PROSPECT OF ECO-TOURISM IN NAGALAND

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ABSTRACT

Nagaland, situated in the extreme part of North East India is known for its pristine forests and natural areas where the people have played a great role in conserving the environment. It could emerge as the perfect site for Eco-Tourism and responsible tourism in such a manner that the well-being of the local people can be sustained as well as sustainable development of the State can be promoted. The exotic natural environment can be protected by Eco-Tourism that is intended to support conservation efforts while providing gainful employment to the local populace. Some of the furthest corners of Nagaland, especially along the borders, are unfazed by the modern developmental activities, and thus, could provide a perfect destination for tourists looking to experience the rich cultural heritage of the Naga’s while exploring the nature in its peaceful habitat based on mutual co-existence. However, since it involves a flow of tourists to the fragile, pristine and relatively undisturbed natural areas, the issue of collateral damage arises. Can socially and ecologically responsible travel lead to growth, employment and environmental sustainability? Or will it lead to the damage of the fragile eco-system, its flora, fauna and the cultural heritage of the land? My research paper will investigate the possibilities of offering tourists insight into the impact of human beings on environment and foster a greater appreciation of our natural habitats. It will also explore the different responsible eco-tourism programmes and ways to minimize the negative aspects of conventional tourism on the environment and seek to develop a sustainable model that will promote energy efficient, economic opportunities and enhancing bio-cultural diversity. Possibilities of local capacity building and empowering local communities to fight poverty and achieve sustainable development will be explored. Successful models will be studied to develop models suitable to the Nagaland conditions.

Keywords: Nagaland, Environmental Sustainability, Cultural Heritage, Economic Opportunities etc.

1. Introduction

Tourism is a path of discovery from time immemorial. Man has been discovering new geographic locations and natural phenomena, besides discovering new facts about human civilization. Although the most common definition of travel is to go from one place to another, the main reason to travel has always been migration, pilgrimage and exploration and the nature of these three has always been a cause of much personal and cultural sacrifices. Today, Tourism is classically regarded as travelling for recreation although this definition has been extended in the recent years to include any travel outside of one’s normal working or living area. The tourist is usually interested in the destinations, climate, culture and its nature.
Tourism was a late starter in Nagaland as it was only in 1981, the Department of Tourism was established. The last decade or so has witnessed much development and over the years, the ministry of tourism, Government of Nagaland, has been taking up multi-developmental activities on war-footing and thus have attained much appreciation from the nation as well as international levels besides from the locals and with the promotion and upscaling of the activity of the Hornbill Festival in December, it has become a mega tourism event in the State. It not only generates employment but also serves to preserve and protect the cultural heritage of the State through observance of festival. Though tourism activities in Nagaland are still at its nascent stage, the State has the potential to become one of the North-East’s upcoming popular destinations.

Nagaland the ‘Land of Tribal’ is a place of magical beauty and bewildering diversity. A land nestled in myths and mysterious, lore and legends and in many tender dreams today, finds a place of admiration in many hearts. R. Kumar and S. Ram in their book Tourism in North East India while paying rich admiration attributed North East India region as, “The melting pot of variegated mosaic of people and races. It is an ethnic tapestry on many hues and shades. It is a virtual paradise for travellers, searching for joy in pilgrimage, adventure, culture, Nature, Heritage, Wildlife, Golf and Polo and many more. It is a land in the twilight of imagination and reality. It’s tourists’ delight…”.

Truly, Nagaland with its rich historical, cultural and panoramic landscape is a traveller’s paradise.

2. Nagaland

Nature could not have been kinder to Nagaland sometimes referred to as the, “Switzerland of the East”: A land of clouds, mountains and serpentine rivers, valleys strewn with flowers and colourful people. The exquisitely picturesque landscape, the vibrantly colourful sunrise and sunset, lush and verdant flare; this is a land that represents aberrant beauty, moulded perfectly for a breath-taking experience. Topographically, the State is a hilly region with Saramati being the highest peak at 3841 meters. With total area of 16,527 sq km, the State located in India’s Northeast has a population of about 1.9 million. The average summer temperature is about 31 degree centigrade and winter is about 4 degree centigrade.

The Nagas were known to the outside world as Head-hunters, although Head-hunting is now a thing of the past. Oral traditions of the Nagas shows that the practice of head-hunting was inevitable because at that point of time “Might was right” and the theory of survival of the fittest by Charles Darwin held well. Their policy was to cut the enemy’s head before he could attack. This, they did as a call of duty to adjust themselves to their environment, as their very survival depended on it.

