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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	FINANCE COMMISSION OF INDIA
2.	NORTH EAST INDIA – INSURGENCY AND OTHER ISSUES
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

FINANCE COMMISSION OF INDIA

SOURCE: [THE HINDU](#)


WHY IN NEWS?

- **Union Cabinet Approves Terms of Reference for the Sixteenth Finance Commission:**
 - ✓ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the terms of reference (ToR) of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
 - ✓ This commission is tasked with suggesting the formula for sharing revenues between the Central government and the States for the upcoming five-year period beginning on April 1, 2026.

Fresh formulation

The 16th Finance Commission will have time until Oct. 31 2025, to recommend the tax sharing math between Centre and States

- Panel will also prescribe measures to augment Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement resources of panchayats, local bodies



- An Advance Cell was set up in the Finance Ministry last November to oversee preliminary work

- Panel may review existing arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives

- **Submission Deadline and Key Recommendations:**
 - ✓ The government has set a deadline of October 31, 2025, for the commission to submit its recommendations.
 - ✓ The primary focus includes the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and States, as well as the allocation among States of their respective share of such proceeds.

FINANCE COMMISSION OF INDIA:

- **Introduction:**
 - ✓ The Finance Commission of India, operating under the provisions of Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, serves as a constitutional body with over 50 years of existence.
 - ✓ Established as a quasi-judicial body, its primary function is to determine methods and formulas for the equitable distribution of tax proceeds between the Central government and the states.
- **Historical Background of the Finance Commission:**
 - ✓ The Finance Commission's origins trace back to its establishment in 1951 by Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the then law minister, addressing fiscal imbalances between the Centre and States.
 - ✓ The Constitution of India, through various articles like 268, 269, 270, 275, 282, and 293, provided provisions for resource-sharing mechanisms.
- **Roles and Responsibilities of the Finance Commission:**
 - ✓ The Commission plays a pivotal role in determining the allocation of tax revenues among states, ensuring compliance with the constitutional framework and meeting current requirements.
 - ✓ Additionally, it is responsible for defining taxes and grants allocated to local bodies within states, essential for their effective functioning.





FUNCTIONS OF FINANCE COMMISSION:

- **Distribution of Tax Proceeds:**
 - ✓ The Finance Commission is tasked with recommending the **fair distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the states**, as well as determining the **inter-state distribution of these proceeds**.
- **Principles Governing Grants-in-Aid:**
 - ✓ The Commission **formulates and recommends principles that govern grants-in-aid to states and Union Territories from the Consolidated Fund of India**.
 - ✓ This ensures a systematic and **equitable allocation of financial resources**.
- **Measures for Augmenting State Consolidated Funds:**
 - ✓ To **facilitate the functioning of panchayats and local bodies within a state**, the Finance Commission suggests measures to augment the consolidated fund of a state.
 - ✓ These recommendations are **based on inputs from state finance commissions**, aligning with the **specific needs of each state**.
- **Presidential Mandate and Reporting:**
 - ✓ **Under Article 281 of the Constitution**, the **President of India** is mandated to **present the Finance Commission's report to each House of Parliament**.
 - ✓ This report includes a **comprehensive note explaining the government's actions** based on the Commission's recommendations.

COMPOSITION OF THE FINANCE COMMISSION:

- **Composition:**
 - ✓ The Finance Commission **consists of five members**, including **one Chairman and four other members**.
 - ✓ The **President of India appoints all members**, and their terms are determined by the President, with the possibility of reappointment as needed.
- **Appointment and Qualification Determination:**
 - ✓ The **Parliament is responsible for determining the qualifications** and the manner of appointment for the Finance Commission's members, as outlined in the Indian Constitution.
 - ✓ The **Chairman and members must meet specific qualifications**, ensuring a diverse and knowledgeable composition.
- **Qualifications for Four Members:**

The four members of the Commission are chosen from a pool with diverse expertise:

 - ✓ A **high court judge** or an individual qualified for such a position.
 - ✓ An **expert in finance** and government accounts.
 - ✓ Someone with **varied experience in financial and administrative matters**.
 - ✓ An **individual with special knowledge of economics** and related studies.
- **Grounds for Disqualification:**

A member may face disqualification if:

 - ✓ They are **mentally unsound**.
 - ✓ They are an **undischarged insolvent**.
 - ✓ They have been **convicted of an immoral offense**.
 - ✓ Their financial and other interests **hinder the smooth functioning of the commission**.

