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Nagaland

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Nagaland

Nagaland is the Land of Festivals in north-east India. It became the 16th state in 1963 and has special protection under Article 371A. This lesson covers its history, Article 371A, festivals and peoples.

At a glance

Four key facts on this topic

01 **1963**16th state, 1 December.

02 **371A**Special rule for Nagaland.

03 **Kohima**The capital.

04 **Hornbill**Festival at Kisama.

What is Nagaland known as?

1 Name and Places

1.1 What is Nagaland known as?

Nagaland is called the Land of Festivals. Kohima is the capital of the state.

1.2 Which towns should you know?

Dimapur is the gateway to the state. It has the ancient Kachari Ruins. Mokokchung is called the cultural capital.

Places to remember in Nagaland

Kohima The capital. Commonwealth War Cemetery.	**Dimapur** The state's gateway. Kachari Ruins.	**Kisama** 12 km from Kohima. Hornbill Festival.
Mokokchung Cultural capital. Ao Naga.	**Mon** Konyak Nagas. Tattoo artistry.	**Wokha** Doyang River. Mount Tiyi.

Memory hook only. Not a surveyed map.

9. **Think it through:** What is Dimapur? See answer ↓

Quick check 1. True or false: Mokokchung is called the cultural capital of Nagaland. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: incredibleindia.gov.in

How did Nagaland become a state?

2 Becoming a State

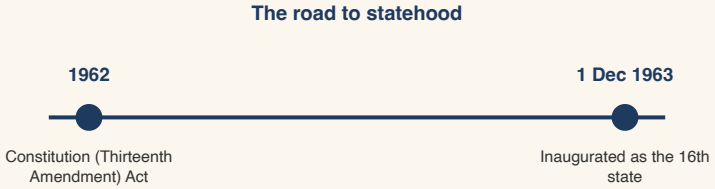
2.1 When did Nagaland become a state?

On 1 December 1963 Nagaland was inaugurated as the 16th state of the Indian Union. President Dr S. Radhakrishnan performed the inauguration. He called it the Sixteenth State in his speech that day.

The state was set up by the Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962. That law gave Nagaland its special protection.

2.2 What does the timeline look like?

Remember two points. The law came in 1962. The state began on 1 December 1963.



Dates as given in the President's inauguration speech and the Morung Express report.

10. **Think it through:** Which number? See answer ↓

Quick check 2. True or false: Nagaland was inaugurated as the 16th state on 1 December 1963. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

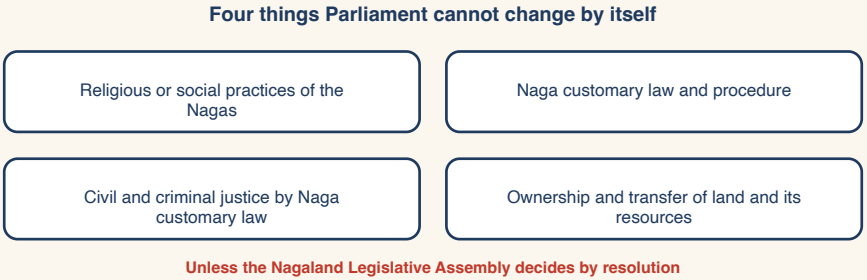
Sources: morungexpress.com; satp.org

What does Article 371A protect?

3 Article 371A

3.1 What is Article 371A?

Article 371A is the special rule for Nagaland. Laws made by Parliament do not apply on their own to four areas. These are religious and social practices, Naga customary law, justice under customary law, and land ownership.



Summary of Article 371A(1)(a).

3.2 How can such an Act apply?

It applies only if the state assembly decides so by a resolution. So the assembly has the last word on these four areas.

> 11. **Think it through:** Who decides? See answer ↓

Article 371A at a glance

Point	Detail
Article	371A
State	Nagaland
Inserted by	Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962
Land	Ownership and transfer of land and its resources protected

Quick check 3. True or false: An Act of Parliament on Naga customary law applies to Nagaland automatically. *(True or False?)*

See answer ↓

Sources: courtbook.in

What is the Governor’s special duty?

4 Governor and Tuensang

4.1 What special duty does the Governor have?

The Governor has a special duty for law and order in Nagaland. This lasts while the unrest in the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area goes on.

4.2 What is the regional council for Tuensang?

Article 371A also sets up a regional council for Tuensang district. The Deputy Commissioner of the Tuensang district is its Chairman ex officio.

12. **Think it through:** Who chairs it? See answer ↓

Quick check 4. True or false: The Governor has a special responsibility for law and order in Nagaland. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What is the Hornbill Festival?

5 Hornbill and Kisama

5.1 What is the Hornbill Festival?

The Hornbill Festival is held at Kisama Heritage Village. The village is 12 km from Kohima. The festival is world famous. Touphema Tourist Village is another place to visit. It recreates the ambiance of a traditional Angami Naga village.

13. **Think it through:** Where is Kisama? See answer ↓

Quick check 5. True or false: Kisama Heritage Village is 12 km from Kohima. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Which tribes and places matter?

