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# 7 Sisters & A Brother: Exploring the North-East Region of India

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## ABSTRACT

*In this research paper, the political, historical, cultural, and geographical aspects of the North Eastern area of India are examined. Scattered across eight states, the region's population of approximately 51 million people is home to over 335 tribal tribes and a wealth of cultural and linguistic variety. It must, however, also deal with issues like insurgency, which is brought on by long-standing grudges, anger, and brittle borders. British strategy deliberately kept the region remote until India attained independence, which allowed the indigenous tribal people to evolve distinctive social systems. Because of the perception that the central government was marginalising and neglecting them, rebel activities persisted even after post-independence constitutional revisions like the Sixth Schedule, which were meant to grant autonomy to tribal territories. The distinct circumstances of several countries are examined in this study through an examination of historical grievances, demographic shifts, and separatist movements. In addition to separatist upheavals, demographic revolutions, and population shifts, Assam has seen the Assam Movement against the practice of illegal immigration." The region is seen as geopolitically significant because to its proximity to China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. Ultimately, the region's complex socioeconomic context and enduring problems are recognised. It also discusses how peace accords and development programmes may be used to put an end to insurgencies.*

**Keywords:** North East, Assam, Government, Meghalaya, Autonomous council, Manipur, Sixth Schedule, Nagaland, Sikkim, Insurgency, India, Tribal.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The North Eastern region of India consisted of eight states, namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland ( seven sisters ) and Sikkim ( a brother ). With a density of 173/km<sup>2</sup> and an area of 2,62,184 km<sup>2</sup>, the North Eastern region is home to 51,67,90,000 people. 3.76% of India's population lives in the north-eastern region, which also occupies 7.76% of the nation's landmass. The North Eastern region is home to over 335+ tribal communities out of which 135 has been recognised and 200+ non-recognised, the majority of

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them reside in the hill states of Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh, making up these states' vast majority populations. The majority of inhabitants in Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh are tribal people. The North Eastern region is very diverse in culture and language. It is the home of 10+ languages like, Assamese, Bodo, Meitei, Nepali, Bengali, Mizo, Sikkimese, Kokborok, English, etc. The literacy rate of the population was 73.17% in 2011. The percentage of people living below the poverty line is also higher in all the North Eastern states than the country as a whole. With hot, muggy summers, intense monsoons, and moderate winters, the North Eastern region experiences a primarily humid sub-tropical climate. The robust Brahmaputra-Barak river systems, along with their tributaries, encompass the region. Around 99 percent of the region's total geographical boundary, or 5,182 kilometres, are shared by the region and a number of its neighbours: 1,395 kilometres with China to the north, 1,640 kilometres with Myanmar to the east, 1,596 kilometres with Bangladesh to the south-west, 97 kilometres with Nepal to the west, and 455 kilometres with Bhutan to the north-west. It comprises an area of 262,184 square kilometres, almost 8 per cent of that of India. The region is connected to the rest of mainland India by the Siliguri Corridor. It is also known as Chicken's Neck. The Northeast India has abundant natural resources and raw materials for industries for example coal, natural gas, kaolin, uranium, tea, bamboo, etc.

The North Eastern region has seen many insurgency in past few decades. There were conflicts for autonomy, economic concession, political representation and even independence from India. There are many political and insurgent groups in the region like Naga National Council, All Student Assam Union, All Tripura Tiger Force, United Liberation Front of Assam, etc. Each and every group has its own perspectives and demand as with their different historical background, they have been keeping very different perspective on their political future. The North-East was resentful of the Centre for treating them unfairly, neglecting their industries, creating a dearth of businesses, and even allocating cash improperly. Its income from tea, plywood, and crude oil was taken away. There was demand for better connectivity between North East and the rest of India examples, Bridges of Brahmaputra, railways upgrading as well as better road links.



## II. NORTH EAST INDIA AS WHOLE

North Eastern India's history can be split into two categories: pre-Independence and post-independence.