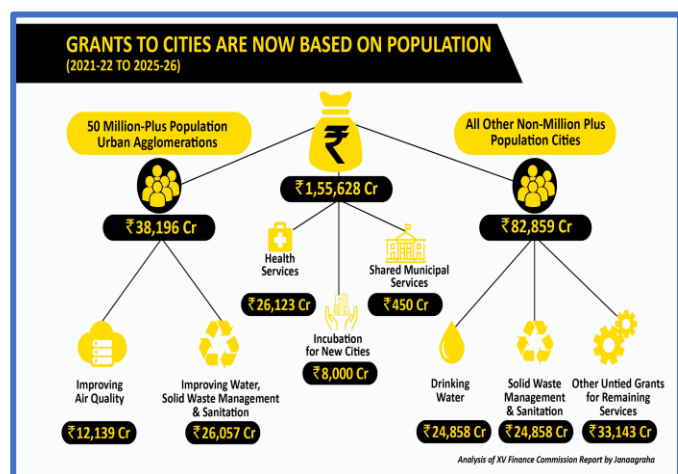
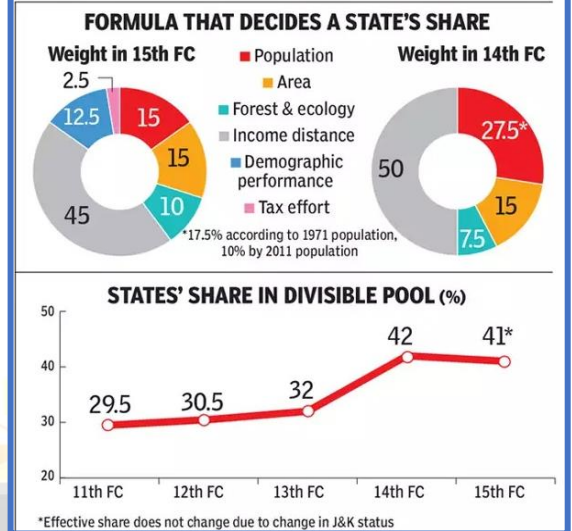
15TH FINANCE COMMISSION & ITS RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Overview:**
 - ✓ The 15th Finance Commission, **chaired by Mr. N. K. Singh**, is a constitutional body formed by the President of India.



- ✓ **Two reports were submitted**, with recommendations for the **financial year 2020-21** and the **period 2021-26**.
- **Share of States in Central Taxes:**
 - ✓ The recommended **share of states** in central taxes for **2021-26** is **41%**, a **slight decrease** from the **42% suggested by the 14th Finance Commission** for 2015-20.
 - ✓ The adjustment accounts for the **creation of the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.
- **Criteria for Devolution:**
 - ✓ The criteria for the **distribution of central taxes** among states include **income distance, area, population, demographic performance, forest cover, and tax and fiscal efforts**.
 - ✓ The 15th Finance Commission maintained the **criteria for 2021-26**, with adjustments in the reference periods.
- **Grants:**
 - ✓ **Over the 2021-26 period**, grants from the center include **revenue deficit grants, sector-specific grants, state-specific grants, and grants to local bodies**.
 - ✓ Performance-linked grants for health, education, agriculture, and other sectors are emphasized.
- **Fiscal Roadmap:**
 - ✓ The Commission recommends a **fiscal deficit target of 4% of GDP** for the centre by 2025-26.
 - ✓ For states, fiscal deficit limits are suggested as **4% in 2021-22, 3.5% in 2022-23, and 3% during 2023-26**.
 - ✓ States undertaking power sector reforms are allowed extra **annual borrowing of 0.5% of GSDP**.
- **Disaster Risk Management:**
 - ✓ The Commission suggests retaining **existing cost-sharing patterns between the center and states for disaster management funds**.
 - ✓ State disaster management funds will **have a corpus of Rs 1.6 lakh crore**, with defined sharing ratios.
- **Financial Management Practices:**
 - ✓ Recommendations include **strengthening income and asset-based taxation**, addressing issues in GST, and developing a comprehensive **framework for public financial management**.
 - ✓ The Commission proposes the establishment of an independent Fiscal Council.
- **Other Recommendations:**
 - ✓ Emphasis on **increasing health spending, restructuring CSS, and creating a Modernisation Fund for Defence and Internal Security**.

