Defence & Security · GS - III

What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2025	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Northeast, insurgency, ethnic conflict, porous borders, illegal migration, identity, autonomy, peace accords, Naga framework, Bodo Accord, Bru-Reang, Karbi Anglong, Assam-Meghalaya agreement

Model Answer

Introduction

India's North-East combines strategic borders, ethnic diversity, historical grievances and difficult terrain. While insurgency has declined considerably in several areas, ethnic conflict, identity politics and unresolved political demands continue to challenge peace and internal security.

1. Major challenges

Porous international borders facilitate illegal movement, arms trafficking and transnational criminal networks. Ethnic tensions can arise over land, political representation and migration. Underdevelopment, unemployment and difficult connectivity can deepen alienation.

The region's proximity to Myanmar has acquired additional significance because instability there can generate refugee flows, arms trafficking and cross-border militant movement.

2. Major peace initiatives

Important agreements during the last decade include:

1. Naga Framework Agreement, 2015 – Government of India and NSCN(IM), providing a framework for continuing negotiations.
2. Bru-Reang Agreement, 2020 – permanent settlement and rehabilitation of displaced Bru persons.
3. Bodo Accord, 2020 – restructuring arrangements for Bodoland and rehabilitation of armed cadres.
4. Karbi Anglong Agreement, 2021 – enhanced autonomy, development and rehabilitation measures.
5. Assam-Meghalaya Memorandum of Understanding, 2022 – settlement of six areas of inter-State boundary differences.
6. Tripura peace initiatives, including the 2024 agreement involving the Government, Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance and representatives of tribal communities.

3. Way forward

Peace must be consolidated through effective implementation, inclusive political dialogue, economic development, border management, rehabilitation and protection of indigenous rights.

Conclusion

The North-East requires a security-development-peace continuum. Political accommodation must be accompanied by accountable governance and durable socio-economic integration.

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