



PRESIDIUM *for* CHANGE
FOR A BETTER WORLD

PRESIDIUM MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2024

AIPPM

BACKGROUND GUIDE



**ALL INDIA POLITICAL
PARTIES MEET**



AGENDA:
Discussion on the
resolution of the Manipur
Conflict.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Members!

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to this simulation of AIPPM at Presidium MUN 2024. We look forward to an enriching and rewarding experience.

This study guide is by no means the end of research, we would very much appreciate it if the leaders are able to find new realms in the agenda and bring it forth in the committee. Such research combined with good argumentation and a solid representation of facts is what makes much as possible, as fluency, diction or oratory skills have very little importance as opposed to the content you deliver. So just research and speak and you are bound to make a lot of sense. We are certain that we will be learning from you immensely and we also hope that you all will have an equally enriching experience. In case of any queries feel free to contact us. We will try our best to answer the questions to the best of our abilities.

We look forward to an exciting and interesting committee, which should certainly be helped by the all-pervasive nature of the issue. Hopefully we, as members of the Executive Board, do also have a chance to gain from being a part of this committee. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any doubts that you may have.

All the Best!

Executive Board

9th Edition of Presidium MUN

Presidium School, Gurgaon

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

AIPPM is an acronym for All India Political Parties Meet. It was created for Indian politicians so that they may engage in public debate, discussion, and deliberation without having to succumb to the intricate mandate and procedure of the Parliament of India, also known as the Lok Sabha House of the People, or "legislative functions of the parliament." Typically called before the session of the Parliament or before the introduction of a bill, this committee aims to arrive at a consensus before the sessions begin. It is a supplementary body to the Parliament without any legislative provisions.

An AIPPM committee in Model UN strives to achieve the same, The All India Political Parties Meet is a committee that simulates political reality by discussion and deliberation on various levels of policy and governance in our country today. It is a non-technical yet powerful committee for unconstrained political debate. Members of this committee are expected to be duly updated in case of any developments outside the committee that are of relevance to the agenda and shall be expected to respond to such dynamic circumstances while keeping their assigned portfolios i.e the ministers they are representing and their political interests in mind. Therefore keeping oneself updated with the latest changes in the every dynamic field of Indian Politics is a must.

This meeting will adhere to neither parliamentary rules of procedure nor MUN rules of procedure. It would have its own independent set of rules of procedures which are subject to circumstantial changes.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

Agenda: *Discussion on the Resolution of the Manipur Conflict*

There were violent communal clashes in Manipur due to the Manipur High Court (HC) directing the State to pursue a 10-year-old recommendation to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the non-tribal Meitei community.

[Demand of Meities for ST Status](https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/addition-of-tribes-to-st-list)

<https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/addition-of-tribes-to-st-list>

- The violence escalated after the All-Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) organized a "tribal solidarity rally" against the alleged move to include the Meiteis on the ST list.

What is Manipur's ethnic composition?

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- The State is like a football stadium with the Imphal Valley representing the playfield at the center and the surrounding hills the galleries. The valley, which comprises about 10% of Manipur's landmass, is dominated by the non-tribal Meitei who account for more than 64% of the population of the State and yields 40 of the State's 60 MLAs.
- The hills comprising 90% of the geographical area are inhabited by more than 35% recognised tribes but send only 20 MLAs to the Assembly.
- While a majority of the Meiteis are Hindus followed by Muslims, the 33 recognised tribes, broadly classified into 'Any Naga tribes' and 'Any Kuki tribes' are largely Christians.

What is the Meitei argument to support the demand of ST status?

- The Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee of Manipur (STDCM) began demanding ST status for the Meiteis in 2012.
 - o The Meiteis were recognised as a tribe before the merger of the State with the Union of India in 1949. The ST status is needed to "preserve" the community and "save the ancestral land, tradition, culture, and language" of the Meiteis.
 - In 1972, the union territory of Manipur became the 19th state of India.
 - o The Meiteis need constitutional safeguards against outsiders, stating that the community has been kept away from the hills while the tribal people can buy land in the "shrinking" Imphal Valley (Apprehension of Meities that creation of Greater Nagalim would lead to shrinking of Manipur's geographical area).

