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**NORTH EAST INDIA INSURGENCY / ISSUES
– STATE WISE Part 1**

Overview of the Problem

Causes

Core Issue

Historical Reasons

Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s)

History/Course of the Problem

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions

External Players' Role

Recent Developments

Government Measures and Solutions

Way Forward

Other Information for UPSC

**For Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur,
Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura**

Other Issues of NORTH EAST in Part 2

The Northeastern region of India, comprising eight states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—has been a hotspot for internal security challenges due to its unique ethnic diversity, geographical isolation, and historical complexities. These states, connected to mainland India through the narrow Siliguri Corridor (often called the "Chicken's Neck"), share porous international borders with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, making them vulnerable to cross-border infiltration, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking. The region's ethnic diversity, with over 400 ethnic groups and 213 of India's 635 tribal communities, has fueled demands for autonomy, statehood, or secession, often leading to insurgencies. Historical neglect by colonial rulers, post-independence integration challenges, and underdevelopment have deepened feelings of alienation, fostering militancy. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been a contentious tool for counter-insurgency, often criticized for human rights violations, further alienating locals. Insurgencies have caused significant loss of life, internal displacement, and economic stagnation, with recent data indicating a 70% reduction in insurgency incidents and an 80% drop in civilian deaths from 2013 to 2019, though challenges persist, particularly in Manipur. External support from neighboring countries and the region's proximity to the drug-producing "Golden Triangle" exacerbate the situation. Below is a detailed state-wise analysis of internal security issues, insurgencies, and related problems.



ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Overview of the Problem: Arunachal Pradesh faces security challenges primarily due to its strategic location along the India-China border and spillover insurgencies from neighboring states. The core issue is the India-China border dispute, particularly over the Line of Actual Control (LAC), coupled with limited ethnic insurgencies. Historically, the region was loosely governed under British India, contributing to underdevelopment and weak integration with mainland India. Geographical isolation, with mountainous terrain and poor connectivity, hampers governance and fuels local discontent.

Causes:

- Border disputes with China, particularly in the Tawang sector.
- Spillover of insurgencies from Nagaland and Assam.
- Underdevelopment and lack of infrastructure.
- Ethnic diversity leading to localized demands for autonomy.

Core Issue: Maintaining territorial integrity amidst external claims and internal underdevelopment.

Historical Reasons: The British treated Arunachal as a frontier region with minimal administration. Post-independence, its integration into India was gradual, and the 1962 Sino-Indian War highlighted its strategic vulnerability, fostering local mistrust.

Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Border security issues due to Chinese claims and incursions.
- Sporadic insurgent activities by groups like the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang faction) (NSCN-K) and United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA).
- Drug trafficking and smuggling due to porous borders with Myanmar.

History/Course of the Problem: Arunachal Pradesh, initially part of the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), became a full-fledged state in 1987. The 1962 Sino-Indian War exposed the region's vulnerability, with Chinese forces briefly occupying parts of Arunachal, leading to lingering border disputes. Unlike other Northeastern states, Arunachal has not seen large-scale homegrown insurgencies, but groups like NSCN-K and ULFA have operated in border areas, exploiting the terrain. The National



Socialist Council of Taniland (NSCT), demanding a separate Tani homeland, has been active but lacks significant local support and is nearly defunct. Ethnic tensions between indigenous tribes and migrants, combined with underdevelopment, have fueled minor unrest. Recent Chinese incursions, particularly in 2021-2022, have heightened security concerns.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang faction) (NSCN-K):** Seeks influence in border areas, exploiting Arunachal's proximity to Nagaland.
- **United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA):** Operates in Assam-Arunachal border areas, targeting security forces and infrastructure.
- **China:** Claims Arunachal as "South Tibet," leading to periodic incursions.
- Local tribes demand better governance and development, though not always through violence.

External Players' Role: China's territorial claims and alleged support to insurgent groups like NSCN-K through arms supply via Myanmar are significant concerns. Myanmar's porous border facilitates cross-border militancy and drug trafficking.

Recent Developments:

- Increased Chinese incursions along the LAC (2021-2022).
- Rise in insurgency-related incidents from 5% in 2012 to 20% in 2017, largely due to spillover from Assam and Nagaland.
- Infrastructure development under the Act East Policy to counter Chinese influence.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Deployment of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Indian Army along the LAC.
- Infrastructure development, e.g., Daporijo Bridge and Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road Bridge.
- North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) to address developmental gaps.
- Strengthened cooperation with Assam's police to curb spillover insurgencies.