The Nagas are by race of Mongoloid stock and speak Tibeto-Burman group languages. There are 16 major tribes that constitute the Naga People, besides many sub-tribes spread across 11 administrative districts. Each tribe has got its own language and communication across tribes takes place in a language called Nagamese Creole. Traditionally they were fierce warriors, yet Nagas are amiable by nature and highly hospitable to quests and visitors. The warmth and hospitality of the Nagas never cease to surprise a first time visitor. The uniqueness of Naga hospitality lies in the fact that they consider the safety, security and satisfaction of their guests as a matter of honour and prestige.

3. Accessing Nagaland
Nagaland is well connected by Air, Road and Railways. The two major cities of the State are Dimapur and Kohima, the former being the business hub and the later being the political capital of the State. Although Nagas are one of the most homely and hospitable people in the world, there are certain entry restrictions to the State. Before embarking on a journey to Nagaland, travellers are advised to ensure that they have all the necessary permits with them. Nagaland is a small State made up of a composite group of people belonging to different tribes who follow their own unique culture and customs. These restrictions are not meant to be a deterrent to travellers but to ensure that the pristine natural beauty and unique culture of Nagaland remains intact.

4. Cultural Heritage

Life in Nagaland is one long festival. Nagaland offers rich, incomparable traditional and cultural heritage that is exclusive. The present generation has ventured into fashion designing in a big way; reproducing fabrics that represent the ancestral motifs blended with modern appeal. The State is replete with festivities throughout the year, as all tribes celebrate their own festivals (Refer Table 1) with a pageantry of colours, music and dance. A common feature is that the festivals revolve around agriculture, the mainstay of Naga economy. These festivals date back to times prior to the advent of Christianity. The predominant theme of the festivals is offering prayers to the Supreme Being, known by different names in different tribal languages.

All the tribes have its own way of maintaining its distinctive cultural traditions and customs, through various forms of performing arts which are integral part of Naga festivals. Each of the tribal communities that dwell in the hills can be distinguished by the colourful and intricately designed costumes, jewellery and beads that its members wear. The traditional ceremonial attire of each tribe is different from that of the other. There are the multi-coloured spears and the daos decorated with dyed goat’s hair, the headgear made of finely woven bamboo interlaced with orchid stems and adorned with boar’s teeth, hornbill’s feathers and ivory armlets. In the olden days, warriors had to prove their valour if they wanted to wear these.

One of the most important social institutions of the Naga life was the Morung. Morung was a dormitory for unmarried man or a bachelor’s hall. It was here young boys and girls were trained accordingly, on different kind of skills in art, craft, dance, music and even Head-hunting.

Music is an integral part of life for the Nagas. Ancient Naga songs that formed the souls of the traditional festivals, have been handed down across the generations and even today, every Naga takes pride in singing and talking about their melodies. Possessing tough and flexible bodies, the Nagas are also “Natural Born Warriors”.

The Hornbill Festival known as the “Festival of Festivals”, is a yearly feature in the 1st week of December (Dec 1-10). The festival was created and evolved to showcase the rich Naga Culture both traditional and contemporary, in all, it’s the spirit ‘Unity in Diversity’. The Festival, so named in collective reverence to the Hornbill bird (which is the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas, known for its qualities of agility and grandeur), enshrined in the cultural ethos of Nagas to espouse. Held within the confines of Naga Heritage Village, Kisama, which is about 12 km from Kohima, this festival is the biggest cultural extravaganza of the Nagas where the government, local communities and various NGOs get a chance to revive, protect and preserve the richness and uniqueness of the Naga Heritage. During this period, all the Naga activities are featured in the form of traditional
ances, folk songs, traditional sports and tribal food and drink go around in plenty. Progress of the modern Nagas in the fields of modern music, fashion, handlooms, handicrafts and paintings are also showcased during the festival. It has brought about revolutionary changes in the Tourism scene in the State, where a visitor gets opportunity to get a ring side view of all the Naga tribes, rich culture and its uniqueness at one place. It has ushered in the process to protect and preserve all ethnic cultural heritages by establishing a common management approach and comprehensive data base for perpetuation and maintenance for promotion of tourism.

