



Confederation of Indian Industry

Nagaland@100: A Vision Document for the State

Background

Nagaland@100 is envisioned as a long-term strategic initiative under the spirit of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, aiming to chart a clear and actionable roadmap for the state's socio-economic transformation by the year 2047—marking 100 years of India's independence and 80 years of Nagaland's statehood. The development vision for Nagaland is framed around measurable, time-bound Development Indicators across seven broad sectors: Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Information Technology, Tourism and Hospitality, Music and Entertainment, Handloom and Handicraft, and Education and Skilling. These indicators represent the collective aspirations of the people of Nagaland as well as the Government of Nagaland, reflecting both the challenges of the present and the opportunities of the future. This document is the product of months of collaboration and policy dialogue among senior state officials, subject-

matter experts, traditional institutions, youth leaders, and civil society representatives. The strategies articulated herein are not only goal-oriented but are grounded in Nagaland's distinct cultural and ecological context. Periodic review and recalibration of these strategies will be essential as technological progress, geopolitical dynamics, and local conditions evolve. As such, Nagaland@100 is both a blueprint and a living document—designed to inspire action, encourage collaboration, and build consensus. It serves as a reference point for policymakers, implementers at the state, district, and village levels, and a call to action for entrepreneurs, investors, educators, researchers, and citizens. By aligning local innovation with global best practices and integrating traditional wisdom with modern governance, Nagaland can position itself as a resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking state by 2047.

Agriculture & Allied Sectors

Nagaland's diverse agro-climatic conditions, rich biodiversity, and predominantly agrarian population make the agriculture and allied sectors central to the state's economy and employment. With appropriate interventions, these sectors offer significant opportunities for self-reliance, exports, and inclusive rural development. The Agriculture & Allied sectors hold the key to rural transformation, food security, and export potential in Nagaland. With focused policies, infrastructure investment, and community-driven models, the state can emerge as a niche agri-economy leader in the Northeast and beyond.

Focus areas and opportunities:

- Promotion of organic farming across staple crops like rice, maize, millets, and pulses. The establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) would aid in both aggregation and monitoring of crops
- Expansion of high-value horticulture: pineapple, passion fruit, banana, kiwi, and oranges. Cold chain and storage infrastructure would allow for the exporting and preservation of these super foods.
- Use of precision farming, drip irrigation, and climate-resilient seeds to increase yield and reduce risk.
- Branding and marketing of Nagaland's produce under Geographical Indications (GI) and organic certifications.
- Commercial cultivation of high-demand spices like ginger, turmeric, chili, and Naga king chili (GI tagged).
- Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) for nutraceuticals and Ayurveda markets.
- Scope for export-oriented value addition (essential oils, powders, extracts).
- High demand for cattle and poultry within and outside Nagaland.
- Opportunity to modernize feed management and methods, and veterinary care.
- Promotion of dairy cooperatives and milk processing units in foothill regions.
- Nagaland has traditional strengths in Eri and Mulberry silk production.
- Eco-friendly, low-input sericulture can boost women's income and rural employment.
- Digital agriculture using AI, remote sensing, and mobile apps for weather and market updates.
- Mechanization of farming with mini tractors, harvesters, and processing units suited to hill terrain.
- Creation of value chains from farm to fork.
- Nagaland's unique biodiversity makes it ideal for agroecology and permaculture models.
- Carbon farming and agroforestry can attract climate finance and carbon credits.
- Promotion of soil health management, composting, and water conservation.

Infrastructure & Connectivity

Infrastructure and connectivity form the backbone of Nagaland's development trajectory. Given the state's challenging terrain, strategic location in the Indo-Pacific gateway, and aspiration for inclusive progress, investment in physical, digital, and social infrastructure is vital. Strengthening this sector will unlock opportunities across agriculture, tourism, IT, trade, and public service delivery. Investing in infrastructure and connectivity is the key to unlocking Nagaland's economic potential, connecting it with national and international markets, and ensuring balanced development across rural and urban areas. A well-planned, inclusive, and future-ready infrastructure strategy will empower youth, reduce isolation, and make Nagaland a model of integrated regional development in the Northeast.

