6.3 What is Dampa?

Dampa Tiger Reserve is in Mizoram and is described as a biosphere reserve. It protects some of India's rarest species.

> 14. **Think it through:** Why Blue? See answer ↓

Places to remember

Place	Why it matters
Phawngpui	Highest summit, about 2,157 m, Lawngtlai District
Dampa Tiger Reserve	Protected forest with rare and endangered species

Place	Why it matters
Tamdil Lake	Quiet lake that reflects the blue hills

> **Quick check 6.** True or false: Phawngpui is described as Mizoram's highest mountain summit. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: humansofnortheast.com

Which festivals and crafts matter?

7 Festivals and Crafts

7.1 Which festivals matter?

Chapchar Kut is held in February-March and marks the onset of spring. Mim Kut celebrates the harvest.

Thalfavang Kut is held in November and celebrates Mizoram’s cultural diversity.

7.2 What is Mizo art known for?

Mizo women are renowned for weaving intricate designs into shawls and skirts. Music uses the bamboo flute and the tangmuri.

> 15. **Think it through:** Spring or harvest? See answer ↓

> **Quick check 7.** True or false: Chapchar Kut marks the onset of spring. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What should you remember for the exam?

8 Exam Point of View

8.1 What should you remember for the exam?

16. **Exam angle:** Link Mizoram with the 1986 Peace Accord and statehood on 20 February 1987. Link Cheraw with bamboo poles and Chapchar Kut. See answer ↓

8.2 Which past questions came from this topic?

8.3 Which small facts are easy to mix up?

Do not mix up the Accord and statehood. The Accord was signed in 1986. Statehood came on 20 February 1987.

Do not mix up Cheraw and Khuallam. Cheraw is the bamboo dance of Mizoram. Khuallam is another Mizo dance asked in exams.

Quick check 8. True or false: Mizoram became a state before the Peace Accord was signed. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Remember this

- **Name:** mi (people) + zo (hills) + ram (land).
- **Earlier:** Lushai Hills, then Mizo Hills, then a UT in 1972.
- **Accord:** 30 June 1986, MNF and the Government of India.
- **Statehood:** 20 February 1987.
- **Dance:** Cheraw, with bamboo poles.
- **Peak:** Phawngpui, the Blue Mountain.

Explain it back: Say how the 1986 Accord led to statehood in 1987.

Practice MCQs

1. What does the name Mizoram mean?

A. Land of the people residing in the hills

B. Abode of clouds

C. Land of rivers

D. Hill of the bamboo

See answer ↓

2. The Mizo Peace Accord was signed on which date?

A. 20 February 1987

B. 30 June 1986

C. 1 March 1966

D. 26 January 1950

See answer ↓

3. Who signed the Mizo Peace Accord for the Mizo National Front?

A. Laldenga

B. R. D. Pradhan

C. Lalkhama

D. Hiteshwar Saikia

See answer ↓

4. Who was appointed the first Governor of Mizoram State?

A. Lalkhama

B. Laldenga

C. Hiteshwar Saikia

D. R. D. Pradhan

See answer ↓

5. In the Cheraw dance, who dances between the bamboo poles?

A. Priests

B. Children only

C. Men

D. Women

See answer ↓

6. Which is Mizoram's highest mountain summit?

A. Tamdil

B. Dampa

C. Phawngpui

D. Reiek

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.**
   Mi means people, zo means hills and ram means land. So Mizoram is the land of people residing in the hills.
   ↑ Q1
2. **B.**
   The Accord was signed in Delhi on 30 June 1986. Statehood followed on 20 February 1987.
   ↑ Q2
3. **A.**
   Laldenga signed for the MNF. R. D. Pradhan, the Union Home Secretary, signed for the Centre.
   ↑ Q3
4. **C.**
   Hiteshwar Saikia was appointed the first Governor. Lalkhama was the Chief Secretary who read the proclamation.
   ↑ Q4
5. **D.**
   Women step between the moving poles. Men sit at the ends and clap the poles.
   ↑ Q5
6. **C.**
   Phawngpui, the Blue Mountain, is the highest summit. It lies in Lawngtlai District.
   ↑ Q6

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** It borders these two countries and three Indian states. ↑ 1
2. **True.** It was renamed Mizo Hills District in 1954. ↑ 2
3. **True.** It ended the unrest that began with the 1966 declaration. ↑ 3
4. **True.** The Peace Accord of 1986 made this step possible. ↑ 4
5. **True.** The poles supply the rhythm and the music. ↑ 5
6. **True.** It rises to about 2,157 metres. ↑ 6

7. **True.** It is celebrated in February-March. ↑ 7
8. **False.** The Accord came first, in 1986. Statehood followed in 1987. ↑ 8
9. **Think it through.** Two. Myanmar and Bangladesh. The other three neighbours are Indian states. ↑ 9
10. **Think it through.** In 1954 only the name changed. In 1972 the status changed too, to a Union Territory. ↑ 10
11. **Think it through.** The Accord came first, in 1986. Statehood followed in 1987 as part of it. ↑ 11
12. **Think it through.** It grew from 30 members to 40, as a Union Territory became a state. ↑ 12
13. **Think it through.** The men. The women dance between the poles. ↑ 13
14. **Think it through.** A thin layer of cloud covers the hills through the year, so they look blue. ↑ 14
15. **Think it through.** Chapchar Kut marks spring. Mim Kut celebrates the harvest. ↑ 15
16. **Think it through.** Remember the Blue Mountain, Phawngpui, as the highest summit. ↑ 16

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