The Hornbill festival has become a mega event not just for the 16 tribes of Nagaland, but also the remaining seven Northeast Indian states to showcase the best of their cultural elements. It is a mammoth task for a tourist to cover all the North-Eastern States at once, hence this festival provides the ideal platform for getting a glimpse of the eight sisters of India.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribe/District</th>
<th>Festival/Period</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kuki/Peren</td>
<td>Mimkut January 17</td>
<td>Mimkut and other festivals are being celebrated to get the blessings of Gods. The village Medicine man (Thempu) would sacrifice fowls to propitiate the spirit of the Demon God by performing a series of rituals and prayers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachari/Dimapur</td>
<td>Bushu January</td>
<td>Basically post harvest festival, it is celebrated after the hard earned grains of paddy are harvested, thrashed and stored in the granaries. Believed to be auspicious, it is celebrated when there is moonlight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeliang/Peren</td>
<td>Hega 10 – 15 Feb</td>
<td>Hega is the festival of joy, rest and get-together. On this day people pray to Almighty God for protection, guidance, richness, luck and courage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angami/Kohima</td>
<td>Sekhrenyi 25 – 27 Feb</td>
<td>It is a festival of purification with feasting and singing. The Thekra Hie is a part of the festival when the young people of the village sit together and sing traditional songs throughout the day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phom/Longleng</td>
<td>Monyu April 1</td>
<td>Celebrated after the sowing of seeds in the fields it heralds the dawn of the new year. During this festival, the men folk shows love and renewal of affection towards their married daughters or sisters by presenting them with the purest of the rice beer and specially prepared food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konyak/Mon</td>
<td>Aoling April 13</td>
<td>Observed after completion of sowing seeds in the new fields, it welcomes the new year beginning with spring when a riot of flowers at every hue start to bloom. It is a time to ask Almighty God for a bountiful harvest of crops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ao/Mokokchung</td>
<td>Moatsu May 2</td>
<td>Observed after the sowing is done, the mother earth begins to show the sign of fertility. The womenfolk would weave the best of traditional garments and adorn themselves and join the menfolk in dancing, eating, drinking and composing warrior’s songs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khiamniungan/Tuensang</td>
<td>Miu May 5</td>
<td>During this festival the maternal uncle offers special prayer by invoking the supernatural deity to grant good health, prosperous life and power over enemy to his nephews and nieces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakhesang/Phek</td>
<td>Tsukhenye &amp; Sukhrenye</td>
<td>Tsukhenye (May 6): Here they invoke the Almighty for strength, long life and good harvest. Sukhrenye (January 15): During the festival, the boys and girls are sanctified through religious ceremonies and rituals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumi/Zunheboto</td>
<td>July 8 Tuluni</td>
<td>It marks the occasion of bountiful season of the year. Drinking rice-beer indispensably form a part of the feast. The betrothed exchange basketful of gifts with meals. Even siblings of the families of both the bride and groom exchange dinner pack of food and meat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chang/ 
Tuensang

Naknyulum
July 13

Exchange of gifts and food items amongst friends and relatives including meat, wine and freshly packed bread. Games like Top Spinning, tug-of-war, high jump, long jump, climbing of oiled pole and jumping and grabbing big lumps of well cooked meat hung in rows along a bamboo rope are played.

Yimchungbru/ 
Tuensang - Kiphire

Metumniiu
August 8

This festival is connected with the prayers for the soul of the departed soul. It is a sentimental ceremony for those dear ones who left for their heavenly abode during the year.

Sangtam/
Tuensang - Kiphire

Mongmong
September 3

During this festival people worship the God of the house and the three cooking stones in the fireplace for more blessing and prosperity.

Pochury/
Phek

Yemshe
October 5

All young and old, rich and poor, celebrate this festival with great pomp and gaiety anticipating a good harvest which they deserve after a year’s hard labour under scorching sun and merciless rain.

Lotha/ 
Wokha

Tokhu Emong
November 7

With the harvest done and the granaries full, the people now take a respite from the toils and sweat and settle down to enjoy the fruit of one’s own labour. The entire village takes part in the celebration of dances, community songs, feast, fun and frolic etc.

Rengma/ 
Kohima

Ngada
Nov. 27

It is the festival of thanksgiving and rejoicing. This festival also marks the end of agricultural year.