### (A) Pre- Independence:-

There was no discernible non-tribal presence in these regions. These localities have a specific administrative status granted by the British. The British government deliberately pursued an exclusionary strategy and did not interfere with their socio-political system. In the tribal territories, land acquisition by outsiders was prohibited. There was a virtual absence of any political, cultural, social, geographical, religious or business contact of the tribals in the North-east with the rest of India. Thus, the tribal population in India was mostly unaffected by the independence movement. They therefore never knew what it was like to be citizens of India, a free nation. Their main experience of outsiders was that of British officers and Christian missionaries only.

The British government encouraged Christian missionaries to settle in and build churches, schools, and hospitals at the same time. The youth of the tribe were influenced by contemporary, progressive ideas, and the missionaries brought about significant changes in the north-eastern civilization. It also helped the Britishers in keeping the nationalist (pro-independence) influence out of the tribal areas. This policy resulted in their isolation from the rest of India.

**(B) Post- Independence**

Following independence, the Indian government prioritized interpersonal relationships and paid particular attention to tribal policy. Our Constitution's Sixth Schedule, which only applies to this area, offers decentralization, autonomy, and self-governance. Thus, district and regional councils were created. As North Eastern region of India has a large number of population of Tribes it comes under 6th schedule of Indian Constitution. Provisions pertaining to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram are found in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Certain tribal regions may be administered as independent entities under the Sixth Schedule. The Indian Constitution's Articles 244(2) and 275(1) include the provisions of the sixth schedule. There used to be just one state, Assam, and one Union Territory, NEFA (North East Frontier Agency), which included the whole northeast region. Subsequently, NEFA assumed the name Arunachal Pradesh, and in 1987 it was recognized as a distinct state. While NEFA was developing comfortably and in harmony with the rest of the country, problems developed in other tribal areas which were part of Assam administratively. In the mid-fifties, Phizo raised the banner of revolt in Nagaland and, later on, it spread to Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya. In 1960, Assamese became the state's only official language in 1960. The tribal districts responded strongly and immediately to it. Different tribal political parties in the hills started to feel cut off from the Assamese and Bengali people living on the lowlands. The Assamization policy terrified the tribal people of losing their identity and becoming part of the general population employed in government positions and other professions like medicine, trading, etc. First Insurgency we saw was in the Naga hills in the Mid - 1950s by the Naga National Council (NNC).

Current Autonomous District Council are:- Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (MEGHALAYA), Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (MEGHALAYA), Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (MEGHALAYA), Chakma Autonomous District Council (MIZORAM), Lai Autonomous District Council (MIZORAM), Mara Autonomous District Council (MIZORAM), Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TRIPURA), Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (ASSAM), Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (ASSAM), Bodoland Territorial Council (ASSAM).

**(C) Constitutional Position**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian Constitution applied to the tribal areas of then Assam. Due to the establishment of regional councils and autonomous districts, the schedule gave the tribal people

a reasonable amount of self-government. The aim was to allow the tribal to live in their own way. But as Nehru clarified, this did not mean secessionist movements or violence would be allowed. The policy was implemented best in the North East Frontier Agency or NEFA, which was established as a union territory separate from Assam in 1955 which we became a separate state in 1987.

### III. REASONS FOR INSURGENCY IN NORTHEASTERN REGION OF INDIA

Feeling of alienation and deprivation among the tribal population. Similar ethnicity across the border on Myanmar side. Porosity of the border with Myanmar due to difficult terrain. Alteration in the demographic distribution as a result of border incursion. Cut off communication with Indians in other regions and with each other. Widespread corruption among the ruling elite. Tribal communities lack visionary leadership. Lack of development and basic amenities. Easy availability of arms and ammunition. Political support from various factions. Instability in Myanmar. Many of our neighboring countries are being used by insurgent groups for shelter and training. While terrorist groups from Meghalaya and Tripura operate out of Bangladesh, naga and Assamese-based insurgency groups are based in Myanmar. Nepal is utilized as a haven and a route to other nations that border China. Kathmandu airport is the transit point. Bhutan is also used by many of the Assam based underground groups like ULFA and NDFB. There are inputs which suggest moral support of the Chinese to the north-east insurgent groups. Arms are also procured from across China. Arms and drug smuggling, as well as extortion, are their primary sources of funding.

According to the report from Ministry of Home Affairs Compared to 2014, there has been 71% Reduction in insurgency incidents, 60% in Security Forces Casualties and 82% in Civilian deaths in 2023. In last one decade there are many agreements/ accord has been signed between Government of India and the Insurgent groups.



