

Security Class 09

2nd May, 2024 at 9:00 AM

NORTHEAST INSURGENCY: (9:17 AM)

- Areas that need to be taken care of:
- Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh.

ASSAM: (9:19 AM)

- **Ethnic composition:** Hinduism (62%), followed by Islam (34%), and then Christianity (approx 4%) and others
- **Linguistic Diversity:** Assamese > Bengali > Hindi > Urdu > Bodo, etc.
- **1848:** Tea plantations started, and then the influx of immigrants also started.
- **Issues:**
 1. Tribal Vs Non-tribals.
 2. Tribal Vs other tribals.
 3. Ethnic Assamese Vs Bodos.
 4. Bodos Vs Muslims.
 5. Bodos Vs Santhals.
- **Nature of conflict in Assam:**
- **There are primarily 4 types of conflict in Assam, which are majorly centered around ethnic identities. These include:**
 1. Conflicts amongst various tribal groups. For example, Bodos Vs Santhals.
 2. Conflict between tribals and Non-tribals. For example, Bodos Vs Muslims.
 3. Conflicts over preferential treatments based on ethnicity. For example, Bodos want preferential rights over the Assamese.
 4. Conflicts for creating separate homelands. For instance, Bodoland.
- **Reasons for these conflicts:**
- **1. Identity Politics/Politicisation of Ethnicity.**
- Any group exercising power may start displaying hegemonic tendencies, which generates a feeling of deprivation among others.
- The smaller tribes in Assam, have long felt **chauvinism** of the main community which is the plain areas-based Assamese community.
- For example, **the Official Language Bill of 1959**, led to identity politics amongst Bodos and also fueled the demand for separate states (Mizoram, Meghalaya).
- **2. Immigration and Demographic pressure:**
- Immigration in Assam, dates back to the colonial period, when they encouraged the migration of tribes from Central India, to work as **indentured** laborers in their tea plantations.
- In 1905, the influx of migrants accelerated, when parts of East Bengal were merged with Assam.
- Further during the Bangladesh liberation war, immigration continued to rise.
- This immigration was not restricted to Assam alone, but with Assam, it became a routine activity due to the porosity of its borders.
- This fueled the anti-foreigner agitation.
- **3. Geographical Isolation:**
- It is argued that the Ahoms lived in close cooperation with other tribes in pre-colonial times.
- however, with the British policies of differential treatment of hill areas, social cohesion was reduced.
- **4. Reflexive Statist Attitude:**
- It is argued that the state attitude towards Assam is primarily motivated by security concerns, rather than developmental needs.

MIZORAM: (10:12 AM)

- 1. **The British followed a policy of non-interference**, yet significantly altered the socio-economic life of the Mizos (Lushai hills).
- This was done through some interference in the system of administration, and through **proselytization** efforts in the region.
- The **advent of modernity** also led to certain political associations, showing up in the Lushai Hills regions, including the **Mizo Union (MU)** and the **United Mizo Freedom Organisation (UMFO)**.
- MU was in favor of staying within India, while the **secessionist group** favored a merger with Burma. *(both parties were from pre-independence)*
- However, politically speaking, it was the Mizo Union that dominated elections for the Autonomous District Council (ADC).
- However, the failure of the project of regional autonomy became one of the factors contributing to separatism.
- 2. The ADCs and ARCs continued to face **financing issues**, leading to an over-dependence on the **State Government**.
- Furthermore, through sustained pressure from the MU, the Assam government abolished the institution of **Chieftanship**.
- Following this, the **UMFO** governed even more radically.
- In **1953**, the **UMFO** **passed a resolution demanding the formation of a hill state consisting of Manipur, Tripura, the autonomous districts of Assam, and NEFA.**
- This was done to resist the imposition of the Assamese language as the official language of the state.
- The **SRC** did not recommend the creation of a hill state and instead recommended the **review of the powers of ADC.**
- 3. **UMFO** merged with other entities *and* created the **All Party Hill Leader Conference**, and demanded the **separation of hill districts** from the state of Assam and the formation of the eastern frontier state.
- 4. In **1961**, the **Official Language Act** was passed, following which even the MU couldn't afford to be moderate any longer.
- **5. Mautam Famine 1959:**
- There was a high amount of resentment against the Assam government for its delayed and negligent **relief operations**.
- Consequently, a number of voluntary bodies **sprang up**. Among the most popular was the **Mizo National Famine Front** in 1960.
- **The Front dropped the word Famine and became MNF in 1961**, with the aim of achieving an independent sovereign Mizoram.
- In 1966, the MNF volunteers started an armed struggle against India and even declared their independence. This rebellion lasted 20 years and culminated in the signing of a **Peace Accord in 1986.**
- In **1987**, **Mizoram achieved full statehood** and **Laldenga** became its first Chief Minister.