Source: Nagaland, Echoes of the Hill; Published by Directorate of Tourism, Government of Nagaland

5. Environmental sustainability:

If William Wordsworth had the good fortune of visiting Nagaland, he would unquestionably have written a full collection of poems on the flowers that dance to the tune of spring here. Just as the people colour the terrain with their bright attire and vibrant dances, so does the sky adorn itself with the flowers of the Orchids and Rhododendrons. Impossible would be an understatement when it comes to counting the varieties of the native flowering flora that are found in plenty here. They are simply sights to behold and admire when one is in Nagaland. Be it a valley, a hill or a mountain top, in Nagaland, Orchids, Rhododendrons and the people, welcome you everywhere. Bamboo is perhaps the most prominent face of the green cover of India’s North East. Not only does this giant grass create an ambience of mystery and enchanting wilderness, it is also a product of great economic value. In Nagaland, bamboo provides the body and the soul for the traditional architectures, crafts and implements, besides being the state’s major commercial produce for paper and textile industries. The qualities of this wonder grass can be seen in Asia’s largest bamboo pavilion that the Government of Nagaland has built in Kisama in Kohima district.

The State Government notified its tourism policy on January 23, 2011 with a view to ensure sustained growth of tourism in the state. The policy recognises the main constraints of Tourism development in the State and highlights the objectives of the programme for future development.
The prime objective of the policy is to provide for planned development of tourism based on promotion of domestic and international tourism. It will intra-alia involve identifications of tourism potential areas, strengthening of infrastructures, integrated development of tourism facility and marketing of tourism products. Promoting conservation and enhancement of natural resources, particularly the flora and fauna, forests and other unique features of the State through regulated development and promotion of rural, ethnic, cultural, eco and adventure tourism are the other objectives of the tourism policy.

6. Eco-Tourism Destinations in Nagaland: vis-a-vis Economic Opportunities

Tourism has tremendous employment potential. It varies from that of highly trained managers of deluxe hotels to room boys, transport workers, sales girls, artisans and others. This activity has also a high potential for self-employment in a variety of ancillaries such as horticulture, handicrafts, handlooms, guides etc. As an activity, tourism is highly suited to women particularly, if they also have to look after their families and children as in the case in most developing countries. While tourism, also upgrades human skills, some of the skills required and promoted by this activity are not difficult to master.

The key elements of Eco-Tourism include a natural environment as the prime attraction, an optimum number of environment friendly visitors, activities which do not have any serious impact on the ecosystem and the positive involvement of the local community maintaining the ecological balance. Just as the World Tourism Organisation defines Eco-Tourism as “tourism practised in relatively undisturbed natural areas, for the main purpose of admiring and learning about them”, Nagaland possesses enormous potential for the promotion of eco-tourism. Its landscapes, scenic beauty and friendly people make Nagaland an exotic Eco-Tourism destination. The entire rural areas of Nagaland have potential of becoming Eco-Tourism destinations. The prospect of Eco-Tourism in Nagaland is to educate the traveller about natural destinations to provide ecological conservations and awareness, to benefit economic developments, the political empowerment of local communities and respect for the local culture.

Some of the best Eco-Tourism destination in Nagaland that have proved valuable asset for the tourism promotion are listed below.

A. Doyang Hydro Project & the Amur Falcon Conservation:

About 110 Km from Kohima Town, Doyang is one of the largest river in Nagaland. Several Hill streams fall into the river from the central and western parts and give it the most fascinating look. Hydel Dam has been constructed here. This project has a large quantity of water impounded in a Dam which is visible from many hilltop villages in the surrounding areas. It’s a home to varieties of fishes which are preserved and also serves as a daily bread for some fisherman in the nearby villages. Small wooden boats adorn the river for the purpose of fishing or to give a ride to interested tourist. Adding more to its beauty, there exist numerous mini and small Islands. Over the years, these place has become the roosting place of migratory birds Amur Falcon (Falco Amurensis), known to be one of the world's longest-distance migratory birds as they travel up to a staggering 22,000 km a year. These birds arrive in Nagaland from Mongolia en route to South Africa. In Nagaland, they start arriving from the second week of October and roost in Doyang and some other places for 1 to 2 months.
Amur Falcon Conservation: A Success Story of Community Based Eco-Tourism

Way back in 2011 when the birds first visited Nagaland, and roosted at Pangti Village (Doyang Catchment area) the local people, started mass trapping and capture of these migrating bird, for pets, for sell in the markets or for their delicious lunch or dinner. It appeared as if God was sending manna from heaven to feed them, like in those old testament days in the Bible (it is to be noted here that, after the construction of the Doyang Reservoir, large chunk of fertile land which were referred to as the ‘rice bowl’ of the District/ State were submerged, bringing down the village economy to almost standstill).