HOW THE BOOTY IS DIVIDED

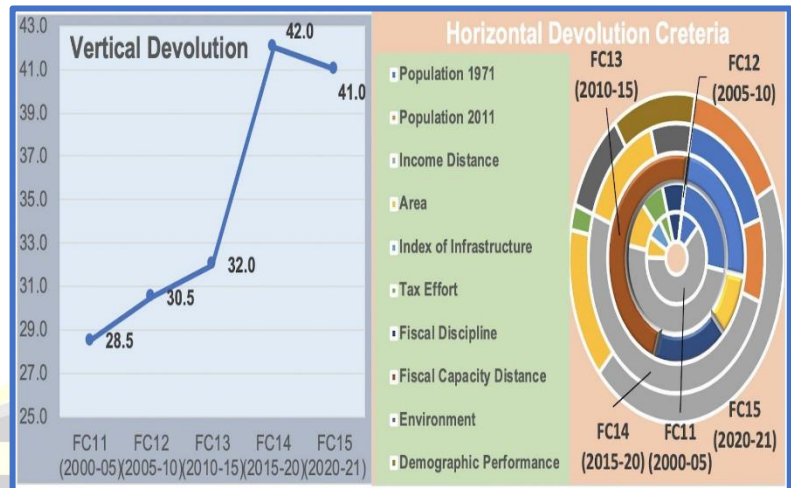




- ✓ Suggestions for **improving fiscal responsibility legislation**, adopting standard-based accounting, and streamlining property valuation.
- **State-wise Details of Grants:**
 - ✓ A breakdown of **grants for individual states**, including revenue deficit grants, grants to local bodies, disaster management, and sector-specific grants.
 - ✓ Focus on **health grants, rural and urban local bodies, and specific sectors.**

CHALLENGES FOR 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION:

- **Global Macroeconomic Uncertainty and Policy Considerations:**
 - ✓ Reflection on observations from previous commissions regarding **macroeconomic uncertainty's impact on fiscal assessments.**
 - ✓ 15th FC recognition of the **complications in fiscal management due to the pandemic**, emphasizing the **need for a fiscal stimulus and a credible exit plan.**
 - ✓ Past instances of relaxing fiscal deficit targets during the global financial crisis and the FC-XIII's formulation of a fiscal consolidation strategy.
- **Normalization of the Base year:**
 - ✓ Advocating for a **normalized base year for projections**, considering global macroeconomic uncertainties, **fiscal shocks from COVID, and emerging scenarios' impact.**
 - ✓ Suggestion **not to specify a base year in the Terms of Reference**, allowing **flexibility for the 16th FC.**
- **Policy Changes and Comparability of Data:**
 - ✓ Highlighting **important policy changes during COVID** and the **need for comparable data** across states and time.
 - ✓ Adjustments required for **revenue side data, including GST compensation** and COVID fiscal stimulus.
- **Assumption about Growth:**
 - ✓ Stressing the **importance of a realistic growth assumption** for predictable resource availability.
 - ✓ **Proposing a mechanism to estimate growth for 2026-27 to 2030-31**, considering economic uncertainty and fiscal prudence.
- **Framework for Fiscal Sustainability:**
 - ✓ Addressing the **rise in public debt, the need for fiscal restructuring, and a conditional mechanism** for reducing revenue deficit.
 - ✓ Emphasizing the **importance of a credible and implementable fiscal restructuring plan** considering the post-COVID fiscal landscape.
- **Welfare Schemes Vs Freebies:**
 - ✓ **Arguing against mandating the Finance Commission** to suggest what states should do regarding redistributive fiscal interventions.
 - ✓ **Acknowledging the need for the right balance and mix of transfers and subsidies** in a multilevel government system.
- **Off-Budget Borrowing and Fiscal Responsibility:**





- ✓ Cautioning against **merging budget and off-budget borrowing** without revising deficit targets appropriately.
- ✓ Advocating for a **symmetric treatment of off-budget** operations for the Union and States.
- **Restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes:**
 - ✓ Recognizing the **progress in reducing the number of centrally sponsored schemes**.
 - ✓ Highlighting the **complexity of managing CSS** and suggesting greater state involvement in design, flexibility, and implementation.
 - ✓ **Proposing an expenditure council with symmetric power for Union and States** in the management of CSS.

WAY FORWARD:

- **A Forward Path:**
 - ✓ **Advocating for strict fiscal deficit limits for states**, incentivizing compliance with fiscal performance criteria.
 - ✓ **Balancing stringent guidelines** with simplicity and practicality in implementation.
 - ✓ Recommending **guidelines for the imposition of cesses and surcharges**, including a formula for capping the amount raised.
 - ✓ **Proposing the establishment of a loan council**, following the **Twelfth Finance Commission's recommendation**, to oversee **central and state government loan magnitudes** and profiles.

Areas to be covered are given below:

- **Cess and Surcharges:**
 - ✓ The **decline in States' effective share** in the Center's **gross tax revenues (GTR)**, attributed to a rise in **non-shareable cesses** and surcharges, requires attention.
- **Horizontal Distribution:**
 - ✓ Addressing historical challenges in **determining a state's deficit due to fiscal capacity or irresponsibility**.
 - ✓ **Recognizing criticisms of horizontal distribution formulas** and ensuring **equitable compensation** without deepening the divide between rich and poor states.
- **Per Capita Income Criteria:**
 - ✓ Considering **per capita income as a determinant for a state's share** in divisible pool taxes.
 - ✓ Weighing the **need for a lower criterion weight**, as desired by **richer states**, against the **contribution of lower-income states** to India's future '**demographic dividend**.'
- **Freebies:**
 - ✓ Emphasizing the 16th Finance Commission's role in **setting stringent guidelines for state spending on freebies**, aligning with **long-term fiscal sustainability**.
- **Equalisation Principle:**
 - ✓ Prioritizing equal **provision of education and health services** in resource transfers.
 - ✓ Guiding resource allocation based on criteria such as **population, area, and distance**, emphasizing the **equalization principle**.



