



INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION **IDE**
Rajiv Gandhi University



MASOC-506

Sociology of Northeast India-II

MA SOCIOLOGY

4th Semester

Rajiv Gandhi University

www.ide.rgu.ac.in

MA (Sociology)
FOURTH SEMESTER
MASOC 506



INSTITUTE
OF DISTANCE
EDUCATION **IDE**
Rajiv Gandhi University

SOCIOLOGY OF NORTHEAST INDIA PART II

www.ide.rgu.ac.in

BOARD OF STUDIES	
1. Shri. Bikash Bage Head of the Department Department of Sociology, RGU	Chairman (Ex-Officio)
2. Prof. Kedilezo Kikhi Dept. of Sociology, Tezpur University Assam	Member
3. Dr. S R Padhi Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthro. Indira Gandhi National Tribal Univ. Lalpur (M.P)	Member
4. Dr. S. Yadav Assistant Professor Department of Sociology, RGU	Member
5. Ms. Moyir Riba Assistant Professor Institute of Distance Education, RGU	Member
6. Ms. Nani Umie Assistant Professor Dept. of Sociology, RGU	Member
7. Dr. Padi Hana Assistant Professor Dept. of Sociology, RGU	
8. Shri. Bikash Bage Assistant Professor & Head Department of Sociology, RGU	Member Secretary

Author:

Dr. Padi Hana
 Assistant Professor
 Department of Sociology
 Rajiv Gandhi University
 Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

SYLLABI-BOOK MAPPING TABLE

SOCIOLOGY OF NORTHEAST INDIA

Syllabi	Mapping in Book
Unit I: Demographic features part I Population Distribution of Hills and Plains- Demographic Patterns, Sex Ratio, Density of Population, Linguistic group.	Unit I: Demographic Features
Unit II: Demographic features and Institutional part II Religious groups of northeast India, Caste and Tribe interaction, Traditional and Modern Institution	Unit II Demographic features and Institutional
Unit III: Socio-Cultural Dimensions and Economic Development part II Types of Industry- Tea Industry, Bamboo Industry, Oil Industry and Handloom Industry, Problems and Prospects.	Unit III: Socio-Cultural Dimensions and Economic Development
Unit IV: Issues and Problems part II Insurgency in Northeast India, causes of insurgency in northeast India, Recommendations to solve the Insurgency Look East Policy	Unit IV: Issues and problem

CONTENTS

Name of the Unit **Page No**

UNIT-1: DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES PART I

1.0 Introduction

1.2 Unit objectives

1.3 Population distribution of hills and plains

1.4 Demographic pattern

1.5 Sex ratio

1.6 Density of population

1.7 Linguistic groups of the people of northeast India

1.8 Summary

1.9 Key terms

1.10 Answer to check you progress

1.11 Questions and exercise

1.12 Further reading

UNIT-2: DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND INSTITUTIONAL PART II

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Unit objectives

2.2 Religious groups of northeast India

2.3 Caste and tribe interaction

2.4 Traditional Institution

2.5 Modern Institution

2.6 Summary

2.7 Key terms

2.8 Answer to check you progress

2.9 Questions and exercise

2.10 Further reading

**UNIT – 3: SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PART II**

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Unit Objectives

3.2 Types of Industries

3.2.1 Tea Industry

3.2.2 Bamboo Industry

3.2.3 Oil Industry

3.2.4 Handloom Industry (Problems and Prospects)

3.3 Summary

3.4 Key Terms

3.5 Answer to Check Your Progress

3.6 Questions and Exercises

3.7 Further Reading

UNIT-4: ISSUES AND PROBLEMS PART II

4.0 Introduction

- **Measurement of Human Development**
- **Human Resource Development in Northeast India**
- **Issues and the problem of Human Resource Development in Northeast India**

4.1. Unit Objectives

4.2 Insurgency

- **Insurgency in Northeast India**

- **Causes of insurgency in Northeast India**
- **Recommendations to solve the Insurgency**

4.3 Look East Policy

- **Brief background of Look East Policy**
- **Policy initiatives in practice**
- **Economic consequences for the Northeast**
- **Act East Policy**

4.4. Summary

4.5. Key Terms

4.6. Answer to check your progress

4.7. Questions and Exercises

4.8. Further Readings

INTRODUCTION

Northeast Sociology is one of the important papers of Sociology where it deals with various issues related to different tribes inhabiting the region. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim are eight states located in the North East of the country and command special importance in India, not only because of their location but also their cultural and historical uniqueness. The landscape, the range of communities and geographical and ecological diversity make these states quite different from other parts of the country. The states have distinct cultures and multiple ethnic groups and are a fine example of unity in diversity. The variety of ethnic groups, languages and religions reflect the multi-cultural character of the states. States like, Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Sikkim are inhabited by people of various religious denominations like, Hindus, Christians and Muslims and a combination of local tribes and communities.

The book is divided into following five units:

Unit I: Demographic Features

Unit II: Demographic Features and Institutional

Unit III: Socio-Cultural Dimensions and Economic Development

Unit IV: Issues and Problems

The learning material designed in a structural format so that it is easily understandable. Each unit begins with an introduction followed with unit objectives. The detailed content is then presented in a simple language, interspersed with check your progress questions to enable the student to test his/her understanding as and when they go through each unit. Summary and key terms are provided at the end of each unit which help in quick recollection. Questions and Exercises are also provided for further practice.

UNIT I: DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES PART I

1.0 Introduction

1.2 Unit objectives

1.3 Population distribution of hills and plains

1.4 Demographic pattern

1.5 Sex ratio

1.6 Density of population

1.7 Linguistic groups of the people of northeast India

1.8 Summary

1.9 Key terms

1.10 Answer to check you progress

1.11 Questions and exercise

1.12 Further reading

1.0. INTRODUCTION

It became apparently clear that physiographical condition of this region is of extreme unevenness and that could be observed in the region ranging from very high or low hills, undulating low and medium hilly terrains with some plateau regions. 70% of the total land area of the region is hilly and mountainous and only 30% of the area is plains land. The physiographical settings greatly affect the human habitation in different states of the region, because in the hills and due to its hostile climate, steep gradients are not helpful for proper human habitation. As a result the states wise habitation of the people is rather uneven. In this connection we see uneven population distribution in the states of northeast region of India. The following table shows how unevenly the population of the region is distributed in different states-

1.1. UNIT OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- Discuss the population distribution of hills and plains
- Explain the development of demographic pattern
- Explain the distribution of sex ratio and difference in density
- Understand the different linguistic and religious groups

1.2. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION OF HILLS AND PLAINS

From the table No. 1, we find that Assam is very thickly populated and followed by Tripura. On the Other hand, Arunachal Pradesh which is the largest state in terms of physical area coverage, the population is very less in comparison to other states of the region. The uneven distribution of population in the region is evident from the census report. There are many factors like – geographical settings, types of occupation, food availability, conducive of climate; agriculture practices, etc. in the recent period growth of urbanization, modernization

and scientific attitude of the technology and mindset of the people also assist in the growing population

Table No.1. Population distribution of the states of N.E. India (as per 2011 census)

Sl.No.	States	Area in sq. Km.	Population(in person)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	1,38,26,11
2	Assam	78,438	3,11,69,272
3	Manipur	22,327	27,21,756
4	Meghalaya	22,429	29,64,007
5	Mizoram	22,081	10,91,014
6	Nagaland	16,579	19,80,602
7	Tripura	10,486	36,71,032
8	Sikkim	7,096	6,10,577

Hills and plains- wise distribution of population in northeast India

The northeast region of India which covers a geographical area of 2, 55,038 sq.kms, and physiographically contains almost 70% hill areas and rest 30% is only the plains. As a result the population distribution in the region is uneven. Now as far as hills and plain wise distribution of population are concerned it is to be noted that except the states of Assam and Tripura the plains areas for human habitation are not available in other states. Even in the state of Assam there are also two hills district viz., Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hills. In Tripura except west Tripura which covers a valley of 90 km in length and 25- 30 kms in breadth the other districts viz., north Tripura and south Tripura are having undulating hilly terrains. In case of Manipur except for Imphal East and Imphal West district other areas are hilly areas.

The following table shows the hills and plains wise distribution of the population of the various states of the region as per 2001 census.

Table 2.0. Distribution of hills and plains population

State	Plains population	Hills population
Arunachal Pradesh	-	10,96,702
Assam	2,56,39,898	9,98,509
Manipur	8,33,312	15,55,322
Meghalaya	-	23,06,069
Mizoram	-	8,91,058
Nagaland	-	19,88,636
Tripura	15,30,531	16,60,637

From the above table it could be seen that in the state of Assam the plains population are much more in comparison to the other two states viz., Manipur and Tripura. In terms of ranking after Assam, Tripura occupies the second place regarding the availability of plains population and the state of Manipur occupies the third place. So far as the hills population is concerned Meghalaya comes first followed by Nagaland as are evident from the table stated above.

Table No. 3. Density of the population of the states of (as per 2011 census)

Sl. No	State	Density of population
1	Arunachal	17
2	Assam	397
3	Manipur	122
4	Meghalaya	132
5	Mizoram	52
6	Nagaland	119
7	Tripura	350
8	Sikkim	86

From the above table no-2 it is very clear that as far as hills and plains wise distribution of the population is concerned, it is to be noted that except the state of Assam and Tripura, the plains areas for human habitation are not available in other states. Even in the state of Assam, there are two hills districts viz. - Karbi- Anglong and North- Cachar hills. In Tripura- except west Tripura which covers a length of 90km. In length and 20-30 in kms breadth the other districts viz.,- north Tripura and south Tripura are having undulating hilly terrains. In case of Manipur except Imphal east and west districts, the other areas are hilly areas.

The following table shows the hills and Plain wise distribution of Population of the states of the region as per 2001 census.

So, from the table, it could be seen that in the state Assam the plains population are much more in comparison to the other two states viz., Manipur and Tripura. In terms of ranking of the plains population after Assam, Tripura occupies the second position and the state of Manipur occupies the third place. As far as the hills populations are concerned Meghalaya occupies the highest place, followed by the Nagaland as shown in the table.

Table No. 4. Population (persons) inhabiting in the states of N.E. India (as per 2001 census)

Sl.No	States	Plains population	Hills population
1	2	3	4
1	Arunachal	-	10,96,702
2	Assam	2,55,39,898	9,98,509
3	Manipur	8,33,312	15,55,322
4	Meghalaya	-	23,06,069
5	Mizoram	-	8,91,058
6	Nagaland	-	19,88,636
7	Tripura	15,30,531	16,60,637

In the anterior paragraphs description of the population distribution in the plains and the hill areas of the different states, density of population per sq.km. And total number of population in each state was given in tabular form and conclusion were drawn thereof.

1.3. DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERNS

Population growth in North East Region experienced very uneven population growth. The general population trend, the decadal variation, birth rate and death rate are already discussed in the anterior paragraphs. Now the attempt is made to identify the factors of growing demographic pattern in North East India

Generally many factors are involved in growth of population in any state. Some of the factors may be categorized as biological as well as human events. The biological factors refer to birth and death rates difference. If birth rate remains high and death rate declines, population increases in the community or state. Social factors refer to social customs, religious beliefs and practices. In matters of marriage factors like age, types of marriage- monogamy, polygamy, polygyny, widow marriage are taken into consideration. Economic factors are related to occupation, natures of work, availability of economic resources etc. Political factors refer to state policy to control population, improvement of health care services; education, etc. and the natural and human events are the events like flood, earthquake, war, etc. Which had caused huge destruction of life and property? These factors are of course interrelated. In the case of North East India mention may be made of the following as important factors of demographic dynamism.

1. Birth and Death Ratio

Since independence the various state governments are taking active steps to improve standard of living, public health facilities and also the health is care services through the establishment of hospitals, state dispensaries, sub-divisional and village level primary health

center. As a result of the foreside Government effort the infant mortality rate in various states of the region has declined considerably and the life expectancy has also increased. In other words, the longevity of persons in the state of the region is gradually increased due to the availability of the network of health care and public health facilities.

2. Immigration

This is a very important factor for the growth of population in northeast India and more especially in case of Assam Tripura as these two states of the region are worst sufferers. The census figures covering 10 (ten) decades i.e. from 1901 to 2001 showed the increase of population in these two states in certain decades. The reason was migration when the whole North East India was a part of British India. It had been reported in various reports prepared by the British administration in the early part of 20th century which showed that the people of the earlier East Bengal especially from the district of Mymensing the land hungry peasants started coming in large numbers right from 1901. The situation rose to such an alarming proportion that the land hungry Mymensingias already occupied the low lying, swampy and dales of the river Brahmaputra falling under the then Goalpara, Kamrup Census Commissioner C.S. Mullan in 1931 commend that the land hungry Mymensing already occupied vast portion of land area of the above stated three districts and if such situation would continue for long then after some years the Assamese speaking people would be found only in the then undivided Sibsagar districts.

The census figures available for the states of Tripura and Assam are showing abrupt increase of population from 1921. Till 1921 the population of Tripura was 3.04 lakhs but it increases to 3.82 lakhs in 1931. Almost 80,000 population was added during a decade. But in 1941 Tripura's population increased to 5.13 lakhs i.e., about 2 lakhs of additional population were added in the population tally of Tripura and this mainly due to migration from other parts of East Bengal to this princely state. In the next decade more particularly after 1947

when India got independence and East Bengal became a part of Pakistan under new name i.e., East Pakistan many people immigrated to Tripura and the population figured soared upto 6.39 lakh. The situation became worse in the consecutive decades i.e., in 1961 the population of Tripura increased exponentially; as from 6.39 lakh in 1961 in increased to 11.42 lakh in 1971. In the later decades, in 1981, 1991 and 2001. Tripura registered a population growth of 15.56 lakh, 20.53 lakh, 27.57 lakh and 31.91 lakh respectively.

