

CONTRIBUTION OF NAGALAND IN INDIAN CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND GOVERNANCE

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ABSTRACT

Communities of Naga people, an integral part of Indian historical journey since ancient times, have contributed immensely to development and preservation of Indian culture, traditions and political ethos. Philosophical examination of the central themes and concepts involved in religious traditions demonstrate the strength of Naga religious thoughts, which followed the famous Vaiśeṣika philosophy, a form of atomism in natural philosophy. Naga people were true soldiers of Indian culture, society and family values as they strived for achievement of ultimate truth, happiness and contentment in life. They wish to achieve an innate harmony and order and this is extended to the entire cosmos. Naga pride preservation of their own and collective reputation, dignity and honour of the community. They cherish the dream of universal brotherhood and display unity in diversity. They have shown maturity of governance structure, rule of law and participatory approaches by adopting “village republics”. The structure of polity varies from hereditary to democratic collectives. Existence of various mechanisms, democratic in its application, at work in order to usher and maintain peace, justice, understanding and resolution for all within the community make Naga hill people special and distinguished.

KEYWORDS: *Community, Culture, Naga, Society, Traditions*

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