NORTH EAST INDIA – INSURGENCY AND OTHER ISSUES

SOURCE: [INDIAN EXPRESS](#) , [PIB](#)

WHY IN NEWS?

- **Historic Peace Agreement between Government of India, Manipur, and UNLF:**
 - ✓ *New Delhi, 29th November 2023 - In a landmark development, the Governments of India and Manipur have successfully concluded a Peace Agreement with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the oldest valley-based armed group in Manipur.*
 - ✓ *The UNLF, established in 1964, has operated both within and outside Indian Territory.*
 - ✓ *This agreement is poised to catalyze a new era of peace in the Northeast, particularly in Manipur.*

WHAT IS UNLF

- The United National Liberation Front or UNLF, an extremist group operating in Manipur, was formed on November 24, 1964
- It is the oldest imphal valley-based armed group in the northeastern state
- Its objective was the secession of Manipur from India for the formation of an independent socialist Manipur
- Its founder was Arambam Samarendra. He was killed on June 10, 2000 by KYKL, a breakaway faction of UNLF
- The first council comprised Khalang Kamei (a Naga) as president, Thangkhopao Singait (a Kuki) as vice-president, Arambam Samarendra (a Meitei) as its general secretary

Breakaway factions

- Revolutionary Government of Manipur formed in 1968 by Oinam Sudhir Kumar
- Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup (KYKL), another proscribed outfit, formed in 1994 by N Oken
- The UNLF launched its armed struggle in 1990 with the formation of its armed wing, Manipur People's Army (MPA)

Major incidents carried out by UNLF

- November 23, 2009 | 5 Assam Rifles personnel, including two officers, were killed in an ambush at Old Somtal area in Chandel district
- February 25, 2007 | 16 security personnel were killed in an ambush at Kholrok Lamkai
- October 9, 2005 | 5 soldiers were killed at Zoupi in Chandel district
- November 20, 2002 | 7 CRPF men were killed at Jivan Nagar in Bishmupur district
- November 21, 2000 | 5 security personnel were killed at Jiribam in Imphal East district
- February 15, 1999 | 9 security personnel were killed in Churachandpur district

Overview of UNLF (United National Liberation Front):

- **Formation and Leadership:**
 - ✓ **Founded on November 24, 1964**, UNLF is the **oldest valley-based insurgent group in Manipur.**
 - ✓ **Arembam Samarendra Singh**, serving as the general secretary, led the **group during its formation.**
 - ✓ Notably, two **central committee leaders, Khalalung Kamei and Thangkhopao Singait**, represented a **Naga and a Kuki**, respectively.
- **Objective of Secession:**
 - ✓ UNLF was established with the **primary demand for secession from India.**
 - ✓ The group reportedly received **initial training from NSCN (IM)**, the **largest Naga insurgent group.**
 - ✓ Its armed wing, the **Manipur People's Army**, was **officially formed in 1990.**
 - ✓ Over the years, UNLF, through its armed wing, conducted **multiple attacks targeting Indian security personnel.**
- **Two Factions and Strength:**
 - ✓ Presently, UNLF has two factions operating independently.
 - ✓ Government estimates suggest a combined cadre **strength of 400-500 members.**

Others Insurgency group of North-East:

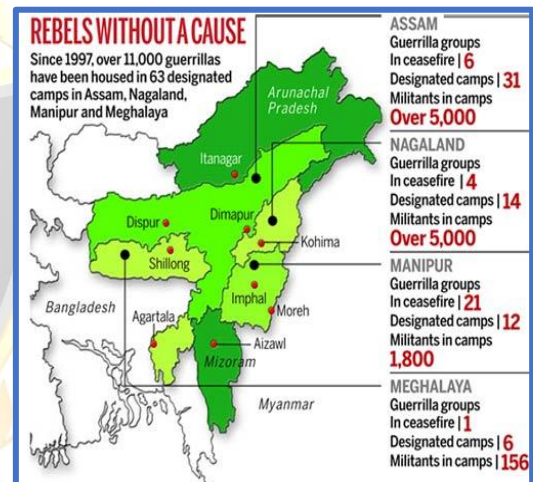
State	Organizations
<i>Assam</i>	United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Kamtapur Liberation Organization (KLO)
<i>Manipur</i>	People's Liberation Army (PLA), Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), United National Liberation Front (UNLF), Manipur People's Army (MPA), Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL), Coordination Committee [Cor-Com], Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK), Manipur People's Liberation Front (MPLF)
<i>Meghalaya</i>	Hynniewtre National Liberation Council (HNLC), Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA)
<i>Tripura</i>	All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)
<i>Nagaland</i>	The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) [NSCN/K]