Similarly, in 1931, Assam's population was around 55.6 lakhs only and the same increased i.e., in 1951 it had increased to a whopping number i.e. 80.29 lakhs. Henceforth, Assam is experiencing situation of rapid increase population growth till 2001. The census figures confirm the exponential growth of population not only in the case of Assam but also in Tripura. Thus it could be pointed out that in the two states- Assam and Tripura a marked increase of population was observed from 1951 onwards. Partition of India into Hindustan and Pakistan under the principle of two nation's theory had forced hundreds and thousands of Hindus from erstwhile East Pakistan to cross over Tripura and Assam and settle in these states. Even when Bangladesh came into being the flow of immigrants not only Hindus but the majority of Muslims were continuing unabated and the process of illegal immigration is still continuing. Thus these immigrants have inflated the population of Assam and Tripura over decades after independence.

Causes of immigration to northeast India are manifolds and they are interrelated. The following causes may, however, be considered as most important.

3. Political causes

The political situation has always been a factor of immigration in northeast India. Before the advent of the British the region had completely a different political entity. Therefore migration to this region from the mainland of India was practically nil except to Assam. When British rule began in this region, migration of the people from different parts of India

started as there was no bar against migration. The only exception was that inner areas of northeast India from the plains. So many people from different parts of India in search of better life changes came to Assam and Tripura in particular and to other parts of the region in general for living. The British administration itself brought from the neighbouring of the then provinces for its own purpose, when tea plantation started in Assam, Hundred of labourers were brought from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Orissa etc.

When Britisher's were leaving and India was partitioned into Hindustan and Pakistan, hundreds of Hindu refugees from East Pakistan now Bangladesh crosses over to Tripura and Assam adding to the population of these two States. After this event when East Pakistan was recreated as Bangladesh through which involve India some more people migrated this times both Hindus and majority of the portion of Muslims and these immigrants started spreading to different states of the region. Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram may be cited as example of this phenomenon. Thus changing political situations of the region played a significant role in the immigration of people in North East India.

4. Economic causes

Until the middle part of the 20th century Assam had plenty of uncultivated fertile land covered by green grass and Forest. Further low-lying areas and swamps were also evidently available. This attracted landless peasants from the neighbouring available province of erstwhile East Bengal, peasants from Mymemsingh, Pabna, Bagur and Rangpur, of East Bengal migrated to Assam and settled in the char area of the then Goalpara District(census 1950). However the process of migration of peasant began from the early part of 20th century as reported in census of 1911. The populations of Goalpara rose in the decade 1901- 11 by 30% against 2% rise in the previous decades. This sudden rise was due to the inflow of the migrants. After 1911 these migrants spread to other two districts viz, Kamrup and Nagaon also and their populations also started increasing as a result of high birth rate.

The flow of migrant continued to be unabated in the pre-independence. The then Assam government under the leadership of Muslim League initiative plans like grow more food and encouraged the Muslim peasant of East Bengal to migrate to Assam and to occupy the vacant land. According to 1951 census the total number of migrants from East Bengal and later immigrants from East Pakistan Rose to 4.5 lakhs approximately during two decades i.e between 1931 and 1951 but the process of illegal immigration to Assam is still continuing unabated from Bangladesh and it is creating tension in the society at large which is described in posterior paragraphs.

Apart from the immigration many people also came in connection trade and Commerce for Employment and other means of living. Assam suffered from dearth of Manpower in various industrial sectors, modern occupation, and administration during the pre-independence period. As such professionals, technicians and others came to work in Assam in other states of North East India.

Immigrants also came from Nepal as graziers, manual labourers and cultivators in large-scale. Now most of the Nepalese are found in different states of the region. However their numbers are pretty large in Assam than in other states of the regions.

In Tripura immigration began from around 1931 and their number increased very fast from 1941 to 51 census period. These immigrants were mostly cultivators. Tripura was earlier a tribal-dominated state and Tripura tribals were traditionally Hill dwellers. So they were accustomed to shifting cultivation in the hilly areas. Only few of them begin to settle in the plains from the first part of the 20th century. As such the vacant land of the plains attracted the landless peasants from the neighboring erstwhile East Pakistan now Bangladesh and consequently flow of illegal immigrants started infatuating the size of population in Tripura. In the same way for seeking Employment and business opportunities hundreds of

people from different parts of India started coming to the other state of North East India in the post-independent period.

Consequences of immigration are more complex and difficult to classify them clearly into certain categories. However, it can broadly be discussed under headings of economic political and social effects.

Economics effects: Because of immigration population of Assam and Tripura in particular and of North East India, in general, have become inflated. More population means more pressure on land Employment and other economic resources. In Assam and Tripura substantial portion of land is under possession of immigrants. Now cultivable land has become the scariest thing in all the state of the region. Numbers of landless families are increasing day by day. Unemployment scenario is grim in the states of northeast India and it is now leading to various social problems. In Tripura, not only land but also Industries, trade and Commerce have passed into the hands of immigrants. The Indian indigenous people have been deprived of employment opportunities. Economic development has become a distant dream for the tribals in the estate.

Political effects: Inelectoral politics number of heads plays a deciding role. The immigrants have there for a vital role to play in the Politics of a state. In Assam the immigrants are considered as vote bank and to get support from the different political parties adopt policy of appeasement to the immigrants. This had resulted in the offing of a moment for expulsions of foreigners in Assam from 1979 to 1985 similarly political movements have emerged in Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh on the questions of the influx of immigrants. Expulsion of Chakma and Hajongs immigrants from Arunachal Pradesh has become a critical political issue. In Meghalaya Voice has been raised for reservation of all MLA seats for the tribals and other indigenous people of the state so as to keep the immigrants out of getting

political power in the state. Thus political problems have developed in North East India because of immigrants.

Social tension: Social tension erupted from time to time because of immigrants. Sporadic violence between Assamese and immigrants militant activities of tribals of Tripura movement for expulsion of Chakma and Hajong refugees from Arunachal Pradesh, Mizo movement against Chakmas, recent militant activities of different insurgent groups of Assam are noteworthy to mention in this context. In reality, the social tensions are going on in North East India due to illegal immigration of people from neighbouring foreign countries mainly from Bangladesh.

In Tripura immigrants from its neighbouring areas have dominated the entire economic, political and cultural life. The tribals who are living in the state from long past have been reduced to minority now .this has become the main source of conflict between the tribals and non- tribals in the state. The Tripura situation has created fear psychosis in Assam Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram. It is feared that the same fate may come to this States also because of increasing immigrant population India respective areas. Thus, immigration has become a major source of social tension in the region of northeast India.

Apart from illegal immigration, migration of people from one state to another is a normal phenomenon in the country. It has been on throughout the ages. But the rate and volume of migration are not same everywhere. People migrate to some states or regions more than to some other states or regions. Northeastern India is one of the regions which have been attracting migrants to the region. A good number of people from different parts of the country came to the region and settled particularly in Assam and Tripura. But at the same time very few have gone out of the region even up to the present times for settlement elsewhere in the country.

From the above discussion it becomes clear that immigration has played important role in the growth of population in northeast India. Other factors may be referred to lack of family planning among the common masses, decline in infant mortality due to the improvement of wealth care and prenatal and postnatal care of mothers and general health awareness. As such mortality rate in the region is declining against continuity of high birth rate in the population of all the states of the region. This has resulted in the high growth of population in northeast India. However of late, slight declining sign of population growth rate has been observed in some states like Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya. The decline in the population growth becomes gradually possible as because family planning has become a common practice among the educated section of the people or the new elites of the region. More ever literacy rate is also increasing in recent decades in all the states of the region which is creating an impact on the checking of population growth and if this trend would continue, it is expected that high population growth rate would gradually come down in the decades to come.

1.4. SEX RATION

The states of the northeast region give a high ratio male is to female in comparison to other regions of the Indian states. The women are equally treated and enjoy liberty of their life, unlike mainland women. In the state of northeast region of India the sex ratio (females per 1000 males) are also uneven because of female infant mortality is high in the states as following table shows the picture.

The table No. 5. shows that ratio of females per thousand males is low in case of Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and high in Manipur. The ratio status needs to intervene and explained since the northeast tribal women enjoy their equal status with men folk, freedom and liberty and there is no such serious incidence of dowry cases as found in those caste-ridden society.

Table No. 5. Table 2.1 Sex ratio of the population of northeast states of India (as per 2011 census)

Sl. No	State	Sex ratio (female per 1000 males)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	938
2.	Assam	958
3.	Manipur	987
4.	Meghalaya	989
5.	Mizoram	976
6.	Nagaland	931
7.	Tripura	960
8.	Sikkim	890

Meghalaya represents the highest number of female ratios in comparison to neighboring states. There is a socio-cultural element behind the high number of female count in Meghalaya. The state is matrilineal society in which the descendant is traced from the female lineage and it is certain that priority of female child is their culture. Assam also has got good number of female count it is due to a large number of populations comprising of native/indigenous, migrated from the other states of Indian states and illegal migrants from the neighboring countries.

1.5. DENSITY OF POPULATIONS

The density of population per square kilometers in the states of the region is also uneven or varying in nature. This may be accounted for the fact that the topographic features of the different states are not equally suitable for human habitation. In this context mention may be made about the river valleys of Assam, the valley of Tripura and Imphal valley of Manipur in which higher concentration of population is generally noticed as these areas are conducive for human habitation. On the other hand large areas of the hill states are totally unsuitable for human settlement due to the steep gradients of hills and mountains covered by evergreen deep jungles, rainy moist deciduous forest, etc.

Due to the physiographic variations the density of population in the states are also not equal. The following table shows the density of population per sq.km in the various states of northeast India.

1.6. LINGUISTICS GROUPS OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTHEAST INDIA

In the northeast region of India various groups of people are living and racially they are identified as Indo- Mongoloids, Austrics, Indo- Aryans and Negritos. However, linguistically a major chunk of the population speaks Tibeto- Burman languages of the great Sino- Tibetan family language group. A small section of the people of the region speaks a language of Mon-Khmer origin and the rests are mainly speaking languages of Indo-Aryan origin.

Now from the standpoint of languages whose origins are depicted above, here in these various languages and in many cases different dialects are spoken by the different ethnic groups. There are almost 357 groups of people belonging to tribes including their sun groups of the region apart from the caste groups that are available in Assam plains and Tripura. All these groups speak different languages. In fact the whole northeast India is a multi-language region where the ethnic groups speak languages and dialects. Interestingly in case of the region certain major languages are there which are having official recognition of the respective state governments apart from the languages that are used in government Offices of the respective states. Moreover to have interaction among the tribal groups certain common spoken languages are used. The state wise distribution of the principal languages is given in the table below:

So far as the languages that are in use in the government offices indifferent states of the region; English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Manipuri and Mizo are used the principal or official languages.

Table No. 6. Languages of different states of northeast India

State	Principal languages
Arunachal Pradesh	Monpa, Aka, Miji, Shardukpen,,Nishi,, Apatani, TaGin, Hill Miri, Adi, Khampti, Singpho, Tangsa, Nocte, Wancho, Idu-Mishmi, Miju Mishimi and Dugaru Mishimi.
Assam	Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Nepali, Adibasi, Mishing
Manipur	Manipuri, Thangkhul,
Meghalaya	Khasi, Garo, Jantia, Bengali, Nepali and English
Mizoram	Mizo and English
Nagaland	English, Ao Konyak, Angami Chang, Lotha, Santam, sema and chakhesang
Tripura	Bengali and Kokborok

Apart from the languages states above that are found in different states of the region, in the states like Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland there are no dominant native languages. As such Hindi in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagamese in Nagaland are widely used as lingua-franca among the different tribal groups of the respective states.

In different states of northeast India, language has become an important issue for creating social tension. Over the years several movements took place in the region on language question. At the beginning of their administration the Britishers introduce Bengali language as a medium of instruction in Assam and it was widely used as lingua franca between Assamese and others mainly Bengalis. So a movement developed for replacing Bengali by Assamese as medium of instruction at lower level of education. The movement created conflict between Bengali and Assamese speaking people of the state. After independence the state of Assam experienced critical problems on language question. Assamese was declared as the only official language in Assam in 1960-61. This was resented

by the hill tribes of erstwhile Khasia and Jantia hills district and Garo hills districts and the Bengalis of Barak valley i.e. earlier Cachher district. The Khasis, Jantias and the Garos refused to accept Assamese as official language and due to this they demanded separation from Assam and eventually Meghalaya comprising Khasi, Jantia hills district and Garo hills districts were created. Similarly as stated earlier Bengali speaking people of Barak valley expressed strong resentment against introduction of Assamese as medium of instruction at post-metric level and launched movement for separation from Assam. However that is contained now and the Bengali language is widely used in Barak valley consisting of Cachher, Karimganj and Hailakandi districts of Assam.

Language Issue has fuelled the Bodo movement also. In 1960's the Bodo's adopted roman script for their language but that was opposed by the then Assam government. This finally resulted in the bitter conflict between Bodo's and the Assamese speaking people. The conflict was technically resolved by accepting Devnagari script for Bodo language but the deep burning remained unhealed in the heart of the Bodo people created by script question.

Like the Bodo's other tribes of Assam are also trying to develop their own languages by introducing these as subjects to be taught at school levels and this has become an issue for the tribal's and the government of Assam.

In Tripura conflict over language has already developed. The tribals want their language called Kokborok to be declared as one of the principal languages of the state. Finally the government of Tripura has reorganized the same a few years back as an official language.

In Meghalaya the Jantia's had to launch movement for introducing their language up to secondary level as medium of instruction. A bitter controversy is still going on between Meitei Manipuri and Bishnupriya Manipuri languages. The Meitei speaking Manipuri's are not prepared to accept Bishnupriya as a distinctive language of its own origin and structure.

Thus language has become an important issue in northeast India, particularly in the post-independent period. The main reason is that every ethnic group, which has its own language, tries to develop its language the ethnic groups of the northeastern region of India want to maintain their own identities as distinct as distinct cultural groups in the midst of in poly- cultural northeast India

Check your progress

1. Why there is an unequal distribution of population in the Northeastern region of India?

Write in five lines.