Way Forward:



- Enhance border infrastructure and surveillance to counter Chinese incursions.
- Accelerate socio-economic development to reduce local discontent.
- Strengthen regional cooperation with Myanmar to curb cross-border militancy.
- Promote cultural integration while preserving tribal identities.

Other Information for UPSC: Arunachal's strategic importance due to its 1,080 km border with China makes it critical for India's security. The state's biodiversity and hydropower potential are economic assets but also attract external interest, complicating security dynamics.

ASSAM

Overview of the Problem: Assam faces complex security challenges due to ethnic conflicts, illegal migration, and insurgencies demanding autonomy or secession. The core issue is the tension between indigenous Assamese, Bodo tribes, and migrants, exacerbated by economic backwardness and historical neglect. The British policy of encouraging migration from East Bengal altered Assam's demography, fueling ethnic strife.

Causes:

- Illegal migration from Bangladesh, leading to resource competition.
- Ethnic diversity and demands for autonomy (e.g., Bodoland).
- Underdevelopment and unemployment, driving youth to militancy.
- Porous borders facilitating arms and drug smuggling.

Core Issue: Balancing ethnic diversity with national integration while addressing migration and underdevelopment.

Historical Reasons: British policies allowed large-scale migration from East Bengal, reducing indigenous populations to minorities in some areas. Post-independence, Assam's integration into India faced resistance due to cultural differences and neglect by the central government.

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Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Separatist insurgencies by groups like ULFA.
- Ethnic conflicts, particularly Bodo vs. non-Bodo clashes.
- Illegal migration and cross-border smuggling.
- Communal violence and high crime rates.

History/Course of the Problem: Insurgency in Assam began with the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), formed in 1979, demanding an independent Assam due to perceived exploitation by the central government. The Assam Accord (1985) aimed to address illegal migration but failed to resolve underlying issues. The National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), formed in the 1980s, sought a separate Bodoland, leading to violent clashes with non-Bodos. Internal divisions within ULFA led to a pro-talks faction and a hardline faction led by Paresh Baruah. The Bodo Peace Accord (2020) reduced NDFB violence, but ethnic tensions persist. Illegal migration from Bangladesh has fueled anti-immigrant sentiments, with groups like ULFA leading campaigns. Assam has the highest rate of violent crimes in India, attributed to poor rehabilitation of surrendered insurgents.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- **United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA):** Seeks independence; split into pro-talks and Paresh Baruah's anti-talks faction.
- **National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB):** Demands Bodoland; factions signed peace accords, but some remain active.
- Indigenous Assamese and Bodos vs. Bengali migrants over land and resources.
- Smaller groups like Karbi Longri N.C. Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF) seek autonomy.

External Players' Role: Bangladesh and Myanmar have historically provided safe havens for ULFA and NDFB. China's alleged support to ULFA through arms supply and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) backing in the 1990s have been reported. The Golden Triangle fuels drug trafficking, funding insurgencies.

Recent Developments:

- Bodo Peace Accord (2019) led to NDFB factions surrendering.



- Ceasefire agreements with ULFA's pro-talks faction.
- Persistent ethnic tensions in Lower Assam and Karbi Anglong.
- Increased border security to curb illegal migration.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Assam Accord (1985) to detect and deport illegal migrants.
- Bodo Peace Accord (2020) for autonomy and development.
- Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and AFSPA.
- Modernisation of Police Forces Scheme, though funding reduced from Rs 180 crore (2013-14) to Rs 46 crore (2016-17).
- Act East Policy to boost connectivity and economic development.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen implementation of peace accords.
- Enhance border management to curb illegal migration.
- Promote inclusive development to reduce ethnic tensions.
- Reassess AFSPA's necessity to rebuild trust.

Other Information for UPSC: Assam's role as the gateway to the Northeast via the Siliguri Corridor makes it critical for regional stability. The state's tea, oil, and gas industries are economic assets but also targets for insurgent extortion.

MANIPUR

Overview of the Problem: Manipur is a hotspot of ethnic violence and insurgencies due to its diverse ethnic composition (Meiteis, Kukis, Nagas) and competition for political power and land. The core issue is ethnic polarization, exacerbated by underdevelopment and historical marginalization. The state's proximity to Myanmar fuels cross-border insurgencies and drug trafficking.

