

## Mizoram

Mizoram is a mountainous region, which became the 23rd state of the Indian Union in February 1987. It was one of the districts of Assam till 1972 when it became a Union Territory. After being annexed by the British in 1891, for the first few years, Lushai Hills in the north remained under Assam, while the southern half remained under Bengal. Both these parts were amalgamated in 1898 into one district called **Lushai Hills District** under the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

With the implementation of the North-Eastern Reorganisation Act in 1972, Mizoram became a Union Territory and as a sequel to the signing of the historic memorandum of settlement between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front in 1986, it was granted statehood on 20 February, 1987. Sandwiched between Myanmar in the east and the south, and Bangladesh in the west, Mizoram occupies an area of great strategic importance in the north-eastern corner of India. Mizoram has great natural beauty and an endless variety of landscape. It is rich in fauna and flora.

The origin of the word 'Mizo' is not known. The Mizos came under the influence of the British Missionaries in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Now most of the Mizos are Christians. Mizo language has no script of its own. The missionaries introduced the Roman script for the Mizo language and formal education. Literacy in the state has grown rapidly, and Mizoram literacy at 88.8 per cent today, is the second highest in the country. The state government is striving hard to attain the top position in the near future.

### Mizoram at a glance

Location :	Latitude 21° 58' & 24° 35' N Longitude 92° 15' & 93 ° 29' E
Area:	21,087 Sq Kms
North - South	277 Kms
East - West	121 Kms
Inter State Border	(a) With Assam - 123 Kms (b) With Tripura - 277 Kms (c) with Manipur - 95 Kms
International Border	(a) With Myanmar - 404 Kms (b) With Bangladesh - 318 Kms
Temperature:	11° - 21° C in winter 20° - 30° C in summer
Average rainfall	250 per annum
Population:	8,91,058 Female = 4,31,275 Male = 4,59,783 (based on Mizoram Census 2001 Provision Figure)
Sex Ratio:	938 female per 1000 male
Capital	Aizawl
Literacy	88.49 (Second Highest in the country)

Highest Point:	Phawngpui (Blue Mountain) 2,210/2065 M
Religion:	Christian
No. of Assembly Constituency:	40 (more ...)
No of Seat in Parliament	1 each in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha (Shri C.L.Ruala - MP Lok Sabha & Shri Lalhmingliana Rajya Sabha)
Chief Minister	Shri Lalthanhawla
Chief Secretary	Shri Vanhela Pachuau
Governor	Lt Gen (Retd) M.M.Lakhera
District	8
Block	26
Sub - Division	23
Autonomous District Council	3
State Animal	Serow (Saza)
State Bird	Hume's Bartailed Pheaasant (Vavu)
State Flower	Dancing Girl (Aiting)
	State Tree Mesual Ferrea/Nahar (Herhse)
Longest River	Tlawng 185.15 Kms

### District wise Population

Sl No	State/District	Total Area covered	Total Population			Literacy rate		
			Male	Female	Persons	Males	Female	Persons
	MIZORAM	21,087.00	459783	431275	891058	90.69	86.13	88.49
1	Mamit	3,025.75	32766	29,547	62313	84.04	75.66	80.09
2	Kolasib	1,382.51	31874	29103	60977	91.50	89.37	90.49
3	Aizawl	3,576.31	173930	165882	339812	97.20	96.06	96.64
4	Champhai	3,185.83	51869	49520	101389	94.00	89.64	91.88
5	Serchhip	1,421.60	28445	27094	55539	97.24	95.02	96.16
6	Lunglei	4,538.00	71353	65802	137155	87.36	80.74	84.20
7	Lawngtlai	2,557.10	38425	34,625	73050	65.13	46.69	56.46
8	Saiha	1,399.90	31121	29,702	60823	86.28	78.39	82.43



Sri J.N. Lakhera, Governor



PU LALTHANHAWLA, Chief Minister

SI No	Name & Designation	Portfolio	Contact Number	Photo
1	Lal Thanhawla Chief Minister	1) Finance Department 2) Planning & Programme Implementation 3) Political & Cabinet Department 4) Vigilance Department 5) Secretariat Administration Department 6) General Administration Department 7) Public Works Department 8) Power & Electricity Department	2322150(Office) 2322245(Fax)	
2	R. Lalziriana Cabinet Minister	1) Home Department 2) District Council Affairs Department 3) Prison Department 3) Rural Development Department	2323257(Office) 2318105(Fax)	