2. Which are those states of NER experiencing the highest growth of population?

Check your progress

3. Which one of the states of the region recorded a high rate of urbanization as Per 2001 census (write about five lines)

1. What are the factors responsible for the absence of plains population in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland? (write about five lines)

Check your progress

2. Sex ratio i.e. female per 1000 males is not even in the states of N.E. India. Comment (give an answer within five lines)

Check your progress

3. What are the basis factors for population growth in certain states of northeast India? (write about five lines)
4. What are the causes and effects of population growth in the states of northeast India?
5. Why the people of Assam did oppose the governments?
6. In what way Assam caste system is different from the Hindu society?
7. How did the caste and tribe interaction take place?

1.7. SUMMARY

The different units of this block helped the students to get a scenario of the uneven population distribution of the states of northeast region along with other related factors like rural-urban population, hills, and plains wise distribution, unequal density of Population. These are followed by again uneven sex ratio of the different state of the region. The students could also come to know that in the different tribes and their subgroups.

Further the students came to understand the caste system that emerged in n. India in general and Assam in particular along with changing scenario of caste system in Assam and the interaction that are taking place between castes and tribes.

Further more the students could come to know about the causes of population growth in the states of the region and how in some states this growth on the verge of changing the earlier composition of population along with effects of population growth.

1.8. KEY TERMS

Diverse	:	Different in nature/type
Scenario	:	Picture
Boost	:	Help to rise
Monkhemer	:	it is a broad group of languageform of Austric racial group, e.g Khasis of Meghalaya

1.9. ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. The whole north east of India is consisting of 30% plains areas and 70% hill areas. Because of uneven topography in most cases especially in the high mountains human habitation is less. As such only in plains population are found more in numbers than in the hills. That is why population distribution is uneven between hills and plains.
2. Assam and Tripura which are the two constituent states of the region experience high rate population growth. The reasons are (a) Partition of India during independence (b) Indo- Pakistan war in 1956 (c) Creation of Bangladesh in 1971 (d) Illegal immigration which are continuing unabated in these states till now.
3. The states of Mizoram have recorded highest growth of urban population among the states of north east region of India. This became possible because of pursuing the policy of regrouping the villages by the government of Mizoram.

4. High ranges of Arunachal Pradesh Himalaya with variegated heights poses as hindrance for human habitation. Hence the density of population per sq. km. is less in Arunachal Pradesh
5. Sex ratio i.e. females per thousand of males in the states of north east India are not even as in all the states of the region as they are fragile in comparison to male infants. However in this region female foeticide/ infanticide are unknown.
6. Illegal immigration from erstwhile East Pakistan and now Bangladesh and increasing the birth ratio due to better health care facilities are the two major factors of population growth in states like Tripura, Assam and Nagaland.
7. Political and economic are the major causes of population growth in N.E. India. The effects of the population growth are felt again in political and economic spheres and these causes social tension.
8. Assam was affected by the language movement when the state passed state's language Act of 1960. People of Barak valley opposed along with the then the leaders of Kashi, Jaintia and Garo hills districts. Their objection was that Assam was a multilingual state.
9. In Assam unlike Hindu India within the broad framework of caste system Khastriyas and Baishyas are inconspicuous by their absence. Brahmins and sudras are only found. More over due to universalization of education caste barriers are gradually obliterating along with the passage of time.
10. Giving respect to each other by the members of castes and tribes especially in religious spheres during the time of Neo- Vaisnavite movement and presently by showing respect to each other's cultures and cultural assimilation, followed by inter- caste tribal marriage gradually enhanced the caste- tribe interaction process.

1.10. QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Discuss about the population distribution of the states of the north east-region of India and point out the causes for uneven population distribution in the states of the region as per 2001 census
2. Why urban population in the states of the region are uneven? Discuss critically.
3. Give an account of linguistic groups that are available in the region.
4. What are the different religious groups that are found in different states of the region and further given an explanation why in Arunachal Pradesh there are more numbers of people who follow unorganized religion?
5. Draw a scenario of caste system that is prevalent in Assam. Do you think that the caste system of Assam is different compared to the rest of India?
6. Discuss the changing scenario of caste system of Assam at present times
7. "caste-tribe interaction is an interesting aspect to discuss in case of Assam" examine the statement critically.
8. Examine why certain states of the region experience high population growth. Give reason.
9. What are the main causes of population growth in north east India? Do you think that the abnormal population growth in certain states is posing a threat to autochthons?
10. "Population growth is uneven in N.E. India". Discuss the statements in relation to the effect of population growth in north east region of India.

1.11. FURTHER READINGS

1. Gopal Krishna R; the N.E. India, land, economy and people, New Delhi, Vikas publishing house p.v.t. Ltd.
2. Mukherjee, S. et. Al, 1992 Demographer of northeast India, New Delhi, Omsons publications.

3. Datta- Ray, B, ET 2000, Population poverty and environment innorth east India, New Delhi, concept publishing co.
4. Basis statistics of N.E. Region, 2002, Shillong , north eastern council secretariat.

REFERENCES

- Census paper series II, 2001
- Basis Statistics of north east region, 2002, shillong, N.E.C.Secretariat monorama year book, 2008, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Kochi, Malaya monorama.
- Das bhakta, 1986, a glimpse of schedule castes and their socio- economic development in Assam, New Delhi, Omsons publications.

UNIT II: DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND INSTITUTIONS PART II

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Unit objectives

2.2 Religious groups of northeast India

2.3 Caste and tribe interaction

2.4 Traditional Institution

2.5 Modern Institution

2.6 Summary

2.7 Key terms

2.8 Answer to check you progress

2.9 Questions and exercise

2.10 Further reading

2.0. INTRODUCTION

It became apparently clear that physiographical condition of this region is of extreme unevenness and that could be observed in the region ranging from very high or low hills, undulating low and medium hilly terrains with some plateau regions. 70% of the total land area of the region is hilly and mountainous and only 30% of the area is plains land. The physiographical settings greatly affect the human habitation in different states of the region, because in the hills and due to its hostile climate, steep gradients are not helpful for proper human habitation. As a result the states wise habitation of the people is rather uneven. In this connection we see uneven population distribution in the states of northeast region of India. The following table shows how unevenly the population of the region is distributed in different states-

2.1. UNIT OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- Understand the different linguistic and religious groups
- Discuss the historical development of caste and tribe interaction
 - Discuss the development and growth of traditional institution and modern institution

2.2. RELIGIOUS GROUPS OF NORTHEAST INDIA

Like any part of India, northeast is also a multi-religious region. Here one could find numerous groups of people having various types of religious beliefs and practices. However Hindus, Christians and Muslims are the major religious groups in different states of northeast India as per 1981 census is given in the table below.

Table No. 7. Distribution of religious groups in the states of Northeast India

State	Religious group
-------	-----------------

	Hindu	Islam	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Janis	Others
Arunachal Pradesh	29.23	4.32	4.32	0.20	16.68	-	51.77
Assam	64.37	31.36	6.37	0.12	0.93	0.12	0.03
Manipur	60.045	6.67	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.06	3.15
Meghalaya	18.02	3.10	52.61	0.12	0.20	0.04	25.76
Mizoram	7.14	0.45	83.81	0.08	8.19	-	0.23
Nagaland	14.36	1.52	80.90	-	0.07	0.15	3.68
Tripura	89.36	6.47	1.20	6.01	2.69	0.01	0.01
<u>N.E.(total)</u>	40.35	7.73	32.75	8.65	3.68	0.35	12.09

From the table it is clear that the Hindus are highly concentrated in Assam, Tripura and Manipur, Christian in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and Muslims are more in Assam than in the other states. In other states of the region, Muslim religious groups contain a very negligible population. The other religious groups namely Sikhs, Buddhist and Janis are very few in all the Arunachal Pradesh (16.68%) and Sikhs in Tripura (6.01%).

Followers of unclassified religious beliefs and practices are found to more than 50 percent in Arunachal Pradesh, which calls for explanation. One of the important reason for such a situation is that almost all the inhabitants of Arunachal Pradesh are tribal's. Each tribal group has its own religious beliefs and practices which do not fall in any organized religious system like Hinduism or Islam or Christianity etc. The religious beliefs and practices preferred by the different tribes are communalized and localized- that is confined to the community itself. There are numerous tribes and their groups in Arunachal Pradesh, each tribe has its own religious

Now coming to the habitation of different ethnic groups in this northeast region is concerned it may be mentioned that here people of Indo-Mongoloid, Aryan, Dravidians , and

Austrics had penetrated at different points of time and established their habitation in different parts of this region. An attempt is made here to show the state wise distribution of the major ethnic groups that are found as inhabited in the respective states.

As far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned which is the largest state in the northeast region of India, unofficially one hundred eleven ethnic and sub-ethnic groups/ tribes and subgroups are there, for simplicity henceforth we prefer to call the ethnic groups as tribes because still in the different government reports and gazetteers the word tribe is not being replaced by the ethnic group. Now, in Arunachal Pradesh we find major tribes viz., Monpa, Miji, Khawa, Aka, Sherdukpen, Nishi, Bangni, Sulung, Apatani, Hill Miri, Tagin, Adi(Galong, Bori, Minyong, Bokar, Memba, Ashing, Khamba), Idu Mishmi, Padam, Khamti, Digaru, Mishmi, Mijo Mishmi, Singpho, Zakhrings, Tangsa, Yobin, Lisu, Nocte, and Wancho.

From the above, there are as many as twenty six major tribes and sub-group are there which are officially recognized by the government of Arunachal Pradesh. Accordingly a state like Arunachal Pradesh depending on the existence of various tribes, eighteen major languages are being spoken by the tribes and which are reorganized by the government of Arunachal Pradesh.

Coming to Assam, leaving aside the earlier history, as per scheduled caste and scheduled tribes amendment act of 1976 there are nine scheduled tribes (plains) and fourteen scheduled tribes (hills) were finally reorganized. The scheduled tribe's plains are generally found mostly in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. The plains scheduled tribes are namely Barman's Of Kachari, Bodo-Kachari, Deori, Hojai, Sonowal Kachari, Lalung, Mech, Mishing, and Rabha. The scheduled tribe hills are generally found in the two autonomous districts of Assam viz.,- Karbi-Anglong and north- Kachari hills. As stated earlier there are fourteen scheduled tribes hills that are found in these two hills districts and they are –

Kachari, Garo, Hajong, Hmar, Khasi(Jaintia, synteng, panr), any *Kuki* tribes (thirty-seven sub- tribes), lakher, man (tai- speaking), any Mizo- Lushai tribes, Karbi, any Naga tribes, Pawi, Synteng.

In Manipur there are as much as twenty-eight tribes are there, and they are as follows- Aimol, anal, Angami, Chiru, Chote, Gangte, Hmar, Kabui, Kacha Naga, Koira, Koirang, Kom, Lamgang, Mao, Maram, Maring, Any Mizo Tribes (Lushai Tribe), Monsang, Moyan, Paite, Parum, Ralte, Sema, Simte, Tengkhul, Thadou, Vaiphui, Zou.

In Meghalaya, as much as thirteen tribes are recognized- Chakma, Dimasa- Kachari, Garo, Hajong, Hmar, Khasi (Jaintia, Synteng, Pnar, War Khasi, Bhoi, Lingam), Any Kuku Tribes, Lakhe, Man (Tai-Speaking) Any Mizo Tribes(Lushai), Karbi, Any Naga Tribes, Pawi.

In Mizoram, the same groups of tribes of Meghalaya are found to live except synteng which is a sub-tribe of Khasi is being recognised as a separate tribe in Mizoram.

In case of Nagaland, the major sixteen tribes are- Ao, Sema, Angami, Sangtam, Chang, Yimchunger, Ragman, Malware, Konyak, Chakesang, Lotha , Phom, Khiemungang Zeliang- Rong , Tikhir, Chirr,

In case of Tripura, there are as many as eighteen tribes are found and they are viz., Tripuri, Riang, Jamatia, Chakma, Halam, Mog, Noatia, *Kuki*, Garo, Munda, Lushai, Orang, Santal, Uchai, Khasia, Bhil, Lepcha (Sub-Group Of Bhatia) And Bhatia.

Secondly, spread of Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and other world religions were not spreading in Arunachal Pradesh mainly because of its terrains, hostile attitude of the local tribes to outsider's lack of exposure of the inhabitants of the region to other advanced cultural groups of the plains and lack of spatial Communications. Infact, entire Arunachal was kept totally isolated physically and socially from the rest of India by the British administration. As a result, other world religions could not penetrate into the mass people of the State

After independence the people of the hills of North East India could come into contact with the plain people of North East India could come into contact with the Plains people extensively than ever before. This helped the spread of Hinduism to some extent while due to the effort of Christian Missionaries and with the support of the British administration Christianity could spread as organized religion in the hill areas of North East India except in present Arunachal which was earlier known as NorthEast Frontier Agency (NEFA)

Among the seven states of the region Buddhist population is found to be highest (16.68%) in Arunachal Pradesh. A large majority of Buddhist are concentrated in the District of Tawang and West Kameng which are close to Tibet. The Buddhist of Changlang districts of a North Eastern Arunachal Pradesh and of Assam originally belong to the Buddhist Communities of Myanmar and its neighbouring areas. Mizoram is also another state of North East India wherein two men pockets Buddhist concentrations are found. They are found in Chintuipui andLungliedistrict. In Chintuipui District more than 28 person of the district population consists of Buddhist while in Lunglei District the Buddhist sale 16% of the total population.

Sikhs and Jains are mostly engaged in trade and commerce and are concentrated in the plains area of Assam, Tripura and Manipur.

Thus the population of North East India comprises a number of religious groups and some of which are however unclassified.

Check your progress

1. Why there is an unequal distribution of population in the Northeastern region of India?

Write in five lines.

2. Which are those states of NER experiencing the highest growth of population?

Check your progress

3. Which one of the states of the region recorded a high rate of urbanization as Per 2001 census (write about five lines)

8. What are the factors responsible for the absence of plains population in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland? (write about five lines)

Check your progress

9. Sex ratio i.e. female per 1000 males is not even in the states of N.E. India. Comment (give an answer within five lines)

2.3. CASTE - TRIBE INTERACTIONS

In north east there is large number of tribal groups scattered spatially both areas of the entire region. These tribals have their own historical and cultural backgrounds and once upon a time there were social if not politically isolated groups. Economic compulsion, however, brought them to interact with the people belonging to the different caste groups inhabited in the plains. The hills tribal people came down to the plains for trading purpose with the caste infested plains people and in the same way the plains tribals interaction with the people belonging to different castes for the same purpose.