### (A) Assam

The case of Assam is peculiar. They do not demand secession, but they wanted ‘Assam for Assamese’. A popular movement against unauthorized immigrants in Assam, known as the Assam Movement or Assam Agitation (1979–1985), existed. In order to fill Hiralal Patwari’s seat in the Mangaldoi Lok Sabha Constituency after his death in 1978, a by-election was necessary. Observers saw a sharp increase in the number of voters registered throughout the election process. AASU now demanded that the election be postponed till the name of foreign national were deleted from the electoral rolls. The Assam Agitation developed from this point. The All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the “All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad” (AAGSP) spearheaded the movement, which devised a plan of rallies and demonstrations to force the government to track down and remove illegal immigrants. There was unemployment among Assamese youth. From 1971 onwards, refugees poured in from Bangladesh (East Pakistan). After Bangladesh was established, the majority went back, but over a lakh remained. There was political, linguistic, and cultural instability brought on by demographic shifts. Much of the revenue earned by the state of Assam was lost. Marwaris and Bengalis were controlling Assam’s economy. Labour forces were also largely non-Assamese.

As the result of the agitation, the Parliament passed **the Illegal Immigrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act (IM-DT) in October 1983** and began to implement it in Assam. Negotiations took place between the government and AASU-AAGSPO during the later parts of 1984 and first part of the year 1985.

There were few insurgent groups (listed in table 1).

Table 1	Assam	Listed/declared as
(i)	United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
(ii)	National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)	-do-
(iii)	Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO)	Terrorist organization

### (B) Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh state in northeastern India shares borders with Burma, Bhutan, and China. The region’s history is long and convoluted, marked by ongoing disputes regarding its territorial

ownership. Ancestral inhabitants of Arunachal Pradesh include the Wancho, Nyishi, Mishmi, Adi, and Monpa tribes. Individual cultures, dialects, and customary political structures were unique to these groups. The Tibetan Empire brought Buddhist monasteries, Tibetan culture, and Tibetan language to the area in the seventh century AD. Assamese Ahom monarchy took control of the region in the sixteenth century and continued to do so until the early nineteenth century. Arunachal Pradesh is a state in north-eastern India that shares borders with China, Bhutan, and Myanmar. With persistent disagreements over its territorial sovereignty, the region has a lengthy and complicated past. Indigenous tribal groups such as the Wancho, Nyishi, Mishmi, Adi, and Monpa people have historically inhabited Arunachal Pradesh. Individual cultures, dialects, and customary political structures were unique to these groups. The Tibetan Empire brought Buddhist monasteries, Tibetan culture, and Tibetan language to the area in the seventh century AD. Assamese Ahom monarchy took control of the region in the sixteenth century and continued to do so until the early nineteenth century. In 1914, the British colonial government and the Qing dynasty of China signed the Shimla Accord, which defined the McMahon Line as the boundary between British India and Tibet (then under Chinese suzerainty). This placed the region that is now Arunachal Pradesh on the Indian side of the border. After India's independence in 1947, Arunachal Pradesh was initially administered as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) before being granted statehood in 1987 and renamed Arunachal Pradesh. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of its "South Tibet" region, a claim it has maintained since the 1950s. China routinely objects to Indian leaders' visits to Arunachal Pradesh and has lodged diplomatic protests, asserting that the region is Chinese territory. In recent years, China has taken steps to bolster its claims, such as renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh and reiterating its position that the region is part of Chinese territory. India has firmly rejected China's claims, stating that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. The Indian government has dismissed China's claims as "absurd" and "ludicrous". Arunachal Pradesh has faced some insurgency and security challenges, particularly from groups seeking greater autonomy or independence from India. There have been difficulties for the state in maintaining border control, building infrastructure, and integrating indigenous groups into the broader community. Due to the fact that China and the US both maintain sizable military outposts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the ongoing border dispute has raised questions regarding local security.

In conclusion, Arunachal Pradesh has a rich history that includes influences from native tribal populations, Buddhism, and past political affiliations. Still, there remains a persistent diplomatic impasse and security concerns between China and India over the latter's claim to the



state's territorial sovereignty.