Source: <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/naga-ceasefire-agreements-extended>

- The Meitein/Meetei have been gradually marginalized in their ancestral land.
 - o Their population was 59% of the total population of Manipur in 1951 and has now been reduced to 44% as per 2011 Census data.

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- The Naga and Kuki movements fuelled Meitei nationalism. Concerns over demographic change and shrinking of traditional Meitei areas started to surface in the 1970s.
- During the period 2006-12 came the demand for an Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Manipur, to bar outsiders. The free movement of the Kuki-Zomi across Manipur's porous border with Myanmar fanned fears of demographic change.

Source:<https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/e-ilp-platform-manipur>

- o The growth rate of Manipur's population had jumped from 12.8% in the 1941-51 period to 35.04% during 1951-61 and to 37.56% in 1961-71 after the permit system was abolished.
- In Manipur, the government is the largest employer and the reservation for STs in jobs amounts to an unfair advantage.
 - o Infrastructure development (like railways that would open Manipur further) has made insecurities worse.

Why are tribal groups against ST status for Meiteis?

- The Meiteis have a demographic and political advantage and are also more academically advanced.
 - o ST status to the Meiteis would lead to loss of job opportunities and allow them to acquire land in the hills and push the tribals out.
- The language of the Meitei people is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and many of them have access to benefits associated with the SC, OBC or EWS status.

Source:<https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/eighth-schedule-of-the-indian-constitution>

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- Kukis and Nagas point out that tribal areas are 90% of the state's geographical area, but the bulk of its budget and development work is focused on the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley.

The Process of Inclusion in the ST List

- State governments started recommending for inclusion of the tribes in the list of ST.
- After the recommendation of the state govt, Tribal Affairs Ministry reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India, Under the Home Ministry for approval.
- After approval, it is sent to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and then sent to the Cabinet for a final decision.
- Once the cabinet finalizes it, then it introduces a bill in the parliament to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.
- After the amendment bill is passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the President's office takes the final decision under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution.

What led to the recent Unrest?

- While the forest eviction and demand for ST status for Meiteis have been the most prominent recent triggers, the divide between the Meiteis and tribals on several issues has widened over the past decade.
- Issues in Delimitation Process: In 2020, as the Centre began the first delimitation process in the state since 1973, the Meitei community alleged that the Census figures used in the exercise did not accurately reflect the population break-up.
 - o Tribal groups (Kuki and Nagas) on the other hand said they had grown to 40% of the state's population and were underrepresented in the Assembly.

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- Intrusion of Migrants from Neighbour Area: The February 2021 coup in Myanmar has led to a refugee crisis in India's Northeast. Meitei leaders have alleged that there has been a sudden mushrooming of villages in Churachandpur district.
- The Drugs Problem: Some tribal groups with vested interests are trying to scuttle govt's crusade against drugs.
 - o The anti-drug drive was started by destroying poppy fields. "Illegal settlers" related to the Kuki-Zomi of Manipur, growing drugs on cleared lands.
- Recent Unrest: The first violent protest erupted over the eviction of the residents of a Kuki village.
 - o 38 villages in the Churachandpur-Khoupum Protected Forest area (in Churachandpur and Noney districts) are "illegal settlements" and its residents are "encroachers (encroaching reserved and protected forests and wildlife sanctuaries for poppy plantation and drugs business").
 - o Kuki groups have claimed that the survey and eviction is a violation of Article 371C, as kukis are residents of Hill Area.
 - Article 371C provides for the creation of a committee of the Manipur Legislative Assembly consisting of the members elected from the Hill Areas of the state and Governor shall have responsibility for proper functioning of that committee.
 - At the State level there is Hill Area Committee constituted under the Manipur Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) order, 1972. The Hill areas Committee comprises all MLAs elected from the hill areas of the State as its members.
 - o The state government withdrew from the suspension of operations agreements with two Kuki extremist groups accused of inciting the protesters.