Causes:

- Ethnic tensions between Meiteis (valley dwellers) and Kukis/Nagas (hill tribes).
- Underdevelopment and unemployment.
- Porous Indo-Myanmar border facilitating smuggling.
- Long-term imposition of AFSPA causing resentment.



Core Issue: Ethnic reconciliation and equitable resource distribution.

Historical Reasons: British policies of non-interference left Manipur's tribal areas underdeveloped. Post-independence integration into India in 1949 was met with resistance, as locals felt culturally alienated.

Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Ethnic violence (e.g., Meitei-Kuki clashes).
- Separatist insurgencies by groups like United National Liberation Front (UNLF).
- Drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

History/Course of the Problem: Manipur's insurgency began with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), formed in 1964, demanding independence. The 1970s saw the rise of groups like the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), seeking autonomy or secession. Ethnic violence between Meiteis (40% of the population, dominant in the valley) and Kukis/Nagas (hill tribes) escalated in the 1990s, driven by land disputes and political marginalization. The 2023 Meitei-Kuki clashes, sparked by a court ruling on Scheduled Tribe status, led to over 200 deaths and 97% of South Asia's internal displacements in 2023. AFSPA's prolonged use since 1980 has fueled resentment, with allegations of human rights abuses.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- **United National Liberation Front (UNLF):** Seeks independence; split into factions.
- **People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP):** Demand autonomy or secession.
- Meiteis vs. Kukis/Nagas over land and political power.
- Kuki groups demand a separate Union Territory.

External Players' Role: Myanmar provides safe havens for UNLF and PLA, with the Golden Triangle facilitating drug trafficking. China's alleged support to Manipur's insurgents via Myanmar is a concern.

Recent Developments:

- Ethnic violence in Jiribam (2023) between Meiteis and Kukis.
- Resurgence of militant recruitment post-2023 clashes.



- Increased drug trafficking via Indo-Myanmar border.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Deployment of AFSPA, though criticized for human rights violations.
- Peace talks with UNLF and other groups.
- North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) to address unemployment.
- Joint task forces with Myanmar to curb cross-border militancy.

Way Forward:

- Address ethnic tensions through dialogue and equitable representation.
- Phase out AFSPA in stable areas to rebuild trust.
- Boost economic development via Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
- Strengthen border security to curb drug trafficking.

Other Information for UPSC: Manipur's 90% hilly terrain vs. 10% valley creates a unique political dynamic, with Meiteis holding disproportionate power. The state's cultural festivals and martial arts are assets but overshadowed by conflict.

MEGHALAYA

Overview of the Problem: Meghalaya faces security issues due to ethnic tensions, illegal migration, and sporadic insurgencies. The core issue is the competition between indigenous Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia tribes and non-tribal migrants over resources. Historical isolation and underdevelopment have fueled militancy.

Causes:

- Influx of migrants from Bangladesh and Assam.
- Ethnic demands for autonomy by Khasi and Garo tribes.
- Underdevelopment and unemployment.
- Porous Indo-Bangladesh border.

Core Issue: Managing ethnic diversity and migration-related tensions.

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Historical Reasons: British non-interference policies left Meghalaya underdeveloped. Post-independence, migration from Bangladesh altered demographics, sparking local resentment.

Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Ethnic insurgencies by groups like Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA).
- Illegal migration and smuggling.
- Inter-tribal conflicts (Khasi vs. Garo).

History/Course of the Problem: Meghalaya, carved out of Assam in 1972, has seen relatively low-intensity insurgencies compared to other Northeastern states. The Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA), formed in 2009, demanded a separate Garoland, resorting to extortion and violence. The Hmar People's Convention-Democracy (HPC-D), active in Assam-Meghalaya border areas, seeks autonomy for the Hmar tribe. Illegal migration from Bangladesh has led to clashes, particularly in Shillong. The state's porous border facilitates smuggling, and unemployment drives youth to militancy. Recent years have seen a decline in violence due to counter-insurgency operations and surrenders.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- **Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA):** Seeks Garoland; weakened by surrenders.
- **Hmar People's Convention-Democracy (HPC-D):** Demands Hmar autonomy.
- Khasi and Garo tribes vs. non-tribal migrants over land and jobs.

External Players' Role: Bangladesh's porous border aids smuggling and militant movement. Myanmar-based groups occasionally influence HPC-D.

