Celebrating Mizoram State Day: A Tribute to the Land of the Mizos

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Every year on February 20, **Mizoram State Day** is celebrated to commemorate the formation of Mizoram as a state. Nestled in the north-eastern part of India, Mizoram shares its borders with countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar. But have you ever wondered how this unique name came to be? Well, it's because the people who inhabit this region are known as **Mizo**.

Before **Mizoram** became a state, various tribes from north-eastern India resided in this region. The origins of these tribes are still somewhat mysterious. Historical records suggest that they migrated from China during the Mongoloid wave. Some believe that they emerged from the Shinlung or Chhinlung San regions, located on the banks of the Yalung River in China.

Interestingly, the first group of immigrants in this region was known as 'Kukis.' The second wave of people who moved to

India came to be known as ‘New Kukis,’ and the last group was referred to as ‘Lushais.’ These tribes had a complex history, marked by tribal raids during the 18th and 19th centuries, as the Mizo Hills fell under British rule in 1895.

In 1935, a proclamation designated the Lushai Hills and Assam districts as an Excluded Area. This ruling sparked a political awakening among the Mizos, who despised British rule. The Mizo Common People’s Union, later renamed as Mizo Union (MU), was formed on April 9, 1946, as the first Mizo political party. Although the party brought about some change, the Mizos were not fully satisfied, as the British still held significant control.



Mizoram Foundation Day 2024

It was only when the British left India in 1947 that the Mizos finally gained their freedom. February 20 holds special significance as it marks the day Mizoram was officially declared a state. In 1987, Chief Secretary Lalkhama read out the proclamation of statehood at a public meeting, and Mizoram State was born. C. Chhunga became the first Chief Minister of Mizoram, serving from 1972 to 1977.

Mizoram State Day is an occasion to honor the struggles and resilience of the Mizos. It is a day to celebrate their rich cultural heritage, diverse traditions, and the progress they

have made as a state. The Mizos have contributed significantly to the development and growth of the region, and their spirit of unity and determination is truly inspiring.

On this day, various events and activities are organized across Mizoram to mark the occasion. Cultural performances, traditional games, exhibitions, and sports competitions are held to showcase the vibrant culture and talents of the Mizos. It is a time for the people of Mizoram to come together, reflect on their journey as a state, and look towards a bright future.

As we celebrate Mizoram State Day, let us join the Mizos in their joy and pride. It is an opportunity to learn more about this beautiful region, its history, and the incredible people who call it home. Mizoram State Day reminds us of the power of unity, resilience, and the importance of preserving and cherishing our cultural heritage.

So, let's raise a toast to Mizoram and its people on this special day. **Happy Mizoram State Day!**