

IMPACT OF THE LONG LASTING ISOLATED POLICY OF NORTH EAST , WITH RISE OF INSURGENCY AND ITS EFFECT ON THE ENTIRE COUNTRY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF INDIA

Dr.Sumanta Bhattacharya

Research Scholar at MAKAUT , Public–Foreign-Defence Policy Analyst , C.E , CH.E , CCIO M.Tech , MA in Development Studies, LLB , DIA&D , DG&GS ,PGCPP&A , MPI(oxford University) ORCID ID : 0000-0003-2563-2787, Email-sumanta.21394@gmail.com

Dr. Jayanta Kumar Ray

National Research Professor ,Ministry of Human Resource Development ,GOI ,Former Centenary Professor of International Relation, Department of History , CU, and Institute of Foreign studies , CU and Honorary Consultant for Research in Indo-Bangladesh Relations, Kolkata, Former Chairman ,Maulana Azad Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata .

Arup Raha

PVSM , AVSM , VM , ADC , Air chief Marshal ,
54th Chairman of the chiefs of staff Committee

Bhavneet Kaur Sachdev

Political Science hons (Calcutta University),Masters in Development Studies,
Email-bhavneet829@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

North East area is very crucial when it comes to environment. The region because of its isolation policy from the rest of the country and lack of development because of their strategies, the armed groups and ongoing counter –insurgency in the area creates tremendous impact on the local people life . The area is full of conflict and insecurity , there also war among the ethnic groups , people fear lose of identity . However in recent years things have changed in the region with massive development happening , India and other countries are investing in the region , aiming to make it the economic hub of India and a tourist attraction place . Development in the form of Roads , highways , railways and airways have taken place. The second largest road – rail bridge has been considered in Assam , which will also influence India and Bangladesh trade creation in a positive manner .India is trying to connect more with the people and organizing meeting on a regular basis with the Chief Minister and Governors of the state . Arunachal Pradesh is experiencing regular threat from China , trans-border conflict is at a rise . However the positive impact of investment in the North-East India has cut down the violence by 90% .

Keywords: North-East India , lack of development , ethnic groups , investment , insurgency , conflict , insecurity .

INTRODUCTION

North East comprises of Arunachal Pradesh , Assam , Tripura , Manipur , Nagaland, Meghalaya , Sikkim and Mizoram , which is linked with India through the 21km wide Siliguri Corridor also called the Chicken Neck . The North East shares its borders with China , Bangladesh , Bhutan and Nepal . It is an area of 2.6 Lakh km , and home to a population of 39 million people . North East consist of 475 ethnic groups and have 400 languages , they have a rich culture heritage , During the British rule , the Britishers gave them special status and didn't hamper their social and economic structure , the Britisher government allowed Christian missionaries to enter those tribal areas and construct schools , hospital and church and introduced note worthy changes in the North –East states , and these measures kept them away from the mainstream India , when Britishers left India , it have less impact on the North-East states because of the absences of any political , cultural , religious contact with the rest of the part . After the Independence of India , there was people-to-people contact and focused on the tribal policy , earlier there was only one state that is Assam and one Union Territory , NEFA (North East Frontier Agency) . In 1987 , the NEFA was granted statehood and was renamed as Arunachal Pradesh , In 1960 Assamese was declared as the official language of North –East which created rivalry among the people due to the presences of so many ethnic languages , they were afraid of losing their identity, in the same year Representatives of hill areas merged into All party Hill leaders conference and demand for a separate statehood within the Indian Union was demanded . APHLC fought elections and demand and secured 11 seats in the Assam Legislative out of 15 seats , there were demonstrations and a major agitation developed demanding for separate statehood , In 1969 finally Meghalaya was separate from Assam , a state within a state , it was provided complete autonomy apart from law and order , High Court , Public service commission and Governor . Meghalaya , Manipur and Tripura was granted statehood in 1972 and 1963 Nagaland land was granted statehood after many movements along with Mizoram which was granted statehood in 1987. Present situation of North-Eastern states differ from state to state , on one hand the North-Eastern states are fighting with the Indian Forces , it more an internal security tension and second these states are fighting amongst themselves on ethnic basis . Assam , Manipur and Nagaland have been subject of tension because of the presences of a number of military outfits .Lower Assam areas and KarbiAnglong region are prone to ethnic and communal violence , the constant mistrust between tribal and non-tribal Bodo is growing , Garo insurgency has be rising in Manipur . Mizoram and Tripura has shown success in reducing insurgency in their states , overall the situation is a threat to the internal security .