In the plains religion played an important role in the caste-tribe interaction. The introduction of Neo- Vaishnavism paved the way for closer interaction between castes and tribes because many caste and tribes if not all embraced this new cult and have become the disciple of the same religious leaders of the caste groups. In SankariyaVaisnavism no distinction is maintained between caste and tribe. Devotees of both the groups sit together and offer prayer in the same premise and take *prasads*.

During the period of Ahom rule tribals were also appointed to some posts in its administration. During the British period caste- tribes interaction had become a common feature/ event in social life of northeast India. Although the British administration introduced inner line regulations, yet it did not deter the coming of the people of the hills to plains. As such, hills people came down to the plains and did business with the people of different caste groups.

In the cultural sphere the tribes of the plains have imbedded them some norms and values of the people of different caste groups which reflected in the changing of cultural systems of these tribes. The neighbouring Naga tribes and the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

especially living in the lower Arunachal Himalaya have learned Assamese as their link language not only among their own groups which are different from each other languages.

In the postindependent period caste- tribe interactions have become more extensive and intensive. Inter- dining and intermarriage between the people of different caste group and tribes have become a common phenomenon in Northeast India. Example of this nature may be cited about the marital relations between different people of present Meghalaya which was earlier K& J hills district of Assam. Casteism is however abhorred by the tribes and tribal liberalism is accepted by the caste. Thus a well blended culture of caste and tribe is gradually offering in Northeast region of India.

Check your progress

10. What are the basis factors for population growth in certain states of northeast India? (write about five lines)
11. What are the causes and effects of population growth in the states of northeast India?
12. Why the people of Assam did oppose the governments?
13. In what way Assam caste system is different from the Hindu society?
14. How did the caste and tribe interaction take place?

2.4. TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTION

The political system which is proposed to discuss here is the traditional self-governing institution that is prevalent among the tribes of the different states of northeast India. Among some tribes, there are democratic like structures of self-governing institutions and some have chieftainship as the local governments. In northeast India there are numerous tribes and their subgroups and each tribe of the region has its own self-governing institutions along with its subgroups. The self-governing political institutions are different from each other. However,

for illustration purpose it is proposed to discuss the tradition political/self-governing institution of one or two tribes from each of the states of the region.

The Adis of Arunachal Pradesh has the democratic type of village institution. Every Adi village (*dolung*) is run by a council called *Kebang*. All the adult members of the village are its members and they participate in the sessions of the *Kebang*. The deliberations of the *kebangare* guided by the elders of the council who are known as *kebang-abus*. Thus the *kebang* has a collective leadership. The *kebang* leadership is also not hereditary but is acquired by an elder by virtue of his personality, wealth, influence and ability to present a case in the traditional manner. During the time of British rule in northeast India, some village elders who were appointed as *Gams* also served as *kebang abus* in the village council. At present all the experienced and mature leaders are *nyioks* Orators and *Gams* of the village are *kebang-abus*.

Theoretically, *kebang* is a democratic institution and all member of the village have to take part in it. Since the Adis are patriarchalandpatrilineal therefore in *kebangs* the male members get prominence. The *kebang* is thus an all-male affair. However, those women who are active and willing may participate in the *kebang* session, particularly when they themselves are involved in any issue.

The *dolung kebang* village council is held at *dere* or *moshup*(public hall) which is generally located in the middle of the village. The *dolung kebang* is the earliest and smallest administrative institution of the Adis. During the British period two higher *kebangs* were organized one for the area comprising several villages and was known as *bango kebang* (council of villages) and the other for the whole tribe was called *bogum-bokangkebang* (council of the whole tribe). The British government appointed three more categories of official who also served as the leaders of these *kebangs*. They were *Gam*, political *jamadar*

and kotoki (political interpreter). Thus there are at present three types of *kebangs* with all non-official and official leaders in them.

In with of *kebang* generally, any matters are introduced and moved by the experienced members known as *kebang* abus and they guide the proceedings of the session. Matters of interest and importance are discussed, debated and argued in detail. The deliberation goes on as there someone is willing to speak on the subject. Thus the session of the *kebang* continued for a long period till all are exhausted and arrived at an agreeable decision.

The traditional village organization of the Pangchen Monpas of Arunachal Pradesh is constituted by Lama (Buddhist monk), two village chefs and three '*Ganzen's* (assistant to chiefs). The traditional self-governing institution among the Pangchen Monpas is known as '*Mangma*'. The meeting place of the village is known as '*Mangkhem*'. The '*Mangma*' settles all the disputed as per customary laws.

Among the Bodo Kacharis of Assam, there are two important self-governing institutions viz., *Hadengoura* and *Hachung-Goura*. The *Hadengoura* refers to a judgeship with jurisdiction over twelve adjoining villages and the later with the jurisdiction in each such twelve village. *Hachung-goura* is subordinate institution of *Hadengoura* whose sphere of operation in the village only. In many cases it helps *Hadengoura*. But the more common institution in the Bodo villages is the village council. The decisions of this council are binding and only men of character and social status generally preside over them. The social outlooks of the Bodo Kacharis of Assam are democratic in nature. They never practice any differentiation while establishing a social hierarchy. The Gaonbura (village headman) and his assistant the *Halmazi* (courier of errands) organize village level works. The '*Douri*' (*Deuri*) besides presiding over other religious rites also guide the proceedings of the village council whenever it is required. In the Bodo Kachari traditional self-governing institutions the

appointments are open to all however the person to be selected are capable of discharging public responsibilities.

Among the Mishings of Assam, the traditional self-governing institutions are there which is known as *Kebang*. In every village, there is a *dolungkebang* i.e, the village council. The members of '*Dolung Kebang*' are elderly men of the village. Traditionally, the '*Gam*' presides over the meetings of the *Kebang*. He is similar to that of the present-day Village Panchayat President. The '*Dolung Kebang*' generally settles the disputes of the villagers and criminal offenses. Under chairmanship of the '*Gam*' these are settled with fines and sometimes without fines. '*Dolung Kebang*' performs the functions of the legislature, executive and jurisdiction of the village community.

Apart from the *Kebang* there is an institution known as '*Mimbi Yame*'. It is an organization of unmarried young men and women of Mishing village. The leaders of the organization are '*Deka Borah*' for the men and '*Tiri Borah*' for the women. The responsibility of the former is to organize the boys while the latter is to organize girls. It is an institution which is meant for rendering help and cooperation to the families in difficulties particularly in construction houses and harvesting crops. With the advent of modernization, an institution like youth clubs, libraries are gradually developing in the Mishing villages yet the importance of '*Mimbi Yame*' still remains in augmenting their process of development.

The traditional Karbi political system is based on three-tier organization. At the top of the *Lingdokpo* means the supreme political authority is there. He followed by the *Habe/Habais* and the *Rong-Sarthes* are at the bottom. The *Lingdokpo* is selected by representatives of different clans and sub-clans. The *Lingdokpo* is the highest judicial officer. All important disputes are referred to him for arbitration, adjudication and for giving verdict. Social matters his verdict was adjudication and for giving verdicts. In social matter, his verdict was considered final. The selection of a *Lingdokpo* is democratic; the *Pinpomers* after

discussion among themselves unanimously selected a man who is known to be honest knowledgeable about customary laws, having commendable character and quality of leadership. A *Lingdokpo* could be removed if he indulged in misuse of power and position any time.

Habe/Habai is an officer appointed by the *Pinpomers*. *Habe's* duty was to look after the customs and traditions of the Karbis. So he is always appointed from among those who are well based in Karbi laws and customs.

It is seen that above *Habe/Habais*, *Pinpomers* are there. When one *Pinpomers* dies the other *Pinpomers* gathers together and search for a person who is well versed in the Karbi laws and customs from the clan in which death had occurred. The selection of the *Pinpomers* must receive the approval of the *Karbi-a-Riso* the Karbi king.

The *Karbi-a-Riso* was a constitutional monarchy. Even a few years back the last monarch who is living is gifted with a beautiful house by the District Council of Karbu Anglong. He is still revered in today's days. Earlier *Pinpomers* were having different functions. They were the guardians of the Mikir Customary laws. Among the *Pinpomers*, the *Pinpomers* of Rongkhang were considered hierarchical above than other *Pinpomers* and many times the other *Pinpomers* were carrying out the orders of the Rongkhang *Pinpomers*. In earlier times Rongkhang *Pinpomers* was the final authority in all matters. In earlier times Rongkhang *Pinpomers* could pass death sentence to the offenders.

After *Lingdokpo* and *Habe/Habais* the third in hierarchical grading is the officer of the village level administration. The officer appointed as chief by the *Habe/Habais* is called *Sarthe*. The *Sarthe* is the real powerful officer of the village. He has control over the villages and minor disputes are settled by him except the major offenses of serious nature which are generally tried by the *Lingdakpo*. All matters of community concern at the village level are attended and decided by the *Sarthe*.

To settle intra-village problems there is another body called 'Me'. It is formed by the adult male members of the villages as representatives. The *Sarthe* presides over the 'Me' the 'Me' plays very important roles in regulating the social, economic and religious life of the village. The orders and rulings of the 'Me' are seldom defied. As such *Sarthe* is a very powerful officer in the traditional political system of the Karbis.

The British administration introduced the *Gaon-Burah* (village headman) system. But the importance of *Sarthe* is not diminished. In fact, both institutions are functioning now. The Karbis still value the *Sarthe* and the 'Me' more than the *Gaon-Burah*. The Autonomous District Council also recognizes the importance of the *Sarthe* and the 'Me'.

The *Kukis* of Manipur are having chiefs in their traditional self-governing institutions; these chiefs are hereditary in nature. In each *Kuki* village, there is a hereditary Chief and he possesses unlimited power and whose authority is also unquestionable. Virtually a *Kuki* Chief is supreme in his village. It is the Chief who settles all disputes in his village and it is his responsibility to select and distributes jhum sites to his villagers. Further he is the person who decides when and where a village is to be moved. Each of the villagers to whom the jhum land are distributed by the chief, in turn the villagers are to give a portion of rice produced by them to the chief. Moreover, the chief also gets a portion of every animal killed by any villagers of his village. Besides, he receives the fines levied on the offender. However the chief has some responsibilities also. He is to look after the orphans and other persons who are not having any source for earning and to sustain themselves and to give shelter to them. In return, these people are to work for the chief. The orphan girls thus brought up in chief's house when married it is the chief who gets the bride price. The *Kukichief* has a number of officials under him who are to help him in discharging his duties. It is to be noted that though a *Kuki* chief is having unlimited powers he exercise the same in a rational manner. But nowadays the *Kuki* chiefs are becoming simply a symbol and the chieftainship has also

become defunct due to the emergence of new leadership under the present political system prevailing in the state.

Among the Khasis of Meghalaya, there are several democratically elected chiefs or ruler called *Syiems*. Every ruler has a '*Darbar*' consisting of several officials including Mantries and village elders which assist him in discharging his duties. *Bakhraws*, *Basans*, and *Lyngskors* are the other officials apart from the Mantries. In each village or in a group of village the presiding headman is always assisted by a Darbar.

In the traditional self-governing set up of the Khasis, politically the Khasis could be divided into three groups-

- i. *Syiems*, *Wahadadars*, *Sirdars*, and *Lyngdohs* are considered as ruling class.
- ii. *Mantries*, *Bakhraws*, *Basans*, and *Lyngskors* which constitute the Aristocratic class and
- iii. The common subjects or people: In the Khasi society of Meghalaya the *Syiemship* still continues. But their officer is nominated in nature since the district council set up under the sixth schedule of the constitution of India has more or less deprived the *Syiems* of their traditional duties and has more or less deprive the *Syiems* of their traditional duties and responsibilities to a considerable extent. The village Darbars, as well as the Darbars of the *Syiems*, will settle disputes and try cases of minor nature.

It is really fascinating to note that though the Khasis have a matriarchal system of family structure yet the women are not allowed to participate in the traditional administration set up starting from the *Syiemship* to village Darbar.

Among the Garos of Meghalaya in their traditional self-governing institution chieftainship is there. The tradition village chief is also the clan chief called '*Nokma*'. He is the custodian of all the lands suitable for shifting cultivation in and around the village. Among the majority of the hill tribes of northeast India, it is worthwhile to mention that there is community ownership of land. However in case of the Garos through right a man is free to

cultivate the plot over jhum cycles. But here also *Nokma* has the role as the overall management of the jhum land of the village. Interestingly the land administration in a Garos village carried on by the *Nokma* and the council of village elders. A *Nokma*, however, cannot sell his land without his wife's *Machong*

Nokma is the male tribal chief of the village through Garos are having matrilineal society and he plays a very important role in the village administration. The *Nokma* with the assistance of the village council constituted with the elders' tribes all cases and disputes in an open assembly. The plaintiff and the accused are under oath to speak the truth. The decisions of the village council presided over by the *Nokma* are binding on both parties. In all matters relating to village administration observance of festivals, religious functions, marriage, death ceremony, starting of shifting cultivating and harvesting of the same the *Nokma* of the village is consulted.

Among the Jaintias of Meghalaya it is interesting to note that they have a very strongly organized traditional self-governing village institution. Every Jaintia village has a council which manages the affairs of the village. The Jaintias were having their own kingdoms and during the reign of the Jaintia kings the regional chiefs named *Doloi* were there to look after the administrative works of the kingdom. These *Dolois* were elected by the people. However, apart from the administrative works the *Dolois* were performing the religious functions also. Now also all the religious festivals performed in their localities are supervised by them. The *Dolois* are assisted by a large number of officers in discharging his duties. The junior officers like, the *pators* have to settle disputes of minor nature. The juniors officers like, the *pators* have to settle disputes of minor nature. The *Dans* are to collect the tax and tolls. The *Basans* are to execute the orders of the *Dolois*. The *sangot* acts as policemen under the supervision of *Pator* of his locality, the village announcer is called *Chutiya*. Through with the emergence of new political set up in Jaintia areas like District council and

its members have deprived *Dolois* some of their traditional functions and responsibilities, yet still in the Jaintia society, *Doloiship* plays an important role so far as village administration is concerned.