### **(C) Nagaland**

Nagaland is located at the tri-junction border of India and Myanmar. The Naga people, who inhabit Nagaland, have had deep historical and cultural ties with the people across the Myanmar border. The Naga conflict is a long-standing dispute between the ethnic Naga people and the Indian government that dates back to before India's independence. The origins of the conflict can be traced to the Naga National Council's (NNC) demand for an Independent Naga state in 1947, which was rejected by the Indian government. After India's independence in 1947, the Naga Hills remained part of the state of Assam. The NNC, led by Angami Zapu Phizo, declared Naga independence on August 14, 1947 and organized a referendum in 1951 that claimed support for a "sovereign Nagaland". However, the Indian government maintained that Nagaland was an integral part of India. 1950s war worsened as a result of the NNC's armed insurrection against the Indian government. Lawmakers passed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, granting the military broad authority, in 1958, subsequent to the Indian army's deployment to the area. The decades-long uprising then officially began. Naga leaders and the Indian government came to a 16-point agreement in 1960, which led to the creation of Nagaland, the 16th state of the Indian Union, in 1963. Despite the emergence of other rebel factions within the Naga community, such as the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), conflicts persisted. The fundamental problems remained unsolved. NSCN (Isak-Muivah) and NSCN (Khaplang) were the two new groups that emerged after the 1988 split. The former group aimed to establish a "greater Nagaland" or "Nagalim," which would encompass areas inhabited by Naga people in neighbouring states including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur, as well as areas connected to Myanmar. It is now more difficult to achieve peace because the governments of these states have rejected this call. The NSCN (IM) and the Indian government signed a framework agreement in 2015 in an attempt to settle the disagreement. However, not a lot has happened really fast. The Indian government has failed to meet the desires of the NSCN (IM) for a unique Naga flag and constitution. This battle has led to wars between the NSCN (K) in neighbouring Myanmar and the Burmese military authorities. This leads to an even more complicated debate.

The Naga insurgency remains one of Asia's longest-running rebellions due to its complex history, politics, and ethnicity, as well as its complexity and difficulty to end. India's attempts to resolve the conflict through peaceful means have been repeatedly blocked by internecine clashes between the Naga population and opposition from neighbouring states.

	Nagaland	Listed/declared as
(i)	The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) [NSCN/K]	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
(ii)	National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) – [NSCN/IM]	On ceasefire with the Government.
(iii)	National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Kitovi-Neopaokonyank) [NSCN (KN)]	
(iv)	National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Reformation) [NSCN (R)]	

#### **(D) Tripura**

Tripura, a state in north-eastern India, has a complex history marked by insurgency and conflict. Tripura was an independent kingdom until 1949 when it merged with the Indian Union. After independence, the state's demographics underwent a major shift as a result of illegal migration and refugees from East Bengal (now Bangladesh). In the process, immigrants who spoke Bengali took over the administration and drove out the local Tripuri population, who were forced to live in the hills. Reacting to perceived marginalization of the Tripuri people and demographic shifts, the first militant group was established in 1978 as the Tripura National Volunteers (TNV). Later on, other separatist organizations emerged, such as the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) and the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), which aimed to establish the Tripura merger agreement or an independent Tripura. Combinations of socioeconomic hardship, ethnic conflicts, and outside organizations with headquarters in Bangladesh fed the insurgency in Tripura. The insurgency resulted in extensive bloodshed, disruption of civic life, and significant casualties during its height in the 1990s and early 2000s. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, the state administration implemented a multifaceted plan to quell the uprising. This entails counterinsurgency operations, building local government institutions, assuring public trust, and development programmes aimed at mitigating socioeconomic issues. The people-centered policy of the government and the notable

surrender of militant commanders contributed to the insurgency's decline in the late 2000s. This entails counterinsurgency operations, building local government institutions, assuring public trust, and development programmes aimed at mitigating socioeconomic issues. However, there are still incidents of violence involving militant group survivors on a sometimes basis. Due to a well-rounded approach that integrates development, security, and political outreach, the Tripura state administration has mostly been successful in suppressing the complex insurgency that has been driven by ethnic conflicts and demographic changes throughout the region's history.