Recent Developments:

- Decline in GNLA activities due to security operations.
- Ongoing Assam-Meghalaya border disputes resolved partially in 2022.
- Increased border fencing to curb illegal migration.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Counter-insurgency operations against GNLA and HPC-D.



- Assam-Meghalaya boundary agreement (2022).
- North East Industrial Corridor to boost economic development.
- Inner Line Permit (ILP) demands to restrict outsider entry.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen border security to curb smuggling.
- Promote inclusive development to reduce ethnic tensions.
- Implement ILP to address local concerns.
- Enhance inter-state cooperation with Assam.

Other Information for UPSC: Meghalaya's matrilineal society and rich mineral resources (coal, limestone) are unique but also attract illegal mining, fueling unrest.

MIZORAM

Overview of the Problem: Mizoram has been relatively peaceful since the 1986 Mizoram Accord, but faces challenges from ethnic tensions, cross-border smuggling, and the Bru repatriation issue. The core issue is maintaining peace amidst ethnic diversity and border vulnerabilities.

Causes:

- Ethnic tensions with Brus (Reang tribe).
- Proximity to Myanmar and Bangladesh, facilitating smuggling.
- Historical neglect and underdevelopment.

Core Issue: Sustaining peace while addressing ethnic and border issues.

Historical Reasons: British non-interference left Mizoram underdeveloped. The 1966 Mizo uprising, triggered by famine and neglect, led to a 20-year insurgency.

Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Ethnic conflicts (Bru vs. Mizo).
- Drug and arms smuggling via Myanmar.
- Minor insurgencies by groups like HPC-D.



History/Course of the Problem: Mizoram's insurgency began with the Mizo National Front (MNF), formed in 1961, demanding independence after a famine exposed government neglect. The 1966 uprising saw MNF declare independence, leading to intense counter-insurgency operations. The Mizoram Accord (1986) ended the conflict, granting statehood and integrating MNF into mainstream politics. The Bru displacement in 1997, driven by ethnic clashes, created a refugee crisis, with many Brus relocated to Tripura. Sporadic activities by HPC-D and smuggling via Myanmar persist, but Mizoram remains a success story in conflict resolution.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- **Mizo National Front (MNF):** Sought independence; now a political party.
- **Hmar People's Convention-Democracy (HPC-D):** Demands Hmar autonomy.
- Brus vs. Mizos over land and identity.

External Players' Role: Myanmar facilitates drug and arms smuggling, with groups like HPC-D exploiting border porosity. Bangladesh's border also aids trafficking.

Recent Developments:

- Progress in Bru repatriation to Mizoram (2020-2023).
- Decline in insurgency-related violence.
- Increased smuggling via Indo-Myanmar border.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Mizoram Accord (1986) for peace and statehood.
- Bru repatriation with rehabilitation packages.
- Inner Line Permit (ILP) to protect tribal identity.
- Security measures in border areas and relief camps.

Way Forward:

- Complete Bru rehabilitation with community integration.
- Strengthen border security to curb smuggling.
- Promote sustainable development to prevent unrest.
- Leverage MNF's political integration as a model.

Other Information for UPSC: Mizoram's 98% tribal population and high literacy rate make it unique. The state's bamboo-based economy and peaceful resolution model are key study points.



NAGALAND

Overview of the Problem: Nagaland faces one of India's oldest insurgencies, driven by demands for a sovereign "Greater Nagaland" (Nagalim). The core issue is ethnic nationalism and historical resistance to integration. Underdevelopment and cross-border support sustain militancy.

Causes:

- Ethnic Naga identity and demand for Nagalim.
- Underdevelopment and unemployment.
- Porous Indo-Myanmar border.
- Historical neglect by colonial and Indian governments.

Core Issue: Reconciling Naga aspirations with India's sovereignty.

Historical Reasons: The British treated Naga areas as "excluded areas," fostering isolation. Post-independence, the Naga National Council (NNC) declared independence in 1947, rejecting integration.

Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Separatist insurgency by NSCN factions.
- Cross-border smuggling and militancy.
- Inter-factional clashes among Naga groups.

History/Course of the Problem: The Naga insurgency began with the Naga National Council (NNC) under Angami Zapu Phizo, declaring independence on August 14, 1947. The Indian Army's counter-insurgency operations in 1956 escalated the conflict. The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), formed in 1980, split into NSCN-IM (Isak-Muivah) and NSCN-K (Khaplang) in 1988 over ideological differences. NSCN-IM seeks a Greater Nagaland, including parts of Manipur, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh, while NSCN-K operates from Myanmar. Ceasefire agreements since 1997 have reduced violence, but peace talks remain inconclusive. Inter-factional clashes and extortion continue to destabilize the state.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- **Naga National Council (NNC):** Sought independence; now weakened.