- **Area of Operation:**
 - ✓ UNLF's operational scope covers all the **valley areas of Manipur**, along with **some villages in the Kuki-Zomi hill districts**.
- **Proscribed Status:**
 - ✓ UNLF is categorized as a proscribed group and is **banned under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act**.
- **International Operation Base:**
 - ✓ Historically, UNLF has **operated from camps and training bases located in Myanmar's Sagaing Region**, Chin state, and Rakhine state.
 - ✓ It has **received patronage from the Myanmar military**.
- **Current Challenges:**
 - ✓ Despite its historical operations in Myanmar, UNLF is facing challenges there due to mounting attacks against the **Myanmar military by Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and People's Defence Forces (PDFs)**.

UNLF PEACE AGREEMENT: UNPRECEDENTED MOVE AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **Historical Context:**
 - ✓ **Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs)** historically **avoided peace agreements with the Central government**.
- **Previous Instances:**
 - ✓ Groups like **UPPK, KCP, and Maoist Communist Group** disbanded or became insignificant, but terms remain unclear.
- **UNLF's Unprecedented Move:**
 - ✓ UNLF's recent peace agreement is considered **unprecedented among major insurgent groups**.
- **Public Impact:**
 - ✓ **Over 1000 attendees at recent events** indicate significant public attention and support.
- **Historical Divisions in UNLF:**
 - ✓ **Formal split in the mid-1990s and another in 2021** resulted in two factions—one led by **Pambei** and the other by **NC Koireng**.
- **Ceasefire Initiatives:**
 - ✓ Pambei initiated ceasefire talks as **early as 2020**, showing openness to dialogue.
- **Uncertain Terms:**
 - ✓ Specific terms of the **recent UNLF peace agreement remain undisclosed**.
 - ✓ Malem Ningthouja emphasizes **uncertainty in definitively stating** this as the first such understanding.



INSURGENCY IN NORTH EAST INDIA:

- **Insurgency Overview:**
 - ✓ Armed rebellion against **constituted authority without recognition** as belligerents.
 - ✓ **Indian Scenario:** Armed rebellion and **violent protests against the Indian Government** or authority.
- **Insurgency in North East India:**
 - ✓ **Affected States:** Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, and Tripura.
 - ✓ **Timeline:** Conflict since the **1950-60 period**, with decreased intensity since the 1990s.



- ✓ **Current Focus:** Prominent insurgency **persists in Manipur.**
- **Diverse Objectives:**
 - ✓ **Various armed factions** with different goals - some **seek a separate state**, others **regional autonomy**, and some **demand complete independence.**

REASON FOR INSURGENCY IN NORTH EAST INDIA: STATE WISE

MANIPUR:

1. Formation and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Manipur became a separate state in 1972. ✓ Three communities: Meitei (plain), Nagas, and Kuki/Chins (hill districts).
2. Insurgency Roots (1964 Onward)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Emergence of UNLF in 1964. ✓ Other outfits like PLA (1978), PREPAK (1977), KCP (1980) in the valley.
3. Complex Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Violence from Naga groups affects Manipur. ✓ NSCN-IM claims part of Manipur for Greater Nagaland.
4. AFSPA and Civic Uprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Declared "disturbed area" in 1980. ✓ AFSPA imposed, leading to protests, including "mothers' nude protest."

Inner Line Permit and Manipur: Protests since 2015 for Inner Line Permit (ILP) implementation. ILP would require permits for outsiders entering the state.

NAGALAND:

1. Naga National Council (NNC) and Insurgency (1950s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NNC declared Nagaland independent in 1947. Armed movement led by Phizo in early 1950s.
2. Greater Nagalim Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demand for "Greater Nagalim" includes areas from Assam, Arunachal, Manipur, and Myanmar. Nagaland Assembly endorsed this demand multiple times.
3. NSCN Formation (1980)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ NSCN formed in 1980. Split into NSCN-K and NSCN-IM in 1988.
4. Peace Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nine Point Agreement (1947), Sixteen-point Agreement (1960), Shillong Accord (1975). Naga Peace Accord signed in 2015 for a peaceful settlement.

ASSAM:

1. Assam Movement (1979-1985)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Indigenous demand against illegal immigration. Agreement in 1985, disenfranchising illegal entrants.
2. ULFA and Insurgency (1979 Onward)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ULFA formed in 1979, seeking sovereign independent Assam. Assam movement and ULFA supported each other.
3. Insurgent Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Various groups like ULFA, NDFB, UPDS, DHD, MULTA, MLUFA. Ethnic and political factors contribute to insurgency.