	Tripura	Listed/declared as
(i)	All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
(ii)	National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)	-do-

### **(E) Meghalaya**

Referred to as the "Scotland of the East," Meghalaya was first granted autonomy on April 2, 1970, and on January 1, 1972, it joined the Indian Union. Meghalaya was formerly a component of the Assamese composite state. There are several different tribes in the state; the Garos being the most prevalent in the west, followed by the Khasis in the center of Meghalaya and the Jaintias in the east. Most of the Khasi, Jaintia, Bhoi, and War tribes live in eastern Meghalaya together under the collective name Hynniewtrep people. Since the late 1980s, the state has endured insurgency problems due to the activities of organizations like as the People's Liberation Front of Meghalaya (PLF-M), Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC), and Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC). Current events and the Meghalayan insurgency. Meghalaya has suffered from insurgencies such as the ANVC and HNLC, who seek independence states or homelands for their own ethnic groups. The split between the tribal residents and the non-tribal settlers—particularly those from Bangladesh—has been a significant factor in the turmoil. Murder in the area has been exacerbated by identification problems, perceived unfairness, and corruption, particularly in the Garo Hills. The Sharma Commission identified economic concerns as the main drivers of unrest, including growing rates of unemployment. The number of fatalities in the state has been high, with civilian and security force casualties rising relative to terrorist deaths. relationships with India's mainland and Bangladesh. Meghalaya borders Bangladesh, therefore competition between the native

population and refugees has fostered insurgencies, along with changes in the country's demographics. India's historical ties to Assam and its 1971 split over tribal ambitions have influenced relations with the rest of the country. Meghalaya's insurgency, a subset of the greater insurgency in Northeast India, has been fueled by desires for separate states and homelands, leading to conflicts with the federal government and among various ethnic communities. Adherence to peace agreements, militant concessions, and ongoing security protocols to maintain local peace have all been employed as solutions to these issues.

The major separatist groups operating In Meghalaya are:

- Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC): This group aims to turn Meghalaya into an exclusively Khasi and Jaintia region, seeking secession from India. It was formed in 1992 after a split from the Hynniewtrep Achik Liberation Council (HALC).
- Achik National Volunteers Council (ANVC): This group seeks the creation of an independent state in the Garo Hills region of Meghalaya. It emerged after the split of HALC, representing the Garo interests.
- People’s Liberation Front of Meghalaya (PLF-M): This group is an offshoot of the Achik Liberation Matgrik Army (ALMA) and demands a separate state for the Garo tribes in Meghalaya.

Other non-Meghalayan separatist groups that have also operated in the region include the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).

	Meghalaya	Listed/declared as
(i)	Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC)	Unlawful association
(ii)	Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA)	Terrorist organization

**(F) Mizoram**

The mizo districts of the lushai hills were autonomous within Assam. However separatist sentiments were developing among the people. Dissatisfaction arose with the Assam government's relief measures during famine in 1959, and the state's language policy led to the setting up of the Mizo National Front, led by Laldena. Mizos continued to participate in electoral politics and MNF (Mizo National Front) received arms and training from East Pakistan and China. In February 1966, the MNF started an armed campaign for independence and attacked

government offices, looted banks and disrupted communication. Government of India responded with massive counter insurgency measures, including the army and the air force. Uprising was crushed, the insurgents fought on for next 20 years, taking shelter in neighbouring states. In 1973, after the less extremist Mizo leaders had scaled down their demands to that of a separate state of Mizoram, the region was made a UT. After a rise in insurgencies in the 70s, both sides realised the futility of armed struggle. The Government of India was willing to offer liberal terms of amnesty for the rebels and enter into negotiation for peaceful settlement. In 1986 Lalden came back from exile and signed an accord with Indian government. According to its terms, insurgents agreed to abandon violence and were granted an amnesty. Government of India agreed to grant full statehood to Mizoram, guaranteeing full autonomy in culture, land laws, traditions etc. In 1987, Laldenga became Chief Minister of Mizoram and in the same year Mizoram attained full statehood.

### **(G) Manipur**

Manipur state in north-eastern India has a rich and varied millennium-long history. The state's current predicament is mostly due to its significance from an international, cultural, ethnic, and economic perspective. Despite joining the Union of India in 1949, the state of Manipur did not gain independence until 1972.