Among the Mizos of Mizoram, village chiefs are considered powerful officers in their traditional self-governing institutions of the villages. Among the village chiefs the Sailos were the most powerful chiefs and they ruled practically the entire Mizo dominated areas i.e., present Mizoram till the advent of the British. In Mizoram, the chieftainship was hereditary in nature and he was known as *Lal*. It was the chief who owned the entire land of the village and he was the sole authority in distributing land for homestead purpose and also for jhuming. Apart from the fact stated above the chief had to run the village administration with the help of '*Upas*' and every Mizo village had a definite boundary. Usually each chief had to set up new villages within his boundary for his adult sons. The youngest son became the chief over his father's land on the demise of his father.

Since the chiefs were having control over they were required to select and distribute suitable land for jhuming. The cultivators (jhumias including *Ramhuals*) had to pay '*fathang*' a kind to tribute to chiefs in terms of baskets of paddy. After the chiefs there were '*Zalens*' in terms of hierarchy in Mizo society and they were considered as men of possession who were exempted from paying '*fathang*' due to the reason that they were to help the chief in village administration. However with the emergence of new political leadership under the aegis of district council the powers of chiefs were curtailed and these were vested to district and regional councils.

In Nagaland there are different groups of Nagas viz., *Ao*, *Angami*, *Chakesang*, *Konyak*, *Lotha*, *Sema*, etc. each group has its own traditional self-governing institutions. However, these are different from each other. The *Konyaks* had kingship, the *Ao*'s have most democratic system. The common feature of the naga traditional self-governing system was

the existence of village council headed by a chief which was later on replaced by the village council headed by a chief which was later on replaced by the village development board when Nagaland state came into being. In the past, each and every Naga village had its own village council and the members of the council were all the adult male members of the village.

The chief of the village council in cases of Naga tribe was either selected or elected. In case of selection, a meeting of all the villagers was held. The women were not required to be present in the meeting. The meeting was attended by senior adult male members of each and every clan of the village. Generally, the selection is done unanimously.

The chief of a Naga tribe in his village is generally revered by the villagers. He is invited to all social functions and festivals of by the villages. Among the *Angamis* of Nagaland, the chief is offered the best 'Zou' (rice beer) as a mark of respect during any social function or in any religious function.

The chiefs of any Naga tribe are to distribute the land of their respective villages to the villagers for cultivation. The chiefs are to settle disputes that may arise among villagers and in many cases especially among the *Ao's* and *Semas* they are to take part in religious functions. New political orders like the villages developments boards have reduced the functions of traditional Chiefs; still, the village, as well as clan, are revered much in any Naga society.

Among the *Mags* of Tripura their traditional self-governing institution is known as village council. They have village councils in every four villages which are generally grouped together. The head of the council is known as '*Bemarang*'. He is generally elected. While electing the head of the village council where all the adult males of the four villages are the members consideration is given on his possession of wealth, property and personality. The '*Bemarang*' is head of the village council and he is generally assisted by a junior selected

official known as *Karbari* and also a messenger viz., *Peada*. The '*Bemarang*' is to convene and preside over the village council meetings where the disputes of the village members settle as per traditions'.

2.5. THE MODERN INSTITUTION

After India's independence, many of the tribal traditional village council was replaced, modified and coexisted side by side with the modern political and administration. The modern political or governing mechanism is based on Panchayat Raj system at the rural level and Municipality system at the urban area by the amendment act of 73rd and 74th amendment act of India. this act provides that every rural area should have a three-tier system of governance system based on democratic principle each member should be elected not selected or nominated on the basis of caste, religion, gender, and language. Every development activities should be taken care by the institution with the help of district administration. At the grass-root level there is Gram Sabha member represented by every adult member of the village, and Anchal Samiti and Zilla member based on elected representative by the villagers at the second and third level of the three-tier system.

Municipality in an urban system act as local urban bodies which organized the system of urban to function in proper and dynamic way. An urban local body is also based on the democratic principle which is represented by the elected representative for the office bearer for a period of time.

The law of modern society is now taken over by the judiciary. Any breach of law from the criminal case to civil cases is now deal by the judicial institution. The customary law act as referential point the major decision is now decided and taken by the rule of law.

The legislature is the lawmaker for society. Unlike the traditional hierarchy based council, the group of the legislature of assembly makes decision which is beneficial and

potential for human and societal development. Legislative of assembly are elected members by the community people acted on the principle of democratic principle.

Check your progress

1. In which tribal group Dolung Kabang, Bango *Kebang*, and Bogum Bokang *Kebangs* are there as traditional political institutions? Describe their functions briefly (write about five-line)
2. Is Mizo chief is hereditary in nature and by what name he is known in the society, further who are the Zalens? (write about five lines)

2.6. SUMMARY

The different units of this block helped the students to get a scenario of the uneven population distribution of the states of northeast region along with other related factors like rural-urban population, hills, and plains wise distribution, unequal density of Population. These are followed by again uneven sex ratio of the different state of the region. The students could also come to know that in the different tribes and their subgroups.

Further the students came to understand the case system that emerged in n. India in general and Assam in particular along with changing scenario od caste system in Assam and the interaction that are taking place between castes and tribes.

Further more the students could come to know about the causes of population growth in the states of the region and how in some states this growth on the verge of changing the earlier composition of population along with effects of population growth.

More especially the student could understand about the major universal institutions which are of traditional in nature that are depicted in this unit.

Further, the student could come to know as to how the traditional tribal institution like family, marriage, and polity are of varying in nature both in patriarchal and matriarchal tribal societies of northeast India

2.7. KEY TERMS

Diverse : Different in nature/type

Scenario : Picture

Boost : Help to rise

Monkhemer : it is a broad group of languageform of Austric racial group, e.g Khasis of Meghalaya

Kin group: Kin group are two types viz, consanguineous kin group and affinal kin group. The first one traced the relation through the blood of the Uterus. Affinal kin groups are related through marriage.

Lineage: Tracing the descent line from through father's line or mother's line.

Patriarchal: It refers to the dominance of male in the social structure

Matriarchal: It refers to the dominance of male of female in the social structure

Kenna: It is also known as Genna among some of the tribes of northeast India. It refers that before performing a religious ceremony in the immediate proceeding day people of the village generally observe fasting.

2.8. ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

11. The whole north east of India is consisting of 30% plains areas and 70% hill areas.

Because of uneven topography in most cases especially in the high mountains human habitation is less. As such only in plains population are found more in numbers than in the hills. That is why population distribution is uneven between hills and plains.

12. Assam and Tripura which are the two constituent states of the region experience high rate population growth. The reasons are (a) Partition of India during independence (b) Indo-Pakistan war in 1956 (c) Creation of Bangladesh in 1971 (d) Illegal immigration which are continuing unabated in these states till now.
13. The states of Mizoram have recorded highest growth of urban population among the states of north east region of India. This became possible because of pursuing the policy of regrouping the villages by the government of Mizoram.
14. High ranges of Arunachal Pradesh Himalaya with variegated heights possess as hindrance for human habitation. Hence the density of population per sq. km. is less in Arunachal Pradesh.
15. Sex ratio i.e. females per thousand of males in the states of north east India are not even as in all the states of the region as they are fragile in comparison to male infants. However in this region female foeticide/ infanticide are unknown.
16. Illegal immigration from erstwhile East Pakistan and now Bangladesh and increasing the birth rate due to better health care facilities are the two major factors of population growth in states like Tripura, Assam and Nagaland.
17. Political and economic are the major causes of population growth in N.E. India. The effects of the population growth are felt again in political and economic spheres and these causes social tension.
18. Assam was affected by the language movement when the state passed state's language Act of 1960. People of Barak valley opposed along with the then the leaders of Khasi, Jaintia and Garo hills districts. Their objection was that Assam was a multilingual state.
19. In Assam unlike Hindu India within the broad framework of caste system Kshatriyas and Vaishyas are inconspicuous by their absence. Brahmins and Sudras are only found.

More over due to universalization of education caste barriers are gradually obliterating along with the passage of time.

20. Giving respect to each other by the members of castes and tribes especially in religions spheres during the time of Neo- Vaisnavite movement and presently by showing respect to each other's cultures and cultural assimilation, followed by inter- caste tribal marriage gradually enhanced the caste- tribe interaction process.

2.9. QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

11. Discuss about the population distribution of the states of the north east-region of India and point out the causes for uneven population distribution in the states of the region as per 2001 census
12. Why urban population in the states of the region are uneven? Discuss critically.
13. Give an account of linguistic groups that are available in the region.
14. What are the difference religious groups that are found in different states of the region and farther given an explanation why in Arunachal Pradesh there are more numbers of people follow unorganized religion?
15. Draw a scenario of caste system that is prevalent in Assam. Do you think that the caste system of Assamese different comparison to the rest of India?
16. Discuss the changing scenario of caste system of Assam at present times
17. "caste-tribe interaction is an interesting aspect to discuss in case of Assam" examine the statement critically.
18. Examine why certain states of the region experience high population growth. Give reason.
19. What are the main causes of population growth in north east India? Do you think that the abnormal population growth in certain states is posing as threat to autochthons?

20. "Population growth is uneven in N.E. India". Discuss the statements in relation to the effect of population growth in north east region of India.

2.10. FURTHER READINGS

5. Gopal Krishna R; the N.E .India , land, economy and people, new Delhi, Vikas publishing house p.v.t. Ltd.
6. Mukherjee, S. et. Al, 1992 Demographer of northeast India, New Delhi, Omsons publications.
7. Datta- Ray, B, ET 2000, Population poverty and environment in north east India, New Delhi, concept publishing co.
8. Basis statistics of N.E. Region, 2002, Shillong , north eastern council secretariat.

REFERENCES

- Census paper series II, 2001
- Basis Statistics of north east region, 2002, shillong, N.E.C.Secretariat monorama year book, 2008, Kottayam, Kozhikode, Kochi, Malaya monorama.
- Das bhakta, 1986, a glimpse of schedule castes and their socio- economic development in Assam, New Delhi, Omsons publications.

- Bhattacharjee J.b (1989) Sequences of development in Northeast India, Delhi, Omsons publications
- Borodoloi B.N. et.al (1987) Tribes of Assam part I, Part II and part III, Guwahati, Tribal research institute.
- Dalfon E.T. (1973 RP) Descriptive Ethnology of Bengal, Calcutta, Indian Studies, past and present.
- Hutton J.H.(1969 RP.) Angami Nagas, Bombay Oxford University Press.
- Kabui, Gangumei (1981) Anal: A Trans border Tribe of Manipur.Delhi. Mittal Publication.
- Kar. R.K. (1993) “SocialOrganization vis-à-vis the Familial Unit among the Tribes of northeast India: The Nocte case” in Kalyan Kumar Chakraborty The Indian Family, Bhopal, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya.
- Mill, J.P (1926) The Ao Nagas, London, Macmillan & Co. Singh, Usha K. (1991) Arunachal Pradesh, A study of the legal system of Adi tribe, New Delhi, Har-Anand Publications.
- Thanga, L.B. (1978) The Mizos – A study in racial personality, Guwahati, United publishers.
- Vidyarthi L.P. (1986) Art and Culture of North East India, New Delhi, publications Division, Govt. of India.

UNIT III- SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PART II

3.0. Introduction

3.1. Unit Objectives

3.2. Types of industries

3.2.1. Tea industry

3.2.2. Bamboo industry

3.2.3. Oil industry

3.2.4. Handloom industry (Problem and prospects)

3.3. Summary

3.4. Key terms

3.5. Answer to check your progress

3.6. Questions and exercises

3.7. Further reading

3.0. INTRODUCTION

The northeast part of India has eight states comprising an area of 255,083 km² with hills, valley, and plateau. This region is inhabited by 100 major tribes and immigrant communities. Due to topographical and environmental conditions this region is rich in biodiversity and is one of the hot spots of the world. Altitude ranges from 150 to 7,300 m and temperature varies from freezing point to 37°C. Mostly tribal people and immigrant communities depend on farming and forest products for their food and livelihood. Local people have been maintaining traditional agricultural practices, agro-biodiversity and knowledge. Generally farmers practice jhum or shifting agricultural system with other sedentary agricultural practices. About 400,000 families practice jhum cultivation covering a land area approximately 386,300 ha annually. Other agricultural systems are wet rice cultivation which is practiced in valley land and Aji system where rice and millet are cultivated with fish in deep water.

In valley land mono cropping as well as mixed cropping is practiced by farmers. Terrace land cultivation system introduced by government could not get wide acceptability by farmers due to high input of labour and fertilizers. Farmers also have cultivation systems such as home gardens and agroforestry that link their families to the forest ecosystem. Recently government and non-governmental organization have introduced agri-horti-silvipastoral system for good harvest and yield. The population density of the region is 324 person per km² that is lower than the whole country. However, the growth rate during 1991–2001 has been recorded 31.2 person/km², which is higher than the national rate of 21.4 person/km². If population growth continues at this rate then a serious threat may occur to the sustainability of agro-ecosystem and rich biodiversity of the region. An attempt is made here to focus on agricultural practices, their productive capability, and viable sustainable land use strategies for people of the region.

3.1. UNIT OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- Explain the historical background industries and industrialization
- Discuss the basic socio-economic problem and prospects

3.2. TYPES OF INDUSTRIES

3.2.1. Tea industry

Tea is considered as one of the main agricultural products in the state and is reputed all over the world for its aromatic quality. The other agricultural products in the state are rice, potatoes, pulses, jute, sugarcane, etc. Different fruits like bananas, jackfruits, pineapples, mangoes, guavas are also produced in the state. The major industries in the states are petroleum and natural gas, coal, tourism, limestone, granite and tea industry, some other industries are fertilizers, sugar, paper, rice mills food processing and sericulture. Some traditional industries are brass-metal works, bamboo and cane work, spinning of *endi*, *mugasilk*, *pat silk*, blacksmith, wood carving, village carpentry, gold smith, pottery, weaving etc. Tea industry was doing well in the beginning of 20th century and was recognized as one of the major manufacturing industry in Assam with enormous potential. It boasted relatively better workforce due to its majestic position in those days. The organization of the British in this respect was quite commendable; the infrastructure had reached snooty heights, the employment prospect was rising day by day even the freedom movement never actually affected the tea trade.

