Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Ethnic conflicts in India's Northeast highlight the limitations of security-centric approaches to internal peace. Analyse the role of constitutional autonomy, inclusive governance and community dialogue in addressing such conflicts.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 17/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Ethnic diversity, Sixth Schedule, Autonomous District Councils, Fifth Schedule, tribal identity, customary rights, inter-community trust, security administration, peacebuilding, inclusive development.

Model Answer

Introduction

Ethnic conflicts in the Northeast often involve overlapping concerns relating to identity, land, political representation and historical grievances. Sustainable peace requires constitutional accommodation alongside effective security and development measures.

Role of Constitutional Autonomy

1. **Sixth Schedule:** Provides Autonomous District Councils in specified tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, enabling local self-governance.

2. **Protection of customary institutions:** Recognises specified traditional practices and community interests.

3. **Decentralisation:** Local institutions can improve representation and address grievances closer to affected communities.

Governance and Security Challenges

- Competition over land, resources and political representation can deepen inter-community tensions.
- Inadequate implementation of autonomy arrangements may weaken public trust.
- Heavy reliance on security measures cannot independently resolve historical grievances.
- Displacement, disruption of livelihoods and shutdowns affect ordinary citizens and public services.

Way Forward

The government should strengthen autonomous institutions, ensure impartial investigation of violence, facilitate dialogue among affected communities and improve rehabilitation and livelihood support. Security operations must remain proportionate and accountable.

Conclusion

Peace in the Northeast requires more than restoration of normalcy after violence. Constitutional autonomy, inclusive development and sustained community dialogue must work together to build durable trust and national integration.

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