A portion of the history of the former kingdom of Kangleipak, Manipur, began in the second century AD. The kingdom, which benefited from a good geographic position, played a significant role in the commercial routes between Southeast Asia and India. The nation was ruled by several dynasties over the millennia, most notably the Puya Meitei and Khuman lineages. The state's cultural history was greatly influenced by a specific language, literature, and art form that the Meitei people established during the course of several dynasties.

Manipur witnessed a dramatic political, economic, and cultural shift after the British Empire conquered it in the 19th century. A significant factor in the state's growth was the introduction of contemporary medical and educational facilities by the British. Conversely, all of Manipur's natural riches were taken from the planet, and the native culture was suppressed throughout the colonial century.

Manipur was admitted to the Indian Union after the country gained independence in 1947. The state began its struggle for independence and self-governance with demonstrations and organisations demanding more control over local affairs. The state's economy, which had previously been based mostly on trade and agriculture, began to shift towards an increasingly industrialised model as sectors like coal mining and tea expanded. Several armed organisations,

an unstable peace process, and economic stagnation are some of the issues Manipur is now dealing with. Another is halting the deterioration of the state's cultural legacy. The principal crops grown in this state are rice, maize and potatoes.

Agriculture accounts for a substantial portion of the state's economy. In addition, the state possesses abundant natural resources that are used by both domestic and foreign businesses, such as iron ore, coal, and limestone. Manipur is renowned around the world for its colourful festivals and folk dances like the Manipuri dance. The state is home to several well-known ancient temples and structures, including Kangla Fort, the capital of the erstwhile Manipuri kingdom. However, the state's cultural legacy is becoming more threatened as modernization and globalisation gain momentum. The ethnic population of Manipur is composed of several tribes, such as the Meitei, Naga, and Kuki. The tribal identity of the state is greatly influenced by Native American languages, traditions, and customs. In the state, there are conflicts and tensions amongst the many ethnic groups who call it home; these issues are most evident when it comes to resource management and property ownership.

The strategic position of Manipur has made it a major role in regional politics, which adds to its foreign prominence. Because Bangladesh and Myanmar are close by, there are substantial cultural and economic contacts between the two states. The states share boundaries. India is also extensively involved in the Look East Policy, which aims to strengthen commercial and geopolitical ties with Southeast Asia. In conclusion, the history of Manipur is marked by a multitude of ethnic backgrounds, a robust cultural heritage, and continuous fights for economic development and self-governance. The contemporary situation is typified by economic stagnation, the state's struggle to preserve its cultural identity, and the failing peace negotiations. Despite all of these challenges, Manipur's economy and geography remain vital to north-eastern India.

	Manipur	Listed/declared as
(i)	People's Liberation Army (PLA)	Terrorist organization and unlawful association
(ii)	United National Liberation Front (UNLF)	-do-
(iii)	People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK)	-do-

(iv)	Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP)	-do-
(v)	Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL)	-do-
(vi)	Manipur Peoples' Liberation Front (MPLF)	-do-
(vii)	Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF)	-do-
(viii)	Coordination Committee Cor-com (conglomerate of six valley base UG outfits).	-do-

### (H)Sikkim

The Indigenous Lepcha people's interaction with the first Tibetan settlers marks the beginning of Sikkim's history. Throughout history, the eastern Himalayan state of Sikkim was a sovereign monarchy. Subsequently, it was a protectorate of India, then it merged with India and received formal statehood. The majority of the population and landowners were Lepchas until 1641. It's generally accepted that Lepcha people initially lived in Darjeeling and Sikkim.

Sikkim, a small state located in the eastern Himalayas, has a rich and complex history that spans centuries. The contacts between early Tibetan invaders and the indigenous Lepcha people are the first events in Sikkim's history to be documented. Prior to 1641, the Lepcha people dominated Sikkim, an autonomous monarchical nation in the eastern Himalayas. This state ended in 1641. The establishment of the Buddhist kingdom under the Chogyal in the 17th century was followed by British rule in Sikkim and thereafter inclusion in India as an official state of the nation after independence.