3	H.Liansailova Cabinet Minister	1) Agriculture Department 2) Horticulture Department 3) Minor Irrigation Department 4) Fisheries Department 5) Soil & Water Conservation Department 6) Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department	2326197(Office) 2318105(Fax)	
4	S.Hiato Cabinet Minister	1) Industries Department 2) Tourism Department 3) Public Health Engineering Department	2322147(Office) 2317558(Fax)	
5	P.C.Zoramangliana Cabinet Minister	1) Transport Department 2) Art & Culture Department 3) Printing & Stationery Department	2322536(Office) 2325719(Fax)	
6	J.H.Rothuama Cabinet Minister	1) Land revenue & Settlement Department 2) Co-operation Department 3) Taxation Department 4) Excise & Narcotics Department	2328898(Office)	
7	Lalsawta Cabinet Minister	1) Law & Judicial 2) Parliamentary Affairs 3) School Education Department 4) Higher & Technical Department	2322298(Office) 2329244(Fax)	
8	H. Rohluna Cabinet Minister	1) Environment and Forest Department 2) Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department	2323205(Office) 2319807(Fax)	
9	Lalrinliana Sailo Cabinet Minister	1) Health and Family Welfare Department 2) Labour & Employment Department 3) Trade & Commerce Department	2322500(Office) 2310395(Fax)	

10	Zodintluanga Cabinet Minister	1) Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation 2) Information & Public Relations Department 3) Sports & Youth Services Department 4) Information & Communication Technology	2323211(Office)	
11	Nihar Kanti Chakma Minister of State	1) Animal Husbandry & Veterinary 2) Sericulture Department 3) Disaster Management & Rehabilitation	2322712(Office) 2301245(Fax)	
12	P.C.Lalthanliana Minister of State	1) Local Administration Department 2) Social Welfare Department	2322176(Office) 2323367(Fax)	

It is located in the northeastern part of the country and is bounded by Myanmar (Burma) to the east and south and Bangladesh to the west and by the states of Tripura to the northwest, Assam to the north, and Manipur to the northeast. The capital is Aizawl, in the north-central part of the state.

Mizoram (“Land of the Mizos”) was known as the Lushai Hills District of Assam before it was renamed the Mizo Hills District in 1954. In 1972 it became a centrally administered union territory under the name of Mizoram, and in 1987 it achieved statehood. Area 8,140 square miles (21,081 square km). Pop. (2008 est.) 980,000.

### Land

Geologically, the Mizo Hills form a part of the Rakhine (Arakan) Mountains, a series of compact parallel ridges with a north-south axis formed of sandstone, limestone, and shales—all Cenozoic rocks between 2.6 and 65 million years old. The ridges, separated by narrow river valleys, rise to about 7,000 feet (2,100 metres). In the south, the Kaladan River and its tributaries flow southward into Myanmar, while the Dhaleswari (Tlawng) and Sonai (Tuirail) rivers flow north into Assam.

### Climate

The climate in Mizoram is moderate. During the coolest months (November through February), temperatures in Aizawl typically rise from the low 50s (low 10s C) into the high 60s F (about 20 °C) daily. In the warmest months (June through August), minimum temperatures are in the high 60s F, while maximum temperatures usually peak in the mid-80s F (about 30 °C). Rainfall

averages about 100 inches (2,500 mm) annually, with most brought by the southwest monsoon (which blows from May to September).

### **Plant and animal life**

More than three-fourths of the land area of Mizoram is forested. Thick evergreen forests contain valuable timber trees, such as champak (*Michelia champaca*), ironwood, and gurjun (genus *Dipterocarpus*). The woodlands also provide habitat for many animals, including elephants, tigers, bears, deer, monkeys, gibbons, and serows (wild goatlike mammals). Such animals are protected in a number of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

### **Population composition**

The residents of Mizoram consist almost entirely of Scheduled Tribes (an official category embracing indigenous groups that fall outside the predominant Indian social hierarchy). These groups are loosely called Mizo, a local term meaning “highlanders.” Among the most prominent of the Mizo peoples are the Kuki, Pawi, Lakher, and Chakma. Most of the Mizo are Tibeto-Burman peoples, speaking Mizo or a closely related Tibeto-Burman language or dialect; the Chakma, however, speak an Indo-Aryan language. Mizo and English are the principal and official languages. Having no script of its own, Mizo uses the Roman alphabet.

Christian missionaries began to work in the Mizo Hills area in the late 19th century. Consequently, the great majority of the population is Christian—predominantly Protestant—with most conversions having occurred in the 1920s and '30s. Buddhists form the largest religious minority in Mizoram, followed by Hindus and Muslims; there also are tiny groups of Sikhs and Jains.