4. NRC and Demographic Changes

✓ NRC exercise to update citizens' list. Bangladeshi immigration affecting Assam's demographics.

TRIPURA:

1. Insurgency Surge (1990s)

✓ TUJS (1971), TNV (1981), NLFT (1989) emerged. Surge due to influx of refugees from Bangladesh.

2. Tripura Model

✓ Multidimensional solution addressing socio-economic aspects. Successful in curbing insurgency.

MEGHALAYA:

1. Statehood (1972)

✓ Formed as a state in 1972. Main tensions: tribal vs. non-tribal, identity issues, corruption.

2. Insurgent Groups

✓ GNLA, ANVC, HNLC formed due to tribal conflicts. Kidnapping and extortion common in the state.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH:

1. NSCN Presence and ULFA

✓ NSCN uses districts for transit camps. ULFA presence noted; concerns over CPI-Maoist in some areas.

2. Refugees and Demographic Concerns

✓ Chakma and Hajong refugees raise local concerns. Fear and environment of extortion in certain districts.

MIZORAM:

1. MNF and Insurgency Roots (1960s)

✓ MNF formed in 1961 for Greater Mizoram. Outlawed in 1967, peace agreement in 1986, full statehood granted.

2. Ethnic and Political Conflicts

✓ Tensions resolved with statehood. Success in resolving ethnic and secessionist conflicts.

GOVERNMENT STEPS: A NEW ERA OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE NORTH EAST

➤ **Government Objectives:**

- ✓ **Preserve regional culture and create national attraction.**
- ✓ **End disputes for lasting peace.**
- ✓ Develop the North East to match national standards.

➤ **Government Initiatives:**

- ✓ **Multiple border dispute settlements and peace accords.**
- ✓ **Armed forces neutralize insurgent groups' satellite camps.**

➤ **Major Agreements:**

- ✓ **Bodo Accord (2020):** Resolved Assam's five-decade Bodo issue.
- ✓ **Bru-Reang Agreement (2020):** Settled a 23-year-old refugee crisis.
- ✓ **NLFT Agreement (2019):** Ended violence by the National Liberation Front of Tripura.
- ✓ **Karbi Anglong Agreement (2021):** Resolved disputes; 1000+ cadres surrendered.
- ✓ **Assam-Meghalaya Boundary Agreement (2022):** Settled 65% of border disputes.

➤ **Security Improvements:**



- ✓ **AFSPA reduced** or withdrawn in various states.
- ✓ **Assam:** 60% free from AFSPA.
- ✓ **Manipur:** Significant reduction in disturbed areas.
- ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh:** AFSPA left in only three districts.
- ✓ **Nagaland:** Disturbed area notification removed from several police stations.
- ✓ **Tripura and Meghalaya:** AFSPA completely withdrawn.

➤ **Security Situation (2014-2020):**

- ✓ **Lowest insurgency incidents** and casualties in **2019 and 2020.**
- ✓ **80% reduction in insurgency incidents** from **2014 to 2020.**
- ✓ Security forces' casualties **decreased by 75%**, civilian casualties by **99%.**
- ✓ **4900 militants surrendered** in the last two years; **6000 since 2014.**

➤ **Economic Development:**

- ✓ **Northeast targeted to become an economic hub** under the **Act East Policy.**
- ✓ **Increased funds for development** from **Rs 36,108 crore (2014-15)** to **Rs 76,040 crore (2022-23).**
- ✓ **Introduction of PM-DevINE scheme** with an initial allocation of **Rs 1,500 crore.**

➤ **Act East Policy:**

- ✓ Upgraded version of **Look East Policy**, focusing on **economic cooperation and strategic relationships.**
- ✓ Aims to **enhance connectivity of North East** with other countries in **Asia-Pacific.**

➤ **Government's Responsive Approach:**

- ✓ In the past eight years, significant steps taken for **enhanced connectivity, improved infrastructure, and people's welfare.**
- ✓ Northeast transitioning from being on the **margins to becoming a growth engine in India.**

Dialogues With Dissidents

MIZORAM

- **June 30, 1986:** Mizo Accord signed between GoI and MNF.
- **Status:** Implemented

ASSAM

- **February 10, 2003:** Agreement signed between GoI and BLT.
- **Status:** BLT disbanded, leaders joined politics.
- **January 27, 2020:** Agreement signed with all four factions of NDFB.
- **Status:** Leaders joined politics.
- **September 3, 2011:** GoI signed ceasefire agreement with a faction of ULFA.
- **Hurdles:** Another ULFA faction led by Parson Baruah has not joined dialogue and has not given up demand for 'sovereign Assam'.
- **Status:** Talks underway.
- **2012:** Govt signs agreement with five rebel groups in Karbi-dominated districts of Assam.
- **September 5, 2021:** Govt signs agreement with five rebel groups in Karbi-dominated districts of Assam.
- **Hurdles:** The demand for a separate autonomous Karbi State still active.
- **February 2012:** Five Adivasi militant groups surrender.
- **Hurdles:** The demand for Scheduled Tribe status for the adivasis.
- **Status:** Talks on hold.