Sikkim emerged as a polity in its own right against a backdrop of incursions from Tibet and Bhutan, during which the kingdom enjoyed varying degrees of independence. In the early 18th century, the British Empire sought to establish trade routes with Tibet, leading Sikkim to fall under British suzerainty until independence in 1947. Initially, Sikkim remained an independent country, until it merged with India in 1975. Many provisions of the Indian constitution had to be altered to accommodate the international treaties and agreements between Sikkim and India. The political history of Sikkim is marked by its complex relationship with China. China has

long claimed vassalage over Sikkim, and the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai acknowledged the special relations that India had with Sikkim, but subsequently avoided any discussion with India on the Tibet-Sikkim boundary during the border talks in the late 1950s. China has released maps with Sikkim included in order to accommodate all possibilities, including Tibetan claims to the region. Talk about the conflict between China and India over Sikkim was commonplace between them. Besides Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim has come to symbolise China's more adamant stance towards its territorial disputes with India. The more India has stripped itself of leverage, the more emboldened and hardline China has become. The government conceded in the Lok Sabha on April 22 that Chinese forces have stepped up “regular cross-border activities” in Sikkim alone have been reported so far this year. The Chinese media has once again raised concern over Sikkim and called upon its state to support Sikkim’s “independence” from India. To understand the Chinese media’s assertion, one needs to reflect back on the long history of definitions, redefinitions, and contradictions that have existed between the Indian state and the Sikkimese monarchy. The state of Sikkim was established in 1642, when three Tibetan lamas consecrated Phuntsong Namgyal as the first ruler of Chogyal of Sikkim. The monarchy of the Namgyal dynasty was maintained for the next 333 years before it became part of the Indian union in 1975.

In conclusion, Sikkim’s history is marked by its complex relationship with China, which has been a recurring theme in their relations. The conflict between India and China over Sikkim has been a symbol of China’s hardening stance on territorial disputes with India, and the more India has stripped itself of leverage, the more emboldened and hardline China has become. The Chinese media’s assertion of Sikkim’s “independence” from India is rooted in the long history of definitions, redefinitions, and contradictions that have existed between the Indian state and the Sikkimese monarchy.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

North-eastern India is divided into eight states that have diverse linguistic, cultural, and ethnic origins. This research examines the area's complicated historical past as well as the current social environment. There have been significant changes in the region from the pre- to post-independence centuries due to the impact of tribal alliances, colonial legacies, and geopolitical complexity.

British practices of isolation, which served to keep the region mostly apart from the rest of India before to independence, enabled the tribal people to maintain their traditional social systems. Still, the youth's discontent with the nationalist cause may be explained by the fact that they



were affected by some of the changes that Christian missionaries brought about. The decentralisation and autonomy policies of the Indian government allowed tribal regions to exercise self-governance after independence, as demonstrated by the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. A Even if insurgencies made an attempt to remedy the problems, they were driven by gratitude, changing demography, and economic inequity. States in the area have different histories and provide different problems. Some of the many ways that people in the region are protesting perceived injustices include the fight against illegal immigration in Assam, the demographically driven insurgent movement in Tripura, and the violent battle for independence in Mizoram. The state and rebel parties have endeavoured to reach a resolution, as evidenced by peace accords and treaties. An increasing frequency of stability and peace has been indicated by a discernible drop in the number of insurgent occurrences, civilian deaths, and security force casualties over time.

As a result of its convenient location near other nations, the security situation is exacerbated. Unrealized political aspirations and conflicting ethnic landscapes, such as those in Manipur and Nagaland, are the main causes of ongoing difficulties.

Moreover, it is important to recognise the many histories, traditions, and experiences North-eastern India experienced throughout the war. Colonialism's legacy, outside influences, and changes in society have all had an effect on this. One of the numerous tasks that must be completed in order to achieve the hopes of our country's varied population is promoting peace and prosperity while allaying unresolved concerns.

Peace accords/agreements in North East region:-

- i. ANVC Peace Accord (2014)
- ii. NLFT (SD) Peace Agreement (2019)
- iii. Bru Agreement (2020)
- iv. Bodo Peace Accord (2020)
- v. Karbi Peace Accord (2021)
- vi. Adivasi Peace Accord (2022)
- vii. DNLA Peace Agreement (2023)
- viii. UNFA Peace Agreement (2023)
- ix. ULFA Peace Agreement (2023)

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