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- **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) (NSCN-IM):** Demands Greater Nagaland; engaged in peace talks.
- **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) (NSCN-K):** Operates from Myanmar; anti-talks.
- Naga tribes vs. non-Nagas over territorial claims.

External Players' Role: Myanmar provides safe havens for NSCN-K. China's alleged support through arms and training, and Pakistan's ISI backing in the 1960s, have fueled the conflict.

Recent Developments:

- Ongoing peace talks with NSCN-IM, but no final agreement.
- NSCN-K's continued activities from Myanmar.
- Decline in violence due to ceasefires, but extortion persists.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Ceasefire agreements (1997 onwards) with NSCN-IM.
- Appointment of interlocutors like R.N. Ravi for talks.
- Inner Line Permit (ILP) to protect Naga identity.
- Development schemes like NESIDS to address economic grievances.

Way Forward:

- Conclude peace talks with a clear framework for autonomy.
- Strengthen border security with Myanmar.
- Promote inclusive development to reduce militancy.
- Address inter-factional rivalries through dialogue.

Other Information for UPSC: Nagaland's "Nagaland for Christ" slogan reflects its strong Christian identity. The state's hornbill festival and tribal councils are culturally significant but also politicized.

SIKKIM

Overview of the Problem: Sikkim is the least affected by insurgencies among Northeastern states, but faces security concerns due to its proximity to China and internal ethnic tensions. The core issue is maintaining stability amidst border vulnerabilities and migration.



Causes:

- Strategic location along the India-China border.
- Ethnic diversity (Lepcha, Bhutia, Nepali communities).
- Illegal migration from Nepal and Bangladesh.
- Underdevelopment in remote areas.

Core Issue: Balancing border security with ethnic harmony.

Historical Reasons: Sikkim joined India in 1975 after a referendum, but its integration faced resistance from some Bhutia and Lepcha groups. British influence and Chinese claims over Sikkim historically created tensions.

Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Border security issues with China.
- Ethnic tensions and migration-related unrest.
- Minor smuggling activities.

History/Course of the Problem: Sikkim's merger with India in 1975 was largely peaceful, but some ethnic groups felt marginalized. The state has avoided major insurgencies, but its proximity to the Doklam Plateau, site of the 2017 India-China standoff, makes it strategically sensitive. Ethnic tensions between Nepali migrants and indigenous Lepcha-Bhutia communities occasionally surface, driven by resource competition. Smuggling across the Indo-Nepal border and minor unrest in border areas are concerns, but Sikkim remains stable compared to other Northeastern states.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- Indigenous Lepcha-Bhutia vs. Nepali migrants over resources.
- No major insurgent groups; minor unrest by local organizations.
- China's strategic interest in Sikkim.

External Players' Role: China's claims over Sikkim and periodic incursions near Doklam pose security threats. Nepal's open border facilitates illegal migration.

Recent Developments:

- Doklam standoff (2017) heightened border tensions.
- Increased border infrastructure development.



- Stable internal security with minimal violence.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Deployment of ITBP and Indian Army along the China border.
- North Eastern Council (NEC) initiatives for development.
- Promotion of tourism to boost the economy.
- Border fencing and surveillance to curb smuggling.

Way Forward:

- Strengthen border infrastructure to counter Chinese threats.
- Promote inclusive development to reduce ethnic tensions.
- Enhance regional cooperation with Bhutan and Nepal.
- Leverage tourism for economic growth.

Other Information for UPSC: Sikkim's organic farming model and status as a biodiversity hotspot are key for UPSC. Its strategic location near the Siliguri Corridor enhances its geopolitical significance.

TRIPURA

Overview of the Problem: Tripura faces security issues due to ethnic conflicts, illegal migration, and past insurgencies. The core issue is the demographic shift caused by Bengali migration, reducing indigenous tribes to a minority. Historical neglect and border porosity exacerbate tensions.

Causes:

- Large-scale migration from Bangladesh.
- Ethnic tensions between tribals and Bengalis.
- Underdevelopment and unemployment.
- Porous Indo-Bangladesh border.

Core Issue: Addressing ethnic polarization and migration-related unrest.