After Independence, there was a radical change that took place in tea industry as some of the tea estates in Assam came under control of Indians by purchasing maximum shares at the stock exchange or buying the tea estates directly. Most of the new buyers were not aware of tea plantation and lack of knowledge of the trade and a desire to make fast money from the

business; they ignored the basic requirements of labour essential for plantation. They appointed unskilled labourers with low salaries and did not give adequate attention to improve the tea gardens. As a result, the quality of tea was adversely affected and consumers started complaining at the London tea auction. Countries like North America, Australia, and Britain shared more than 80 percent of India's export. Due to unprincipled actions of India owned tea gardens, lesser-known tea producing countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Japan began blowing up in the international market. The demand for Indian tea in the international level went down, but some Indian owned tea gardens in Assam priced significantly well in the international market as these tea gardens were given more attention by big agency houses in Kolkata and yielded a better result.

Check your progress

1. What led to the decline of the Assam Tea industry?

The Indian Government abolished the managing agency system at the end of the 60's decade, which has destabilized the English stronghold on tea estates in India and forced them to walk out of the Indian tea plantations. The planning commission hereafter decided to restrain absurd practices of the tea estates to improve its form. Assam on its part has the largest domain for tea plantations and enjoys as the largest producer of tea in the world by employing utmost number of labourers. The tea industry in Assam contributes significantly in the development of state economy. The figures had moved on to more than Rupees 5000 crore annually as agriculture income, the number append up as the state also receives a share of income tax and export duties from the center.

After the departure of Europeans, the supplies of tea chest are being looked after by various plywood industries of Assam and these industries provided employment to a vast number of people. It also opens market for Assam coal and the fertilizer industry as fertilizers

and coal is needed by the tea industry. Therefore, it can be accomplished that tea industry shares 15% a significant employment burden for the state of Assam directly and indirectly. Tea is considered as the most important crop in Assam. It has been producing some of the finest teas in the world. Assam produces about 51% of the tea produced in India and about 1/6th of the tea produced in the world. The climate of Assam favors producing sweetness and tangy tea in the region. The world's largest CTC tea auction center is in Assam and the world's second-largest in terms of total tea. Assam mainly exports its tea to Europe and Middle East countries and also to Pakistan, Egypt, Japan, and Israel. Tea is grown in both the Brahmaputra and Barak plains in Assam. Tea gardens are mostly found in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Golaghat Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam. About 17% of the workers of Assam are engaged in the tea industry. Though Assam plantation generally produces black tea, the region also produces smaller quantities of green and white teas. There are more than 850 tea estates and more than 2500 tea gardens in Assam that covers thousands of acres of land.

The tea industry in Assam is about 180 years old. This industry plays an important role in the state economy as well in the national economy. The first Indian tea produced in Assam was sent to United Kingdom for public sale in the year 1838. Subsequently tea cultivation was extended to other parts of the country between 50s and 60s of the last century. As of today, Assam tea has retained its international standard and commands significant share in the world market. The tea industry in Assam also gives average daily employment to more than six lakh persons in the state, which is around 50 percent of the total average daily number of labor employed by tea industry in the country.

3.2.2. Bamboo Industry

It is one of the important minor forests produces that assists in subsistence income of tribal folk to a greater extent. It has deep cultural significance in the Indian culture and is the

highest yielding renewable natural resources and different species occur in different parts of the country.

India is the second only to China in Bamboo production and it is immensely popular in northeastern region. Bamboo is one of the most abundant and environmental-friendly and sustainable resources available in North East Region, which is not being used to its full potential. North Eastern Himalayan region of India has great diversity of bamboo resources. Most of the species come across in our country are indigenous. Of them are two primary species *dendrocalamus strictus* and the *bambusa arundinacea*. Dense bamboos are found mostly in Arunachal Pradesh followed by Mizoram and Manipur. Mizoram occupies the largest forest area under different bamboo species, followed by Meghalaya. As this region is the largest reservoir of bamboo resource in India, screening is required to identify the most delicate bamboo species the development of package of practices for their mass

multiplication. Four States of Northeast i.e. Tripura, Assam, Mizoram, and Nagaland have formulated their own policies for the development of Bamboo and conservation of Bamboo forests.

High diversity of bamboo resource plays a significant role in the food and nutritional security of the tribal population. Tribal communities of the region use this potential resource for food, shelter, furniture, handicrafts, medicines and various ethno-religious purpose. The skill of working with bamboo is extremely widespread with a large percentage of the ethnic population capable of refined craftsmanship in this material. The vigorous bamboo craft tradition of North East gets the most creative expression through the craftsmanship of the various Northeastern tribes.

Intricate structures and myriad types of cuts and profiles made from numerous types of chisels are richly illustrated through the various types of bamboo crafts that these artisans

make. The items they make often include things like trays, unique furniture, bamboo and cane mats, decorative lamp shades, stools, hand fans, baskets, handbags, jewelries, etc. This region can add to the global export of steamed and canned bamboo shoot to European countries. All these are labor intensive industries which have an employment potential to the developing states. Thus bamboo industry has the potential to become a major employer in the North Eastern States.

There are many popular uses of bamboo that varies from region to region and can be grown without much care having flexibility of giving us varieties of products of different designs. It was traditionally popular as a cheap raw material for building rural dwellings, for manufacturing utilitarian goods like baskets, various types of beautiful crafts, weaving and spinning types of equipment in textiles operation and shortage bin in agricultural produce, etc. North-Eastern India is famous for bamboo wares notably various decorative items of Tripura, utility items of Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh like beer *mugs*, *japas*, baskets, etc and decorative as well as utility items of Mizoram like the famous Mizo hat.

There are many legends and folk stories associated with the creation of bamboo craft. There are many heroes all over India who contributed towards growth and development of bamboo craft. Amongst tribes of northeastern India, there are many heroes and many of them were legendary. It is believed that growth of bamboo forests ensures good rainfall. That was the reason why during ancient period growing bamboo was encouraged. During modern days it is scientifically proved that the friction created due to rubbing of bamboo stems when the wind blows has positive effect on ecology to cause sufficient rain, which corroborates the ancient belief. Bamboos are also considered as a medicinal plant. Many ancient and modern kinds of literature recognize this fact. Unfortunately not much research has been concluded on bamboo hence, not much data is available for planning to utilize bamboo effectively.

Scientific mode of utilization of the bamboo resources will not only lead in improving the socio-economic condition of the region but also help to maintain the ecological balance. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee launched the National Bamboo Mission on June 5, 1999. The Mission got a boost with UNDP deciding to initiate a Cane and Bamboo Technological Upgradation and Networking Project in the North East Region, where bamboo is an integral part of daily life and culture of diverse ethnic communities. Moreover former President Late A.P.J Abdul Kalam called for embarking on the development path in a mission mode Bamboo Mission, which targeted for North-Eastern India. Thus in North Eastern India two centers chosen are Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and NERIST, Itanagar. IIT, Guwahati has an industrial design center and bamboo being the priority item in North Eastern India, development of bamboo craft is one of the subjects chosen by this interface. This center has turned out to be a center of excellence and has developed varieties of value-added elements.

Check your progress

2. Do you agree that bamboo plants can cause rainfall?

There is a fairly well-established industry which supplies finished products to handicraft emporia in the metropolitan cities. This industry is distributed over several locations in Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, and Manipur. Most of these emporia-type products are sold as curios which are far removed from any functional context. Perhaps this factor has contributed to the degeneration in the aesthetic and structural quality standards of these products. An excessive preoccupation with decorative detail which has no reference to material properties or traditional form is also responsible for this degeneration. It is painful to see such products being promoted by state corporations and government development agencies. Perhaps the best strategy would be to help local craftsmen to select the best

examples from among the vast range of traditional products and help them see afresh the strengths inherent in these products. Product diversification should be firmly rooted in the traditional wisdom expressed in these products if quality standards are to be maintained in the face of change caused by market pressure.

3.2.3. Oil industry

Northeast region comes under the oil resource mapping system; it is one of the richest and unexplored areas so far. The Assam oil-based regions are being harnessed since the colonial period and Digboi is one of the oldest oil refineries in India. There is other part of the regions which has potential and abundance stock of fossil fuel.

The oil refinery was focused during the second and third five-year plan, there were Guwahati and Bongaigaon refinery centers which were taken over by the two oil-producing companies like – Oil India Ltd and ONGC Ltd.

The history of Oil and Gas Industry in India dates back to 1889 when India's oil well was drilled near Digboi town of Assam. Assam is one of the leading producers of onshore crude oil and contributes over 24% of total onshore Crude production which is about 12.18% of total crude production in the country. Assam alone has oil reserved of about 1.6 billion tones.

3.2.4 Handloom industry

The handloom sector has a long tradition of excellent craftsmanship in India. It is also the country's second-largest employment generation sector next to agriculture. The weaving community consisted of a wide range of ethnic groups reflecting their caste and community identity in the weaving pattern, style, and motif. It has been a traditional occupation for women who produce clothes for family members. It is also a source of livelihood, especially in industrially backward States of the northeastern region (NE region) of India for a large section of rural women. Welfare schemes, financial assistance and health insurance of

weavers are some of the interventions for development of handlooms taken up by the government. The result of such interventions help the NE region occupy a remarkable place in the country in terms of number of handloom workers, number of handloom households and looms, yet the average working days are less as compared to other States. Owing to large domination of part-time weavers, the economic contribution from the weaving activity cannot be derived fully. Having said this, the region has tremendous potential in promoting handloom sector as a trademark of the ethnicity. There is no social stigma of a woman working as a weaver because culture demands that women know this occupation. In this mechanized and globalized market, the handloom sector is providing a refreshing change in unique manual skill and diversity. It can play a positive role in providing livelihood to a large section of women in the NE region

3.2.4. Handlooms for Livelihood in North-Eastern Region: Problems and Prospects

Table1: State-wise Distribution of Handloom Worker Households

State	Total Handloom distribution Worker Households ('000)	Per cent distribution	Total handloom weaver households ('000)	Per cent
Arunachal Pradesh	30	1.09	23	1.53
Assam	1,241	44.58	1096	72.7
Manipur	179	6.43	175	11.67
Meghalaya	11	0.41	10	0.71
Mizoram	39	1.42	38	2.58
Nagaland	61	2.19	42	2.82
Sikkim	1	0.02	0.53	0.03
Tripura	121	4.33	118	7.87

NE total	1683	60.47	1506	66.44
All India	2,783	100	2,268	100

Source: Handloom Census of India, 2010, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

Table 2: Distribution of Handloom Workers by Age

NER/India	Total workforce (lakh)	Less than 18 years (%)	Adult workers (18 years and above)(%)	Total
NE region	21.6	8.7	91.3	100
India	43.3	11.2	88.8	100

Source: Handloom Census of India, 2010, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

Table 3: Distribution of Adult Handloom Workers by Social Groups

NER/India	Scheduled Castes (%)	Scheduled Tribes (%)	Other Backward Castes (%)	Others
North-eastern region	7.2	34.3	33.9	24.6
India	10.1	18.1	45.2	26.6

Source: Handloom Census of India, 2010, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India.

Production, Employment and Income

The nature of handloom production, employment and economic contribution from handloom are examined to identify impediments to the growth of the sector. Majority of the handlooms in NE region could contribute less economically to the family income (19 per cent only) while it is 58 per cent in other States of India (Handloom Census 2010). The region has

to increase the average working days for getting higher income. While handloom workers in the region work on an average 140 days, other States in India work for 245 days in a year. The reason is that the NE region handloom sector is dominated by domestic production (62 per cent) and a large portion of domestic workers work mostly on a part-time basis. The other States of India are primarily engaged in commercial production of handlooms. The region also has highest proportion of idle looms in the country. As almost half (45.9 per cent) of weavers worked in domestic production and therefore, there is low productivity. Hence contribution from handlooms to household income remains marginal. However, the weavers support the family by supplying clothes which are used by family members for daily wear, festivals, and ceremonies. When compared to States which are primarily engaged in commercial production the region recorded low productivity. While half of the weavers in other States produce above two meters per day, only a few weavers in the region produce above two meters per day. Half of NE weavers generally produce one meter per day. The condition did not improve after two decades because the handloom census 1988 estimated productivity among the States where there were working looms and recorded that Assam had the highest number of working looms (12.9 lakh) but lowest productivity, Manipur fourth-largest looms (2.7 lakh); but both had productivity way below the average Indian production of 5.12 meter per loom per day (Handloom Census 1988). The low productivity of handlooms was on account of four factors- (1) nature of work pattern (2) technology (3) management and (4) market structure (Debi 1994). For the growth of handlooms sector the impediments have to be addressed with government support and mobilization of weavers to change their attitude towards more productivity. The Handloom Census 2010 reported that the average share of handloom income to the total household income in India is 30.2 per cent, but in NE region except Meghalaya, all the States show below the national average (see Figure 2). Where there is a dominance of commercial production the share of handloom income to the

total household income is 58.1 per cent. Since the economic contribution is less in NE region, the proportion of indebtedness (1.6 percent) is also low compared to states like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, and Karnataka. There is low penetration of mills and power looms, so there is less threat in NE region. With proper intervention in terms of market access and organization of weavers, the sector can be a source of livelihood for women who are either educated or uneducated. Besides this, handlooms being viewed as a cultural accomplishment, 30 per cent of handloom households in the region reported preferring their children to follow this traditional occupation.