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Geography of Manipur and History of Violence in Manipur

- There are 16 districts in Manipur, but the state is commonly thought of as divided into ‘valley’ and ‘hill’ districts. Today’s valley districts of Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Kakching were part of the erstwhile kingdom of Kangleipak, ruled by the Ningthouja dynasty.
- The Manipur valley is encircled by skirts of low hills (hill areas comprise the bulk of Manipur’s geographical area), live 15 Naga tribes and the Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi group, which includes the Kuki, Thadou, Hmar, Paite, Vaiphei and Zou peoples.
- The Kangleipak kingdom, then a British protectorate, was repeatedly raided by Naga tribes who came down from the northern hills. The British political agent in Manipur brought the Kuki-Zomi from the Kuki-Chin hills of Burma to protect the valley from plunder by acting as a buffer between the Meiteis and the Nagas.
 - o The Kukis, like the Nagas, were fierce headhunting warriors — and the Maharaja gave them land along the ridges, where they could act as a shield for the Imphalvalley below.
- Kuki-Meitei divide: The hill communities (Naga & Kuki) and the Meiteis have had ethnic tensions since the kingdom era. The Naga movement for independence in the 1950s triggered insurgencies among the Meiteis and Kuki-Zomi. The Kuki-Zomi groups militarized in the 1990s to demand a state within India called ‘Kukiland’(a state within India). This alienated them from the Meiteis, whom they had earlier defended.
 - o In 1993, Hindu Meiteis clashed with Pangals (Muslims), and also there was horrific violence between the tribal Nagas and Kukis, which saw more than a hundred Kukis massacred in a single day by Nagas, and thousands driven from their homes.

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- District of Churachandpur: Kuki-Zomi-dominated Churachandpur (a Myanmar bordered District) has mostly Christian population. It is the country's poorest district (as per the Panchayati Raj Ministry in 2006) and it remains abjectly poor.
 - o In 2015, as the Meiteis of the valley protested demanding ILP in Imphal city, equally intense protests were seen in Churachandpur countering the demand and protesting the introduction of laws.

Way Forward

- Need to evaluate the criteria for ST status (to Meities) in line with recommendations given by several Committees, like:
 - o The Lokur Committee (1965) recommended 5 criteria for identification, namely, primitive traits, distinct culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large, and backwardness.
 - o Bhuria Commission (2002-2004) focused on a wide range of issues from the 5th Schedule to tribal land and forests, health and education, the working of Panchayats and the status of tribal women.

Source: National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- o A High-Level Committee (HLC) in 2013, under chairmanship of Prof. Virginius Xaxa was constituted to study the 5 critical issues related to tribal communities: (1) livelihood and employment, (2) education, (3) health, (4) involuntary displacement and migration, (5) and legal and constitutional matters.
- Bring more surveillance along the border areas to prevent the incursion of the migrants from Myanmar. Strengthening economic and diplomatic ties with neighboring countries can help enhance regional stability and security.

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- Need to maintain the identity of the people along the border areas to identify the local residence. Signing Peace settlement agreements with the local insurgent group to maintain the peace in the region.
- The repeal of AFSPA, the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958, is necessary to improve the human rights situation in the region. The government should ensure that the legal system is fair and transparent to prevent the misuse of power by security forces.

Source: [Armed Forces \(Special Powers\) Act \(AFSPA\)](#)

- The government should foster the participation of the people of the region in the decision-making process to instill a sense of ownership and belonging.

Insurgency in North East India

Nagaland, Manipur, Assam and Tripura had been witnessing conflict since the 1950-60 period, 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.

Reasons for conflict in North East India:

- Historical reasons – loosely administered under British India.
- Tensions between these states and the central government.
- Tensions between tribal people, who are natives of these states, and migrant peoples from other parts of India.
- Geographical reasons – not well connected with the present Indian mainland.
- Developmental reasons – Poorly developed due to lack of funds from Center/States.