LITERATURE REVIEW

In accordance to the report of the second Administrative Reform commission , the North-East states represent a state of stable nihilism where the rule of law and other governance institutions are destabilize directly or through deceitful setting to serve the personal ends of the militants , the inter-tribal conflict , unemployment of the youth m inability to compete with non-tribal people and business , illegal migration from neighbour and states , resulting in limited resources have led to conflicts and demand for succession. The broad difference between

India and the North East people and the geographical link creates an sense of isolation , a feeling of otherness which gives rise to political and cultural violence , the North –east states has 50 ethnic rebels groups, some have demands of complete separation from India while some are fighting for ethnic identity and their lands , while some are running insurgency as a commerce activity to earn money without political ideology , North-East has a lot of grievance against the central government due to the lack of development and poor governance in the region , which has given rise to militant and insurgency in the region .there are many factors which has contributed to insurgent in different groups .In Nagaland , being a part of the Assam ,it was the first state to receive statehood , under the leadership of A.Z Phizo Nagas declared Independence in 1951 , Mizoram was part of Assam and it experienced militancy after the failure of the union government to positively response for assistance during the massive Mautam Famine , under the leadership of Laldenga , the Mizo National Front demanded autonomy for Mizoram , Migration of Hindus from East Bengal resulted in the reduction of indigenous tribal people in the state to minority which created violence among the indigenous people and the militant group demanded the restoration of tribal rights from the Bengal Population. In Assam a movement was started demanding the deportation of the illegal migrants also gave birth to militant outfit the United Liberation Font of Assam in 1979 ., Bodo Liberation Tigers , United People’s Democratic solidarity , in Meghalaya demand for statehood was made to address the needs to major tribes like Jaintias , Garos and Khasis, it also resulted in the emergence of insurgent like the Garo National Liberation Army and Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council , the state has remained under Peace , however the flight between Myanmar and Nagaland has affected and influx insurgent in the region , the only case of insurgency in Arunachal Pradesh , Arunachal Dragon Force(ADF) which was later known as East India Liberation Front in 2001 . There have been many military operations in different states of North –East to counter insurgency along with the Armed Force Special Powers act , The external forces like Bangladesh , Myanmar ,Pakistan have been supporting these North-East insurgency against the Indian Government .