Focus areas and opportunities:

- Expansion and upgradation of highways and rural roads under schemes like PMGSY and Bharatmala.
- Development of inter-village, inter-district, and cross-border roads for trade and logistics.
- Scope for local contractors, engineers, and workers to participate in construction and maintenance.
- Improved roads will boost access to markets, tourism spots, schools, and health centres.
- Construction of all-weather roads and slope protection systems. Green road practices and climate-resilient designs
- Long-term potential for rail freight corridors for agri-produce and industrial goods.
- Creation of railway-linked townships, terminals, and tourism circuits.
- Upgrade and expand Dimapur Airport with night landing and cargo facilities.
- Explore feasibility of new airstrips or heliports in remote districts.
- Launch of UDAN routes for regional connectivity and medical evacuation.
- Promote air cargo infrastructure for perishable goods, and encourage helicopter services to border areas and tourist destinations.
- Accelerated construction of bridges and tunnels to overcome terrain and seasonal disruptions.
- Potential for border infrastructure projects under the Vibrant Villages Programme.
- Strategic connectivity can enhance security, logistics, and cross-border trade readiness.
- Implement urban renewal through the Smart Cities Mission (Kohima) and AMRUT.
- Development of solid waste management, sewage systems, public parks, digital infrastructure, and public transport.
- Scope for urban planning firms, architects, and youth in civic-tech start-ups.
- Invest in micro-hydel, solar, and grid connectivity projects in off-grid and rural areas.
- Upgrade transmission lines and promote smart metering and power distribution reforms.
- Encourage youth to enter green energy enterprises and solar start-ups.
- Promote common service centres (CSCs) and Wi-Fi-enabled public spaces.
- Catalyse digital delivery of services, education, and entrepreneurship.
- Develop community infrastructure, cold storage, and market yards in rural and tribal belts.
- Under schemes like PMGKY and BADP, build village halls, roads, warehouses, and border fencing.
- Infrastructure for agriculture clusters and tribal commerce
- Integrated rural development with drinking water and sanitation

Information Technology

Despite being geographically remote, Nagaland holds significant potential to develop a vibrant IT ecosystem. With a young, educated population, increasing internet penetration, and the government's push toward digital governance and infrastructure, the IT sector can be a catalyst for inclusive development, remote employment, and innovation-driven growth. Nagaland's IT sector is not just a futuristic ambition—it is a present opportunity for the youth to leapfrog traditional barriers through digital tools and platforms. With the right infrastructure, policy push, and capacity-building efforts, Nagaland can evolve into a model digital economy in India's Northeast, empowering its youth, expanding its global footprint, and driving sustainable growth through innovation.

Focus areas and opportunities:

- Placement of youth in software development, digital marketing, UI/UX design, data entry, and technical support for national and global companies.
- To position Nagaland as freelancing hub with proper digital infrastructure and training.
- Government and private players to promote "Work from Nagaland" hubs with co-working spaces.
- Establish BPO centres for customer service, back-office operations, data annotation, transcription, and e-commerce support.
- Government to promote BPO policy incentives and attract private investment. This would involve State-level incentives for IT companies to set up operations
- Encourage young entrepreneurs to launch apps, SaaS platforms, e-commerce stores, and digital content ventures.
- Areas like agri-tech, ed-tech, craft e-commerce, health-tech, and tribal tourism platforms offer immense scope.
- Creation of incubation centres and innovation labs in partnership with universities and private sector.
- Youth can contribute to or launch start-ups focused on digital public services, grievance redressal systems, village data platforms, etc.
- Support for the government's push towards paperless governance, e-office, digital payments, and online citizen services.
- Creation of local IT solutions for urban planning, smart cities, and rural connectivity.
- Establishment of coding bootcamps, digital literacy centres, and tech schools in partnership with private players and NGOs.
- Online certifications (e.g., Coursera, Google, AWS, Microsoft) for in-demand skills. Encourage Industry-academic partnerships to integrate strong IT curriculum in schools and colleges
- Potential to become an IT-skilling hub for the Northeast.
- Collaborations with national research centres and tech companies for training and internships.
- Niche verticals like AI for tribal languages, blockchain in land records, or IoT for smart agriculture are emerging areas.
- Provide State tech policies support to encourage the emerging sector.
- Build platforms or sell on existing platforms (Amazon, Etsy, Flipkart) for handicrafts, local food, books, textiles, and services.
- Aggregation of rural artisans and entrepreneurs into digital supply chains.
- Creation of local delivery and logistics start-ups to support the ecosystem.