MANIPUR: (10:58 AM)

- There are predominantly **3 major communities**: Meities, Nagas, and Kukis.
- Meities dominate the plain area in Manipur, while kukis and Nagas dominate the hill region. The Meities adopted Vaishnava Hinduism, while Nagas and Kukis were influenced by proselytization by the British.
- 1. Post **the Treaty of Yandabo**, the Britishers restored the Monarchy but exercised control indirectly.
- The Nagas, Kukis, and Meities stayed together for centuries but developed their heritages parallelly.
- This is on account of differential treatment of the hills and plain areas of Manipur.
- 2. The introduction of Christianity further widened the cultural gap.
- 3. In addition, it is argued that the tribal chiefs also did not coordinate their struggles and **assimilate the local identities**.
- **The growth of Meity identity:**
 - 1. Perceived forced merger with the Indian state.
 - 2. The threat posed by the Naga movement.
 - 3. Bureaucratic **aloofness** since Manipur was governed as a UT between 1949-72.
 - 4. Serious problem of unemployment among the youth.
 - 5. Exposure of leaders to Marxist ideas.
- **The growth of Naga identity:**
 - The Nagas in the Manipur region were neither a signatory to the memorandum submitted by the Naga Club (NC) to the Simon Commission, nor they were part of the AZ Phizo plebiscite 1951.
 - In fact, the Nagas in Manipur rose in revolt against the British in 1930.
 - It was only when the Meities opposed the demand of NSCN (IM), that the Naga nationalism in Manipur turned assertive.
- **The growth of Kuki Nationalism:**
 - It started with mobilization against the British (Kuki rebellion).
 - As the Nagas and other tribal groups in the region started getting their homeland the Kukis also became assertive and raised a demand for a separate Kuki homeland **Zale'ngam**.
- **Contemporary issues:**
 - **1. Autonomy/ Local self-government:**
 - The divergent political aspirations of ethnic groups in Manipur are based on the belief that adequate political power is necessary to retain their cultural identity.
 - **2. Biased Political Structure:**
 - The political structure leans towards Meity domination because 40/60 State legislature seats are for the Meity-dominated valley region.
 - **3. Property rights:** Kuki and Naga
 - The present land laws in the state permit tribals to purchase land in the valley regions but no Meities from the valley can purchase land in the hills.
 - This is seen as discriminatory.
 - **4. Meities's demand for **ST** status:**
 - Owing to the perception of neglect amongst the Meities, there has been a demand to include them in the ST list.
 - The constitutional protection under the Fifth schedule will extend to their lands **allaying** their fears of extinctions.
 - However, According to the hill tribes, the main reason why Meities asked for ST status is to avail job reservations and to make inroads into the hill areas of the states.

- **5. State government's Forest policies:**

- One major reason for recent discontentment was the State government's notices blaming certain villages in the Chura-Chandpur and Khoumum protected areas, as illegal settlements and their residents as **encroachers**.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS: (11:51 AM)

- **I. Nagaland:**

- **Issues:**

- The lack of unity amongst Naga rebels has hampered the efforts to negotiate lasting peace agreements.

- **Government initiatives:**

- Creation of Naga Hills Tuensang Areas (NHTA).
- Creation of the State of Nagaland in 1963.
- 1997 Ceasefire agreement, with the NSCN (IM).
- **Since** then, peace talks have been ongoing and largely focused on the **major demands of the NSCN (IM) which include:**

- 1. Territorial integration of Naga areas into **greater Nagaland**.
- 2. Nagas should have their own Constitution to govern integrated Nagaland repealing **AFSPA**.

- **Persistence of the problems:**

- **In 2015 a framework agreement** was signed between the Indian government and NSCN (IM).
- The Indian government demands that any governance structure of Nagas must remain within the structure of the constitution of India.
- The government is also opposed to territorial changes in Assam, Arunachal and Manipur.

- **II. Assam:**

- **Issues:**

- 1. The rise and decline of the **United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA):**
- They view the integration of Assam with India as having been done without the free consent of the Assamese.
- They assert that Assam has a distinct cultural identity different from the rest of India.
- They allege that the benefits of Assam resources have not been equitably shared with the state.
- They are also **aggrieved** by the **tardy** implementation of the **Assam accord**.

- **Initiatives by the government:**

- **Operation All Clear:** Joint operation against **ULFA and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) with the help of the Royal Bhutanese Army**.

- In 2006, a unilateral ceasefire by the Central government.
- In 2011, a tripartite agreement between the GOI, the Assam government, and ULFA.
- ULFA is divided into 2 **factions:** Pro talks and Independent.

- **2. Issue with Bodos:**

- Protection of land rights.
- Increased representation at both the Central and the State levels.
- Recognition of distinct identities.
- Economic development.

- **Government initiatives:**
- **1. So far 3 Bodo Accords have been signed:**
- 1st Bodo Accord created the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).
- 3rd Bodo Accord signed between the Indian Government and NDFB. The scope of BTAD has been expanded.
- 2. In addition, the Bodo Cachari Welfare Council was set up.
- 3. A separate directorate for Bodo medium schools was set up.
- 4. The Bodo language was designated as the associated official language of the state and a special developmental package was promised.
- **III. Mizoram:**
- Since 1987, following the Mizo Peace Accord, Peace and Harmony prevailed in Mizoram by and large.
- The MNF surrendered and joined mainstream politics.
- **IV. Arunachal Pradesh:**
- 1. Arunachal Pradesh by and large remained free from insurgency except for some spillover of Naga insurgency from the Tirap district.
- 2. Another issue that persists is the Chakma Hajong Refugees.
- Chakma Hajong are ethnic communities of India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- They were forced to flee East Pakistan in 1964-65, following which the Indian government set up relief camps for them in Arunachal Pradesh.
- In 1996 and 2015, the SC directed the Central government to grant citizenship to the Chakmas and Hajongs, who had migrated from East Pakistan (Bangladesh).
- the Home Ministry passed amendments to the Citizenship Act and cleared citizenship for over 1 lakh of these refugees.
- However, the AP state government is opposed to it primarily because of the fears of demographic inversion.

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS: MEDIA AND SOCIAL NETWORK.