NAGALAND

- **1997:** Ceasefire signed between GoI and NSCN-IM.
- **August 3, 2015:** A "framework agreement" signed between GoI and NSCN (IM).
- **November 18, 2017:** A separate pact signed between GoI and Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), a forum of seven other rebel groups.
- **Hurdles:** NSCN-IM's demand for a separate flag and a separate Constitution for the Nagas.
- **NSCN-IM's demand** for Greater Nagalim, which, it says, should include Naga-inhabited areas of Manipur, Meghalaya, other communities of Manipur opposed to NSCN-IM's Greater Nagalim demand.
- **Status:** Peace-process with NSCN-IM stalled, further talks likely.

TRIPURA

- **August 2019:** Govt signs agreement with NLFT-SD.
- **Status:** Some other factions of NLFT are still active.

MEGHALAYA

- **August 22, 2008:** GoI signs ceasefire agreement with 25 Kuki rebel groups.
- **Hurdles:** Kuki groups now demand an autonomous council in the hills region.
- **Status:** The ceasefire agreement is being renewed periodically.
- **No progress in talks:**
- **Active Groups:** Meitei groups, like UNLF, PLA, PREPAK, KCP, KYKL.
- **Demand:** Independent Manipur.

What's on offer?

- 1 Fixed deposit of Rs. 4 lakh against each cadre.
- 2 Monthly stipend of Rs. 6,000 for each surrendered militants for three years.
- 3 Incentives for weapons/ammunition surrender.
- 4 Vocational training for self-employment.
- 5 Funds for construction of the rehabilitation camps.

WAY FORWARD: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESOLVING ISSUES IN NORTH EAST INDIA:

➤ **Insurgency Management:**

- ✓ **Conduct thorough background checks on insurgent groups before entering Ceasefire or Suspension of Operations Agreements.**

➤ **Political Solutions:**

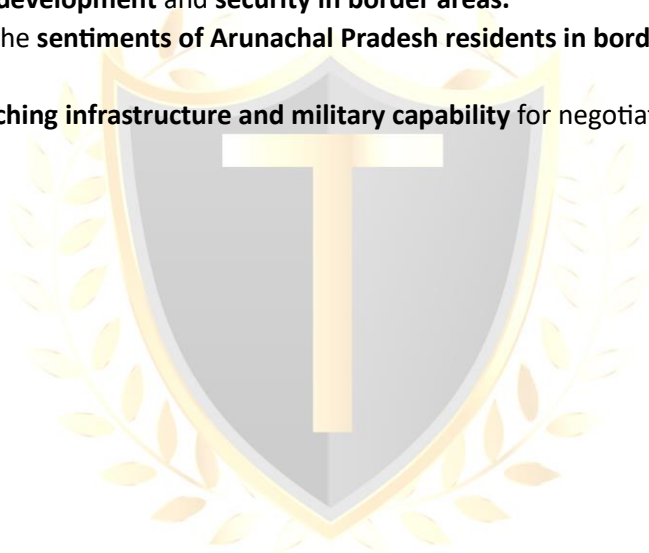
- ✓ **Openly discuss political solutions for the Assam problem** to prevent backlash from tribal and minority populations.
- ✓ Implement a **work permit system to avoid granting Indian citizenship to illegal Bangladeshi migrants.**
- ✓ **Empower Autonomous District Councils** to enhance local governance.
- ✓ Improve governance through step-by-step measures, including strict supervision by senior officials.

➤ **Development Strategies:**

- ✓ **Merge the Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER) with the North East Council (NEC)** for better strategic planning and coordination.
- ✓ Focus on investment in **mega-projects to significantly impact regional development.**



- ✓ Urgently develop **institutional capacities in the North East.**
- ✓ **Formulate pragmatic land use policies** to attract industries, **promote micro, small, and medium enterprises.**
- ✓ **Encourage local tourism and promote niche tourism**, such as medical and higher education tourism.
- ✓ Establish the **North East as a single economic unit**, removing internal traffic barriers.
- ✓ Implement an **exclusive five-year plan** for infrastructure development.
- **Look East Policy Enhancement:**
 - ✓ **Generate greater awareness about the Look East Policy** and its benefits in the North East.
 - ✓ **Deepen ties with Myanmar**, leveraging its concerns about **China and existing cultural ties.**
 - ✓ Include the North East in the **India-ASEAN Vision for trade and cooperation.**
 - ✓ **Adopt integrated and bottoms-up approaches** for North East integration into the Look East Policy.
 - ✓ **Establish Visa offices of Bangladesh and Myanmar** in the North East.
- **Border Management:**
 - ✓ **Establish special economic zones** along the **India-Bangladesh border**, particularly in Meghalaya and Assam.
 - ✓ **Prioritize development and security in border areas.**
 - ✓ Consider the **sentiments of Arunachal Pradesh residents in border dispute resolutions with China.**
 - ✓ Build **matching infrastructure and military capability** for negotiations from a position of strength.