Tourism and Hospitality

Nagaland's stunning landscapes, vibrant tribal culture, festivals, crafts, and biodiversity position it as one of India's most unique tourism destinations. With growing domestic and international interest in experiential and sustainable travel, the state has immense potential to develop a robust and inclusive tourism and hospitality economy. Nagaland's tourism and hospitality sectors hold vast untapped potential to drive economic diversification, rural empowerment, and global cultural outreach. With strategic investments, infrastructure, capacity building, and responsible promotion, Nagaland can position itself as India's leading destination for culture-rich, eco-friendly, and transformative tourism.

Focus areas and opportunities:

- Nagaland's pristine forests, hills, and biodiversity hotspots make it ideal for eco-tourism. Development of nature camps, guided treks, and forest retreats in ecological hotspots would bolster and support this industry.
- The hilly terrain and moderate climate are perfect for adventure tourism, activities such as trekking, mountain biking, ziplining, rock climbing, and off-road tours are great potentials in Nagaland
- There is the potential to develop ethnic tourism circuits around tribal villages. Nagaland's 17 recognized tribes offer immense cultural richness in attire, festivals, crafts, food, and music.
- Development of infrastructure such as living museums and cultural parks showcasing traditional architecture, dances, and artifacts.
- The globally renowned Hornbill Festival can be scaled to include satellite events year-round. Marketing, promotion and branding are key in the growth of such cultural festivals. On going partnerships with major brands will also help the preservation for such events.
- Opportunity to develop music, art, and food festivals to attract younger travellers and artists.
- Homestays offer tourists authentic cultural immersion while boosting rural livelihoods. Quality control and hospitality training for hosts can ensure that standards are met for international tourist.
- Potential for conservation-based tourism involving indigenous ecological knowledge. There is a need for ecological zoning and visitor limits as well as Wildlife research-tourism partnerships and Conservation-linked tourism policies
- Hotel and Hospitality infrastructure is crucial for the development of the hospitality sector in the state. Public-private partnerships in hospitality investment in an area to be explored
- Naga youth are highly skilled in the areas of hospitality, market linkage between talent and jobs need to be established. This can come in the form of Industry-academia collaboration, and Internship programs with hotels/resorts across India.

Music and Entertainment

Nagaland, often referred to as the "Land of Festivals", has a rich musical heritage and a dynamic, youth-driven entertainment scene. The state is uniquely positioned to become a hub for indigenous creative expression, music innovation, and cultural exports. With government support, digital connectivity, and growing global interest in ethnic and alternative music, Nagaland can build a robust music and entertainment industry that provides livelihoods, preserves heritage, and promotes cultural diplomacy. Nagaland's deep-rooted musical culture and rising digital talent make it an emerging force in India's creative economy. With targeted support, the music and entertainment sector can drive youth employment, cultural preservation, and global engagement. From a land of festivals to a hub of creative innovation, Nagaland can amplify its voice to the world.

Focus areas and opportunities:

- High potential for record labels, live performances, music festivals, and digital releases.
- Growth in gospel, indie rock, fusion, tribal folk, hip-hop, and electronic music.
- Music production studios and sound engineering labs
- Access to digital platforms (Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music)
- Professional management, booking, and artist promotion services
- Hornbill Festival and local events provide platforms for emerging talent.
- Scope to launch record labels, live music venues, and branded festivals.
- Youth-driven podcast channels on culture, entrepreneurship, and identity.
- Community radio can be used to share local news, folk stories, and educational content.
- Collaborations with media houses and regional broadcasters.
- Production of short films, documentaries, and web series focused on tribal life, folklore, nature, and modern youth narratives.
- Leveraging platforms like YouTube, Instagram Reels, and OTT platforms.
- Film tourism and local stories can gain global attention through film festivals.
- Development of agencies for artist management, event promotion, booking, and PR.
- Professional careers in music law, copyright, licensing, and creative entrepreneurship.
- Youth can become music influencers, content creators, or online curators.
- Launch of local streaming platforms for Naga music and entertainment content.
- Integration of AI, AR/VR, and metaverse for immersive concerts or heritage showcases.
- Set up conservatories, academies, and music schools focusing on both traditional and modern genres.
- Demand for skilled professionals in instrument training, vocal coaching, and sound design.
- Integration of music education into school curricula.