Upon discovery of these mass trapping, capture and massacre, and with many complaints, concerns and advices from various individual and organizations including National and International, the Government of Nagaland in collaboration with the local communities started mass awareness campaign to prevent their killing. Robust conservation has been put in place with the funds raised and actions taken to ensure the prevention of illegal hunting. An innovative long-term community outreach campaign has also been initiated that has been received very well. As part of this campaign, in 2013, three birds have also been fitted with 5gm satellite transmitters that allow them to be tracked during their migration.

With continues and concerted effort, the campaign to conserve the Amur Falcon was a resounding success and the Village Pangti has been rightly declared as the “Amur Falcon Capital of the World”. There has been zero killing since, 2014 and the year also saw more than 4000 tourist visit. It is worth a visit as One million bird can been seen in just 30 minutes. In recognition of their conservation effort for protecting the Amur Falcon during their migratory halt, Pangti Village was awarded, the Earth Hero Award from the Royal Bank of Scotland in the year 2014 from New Delhi. This award credits the effort of the mobilisation done by the local communities of that village.

Economic Potential
- Tourism, centring round the spectacular Amur Falcon congregation, is slowly emerging as a meaningful source of livelihood and former hunters are now stakeholders.
- Conservation efforts have helped the economy of the locality in terms of infrastructure development and employment opportunities. Today with more tourist inflow, local people had the opportunity to open amity & hospitality centres, home stays, hotels etc and more people are employed as tour guides and operators.
- There have been reports that, birding tour operators and bird watchers’ groups from abroad and around the country are expressing interest to visit the site to observe the stunning annual Falcon congregation and contribute towards the success story as well.

B. Khonoma; The Green Village

Located 20 km west from Kohima Town, Khonoma Village houses nature’s pristine beauty in the form of its alder trees and terraces carved out of its hilly slopes and the Khonoma Nature Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS). KNCTS conserves a large variety of rare species of plants and animals within its 25 sq km area. This is almost a virgin territory for birdwatchers, animal watchers and botanists who have the entire area to explore and discover. A model village for Eco-Tourism, Khonoma is one of the cleanest villages in the entire Asian subcontinent. The beautiful terraces which are carved out of the hill slopes surrounding the village are sight to behold. These terraces grow over 40 different types of paddy at different elevations.
The Green Village Project:

In 2003-04, Government of India, choose Khonoma Village under the scheme Green Village Project, as first of its kind in India. Under this, the Villages formed Khonoma Tourism Development Board (KTDB) comprising of some Village Elders, Youths and eminent people from their village. The Board conducted the Environment Impact Assessment and framed certain policies and programmes in line with various tourism and environment policies. Khonoma is at present the best tourist village in Nagaland which provide a community experience live to the tourist in its own settings with minimum level of comforts thrown in the package.

With best practices/code of conducts favourable to the environment and the people, more tourists continue to pour in this village, creating economic opportunities to all.

Today, Community-Based Tourism development as reflected in Khonoma Village case, assumes the key element to the local economy as it creates potentials for tourism to play a significant role in improving the inhabitants’ living conditions. A critical aspect of Community-Based Tourism is that local residents plays a major decision-making role in how tourism effects and benefits their lives and environment.

C. Dzukou: The Valley of Eternal Charm

This valley of eternal charm with its emerald green rolling hills, interspersed by gentle flowing streams, is tucked away at an altitude of 2,438.4 metres. It lies about 30 km south of Kohima Town. This famous valley beckons the intrepid trekkers and is the highest visited by tourist all throughout the year. It is known for its pristine forests, beautifully landscaped green valleys, varieties of flora and fauna etc. During the months of June and September, the valley turns into a carpet of varieties of wild flowers, including white & yellow lilies, aconitum and euphonies. It is believed that more than 360 varieties of orchids grow on the hill sides. Come winter, Dzukou revels its other face as the meandering stream remains frozen, dry grass dominating the landscape which looks like a featureless desert. Besides the crystal clear water of the stream leisurely meandering through the valley, one can be completely at peace with nature. Though Dzukou valley is known for its biodiversity, especially rhododendrons, the predominant plant is the tough bamboo brush. The numerous clusters of low hillocks surrounding the valley contain natural caves and rocks overhands, which makes the valley an ideal place of camping. Few places on earth can offer this natural luxury.