### **Settlement patterns**

Mizoram is one of the most sparsely populated states of India. The population density decreases from north to south, owing primarily to a southward increase in humidity and temperature that renders the area less desirable for habitation. Aizawl is the state's only major city; large towns include Lunglei, in the eastern part of the state, and Champhai, in the south-central region.

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture is the dominant economic activity of Mizoram, engaging more than two-thirds of the workforce in the early 21st century. Two types of agriculture are practiced: terrace cultivation, in which crops are planted on relatively permanent, graduated terraces on the sides of hills and mountains to conserve water and reduce soil loss; and shifting agriculture, in which tracts—called *jhum*—are cleared by burning, cultivated for a limited period of time, and then abandoned for a number of years to allow regeneration of the natural vegetation and nutrients in the soil. An increase in the number of people farming in the 20th century forced a reduction in the traditional eight-year cycle of *jhum* regeneration, which in turn resulted in a decrease in farm productivity. Rice, corn (maize), cotton, and vegetables are the main crops.

## **Manufacturing**

The government of Mizoram has assisted and encouraged an array of small-scale industries at the village level. Such industries include sericulture (silk production), handloom and handicrafts workshops, sawmills and furniture manufacturing, oil refining, grain milling, and ginger processing. Major manufacturing activities, however, have not been strongly established.

## **Transportation**

The infrastructure of Mizoram remains limited. However, the state is traversed by two national highways, and major roads serve most of the larger towns. Regular bus routes operate across the state, and some also provide interstate service. A small airport offers flights from Aizawl to neighbouring states. There are no railways in Mizoram.

## **Constitutional framework**

The basic governmental structure of Mizoram, like that of most other Indian states, is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The governor, appointed by the president of India, is the head of state and is assisted by the chief minister, the Council of Ministers, and the unicameral Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha). The state is divided into several administrative districts, each headed by a deputy commissioner. The state is served by the High Court of Guwahati (Assam), and there is a permanent bench in Aizawl. Lower courts include district council and village courts. In Mizoram, the judiciary is not separate from the executive branch of government.

## **Education**

Early development and promotion of institutionalized education in Mizoram is attributable largely to Christian missionaries, who established the first schools in the area around the turn of the 20th century. By the early 21st century, Mizoram had some 2,000 primary, middle, and secondary schools, and its rate of literacy was among the highest of all Indian states.

In 2001 Mizoram University was established in Tahnri, near Aizawl. It replaced a branch of North Eastern Hill University (based in the state of Meghalaya), which until that time had been the principal university in the state. Other institutions of higher learning include the Aizawl Theological College (1907) and Hrangbana College (1980), both in Aizawl, as well as various technical colleges and teachers' training institutes.

## **Cultural life**

Music and dance are important elements in Mizo cultural life, with many festivities associated with the Christian holidays. Other celebrations, however, are centred on significant phases of the agricultural cycle. The mim kut, for instance, is held in August or September, after the first harvest of the year; it is intended both to give thanks and to honour deceased relatives. The pawl kut is also a harvest festival, which takes place in December or January. Among shifting agriculturalists, the chapchar kut is held at the start of the agricultural year, after the forest has been felled and before the burning of the new fields begins—usually sometime in March.

## History

Little is known of Mizoram's early history. Between 1750 and 1850 the Mizo (formerly called Lushai) tribes migrated from the nearby Chin Hills, subjugated the indigenous peoples, and assimilated them into their own society. The Mizo developed an autocratic political system based on some 300 hereditary chieftanships.

The tribes of Mizoram remained unaffected by foreign political influence until the British annexed Assam in 1826 under the Treaty of Yandabo. During the next decades, Mizo raids into British territory led to occasional punitive expeditions by the British. By the 1870s the region had come under British control. In 1873 it fell under the Inner Line Regulations of the British administration, which prohibited the movement of people from the plains into the hills. However, the region was not formally annexed until the early 1890s.

The region initially was administered as the North Lushai Hills (in the province of Assam) and the South Lushai Hills (within the Bengal Presidency). In 1898 the region was united as the Lushai Hills District of Assam. The district was declared an "excluded area" in 1935, whereby the provincial legislature was stripped of its jurisdiction over the area, and responsibility for the district's administration was placed directly in the hands of the governor of Assam.

Following India's independence from the British in 1947, the district remained a part of Assam. Increasing discontent among the Mizo, however, led to a declaration of independence by the Mizo National Front in 1966. The ensuing armed rebellion compelled the central government of India to assume Mizoram's administration and to make it a union territory in 1972. The insurgency continued until the signing of the Mizoram Peace Accord in 1986. As a result of this accord, Mizoram was granted statehood in 1987.

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