Check your progress

3. What are the factors responsible for handloom low productivity in the region?

3.3. SUMMARY

- The utilization of bio-resources by tribes and other communities is based on indigenous and traditional knowledge that help in sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. The tribal farmers have been using hundred of locally adapted major and minor crops in the various agricultural systems that helped them to survive under risk and hard prone conditions. The yield and energy efficiency of different agricultural systems depends on the type of crops cultivated. As a large part of the region is hilly features settled by different tribal groups, shifting cultivation is the utmost customary which is the rudimentary life supportive subsistence intensive agriculture. Shifting cultivation is commonly practicing in hilly red soil and laterite soil region.
- Most tribes of the region run their civil affairs according to their community based customary law but the individual based land law of the country is superimposed on them. The Community ownership tradition has not remained unchanged but has been modified over time. Today land relations are being modified by immigration, encroachment and the changes that the modern legal system introduces in their tradition.

- The modern economic development in the North-eastern region became a priority with the increased interest shown by the East India Company on items like tea, oil, and coal available plenty in the region. The plantation revolution was not accompanied by any agricultural revolution within Assam to raise the agricultural productivity and marketable surplus. The local economy was not able to meet the needs of the rising immigrated workforce in the plantation sector.

3.4. KEY TERMS

Livelihood:	A source for maintaining one's own life
Shifting agriculture :	A popular agriculture practices among the hill tribes
Mono cropping:	The system of growing one specific crop in a particular plot of land.
Agro-forestry:	A combination of agriculture and forestry
Horticulture:	The art or practice of garden cultivation and management.
Crop diversification:	Growing several kinds of crops.

3.5. ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS YOUR PROGRESS

1. 20 major agricultural and horticultural crops and the native home of about 160 domesticated species of cultivated crops.
2. In general terrace land has the lowest efficiency among the different existing agricultural systems. In jhum system farmers grow several crops under mixed cultivation, therefore known as one of the rich agro-biodiversity systems
3. State Domestic Product (SDP)
4. Rice is a three-season crop, viz, autumn (*Ahu*), winter (*Sali*) and summer (*boro*) in Assam.

5. This slash-and-burn system of cultivation (Jhum practice) is a unique feature of the region, which covers nearly 2 million hectares area (one-fourth of the total cropped area).
6. Based on these physical features the agriculture practices of the region are of two types- (i) Shifting cultivation (Jhum), and (ii) Settled or plains agriculture
7. Assam leads the whole North-Eastern states by sharing 2755 thousand hectares and 67.6 per cent of food grains production. Tripura is the next largest state in area and production of food grains with a share of 258.5 thousand hectares and 10 per cent of the region's Products.
8. Today land relations are being modified by immigration, encroachment and the changes that the modern legal system introduces in their tradition.
9. The colonial regime needed to change the Indian economy and turn the colony into a supplier of capital and raw material and a captive market for its products. It required a monopoly over land for coal mines, coffee and tea plantations, roads, railways, and other schemes. New land laws were enacted to facilitate the process of land transfer to the profit of British plantation and mine owners
10. The Sixth Schedule that recognizes community ownership of land and forests is applicable to parts of Tripura, two districts of Assam and to the whole of Meghalaya.
11. In 1823. William Bentinck, the Governor-General of India, to appoint a twelve-member committee (Tea Committee) to examine the possibility of introducing tea cultivation in 1834.
12. The Assam Oil Company was formed in 1899 with its headquarters at Digboi.
13. The plantation revolution was not accompanied by any agricultural revolution within Assam to raise the agricultural productivity and marketable surplus. The local

economy was not able to meet the needs of the rising immigrated workforce in the plantation sector.

14. After independence, most of the tea industry was brought and came under the control of Indians by purchasing maximum shares at the stock exchange. They were not aware of tea plantation and lack of knowledge of the trade and a desire to make fast money from the business; they ignored the basic requirements of labour essential for plantation. They appointed unskilled labourers with low salaries and did not give adequate attention to improve the tea gardens.
15. It is scientifically proved that the friction created due to rubbing of bamboo stems when the wind blows has positive effect on ecology to cause sufficient rain, which corroborates the ancient belief.
16. The low productivity of handlooms was on account of four factors- (1) nature of work pattern (2) technology (3) management and (4) market structure

3.6. QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Discuss the growth and development of industry in northeast India.
2. What is horticulture? What is the significance of horticulture for NE region?
3. What are the factors responsible for the un-development of the industry in the NE region? Explain
4. Cite a suggestion for the proper development of industry in the NE region.

3.7 FURTHER READING

Data, B.B (ed). 1987. *Land Relation in Northeast India*. New Delhi. People Publishing House.

Majumdar, D.N (ed). 1990. *Shifting Cultivation in Northeast India*. Omson Publishing.

Data Ray, B and Baishya P (ed). 1986. Sociological Constraint to Industrial development in North-East India. New Delhi. Concept Publishing Co.

UNIT-IV ISSUES AND PROBLEMS PART II

Structure

4.0 Introduction

- **Measurement of Human Development**
- **Human Resource Development in Northeast India**
- **Issues and the problem of Human Resource Development in Northeast India**

4.1. Unit Objectives

4.2 Insurgency

- **Insurgency in Northeast India**
- **Causes of insurgency in Northeast India**
- **Recommendations to solve the Insurgency**

4.3 Look East Policy

- **Brief background of Look East Policy**
- **Policy initiatives in practice**
- **Economic consequences for the Northeast**
- **Act East Policy**

4.4. Summary

4.5. Key Terms

4.6. Answer to check your progress

4.7. Questions and Exercises

4.8. Further Readings

4.0. INTRODUCTION

The development and growth of a nation greatly depend upon proper utilization of its human resources. To utilize these resources, there is a need to convert human beings into human resources. Development of human resource is essential for any organization that would like to be dynamic and keep growth-oriented. Unlike other resources, Human Resource has rather unlimited potential capabilities. The potential of human resource can be created by identifying, nurturing and using the capabilities of people. Human Resource Development (HRD) was first introduced by Leonard Nadler in 1969 in a conference in U.S. He defined Human Resource Development as “those learning experience which is organized for a specific time and designed to bring about the possibility of behavioral change.” According to M.M Khan, “Human Resource Development is the across of increasing knowledge, capabilities and positive work attributes of all people working at all levels in a business undertaking.

Human Resource Development (HRD) includes such opportunities as training, employee’s career development, performance management and development, coaching, mentoring, succession, planning, tuition assistance, and organization development. HRD is the framework for helping employees develops their personal and organizational skills, knowledge and abilities.

4.1. UNIT OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- Define the ethnic identity and its related boundary disputes
- Explain the issues and problem of insurgency
- Discuss the significant of look east policy and its impact

4.2. INSURGENCY

The Northeast region of India comprising of Eight states- Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura, and Sikkim. North East India is a region poorly connected to the Indian mainland by a small corridor- Siliguri Corridor (also known as the Chicken Neck- with a narrow width of only 23 kilometers) North-Eastern India has been facing problems of insurgency for nearly 5 decades, but things are now settling down and peace has started to prevail.

What is Insurgency?

Insurgency is an armed insurrection or uprising against established civil authority, while the persons engaging themselves in insurgency are called the ‘insurgents’. The insurgency can be variously classified on the basis of their influence, organization, means of expression, ideology, and structure. While in some cases ideology emerges as the most determining factor for the establishment of the insurgent body, in many other cases the area of their actual operation(geographically) could also determine the nature of their demands and hence their identity. It is a well-known fact that in Northeast India all insurgent(or militant) groups are not necessarily Anti-Indian or as asking for a sovereign state, as some of them are products of ethnic conflicts and want to protect the rights and interest of their communities.

INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST INDIA

Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, and Tripura had been witnessing conflict since 1950-1960 periods, but since 1990, the intensity of conflicts started to decrease. Now the only state where prominent insurgency exists is Manipur. But in this region several armed factions operate. Some groups call for a separate state, others for regional autonomy while some extreme groups demand complete independence. Some of the insurgent groups in Northeast India are:

Nagaland- NSCN (IM), NSCN (K)

Manipur- Peoples Liberation Army, PREPAK

Assam- ULFA, NDFB, KLNLF, UPDS

Tripura- National Liberation Front of Tripura, All Tripura Tiger Force

Meghalaya- ANVC, HNLC

CAUSES OF INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST INDIA

The roots or causes of insurgency in Northeast India can be basically attributed to the social, economic and political scenario of the region. The causes can be broadly enumerated in the following way:

The Social Cause

1. The problem of poverty and exploitation of the vulnerable sections of society can be said to be one of the main causes of insurgency in the Northeast.
2. The youths tend to become insurgents because they have a feeling of being discriminated and treated as second class citizens.
3. The appalling gap between the rich and the poor, the privileged and unprivileged also gives rise to rebellious tendencies.
4. Cultural clash, with the intermingling of various cultures, also gives rise to a feeling of loss of identity, which in turn results in attempts at saving the culture in the name of insurgency.
5. In many cases, it has been seen that brutal force is used by the high and mighty to settle personal scores. On the other hand, the social system is so corrupt that the victim of such highhandedness cannot secure any redress. It is such frustrated individuals, who in utter depression ultimately take up guns.

The Economic cause

1. Northeast India is essentially economically backward in terms of infrastructure and industrialization; this means there is a limitation of employment opportunities. As a natural

corollary, the youths are swayed to commit unpardonable acts of rebellion, for they think that the best way to give vent to their indignation and frustration is to take up guns.

2. It can be contended that the youths in this vulnerable area do not have simple opportunities for their overall development. Hence to give meaning to their aspirations they have resorted to underground movements.

3. The growing inequality in the society due to uneven development and the monopolization of all privileges and facilities by a small group of Neo Rich is another important cause of social tension which provokes the marginalized and the exploited to revolt against the existing social order.

The Political Cause

1. It has often been noticed that power turns the heads of the political upstarts and they go to any extent to use their power. When the life of the victims is of blatant abuse of poor become meaningless and they find no difference between life and death, they resort to insurgent activities in the false hope that in this way they can attain a glorious end.

2. The concept of 'son of the soil' is likely to have led to some sort of a regional arrogance, which might have culminated in the form of insurgent activities in the region.

3. Patronage from some political parties and leaders has also led to insurgent acts in the region.

Other causes

- Historical reasons – loosely administered under British India.
- Tensions between these states and the central government.
- The tension between the tribal/indigenous people of the state and migrant people from other parts of India.
- Geographical reasons- not well connected with the present Indian mainland.
- Developmental reasons- poorly developed due to lack of fund from center/ states.

- Environmental reasons.
- Military reasons- AFSPA(Armed Forces Special Power Act)
- Foreign policy- Look East Policy and market changes.
- External support- China and Myanmar.

In conclusion, it may be said that ‘Insurgency’ is undoubtedly the ugliest face of dissent. This phenomenon should be condemned universally and unequivocally. However, unless corrective measures are evolved by the government to wean away the path of violence by providing the youths with enough educational facilities and employment avenues, and the feeling of discrimination and deprivation is removed by accelerating economic growth, there is always the danger of spurt in insurgent activities in the Northeast and in the whole country.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOLVE NORTHEAST INDIA PROBLEMS

- Insurgency: Thorough background check of all insurgents group should be carried out before the central government enters into any ceasefire or suspension of operations agreements with the insurgents.
- Political
 1. Political solutions to the Assam problem should be discussed openly as widely as possible to avoid backlash from the tribal and the minority population of the state.
 2. A system of work permit should be issued so that the illegal Bangladeshi migrants do not end up as Indian citizens.
 3. The Autonomous District Councils should be empowered.
 4. Governance should be improved in a step by step manner. Strict supervision by senior officials should be initiated to improve the delivery system of the government.
- Development

1. The Ministry of the Development of the North East Region (DoNER) be merged with the North East Council(NEC) for better strategic planning and coordination of various developmental projects in the region.
2. The focus of the Ministry of DoNER and NEC should be on investment in mega-projects which will make big difference to the development of the region.
3. Institutional capacities in the Northeast should be developed urgently.
4. Pragmatic land use policy should be formulated for attracting industries in the region. Micro, small and medium enterprises should be encouraged.
5. Local tourism should be promoted. Medical and higher education tourism should be encouraged to travel within the region.
6. The Northeast should become a single economic unit without disturbing the political boundaries of the states. No internal traffic barriers in the region. There should be plans for northeast focusing on the development of infrastructure.

- **Look East Policy**

1. Greater awareness about the Look East Policy and its benefits to the Northeast should be generated among the policymakers and the intelligentsia of the region.
2. The Northeast region must be included in the India-ASEAN strategic cooperation.
3. Integrated and bottom-up approaches are required for integration of the northeast in the Look East Policy. The northeast should formulate plans as to how it can engage with the ASEAN. Better coordination of efforts by all the northeastern states should be ensured.

4. Visa offices of Bangladesh and Myanmar should be located in the northeast.
5. Center/ Departments for the studies of neighboring countries like Myanmar, Bangladesh, Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal in universities should be set up in universities to understand India's neighbors better.

- **Border issues**

1. Special economic zones along the India-Bangladesh border, especially in Meghalaya and Assam should be set up.
2. States should focus more on the development and security of the border areas.
3. Sentiments of the people of Arunachal Pradesh should be taken into consideration by the central government while discussing the frameworks for resolution of the border dispute with China.
4. Matching infrastructure and military capability should be built to ensure peace and enable negotiations from a position of strength.

Check your progress

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss the social consequences of insurgency in northeast India (two points). |
|--|

4.3. LOOK EAST POLICY

The Look East Policy is a proposal initiated by the central government to address Northeast's long-standing covets for development. Introduced in the early nineties this policy was indented to direct a major portion of the Northeast's economic and commercial activities towards its eastern international neighbors. It was believed that this policy will bring the Northeast India tremendous possibility of engagement in various sectors with both the thriving as well as the emerging economies of South and Southeast Asia. The Look East Policy introduced by the Government of India was basically a strategy to change its foreign

policy in accordance with the changed world business scenario. This policy had its genesis at the end of cold war following the collapse of Soviet Union. It is an attempt to integrate India with her neighboring eastern economies. Even when India's approach to development was inward-looking and state-controlled some smaller countries to its east had emerged as strong economies and came to be known as the 'Asian Tigers'. The performance of these economies finally compelled policymakers in India to look eastward for inspiration for rapid economic development. The implementation of this policy will certainly impact upon the economy of the northeast. The Northeastern region of India is a geographically isolated area which is linked to the rest of the country through a 'chicken neck' at Siliguri in West Bengal. For better part of the post-independence period the region had a peripheral existence in the Indian economy. With the initiation of the Look East Policy this region has become a focal point. It is expected that the successful implementation of this policy will bring certain economic benefits to the Northeastern region.