D. Shilloi Lake

Shaped like a footprint, Shilloi lake is located in Meluri is 300 km from Kohima. It is a beautiful natural lake and falls in a valley surrounded with pine forest and interesting landscapes. Migratory Siberian cranes visits this lake in the month of March to June, where the locals contributes their support for their hospitality stay. The lake is rich in varieties of fishes and the best season to fish is during the month from June to September. Also a folk tale is attached with this lake; the locals believe that a Queen reign over this lake and therefore no one has drown from this lake till today. Many of the locals in this area survive with fishing as their livelihood which they sell in the markets, yet they do not harm the Eco-System or any intention to destroy the existence of the fishes in the lake. This lake is also learned to be one of the most Eco-Tourism destination in Nagaland throughout the year because the climatic condition in this area is favourable for any kind: either for picnics, trekking or to view the beauty of the lake.
E. Lohwo: the twin lake

Located in Khezekhano village also known as the “Ancestral Village of the Nagas”, this lake is 55 km from Kohima town. Legends made us believe that this twin lake (Husband & Wife) was co-joined from below the small hillock that separates them from outside. One will be mesmerized with the beauty of how the lake stood there undisturbed, unknown yet so fresh and a folk tale behind its existence.

F. Saramati Peak

This peak has a height of 3841 meters and is the highest peak in Nagaland located on the Nagaland – Myanmar border in the district of Kiphire. The peak is covered with snow throughout the winter season. During the spring season the mountain offers a beautiful climb with views of Rhododendrons along the paths.

G. Japfu Peak

At 3048 meters high, this peak located at only 15 km South of Kohima offers a tough yet scenic climb for the more adventurous. The largest and the tallest Rhododendron tree lies in the Mt. Japfu standing at the height of 109 ft, as recorded by the Guinness Book of World Records.

H. Ghosu Bird Sanctuary

Located 8 km away from Zunheboto town, this bird sanctuary is managed by the Village Community. It provides habitat to more than twenty species of endangered Avifauna (Local bird). Migratory birds are also sighted here between the months of June and September. The village community has strictly prohibited hunting and poaching animals and birds in that area and the nearby localities as well. This Village Community gains logistic support from the State Government towards the maintenance and preserving of the Sanctuary.

7. Conclusion

Tourism has been rightly recognised as a smokeless industry that provides all the benefits of manufacturing without in any way adding to any of its negative impacts like population and environment degradation. Actually, the benefits from tourism are so many and diverse that almost all countries of the world are according a very high priority to its promotion.

Nagaland today is in a situation where many other famous tourist destinations were some decades back. However, the potential and diversity it holds are perhaps far more than a lot of exciting popular destinations. Over the years, the State has been through a lot of ups and downs – but this has been a blessing in disguise for it has preserved the beauty, natural wealth and the overall sanity of the place. Today, as India’s North East is making rapid economic progress and carving out a corridor into South East Asia, Nagaland is standing on the threshold of an economic boom. Among all other industries that the central and State Governments are trying to promote, sustainable tourism is gaining the upper hand, for it is the only way for progress and eco-friendliness to walk hand-in-hand. There are so many spots to discover and so much culture and exoticism to experience, for the
investor there is an imminent ‘Gold Rush’ waiting to happen with Nagaland’s tourism potentials; Cultural, Ethnic, Adventure, Nature Tourism etc. are the areas where the Government is working on currently. They also have plans to develop amusement parks, ropeways, large resorts and hotels in order to prepare the right infrastructure for all types of tourist.

The Government of Nagaland has designed a unique model, whereby villagers generate their own income through the communalisation of assets. Under the guidance of the Village Tourism Board (VTB), today, the villagers sustain their own villages and generate revenue through tourism. The threefold objectives of this model is to conserve and promote the natural resources of Nagaland, promote its cultural heritage and promote Eco and Adventure Tourism.

Nature has been kind to the Naga and their land. Though by virtue of her nature beauty, the whole of Nagaland is a tourist hotspot, yet certain exceptionally charming places have been identified and developed by the Government to promote tourism in the state. This focused approach helps in providing easy access to travellers of all categories - tourist, researchers, backpackers, ecologist etc. This little explored State is still developing and many more places remain 'unmarked' making it even more exclusive and fascinating to explore.

Inflow of tourist in the state of Nagaland for the last 10 years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Domestic tourist</th>
<th>Foreign tourist</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>15850</td>
<td>576</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>22085</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>64616</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: Statistical Handbook of Nagaland, Government of Nagaland Publications

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