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

Insurgent Groups in North East India

Following are the insurgent groups operating in Northeast India:

NAGALAND

- NSCN-IM
- NSCN-K

MANIPUR

- People's Liberation Army
- PREPAK

ASSAM

- ULFA
- NDFB
- KLNLF
- UPDS

TRIPURA

- National Liberation Front of Tripura
- All Tripura Tiger Force

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MEGHALAYA

- ANVC
- HNLC

Recent Observations about North East India

Some of the recent observations about Northeast are:

Insurgency & Ceasefire

1. The basic ingredient of insurgency i.e. popular support is drying up in the region. Insurgency is active only in Manipur. There are around 50 insurgent groups in Manipur.
2. Ceasefire and Suspension of Operations with militant groups allows them to indulge in extortion and kidnapping, which in turn help them in maintaining their clout over the people of the region.
3. There exists a deep nexus between all the insurgent groups in the Northeast. The CPI (Maoist) is also in touch with the North east insurgents primarily to source weapons. Arms were given by the United Liberation Force of Asom (ULFA) to the CPI (Maoist) in West Bengal.
4. The biggest challenge to the North East is extortion carried out by various insurgent groups. Extortion has become a meticulously organized activity in the region and is one of the major sources of funds for the militants.

Political

1. It is important to understand the culture and psyche of the people of the North East while framing policy alternatives.

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2. The perceived threat to the political identity of the Assamese people from the illegal migrants from Bangladesh lies at the core of the Assam problem. The indigenous people of Assam feel that in future the illegal migrants will become the majority population and they will lose political power.
3. The ceasefire agreements and peace negotiations have resulted in reducing the violence levels and given the civil societies of the region space to talk.
4. One of the ways to contain insurgency in the region is to delegate powers to the ethnic minorities through the Autonomous District Councils so that they can fashion their own development.
5. The implementation of Sixth Schedule in Assam has not benefited the tribal communities of the state. Following the 73rd and 74th amendments, the Central and state governments are providing huge amounts of financial resources to the PanchayatiRaj Institutions (PRI) and municipalities. Since, the scheduled areas do not fall under the purview of the PRI and municipalities, they do not receive any share of these funds and as a result they lose out.

Development

1. Security situation in the region has improved considerably in Assam and Meghalaya in particular facilitating a conducive atmosphere for investment and development. The Northeast Industrial Policy initiated by the Government of India further contributed in encouraging investment and industries in the region.
2. However, the Northeast will not attract big industries because the region is resource deficit, and does not have economies of scale to match. Moreover, the security situation in the whole of the region has not improved uniformly.

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3. The North East Council (NEC) and the Ministry for the Development of the North East Region (DoNER) have become fund disbursing agencies instead of strategic planning agencies. At present approximately Rs. 11,000 crore is lying idle with the Ministry of DoNER.

Look East Policy

1. The North East still remains inward looking focussing primarily on internal conflicts. There is no discussion on the benefits that could accrue to the region from the Look East Policy.
2. If the North East Region is opened up there is a fear of being swamped by cheap Chinese goods, which would spell disaster for the local manufacturing units.
3. Apprehensions exist that the development of communication links could result in developing strong links between the people of the North east with the people of China, Myanmar and ASEAN countries, which would undermine the unity and integrity of India.

Border issues

1. The international borders in the North east are extremely porous. Thus, cross border infiltration of militants, and smuggling of arms are rampant in the region.
2. China has a differing claim in Arunachal Pradesh. Along the westernmost corner, the Chinese claim line lay 20 kms south and in the easternmost extreme of Arunachal Pradesh it lay 30 km south.
3. International boundaries in the North East have not crystallized into lines separating sovereign countries on the ground.

Important facts about tribes in India

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The Constitution of India does not give any definition for Scheduled Tribes.

According to Article 366(25) of the Constitution, Scheduled Tribes are those communities that are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution.

Article 342: “The Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification”.

As per Article 338-A of the Constitution of India, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been set up.

5th and 6th Schedule: Administration and control of Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

5th Schedule: deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

6th Schedule: consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.