PRELIMS POINTERS:

TOPIC	DISCRIPTION
<p>Cabinet approves ₹24,104-cr. outlay for tribal welfare</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a special development mission, PM Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyaan (PMJANMAN). ❖ The mission focuses on uplifting Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG). <p>ABOUT THE SCHEME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Total Outlay: ₹24,104 crore over three years. ❖ Funding: ₹15,336 crore from the Union government and ₹8,768 crore from State governments. <p>KEY FEATURES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Improve socioeconomic conditions of 75 recognized particularly vulnerable tribal groups. ☛ Focus on 11 critical interventions, part of existing schemes, implemented by nine Ministries. ☛ Build 4.9-lakh pucca houses. ☛ Lay 8,000 km of connecting roads. ☛ Bring piped water to all households in 22,000 villages. ☛ Provide community water pipelines to 2,500 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups villages (fewer than 20 households). ❖ Social Welfare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Build 2,500 anganwadi centres. ☛ Set up 1,000 mobile medical units (10 per district). ☛ Install mobile towers in 3,000 villages. ☛ Set up 500 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to facilitate the sale of forest produce. ❖ Skill Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Facilitate skills and vocational training in selected villages, led by the Skill Development Ministry. <p>ABOUT PVGTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ Tribal population constitutes 8.6% of India's total population. ☛ Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are the most vulnerable among tribal communities. ☛ Originally termed Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) by the Dhebar Commission in 1973, they were later renamed PVTGs by the Government of India in 2006. ☛ In 1975, the government identified 52 PVTGs, with an additional 23 groups added in 1993, totaling 75 out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.





Global growth to slow next year, but economy will avoid a hard landing'- OECD

- PVTGs share common traits such as **homogeneity, small population, physical isolation, absence of a written language, simple technology**, and a slower rate of change.
- **Odisha** has the **highest number of PVTGs among the listed 75.**

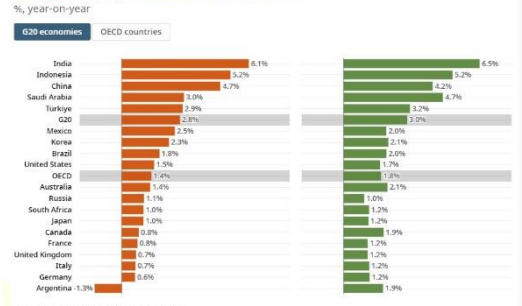
WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** released its latest **Economic Outlook**, stating that while the global economy is expected to slightly slow next year, the risk of a hard landing has diminished.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

- ❖ The OECD's Economic Outlook anticipates **global GDP growth at 2.9% in 2023**, with a modest slowdown to **2.7% in 2024**. A slight improvement is forecasted for 2025, reaching **3.0%**.
- ❖ **Asia** is foreseen to remain a key driver of global growth, contributing significantly in 2023 and maintaining its prominence in 2024-25.
- ❖ The report notes the impact of necessary monetary policy tightening on global growth, coupled with challenges from weak trade and diminished business and consumer confidence.
- ❖ **Consumer price inflation** is projected to gradually ease across economies, approaching central bank targets by 2025.
- ❖ In **OECD countries**, inflation is expected to decrease from **7.0% in 2023** to **5.2% in 2024** and further to **3.8% in 2025**.
- ❖ The report suggests a **gradual decline in consumer price inflation**, signaling a moderation in cost pressures over the forecast period until 2025.

GDP growth projections for 2024 and 2025



Source: OECD Economic Outlook, November 2023

Places in News 'GOLAN HEIGHTS'

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ India voted in favor of a draft resolution in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) concerning the Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan.

ABOUT GOLAN HEIGHTS

- ❖ **Rocky plateau, 1,800km², Israel-Syria border.**
- ❖ **1967:** Israel occupied Golan Heights, West Bank.
- ❖ **1973:** Syria attempted to retake, but defeated.
- ❖ **Armistice signed in 1974**, UN observer force.
- ❖ **1981:** Israel permanently acquired Golan Heights.
- ❖ **Status:** International community sees as disputed territory.
- ❖ Negotiation attempts between Israel and Syria failed.