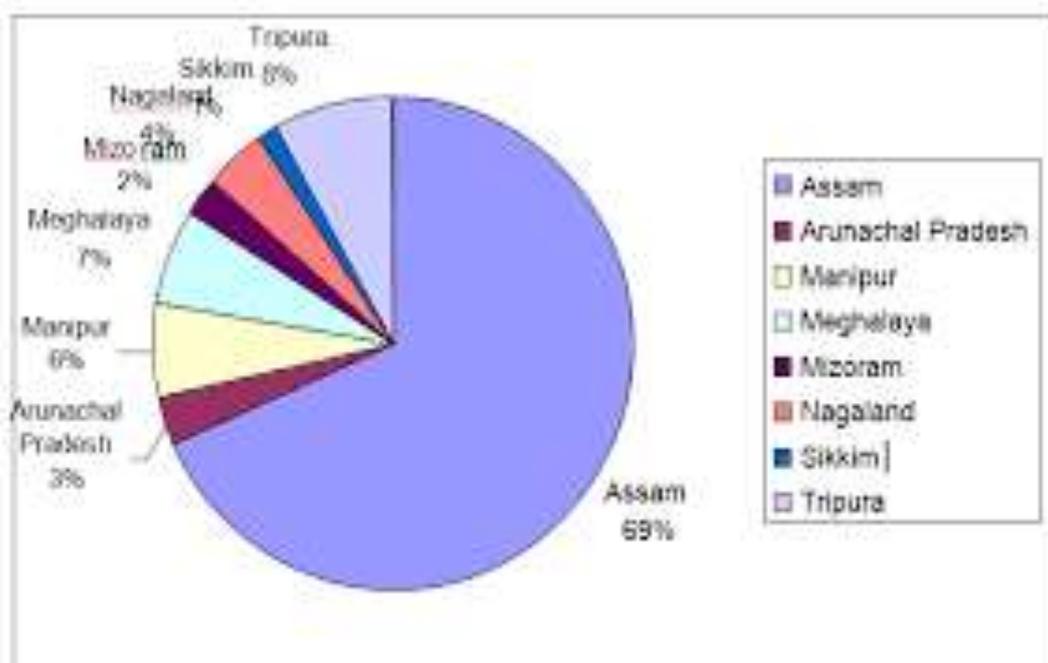
FINDINGS

Feeling of isolation and deprivation among the tribes , similar ethnic across the border with Myanmar , permeability of the border with Myanmar due to difficult terrain, widespread corruption among the ruling elite , instability in Myanmar , no link with the other states of India , Lack of visionary leadership among the tribal communities , easy availability of arms , lack of infrastructure development in the region, political support for various factions have contributed to the North-East insurgency , many of these are being used by the neighbouring countries like Naga group and Assam insurgency operates in from Myanmar , Militant groups of Meghalaya and Tripura operates in Bangladesh , arms comes from across the China , these insurgency receives funding from drug smuggling , extortion and arms .

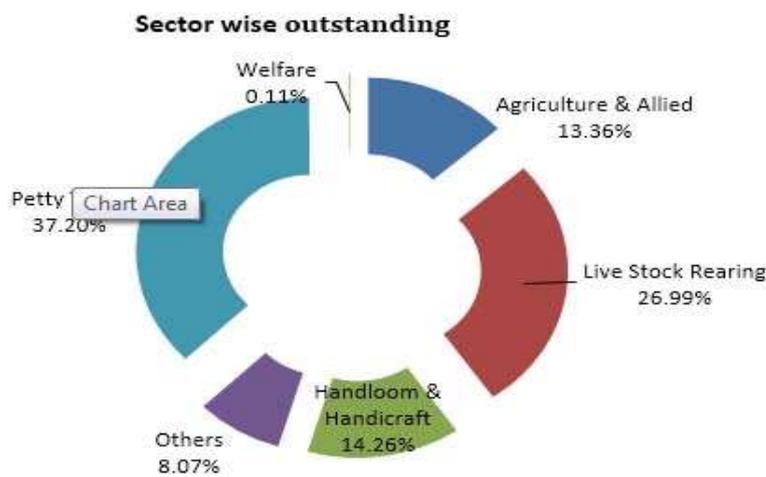


The government of India has come up with many new strategies to deal with the North-East insurgencies : Formation of special scheme for the development of North-East , special package for infrastructure development of the region , structural changes to give political economy , dialogue and negotiations , Look East policy , Business Summit to attract investment in the North East , decentralisation and protection of tribal rights , improving roads and rail connectivity in the region .

The government has been working for the development of the North East states and making it an economic hub for development ,there has been a direct connection formed between the East entrepot of India with Bangladesh harbour incorporating Chittagong, the Maitri Setu Bridge between Bharat and Bangladesh which has made Tripura the trade admittance of compass point , a 1.9 km bridge over the river Feni south Tripura which would Increase the Indo-Bangladesh economic ties , this new bridge will connect Chittagong port which is just 100 km from Agartala will be fasten with the Haldia harbour and Varanasi harbour by water ways . There has been upgradation of 12 airports in the North East region , The Pakyong Airport was established by the Prime Minister Modi , it is considered to be among the five highest airports in the country , the Teza Airport is also under construction .The NEC has been focusing on the development of roads which encompasses inter-state and roads of economic importance , a scheme called the North East Road Sector Development scheme has been launched to connect roads and construct bridges , its mega project includes tune-Mankachar , Doimukh –Harmuti Wokha-Merapani-Gologhat 85 km national highway an estimated cost of 213.97 crore , 14 such projects have been undertaken . For Arunachal Pradesh , which is the largest state in the country , the Ministry of Road and Transport has planned the construction of Trans-Arunachal Highway Project covering a distance of 2319 Km, construction of Arunachal Frontier Highway and East West Corridor .