Handloom and Handicraft

Nagaland's handloom and handicrafts are not only rich expressions of tribal identity and artistic tradition but also hold immense potential for economic growth, job creation, and cultural diplomacy. With over 60% of women engaged in traditional weaving and a wide diversity of tribe-specific designs and materials, these sectors can be powerful engines for creative entrepreneurship, exports, and tourism. Nagaland's handloom and handicraft sectors are ready to evolve from subsistence craft to a vibrant creative economy. With youth-led innovation, digital access, and strong government and private sector support, these sectors can contribute significantly to jobs, exports, cultural pride, and sustainable development. Preserving the past while designing the future—Nagaland can emerge as a national leader in tribal artisanal excellence.

Focus areas and opportunities:

- As one of the biggest bamboo producing states in India, Nagaland has the potential to develop this market specifically in handloom and textiles.
- Diversity of bamboo products would allow a wide use in home décor, furniture, kitchenware, and accessories. Upgrading machinery and tooling support for scale would be crucial
- High demand for eco-friendly, sustainable craft items in domestic and international markets. This requires awareness of Design diversification (minimalist and contemporary styles)
- Rich tradition of wood carving used in totems, house décor, and ceremonial artifacts.
- Growing global market for tribal home décor and collectibles. This would require Legal and sustainable wood sourcing
- Potential for tourism souvenirs, hotel décor, and curated art collections. Training in finishing, preservation, and packaging would aid in standardizing the quality of wood work.
- Each tribe has distinctive motifs, colours, and techniques—ideal for heritage branding and GI tagging.
- Growing demand for organic, slow fashion, and artisan textiles globally. Interventions for Loom upgrades and yarn quality improvement would allow for more sustainable and efficient practices.
- Create modern wear using traditional woven fabrics (shirts, dresses, jackets).
- Development of Naga fashion labels targeting niche and luxury markets.
- Potential for designer collaborations, boutique collections, and online sales. By establishing E-commerce platforms and export facilitation this artform can be reached to a greater audience.
- Traditional bead necklaces, belts, and headgear are popular in tribal fashion and global boho trends.
- Youth can innovate with fusion designs—merging tradition with urban fashion.
- Ideal for e-commerce, exhibitions, and gifting markets. The market would need to be able to meet demand hence supply chains for raw materials is crucial
- Entrepreneurship in craft start-ups, fashion labels, and craft tourism services
- Skill training in design, tailoring, marketing, and digital sales
- E-commerce platforms selling local crafts globally via Etsy, Amazon, etc.
- Collaborations with fashion schools, museums, and craft councils
- Artisan cooperatives and SHGs led by youth and women
- Craft-tourism integration with weaving/dyeing demos and souvenir production

Education & Skilling

Nagaland's greatest strength is its people—diverse, culturally rich, and full of potential. Investing in human capital development—education, health, skills, and social well-being—is critical for the state to move toward a future of self-reliance, innovation, and economic resilience. With over 60% of the population under the age of 30, there is a golden opportunity to harness the demographic dividend through strategic sectoral investments. Nagaland stands at a pivotal moment to reimagine education and skilling as a catalyst for social equity, cultural pride, and economic transformation. By investing in quality education, flexible skilling, and digital innovation, the state can empower its youth to lead in diverse fields—from traditional crafts to emerging technologies—and build a resilient, inclusive, and knowledge-driven future.

Focus areas and opportunities:

- Expansion of quality school education, especially in rural and tribal areas.
- Establishment of skill-focused higher education institutions in agriculture, IT, arts, and health sciences.
- Leverage digital classrooms, smart education tools, and EdTech to reach remote learners.
- Scope for setting up residential schools, tribal knowledge centres, and language preservation institutes.
- Upgrade government schools and incentivize private-school partnerships.
- Set up Skilling Hubs under the National Skill Development Mission in each district.
- Train youth in demand-driven sectors like hospitality, construction, IT, fashion design, logistics, and renewables.
- Special focus on industry-linked apprenticeship programs and rural livelihood training (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, food processing).
- Collaborate with NSDC, Sector Skill Councils, and industry players.
- Mobilize youth through career guidance, RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning), and mobile skilling units.
- Develop "Skill Nagaland" Mission with decentralized district-level training centres.
- Launch youth leadership academies, mentorship programs, and civic engagement initiatives.
- Enable youth to become changemakers, entrepreneurs, and digital creators.
- Expand platforms for debate, innovation, art, sport, and volunteerism.
- Promote micro-enterprises and cooperatives in crafts, food processing, agribusiness, and creative industries.
- Foster youth-led start-ups in IT, tourism, logistics, and digital media.
- Strengthen job placement networks across private, public, and gig economy platforms.
- Improve access to social security, disability support, scholarships, and elder care services.