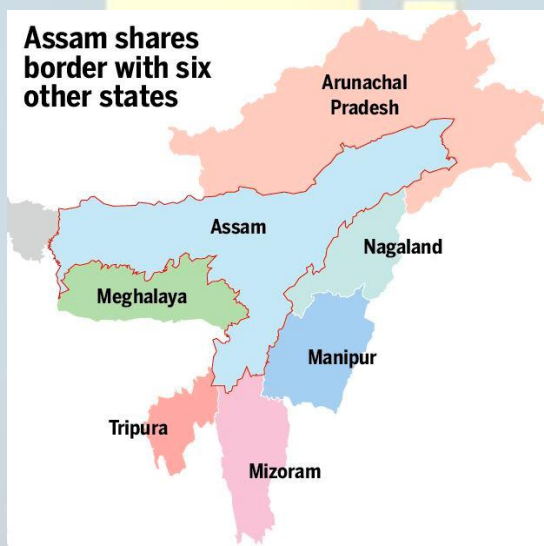
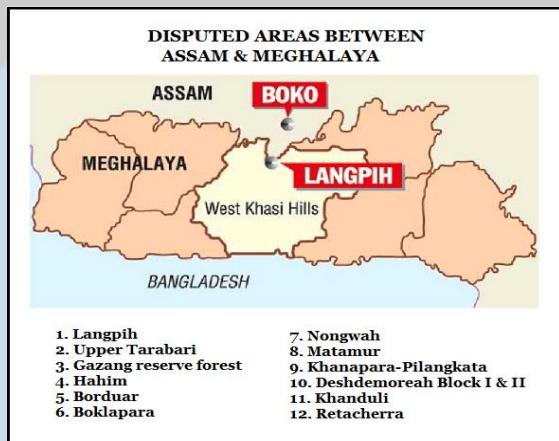


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Assam - Meghalaya border dispute



WHY THE DISPUTE?

- Assam and Meghalaya share an 885-km border.
- In 1970, Meghalaya was carved out of Assam as an autonomous state.

In 1972, Meghalaya became a full-fledged state following the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act of 1969.

- This was the beginning of the border problem as the Meghalaya government found the Act unacceptable.
- As many as 12 land dispute points, along the border of these two states, have been a bone of contention.
- These include Langpih, Upper Tarabari, Gazang reserve forest, Hahim, Borduar, Boklapara, Nongwah, Matamur, Khanapara-Pilangkata, Deshdemoreah Block I and Block II, Khanduli and Retacherra.
- Six of these areas have found some type of resolution in recent times after a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the two states.
- Among the 12 areas, Langpih in the West Garo Hills bordering the Kamrup district of Assam is a major flashpoint.
- Langpih was part of the Kamrup district during the British colonial period, but post-Independence, it became part of the Garo Hills and Meghalaya.
- Meghalaya claims that the border problem in Langpih has been created by Assam, which has often set up police posts there.

RESOLVING THE ISSUE

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- In 1983, a joint official committee was formed to address the border issues.
- The panel recommended that the Survey of India should re-delineate the border, teaming up with both the states.
- An independent panel, spearheaded by Justice YV Chandrachud, was set up in 1985. Meghalaya rubbished the report.
- In 1991, about 100 km of the border was demarcated with the help of the Survey of India, but Meghalaya cried foul.
- In 2011, the Meghalaya Assembly passed a resolution for intervention of the Centre and the establishment of a boundary commission.
- The Centre asked the two governments to appoint nodal officers to discuss the dispute.
- In 2019, Meghalaya urged the Supreme Court to direct the Centre to resolve the dispute but the petition was turned down.
- On January 29 this year, Assam and Meghalaya signed a draft resolution. It was the first step towards resolving a 50-year-old dispute.
- On March 29, a historic MoU was signed between Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K Sangma in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.
- The agreement sought closure in six disputed sectors that were taken up for resolution in the first phase
- On August 22 this year, the second phase of border talks was held with the two states deciding to form three regional committees to resolve issues regarding the remaining six disputed areas
- Five principles are considered while resolving the border disputes: historical facts, ethnicity, administrative convenience, willingness and sentiments of the people concerned and the contiguity of the land, preferably with natural boundaries such as rivers, streams, and rocks.
- The Hindu

(PM-DevINE)

- Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE), was announced as a new Central Sector scheme, with 100% Central funding, in the Union Budget 2022-23 with initial list of seven projects and an initial allocation of Rs. 1500 crore.
- The approval of the Cabinet was accorded for the PM-DevINE scheme on 12 October, 2022.

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- The scheme has an outlay of Rs.6,600 crore for the 4 year period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (remaining years of the 15th Finance Commission period).
 - The objectives of PM-DevINE scheme are to:
 - (i) fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti;
 - (ii) support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER;
 - (iii) enable livelihood activities for youth and women; and
 - (iv) fill the development gaps in various sectors.
 - Keeping in view the objectives of the scheme, eleven projects amounting to Rs 1503.44 crore including the seven projects announced in Budget 2022-23, have been selected for sanction in FY 2022-23 and an amount of Rs 121.10 crore has been disbursed. State-wise, project wise list of projects approved during FY 2022-23.
 - The Hindu
- Palna scheme**
- The Women and Child Development Ministry said it aimed to establish 17,000 creches in anganwadis across the country.
 - The Ministry added that 5,222 creches had been approved until now, and it planned to depute two additional creche workers in each anganwadi.
- These initiatives are being taken under the 'Palna' scheme to address the need for quality daycare facilities or creches for children of working women by providing a safe and secure environment for the nutritional, health and cognitive development of the children, thereby enabling more women among all socioeconomic groups to take up gainful employment in the organised and unorganised sector
 - About Rare earth elements
 - China, the world's top processor of rare earths, banned the export of technology to extract and separate the strategic metals, as it overhauled a list of technologies deemed key to national security.
 - It also banned the export of production technology for rare earth metals and alloy materials as well as technology to prepare some rare earth magnets.
 - The move comes as Europe and the U.S. scramble to wean themselves off rare earths from China, which accounts for 90% of global refined output
- All about Rare earth elements**
- The rare earth elements (REE) are a set of seventeen metallic elements.
 - These include the fifteen lanthanides on the periodic table plus scandium and yttrium.

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- Rare earth elements are an essential part of many high-tech devices
- Rare-earth elements (REE) are necessary components of more than 200 products across a wide range of applications, especially high-tech consumer products, such as cellular telephones, computer hard drives, electric and hybrid vehicles, and flat-screen monitors and televisions.
- Significant defense applications include electronic displays, guidance systems, lasers, and radar and sonar systems.
- Although the amount of REE used in a product may not be a significant part of that product by weight, value, or volume, the REE can be necessary for the device to function.
- For example, magnets made of REE often represent only a small fraction of the total weight, but without them, the spindle motors and voice coils of desktops and laptops would not be possible.
- In 1993, 38 percent of world production of REEs was in China, 33 percent was in the United States, 12 percent was in Australia, and five percent each was in Malaysia and India.
- Several other countries, including Brazil, Canada, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, made up the remainder.
- However, in 2008, China accounted for more than 90 percent of world production of REEs, and by 2011, China accounted for 97 percent of world production.
- Beginning in 1990 and beyond, supplies of REEs became an issue as the Government of China began to change the amount of the REEs that it allows to be produced and exported.
- The Chinese Government also began to limit the number of Chinese and Sino-foreign joint-venture companies that could export REEs from China."

The Hindu