The Prime Minister has inaugurated the Bogibeel Bridge in Assam is the longest road and rail bridge constructed over the Brahmaputra river which connects the Assam from Dibrugarh to Arunachal Pradesh in Dhemaji which has reduced the travelling between the two location to just four hours . The bridge is part of Modi government Act East Policy for commercial , connect and communication development . It is the second longest railroad bridge in Asia . which is built to withstand earthquake of magnitude upto 7 , as it is situated in an earthquake prone zone . There are plans to connect 20 major railway projects which would include 13 new lines , two gauge transformation and five doubling covering a length of 2624 Km. The central government now provides 100% funding for the infrastructure development of the region , previously the state government use to contribute 10% of the total cost . North East is very important for stimulation of tourism , economic development and employment in the region , with development in the region and promoting of organic farming and growth of industry in the region, The North-Eastern Council agency for the economic and social development of the region the members includes all the chief Minister and governors of the 8 states .



There has been digital connectivity the telecom commission has approved a complex strategy to implement BharatNet in North East region , connecting 4420 Gram Panchayats with satellite and broadband connectivity in the North East region with expansion of mobile connectivity , Network for Spectrum project fiber connectivity for the defence in border areas and Wi-Fi project for internet connectivity to the general rural public .

These are measures to reduce insurgency in the region by infrastructure development which also provides employment to the people . However to counter terrorism in the region measures like communication and connectivity , setting up High courts in Manipur , Tripura and Meghalaya m decentralization with alertness , greater cultural interaction with the people , improving administrative efficiency and good governance with zero tolerance policy towards violence in the region .

The North East region has links with foreign countries especially Myanmar , Bangladesh has been used part of the North-East insurgency in the Chiitagong hills , For Nepal Kathmandu airport is the point of transfer , Bhutan is used by many of the Assam based groups like NDFB and ULFA , Currently China is one of the biggest support of these North-East Insurgent groups with Chinese control over the Arunachal region ,The government has used infrastructure development and communication as a method to minimize North-East insurgency . Today countries like Japan want to invest in the North-East region of India which will turn out to be a economic hub for not only India but other countries which will enhance trade relation between countries .

CONCLUSION

With talks with the local community and external forces we have been able to reduce violence in the North-East states. The North-East zone is regarded as an area unexplored unfastened due to lack of development in the region , we have seen a rise in insurgency . Today , the region is becoming a region for economic development and tourism attraction . The government is investing a huge amount in the construction of roads , railways and airways in the region. The recent rail-road bridge is regarded as the longest bridge in Asia . The foreign countries wants to invest in the region , moreover those states share border with major neighbour states of India . Development is also important to tackle insurgency , stop the illegal migration , infiltration , drug trafficking and smuggling . These terrorist groups and Naxalite get their support from people because of lack of basic necessity available in the region. However due to ethnic issues , conflict remains prevalent in the region

REFERENCES

- 1) The origin and causes of insurgency in North-East India , South Asia , the Geopolitics .
- 2) Colonel Kulbushan Bhardwaj , Insurgency in North-East India : Genesis and Prognosis
- 3) Neeraj Chauhan , 2021, Insurgency related incident dipped by 80% in N-E states .
- 4) KE Cline , 2006 The insurgency environment in North East India .
- 5) S Bhaumk , 2007 Insurgencies in India's North-East: Conflict , co-option and changes .
- 6) Ben Hayes , the other Burma? Conflict counter-insurgency and human rights in Northeast India .

- 7) Kham Khan Suan Hausing , 2015 , December , Framing the North-Eastin Indian Politics : Beyond the integration Framework .Studies in Indian Politics 3(2) 277-283.
- 8) Michael Luniminthang , 2016 , March , Rethinking the Political History of North East India : Historical review on Kuki Country ,SAGE Journals .
- 9) Monirul Hussain ,pp 981-990 , 2003 , March ,Governance and Electoral Processes in India's North-East , Economic and Political Weekly , Volume 38 , No 10 .
- 10) Thongkholai Haokip , 2012 , Political Integration of North East India : A Historical Analysis , Strategic Analysis, Volume 36 , Issue 2 .