BRIEF BACKGROUND OF LOOK EAST POLICY

After Independence, India was attracted to the tremendous development achieved by western countries. It had been recognized that the noteworthy factor behind the rapid economic development of these countries was the process of industrialization. India was inspired by the concept of economic planning which particularly prevailed in the economy of the erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Accordingly, India initiated five-year plans from 1951 onwards and the prime aim of which was rapid economic growth of the country through industrialization. One of the main objectives of planning was to attain self-reliance which is possible only when a country is able to produce everything domestically. Two types of trade strategies were sought to be promoted towards this end strategy: Import Substitution and Export Promotion. Strategies of Import substitution were generally designed

to produce those commodities, which were previously imported from foreign countries, domestically. This trade strategy had two major objectives:

- a) To save valuable foreign exchange due to the import of desired commodities.
- b) To achieve self-sufficiency in the production of as many imported items as possible.

On the other hand, Export promotion strategies were conceived to expedite the export sector. But due to export pessimism Indian policymakers decided to go for import substitution rather than export promotion. These trade policies were unable to bring any significant contribution to the economic growth of India. It is well known that in the 1980s, problems such as a growing fiscal deficit, inflationary pressure and balance of payments crises became severe. As result policymakers felt the need to change the development strategy. In this context the Indian government introduced economic reform measures in 1991. These reform measures were both internal and external in nature. Through internal reforms the Indian economy was liberalized from excessive state control and a market-oriented approach was adopted. On the other hand external reforms paved the way for opening up the Indian economy to the global market. Thus greater integration of India with the rest of the world economies was ensured through globalization. As part of the policy of globalization, the policy of looking towards the countries in the east was encouraged. The economic prosperity achieved by countries like Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia attracted India's interest. The spectacular growth of China's trade and liberalization policy since 1980s injected an intense desire to develop the Indian economy. Expanded and stronger trade relationships with the eastern countries were thought to be beneficial by the Indian Government in this regard. As a result policy such as Look East Policy assumed importance.

India and ASEAN

- With the exception of the European Union, ASEAN is the most successful example of economic cooperation at regional level. It was established in 1967 by 5 countries of this region under the treaty of Bangkok, signed by Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore on 8 August 1967. At present there are 10 members in ASEAN.
- The improvement in relations between India and ASEAN are the core element of India's Look East Policy.
- In the past decade, both have expanded the areas of cooperation in such fields as trade, investment, security, culture, tourism, and science and technology.

Indian –ASEAN FTA-

1. India has signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN on 13th August 2009, in Bangkok to boost the trade between the two. It came in to force on 1st January 2010.
2. The FTA covers the trade in goods only. This is considered a milestone in the bilateral relations of two.

POLICY INITIATIVES IN PRACTICE

To enhance economic cooperation with the eastern economies, the Government of India is trying to establish closer economic ties through increased trade relations. Accordingly, certain proposals have been made to form regional blocks so that preferred and free trade can be initiated with these countries.

1. BIMSTEC

As an endeavor to forge regional economic cooperation, a sub-regional grouping BISTEC was established on June 6,1997, in Bangkok among the countries along the Bay of Bengal – Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation. Myanmar was an observer but joined this organization as a full member at a special ministerial meeting held

in Bangkok on December 22, 1997 upon which the name of the organization was changed to BIMSTEC. In 2003 Bhutan and Nepal joined this group. This association seeks to increase economic cooperation between member countries in certain important areas such as trade, Investment, fisheries, agriculture, transportation, and human resource development. Its first summit was held on July 31, 2004 in which the grouping was renamed the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. It was expected that the two Southeast Asian nations- Thailand and Myanmar would provide necessary linkages to other member nations to increase economic cooperation to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the East Asian countries. Effective implementation of India's Look East Policy depends upon closer relationship between the Northeast and Myanmar since geographically this region and Myanmar share a common international border.

2. KUNMING INITIATIVE

Another effort to enhance regional cooperation with the eastern countries was the Kunming Initiative. A conference on Regional Cooperation and Development between Bangladesh, China, India, and Myanmar (BCIM) was held on August 17, 1999 in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province in the southwest of China. An agreement for improving communication links among these countries called the Kunming Initiative was signed. The main thrust of the agreement was to request the concerned governments to develop adequate road, rail, waterway, and air communication facilities between the southwestern region of China and the northeastern region of India. An attempt had also been made to revive the ancient southern silk route between Assam and Yunnan. As the northeastern region is located at the eastern corner of India it can become the gateway of the country to the east expediting international trade between India and rest of the developing economies.

3. The Mekong -Ganga Cooperation project.

This project is another significant attempt to increase regional cooperation among India and the Southeast Asian nations. The project was approved between India and 5 Southeast Asian nations, namely Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar on November 10, 2000, in Vientiane, the capital of Laos. The main aim of this project was to develop overland trade, tourism, communication and transport linkages including the East-West Corridor project and the Trans-Asian highway.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR THE NORTHEAST

The following observation could be considered potential benefits that Northeast could derive from the implementation of India's Look East Policy.

- There is a considerable scope of improving trade in certain local products such as tea, spices, handloom, bamboo and cane handicrafts. Improvement of quality is the necessary condition for these products to capture the foreign market and derive benefit from enhancing trade activities.
- Illegal trade along the border has resulted in huge loss of revenue for the Government of India as well as for the state government of the northeast. The Look East Policy will help in legalizing informal trade along the border and encourage the trading partners to expand their business. In addition, legalization will also enable the concerned government to earn revenue through collection of duties on imports and exports.
- There are immense possibilities for the northeast to enjoy the spin-off effects from trade by developing certain service sectors like hospitality, transport, and communication, storage, banking, and insurance.
- There is ample scope for entrepreneurial development among the local people of the region which in turn will create a favorable environment for the establishment of

hotels, restaurants along transportation routes. To meet the increased demand for food items, the establishment of animal husbandry and fishery farms will be accelerated.

- A favorable impact may be expected from India's Look East Policy on the existing unemployment problem in the northeast. Unemployed people will find profitable jobs in the above ventures that will help in solving to a certain extent the acute unemployment problem faced by the region.

ACT EAST POLICY

Look East Policy of India was launched by the former Prime Minister of India P.V Narasimha Rao in 1991. The main focus of this policy was to shift the country's trading focus from the west and neighbors to the booming South East Asian countries. This policy continues until the formation of NDA government in 2014. Since the formation of the new government in the center, the government upgraded to "Act East Policy". The "Act East Policy" was launched at the East Asia Summit in Myanmar in November 2014.

The main difference between "Look East Policy" and "Act East Policy" is that the focus of the "Look East Policy" was to increase economic integration with the South East Asian countries and the area was just confined to South East Asia only. On the other hand the focus of the "Act East Policy" is economic and security integration and focused area increased to South East Asia and East Asia.

The Objective of "Act East Policy" is to;

- a. Promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop a strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at regional, bilateral and multilateral levels.
- b. To increase the interaction of the North-Eastern Indian states with other neighboring countries.

- c. To find out the alternatives of the traditional business partners like; more focus on the Pacific countries in addition to the South East Asian countries.
- d. To curb the increasing impact of China in the ASEAN region. Two-way trade between India and ASEAN moved up to \$71.6 billion in 2016-17 from \$2 billion in the early 90s. In contrast, two –way trade between China and ASEAN stood at \$452.31 billion in 2016.
- e. Experts say that under the “Act East Policy” the government is relying on the 3C’s (Culture, Connectivity, and Commerce) to develop better relations with ASEAN nations.

In order to harness the benefit of the “Act East Policy”, India has upgraded its relations to strategic partnership with Japan, Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN), Republic of Korea (ROK) and forged close ties with all countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further, apart from ASEAN, ASEAN Regional Forum(ARF) and East Asia Summit (EAS), India has also been actively engaged in regional forum such as Indian Ocean Rim Association(IORA), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation(BIMSTEC), Asia Cooperation Dialogue(ACD) and Mekong Ganga Cooperation(MGC).

4.4. SUMMARY

In this unit, you have learned:

- Human Resource Development was first introduced by Leonard Nadler in 1969.
- He defined Human Resource Development as “those learning experience which is organized for a specific time and designed to bring about the possibility of behavioral change.

- Human Development Index(HDI) is a composite index of 3 basic components of human development, viz, longevity, knowledge, and standard of living.
- The term migration refers to movement of people from one region to another region when people leave their place of residence and permanently inhabited area and move to another region for occupation, education, environmental conditions, poverty, etc.
- The illegal migrant is a person who crosses an international boundary without any valid document, enters into another country for the purpose of carrying on any illegal or anti-social activities.
- Social consequences of illegal migration like the crisis of identity, environmental degradation, difficulty to identify the illegal migrants.
- Economic consequences like increasing financial burden, displacing native workers, etc
- Political consequences like Anti-Government agitation, illegal voters, issue of terrorism, etc
- Cross border infiltration is an illegal attempt of crossing the international border and entering into a neighboring country in order to carry out criminal activities, to disrupt socio-political order and harmony of the nation.
- Problems of Border infiltration like Illegal immigration, cattle and other smuggling, etc
- Ethnic identity refers to a person's social identity within a larger context based on membership in a cultural or social group.
- Ethnic identity is formed by both tangible and intangible characteristics
- Insurgency is an armed insurrection or uprising against an established civil authority while the persons engaging themselves in the insurgency are called the insurgents.
- Look East Policy is a proposal initiated by the central government to address Northeast's long-standing covets for development. Introduced in the early nineties this

policy was intended to direct a major portion of the Northeast's economic and commercial activities towards its eastern International Neighbors.

- Policy initiatives in practice like BIMSTEC, Kunming Initiative, and the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation project.
- The “Act East Policy” was launched at the East Asia Summit in Myanmar in November 2014. And the main focus of this policy is economic security integration and focused area increased to South East Asia and East Asia.

Check your progress

2. What is Look East Policy for Northeastern region of India?
3. What is the difference between the Look East and Act East Policy?

4.5. KEY TERMS

Human Resource Development: Human Resource Development as “those learning experience which is organized for a specific time and designed to bring about the possibility of behavioral change

Illegal Migrants: an illegal migrant is a person who crosses an international boundary and without any valid document, enters into another country for the purpose of carrying on any illegal or anti-social activities in that country or for other economic or political purposes.

Infiltration: infiltration is an illegal attempt of crossing the international border and entering into a neighboring country in order to carry out criminal activities, to disrupt socio-political order and harmony of the nation.

Ethnic: Ethnic identity refers to a person's social identity within a larger context based on membership in a cultural or social group

Insurgency: Insurgency is an armed insurrection or uprising against established civil authority, while the persons engaging themselves in insurgency are called the ‘insurgents’

Policy: Policy is a proposal initiated by the central government to address long-standing covets for development.

4.6. ANSWER TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1	A composite measure of economic progress and human welfare and intended to be a better substitute to per capita income that could neither capture nor exhibit exact level of development of human beings nor that of nations.
2.	The term migration is originated from the Latin word „ <i>migrare</i> “ which means to change residence. Migration is the movement of people from one region to another region. CONSEQUENCES; Crisis Of Identity, Environmental Degradation, Economic consequences, Political consequences.
3.	The term ethnic and ethnicity have their roots in the Greek word ‘_ethnos’, which describes a community of common descent. Ethnic identity refers to a person’s social identity within a larger context based on membership in a cultural or social group.
4.	Border Dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh since state formation
5.	The problem of poverty and exploitation of the vulnerable sections of society can be said to be one of the main causes of insurgency in the Northeast. 2. The youths tend to become insurgents because they have a feeling of being discriminated and treated as second class citizens.
6.	Look East Policy is a proposal initiated by the central government to address Northeast’s long-standing covets for development. Introduced in the early nineties this policy was intended to direct a major portion of the Northeast’s economic and commercial activities towards its eastern International Neighbors.

7.	The —Act East Policy was launched at the East Asia Summit in Myanmar in November 2014. And the main focus of this policy is economic security integration and focused area increased to South East Asia and East Asia.
----	--

5.7. QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Discuss the pattern of agriculture practices between hill and plain population?
2. What is shifting cultivation? Discuss the problem and its solution.
3. Discuss the system of land relation of Arunachal Pradesh.
4. Discuss the historical development of industrialization in Northeast region.
5. Discuss the types of industry found in Northeast region.
6. Discuss the problem and prospect of industrial growth in northeast region.

5.8. FURTHER READINGS

Borthakur, B.N .2018. *Readings on India's North East*. Guwahati.DVS Publisher.

Barbora, Sanjay. 2002. Ethnics politics and land use: genesis of conflicts in India's Northeast. *Economic and political weekly*, 3 (13).

Data, P.S (ed). 1995. *Northeast and Indian State: Paradoxes of a Periphery*. New Delhi Vikash House.

Hazarika, Sanjay. 1995. *Stranger of the Mist: Tales of war and peace from India'sNortheast*, New Delhi. Penguin.

Mackenzie, Alexander. 2001. *The northeast frontiers of India*. Delhi. Mittal Publication.



INSTITUTE
OF DISTANCE
EDUCATION **IDE**
Rajiv Gandhi University

Institute of Distance Education

Rajiv Gandhi University

A Central University

Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh

Contact us:



+91-98638 68890



Ide Rgu



Ide Rgu



helpdesk.ide@rgu.ac.in



**INSTITUTE
OF DISTANCE
EDUCATION** **IDE**
Rajiv Gandhi University

Institute of Distance Education Rajiv Gandhi University

A Central University

Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh

Contact us:

 +91-98638 68890

 Ide Rgu

 Ide Rgu

 helpdesk.ide@rgu.ac.in