Scheduled Tribes in India

According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 104 million representing 8.6% of the country's population.

It is important to note that there are many tribes that have not yet been identified as scheduled tribes.

These Scheduled Tribes are spread throughout the country largely in forest and hilly regions.

The essential characteristics of these communities are:-

Primitive Traits

Geographical isolation

Distinct culture

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Shy of contact with the community at large

Economically backwards

There are over 700 scheduled tribes in India, out of which around 75 are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Bhil is the largest tribal group while Gond comprises the second largest tribal group of India.

The largest number of tribal communities (62) are found in Odisha.

The largest population of STs is in Madhya Pradesh- 21.1% of the total state population.

Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, are predominantly tribal States /Union territories where Scheduled Tribes population constitutes more than 60% of their total population.

No tribe was identified in Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Puducherry.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups.

Later 23 groups were added to the category making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (A&N Islands) in the country (2011 census).

Characteristics of PVGT's:

Declining or stagnant population,

Low level of literacy,

Pre-agricultural level of technology,

Economically backwards,

Generally, inhabit remote localities having poor infrastructure and administrative support.

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The highest number is found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).

These hunting, food-gathering, and some agricultural communities have been identified as less acculturated tribes among the tribal population groups and in need of special programmes for their sustainable development.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.

Under the scheme, Conservation-cum-Development (CCD)/Annual Plans are to be prepared by each State/UT for their PVTGs based on their need assessment.

Priority is also assigned to PVTGs under the schemes of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS), Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Strengthening of Education among ST Girls in Low Literacy Districts.

Legal Provisions

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955: against untouchability.

Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989: to prevent the commission of offenses of atrocities against the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996: to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006: to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest-dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Committees Related to Tribal Communities

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Xaxa Committee (2013)

Bhuria Commission (2002-2004)

Lokur Committee (1965)

Read more about Tribal Rights- [Click here](#)

Main Problems Faced by the Indian Tribes

Loss of control over natural resources:

Loss of ownership rights over land, owing to chronic indebtedness, unscrupulous landlords, moneylenders, contractors and officials.

Land alienation due to changes in demography and socio-cultural spheres resulted from large scale immigration to some states like Assam.

Lack of education:

The literacy rate as per Census 2011 is 73% but for STs is 59% only.

It leads to tribal superstitions and prejudices, extreme poverty, nomadic lifestyle of certain tribes, lack of interest in alien subjects taught through an alien language and a lack of suitable teachers and other facilities in the tribal areas.

Displacement and rehabilitation:

Acquisition of tribal land by the government for developmental projects led to large scale displacement of the tribal population.

Tribals are forced to live in peripheries in slums or to migrate to adjoining states to work as unskilled workers in conditions of poverty.

Problems of health and nutrition:

Due to economic backwardness and insecure livelihood, the tribals face health problems, diseases like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, diarrhea and jaundice,

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problems associated with malnutrition like iron deficiency and anemia, high infant mortality rates, low levels of life expectancy, etc.

Gender issues:

Degradation of the natural environment, through the destruction of forests and a rapidly shrinking resource base, has had an impact on the status of women.

Erosion of identity:

Traditional institutions and laws are coming into conflict with modern institutions which create apprehensions among the tribals about preserving their identity.

The extinction of tribal dialects and languages is a major concern as it indicates an erosion of tribal identity in certain areas.

Exclusion and isolation:

Tribals face untouchability, including physical exclusion, the assumption of criminality.

Climate change:

Changing agricultural and hunting practices, rising temperature and water scarcity across the world puts them at most risk.

Sources for Research

1. Government Reports (Each ministry publishes its own reports including External Affairs Ministry)
2. PTI , PIB <https://www.ptinews.com/> <https://pib.gov.in/>
3. Government Websites
4. Government run News channels i.e. RSTV, LSTV, DD News
5. Standing Committee Reports/ Commission Reports
6. RTI Proofs <https://rtionline.gov.in/>
7. Parliamentary Standing Committee reports
8. Questions and Answers of the parliament

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