6 Peoples and Places

6.1 Which tribes are linked to which towns?

Mokokchung is linked with the Ao Naga tribe. Mon is linked with the Konyak Nagas. They are known for headhunting legacies and tattoo art. Wokha has the Doyang River and Mount Tiyi.

6.2 What is special about Kohima?

Kohima has the Commonwealth War Cemetery. It holds the graves of soldiers who died fighting the Japanese invading India from Burma in World War II.

> 14. **Think it through:** Which tribe in Mon? See answer ↓

Places and tribes

Place	Link
Mokokchung	Ao Naga tribe
Mon	Konyak Nagas
Wokha	Doyang River and Mount Tiyi
Kohima	Commonwealth War Cemetery

> **Quick check 6.** True or false: Mon is linked with the Konyak Nagas. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What are hi-hoys and the staple food?

7 Songs and Food

7.1 What are hi-hoys and what do Nagas eat?

Naga songs are called hi-hoys. They are part of the state's rich folk culture. Rice is the staple food of the state.

> 15. **Think it through:** Staple food? See answer ↓

> **Quick check 7.** True or false: Rice is the staple food of Nagaland. *(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?

> **Exam angle:** Link Nagaland with Article 371A, the Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962 and statehood on 1 December 1963. Remember it as the 16th state.

8.2 Which past questions came from this topic?

8.3 Which small facts are easy to mix up?

Do not mix up Article 371A with other special rules. Article 371A is for Nagaland, not Sikkim. Nagaland was made a state by an amendment to the Constitution, not by an ordinary law.

Quick check 8. True or false: Article 371A gives special rules to Sikkim. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Remember this

- **Statehood:** 1 December 1963, the 16th state.
- **Law:** Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962.
- **Article 371A:** special rule for Nagaland.
- **Four areas:** customs, customary law, justice, land.
- **Festival:** Hornbill, at Kisama near Kohima.
- **Tribes:** Ao, Angami and Konyak Nagas.

Explain it back: Say what Article 371A protects in Nagaland.

Practice MCQs

1. In which year was the Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act that set up Nagaland passed?

A. 1962

B. 1950

C. 1972

D. 1987

See answer ↓

2. Nagaland became which numbered state of the Indian Union?

A. 12th

B. 16th

C. 20th

D. 24th

See answer ↓

3. Which Article of the Constitution gives special provision to Nagaland?

A. Article 371F

B. Article 370

C. Article 371J

D. Article 371A

See answer ↓

4. Who decides whether an Act of Parliament on Naga customary law applies to Nagaland?

A. The Governor alone

B. The Supreme Court

C. The Nagaland Legislative Assembly by a resolution

D. The Deputy Commissioner of Tuensang

See answer ↓

5. Who is the ex officio Chairman of the regional council for Tuensang district?

A. The Chief Minister

B. The Speaker

C. The Deputy Commissioner of Tuensang

D. The Governor

See answer ↓

6. The Hornbill Festival comes to life at which place, 12 km from Kohima?

A. Kisama Heritage Village

B. Dimapur

C. Mon

D. Touphema Tourist Village

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.**
   The Constitution (Thirteenth) Amendment Act, 1962 set up the new State of Nagaland. Statehood followed on 1 December 1963.
   ↑ Q1
2. **B.**
   Nagaland was inaugurated as the 16th state on 1 December 1963.
   ↑ Q2
3. **D.**
   Article 371A is the special provision with respect to the State of Nagaland.
   ↑ Q3
4. **C.**
   Such an Act applies only if the Nagaland Legislative Assembly decides so by a resolution.
   ↑ Q4
5. **C.**
   The Deputy Commissioner of the Tuensang district is the Chairman ex officio of the regional council.
   ↑ Q5
6. **A.**
   Kisama Heritage Village is 12 km from Kohima. The Hornbill Festival is held there.
   ↑ Q6

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** The Ao Naga tribe lives there. ↑ 1
2. **True.** President Radhakrishnan inaugurated it. ↑ 2
3. **False.** It applies only if the Legislative Assembly passes a resolution. ↑ 3
4. **True.** This applies while disturbances in the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area continue. ↑ 4
5. **True.** The Hornbill Festival comes to life there. ↑ 5
6. **True.** They are known for tattoo artistry. ↑ 6

7. **True.** It is paired with local leaves and herbs. ↑ 7
8. **False.** It gives special rules to Nagaland. ↑ 8
9. **Think it through.** The state's gateway, with the ancient Kachari Ruins. ↑ 9
10. **Think it through.** The 16th state of the Indian Union. ↑ 10
11. **Think it through.** The Nagaland Legislative Assembly, by a resolution. ↑ 11
12. **Think it through.** The Deputy Commissioner of Tuensang, ex officio. ↑ 12
13. **Think it through.** 12 km from Kohima. ↑ 13
14. **Think it through.** The Konyak Nagas. ↑ 14
15. **Think it through.** Rice. ↑ 15

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