Historical Reasons: British policies encouraged Bengali migration from East Bengal, altering Tripura's demography. Post-independence, continued migration from Bangladesh sparked tribal backlash.



Type of Insurgency/Security Issue(s):

- Ethnic insurgencies by groups like National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT).
- Illegal migration and smuggling.
- Tribal vs. non-tribal conflicts.

History/Course of the Problem: Tripura's insurgency began in the 1980s with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), demanding secession due to tribal marginalization. The influx of Bengali migrants reduced tribals to 31% of the population, fueling violence. The 1990s saw peak insurgency, with attacks on security forces and civilians. Ceasefire agreements and counter-insurgency operations reduced violence by the 2000s. The Bru refugee crisis, with displaced Brus from Mizoram settled in Tripura, added to ethnic tensions. Recent years have seen a decline in militancy, but migration remains a concern.

Players in Conflict, Their Reasons, and Factions:

- **National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT):** Seeks tribal homeland; weakened by surrenders.
- **All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF):** Demands secession; largely inactive.
- Tribals vs. Bengalis over land and political power.
- Bru refugees vs. local communities.

External Players' Role: Bangladesh provided safe havens for NLFT and ATTF until 2011, when its government cracked down on insurgents. Myanmar's border facilitates minor smuggling.

Recent Developments:

- Decline in NLFT and ATTF activities due to peace agreements.
- Bru repatriation to Mizoram (2020-2023).
- Increased border fencing to curb migration.

Government Measures and Solutions:

- Ceasefire agreements with NLFT and ATTF.
- Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) for tribal autonomy.
- Border fencing and joint operations with Bangladesh.
- NESIDS for infrastructure development.



Way Forward:

- Complete Bru repatriation to reduce ethnic tensions.
- Strengthen border security to curb migration.
- Promote tribal development to address grievances.
- Enhance regional cooperation with Bangladesh.

Other Information for UPSC: Tripura's bamboo industry and gas reserves are economic assets. The state's success in reducing insurgency is a model for conflict resolution.

Impact of Security Issues in the Northeast

- **Humanitarian Cost:** Over 800,000 people displaced in Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura (1990s-2011). Manipur's 2023 violence caused 97% of South Asia's displacements.
- **Economic Stagnation:** Insurgencies deter investment, delay infrastructure projects, and increase extortion, raising commodity prices.
- **National Integration:** Persistent unrest complicates India's efforts to integrate the Northeast, with the Siliguri Corridor's vulnerability adding strategic risks.
- **Security Strain:** Prolonged deployment of CAPF and AFSPA stretches resources, diverting focus from other threats.
- **Cross-Border Issues:** Drug trafficking via the Golden Triangle and arms smuggling destabilize the region.

General Government Measures and Policies

- **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER):** Established in 2001 to oversee socio-economic development.
- **North Eastern Council (NEC):** Acts as an advisory body for balanced development (NEC Act, 1971).
- **Act East Policy:** Promotes economic and cultural ties with Southeast Asia to boost connectivity.
- **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS):** Funds social and physical infrastructure.
- **Inner Line Permit (ILP):** Restricts outsider entry in Arunachal, Nagaland, and Mizoram to protect tribal identities.



- **Sixth Schedule:** Grants autonomy to tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

General Way Forward

- **Political Dialogue:** Conclude peace talks with groups like NSCN-IM and ULFA for lasting solutions.
- **Development Focus:** Accelerate infrastructure and economic projects to reduce unemployment and alienation.
- **Border Management:** Strengthen fencing and surveillance along international borders.
- **Cultural Integration:** Promote cultural exchanges while preserving tribal identities.
- **AFSPA Reform:** Gradually phase out AFSPA in stable areas to rebuild trust, as recommended by the Jeevan Reddy Committee.

UPSC-Relevant Trivia

- Northeast's 5,500 km international border (98% of its boundary) makes it a strategic hotspot.
- Region contributes 7.6% of India's land area but only 3.6% of its population.
- Siliguri Corridor's 23 km width is a critical vulnerability.
- 2014 general election saw an 80% voter turnout in the Northeast, reflecting democratic faith.
- Golden Triangle's proximity drives drug trafficking, with 98% of the region's borders being international (ARC 7th Report).
- Comprehensive analysis covers the security dynamics of each Northeastern state, tailored for UPSC aspirants with clear historical narratives, recent developments, and actionable solutions

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