

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 3 Internal Security – Security challenges and their management in border areas.

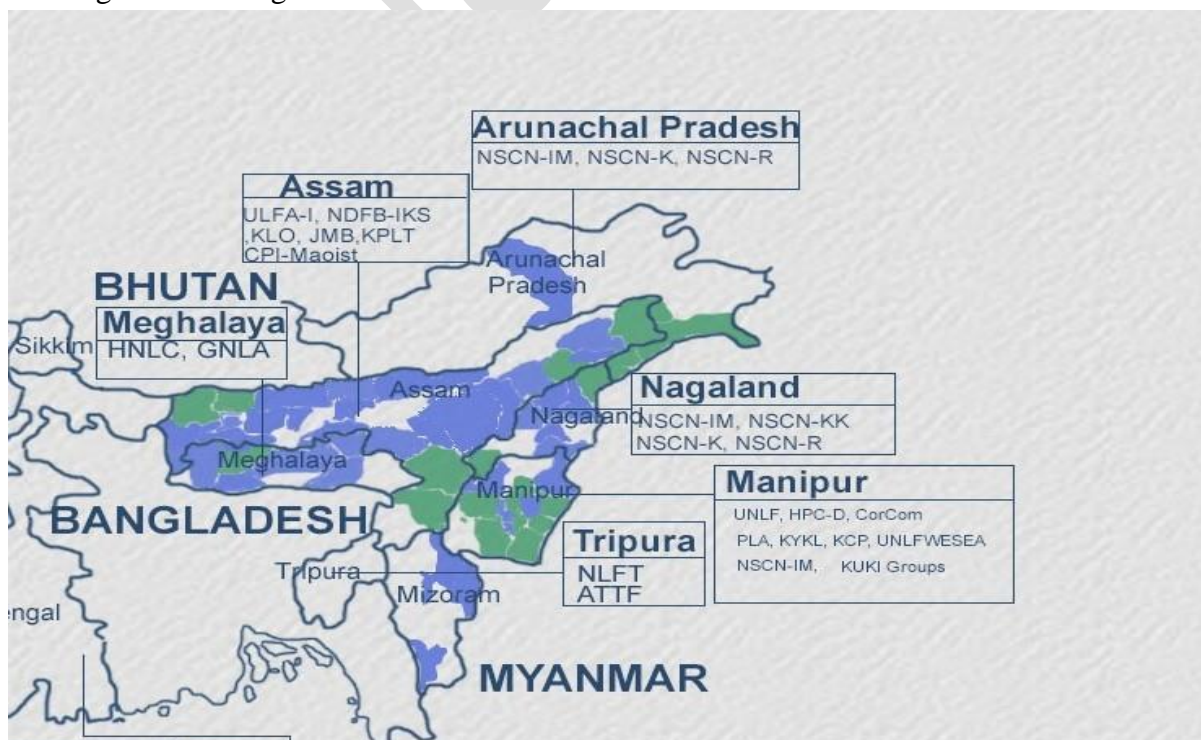
UNLF Peace Agreement: Navigating Towards Stability

Recently, the Governments of India and Manipur, along with the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), signed a tripartite peace accord. While awaiting the detailed terms of the agreement, the current focus is on the suspension of operations (SoO), with the establishment of a Peace Monitoring Committee to oversee enforcement.

India's Varied Experience with Peace Accords:

- 1. Peace Achieved in Mizoram and Tripura:** Notable success stories include achieving normalcy in states like Mizoram and Tripura, where peace accords have contributed to stability.
- 2. Removal of AFSPA in Assam:** In Assam, several separatist groups, barring the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), have signed accords, leading to the removal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from four additional districts in October.
- 3. Decline in Violence:** Positive outcomes include a significant reduction in security personnel casualties, civilian casualties, and the number of violent incidents. Since 2014, over 6,112 insurgents have voluntarily surrendered.
- 4. Challenges in Nagaland and Manipur:** Nagaland and Manipur stand as challenges, as not all groups in these states have come to the negotiation table, reflecting the complexity of achieving comprehensive peace in these regions.

The recent accord in Manipur, with its focus on the suspension of operations and the establishment of a Peace Monitoring Committee, reflects the ongoing efforts to address conflicts and foster stability in different regions of India. The diverse outcomes of peace accords across states underscore the intricate nature of conflict resolution and the need for tailored approaches to address unique challenges in each region.



About the UNLF: The United National Liberation Front (UNLF) originated in 1964 as a valley-based insurgent group, distinct from factions in the Naga-dominated and Kuki-Zomi dominated hills of the state. Formed under the leadership of Arambam Samarendra Singh, the UNLF aimed at secession from India. Its armed wing, the Manipur People's Army, established in 1990, has been involved in numerous attacks targeting Indian security personnel.

Significance of the Peace Agreement:

1. **Ending Hostility and Restoring Peace:** The agreement holds the potential to terminate hostility and restore peace and normalcy in the region, bringing relief to the affected communities.
2. **Addressing Community Concerns:** It provides an opportunity to address the concerns of the community affected by the conflict, contributing to long-term stability.
3. **Encouraging Other Insurgent Groups:** The participation of the first valley-based armed group, like the UNLF, sets a precedent that may encourage other insurgent groups to engage in dialogue for peaceful resolutions.

Challenges in Implementing Peace Agreements in the North-East:

1. **Multiplicity of Stakeholders:** Divergent interests among various groups, reflecting diverse demands from ethnic and tribal communities, pose a challenge in finding common ground.
2. **Disruption by Extremists:** The implementation of peace agreements is susceptible to disruption by extremist factions or splinter groups resorting to violence, hindering progress.
3. **Historical Distrust:** Historical distrust undermines the effectiveness of peace agreements, as communities lack faith in the government's commitment to fulfilling promises.
4. **Geopolitical Factors:** External influences and geopolitical factors, including interference by external actors, can destabilise the region. In the case of the UNLF, some members reportedly receive support from the military junta in Myanmar.

Additional Measures Needed Alongside the Peace Accord:

1. **Enhanced Compensation for Victims:** Victims of violence should receive increased compensation to address their losses adequately.
2. **Rehabilitation of Displaced Individuals:** Those displaced due to insurgency should undergo comprehensive rehabilitation to rebuild their lives.
3. **Dismantling Militant-Controlled Zones:** Zones carved out by militant groups need to be dismantled to restore normalcy and establish state authority.
4. **Timely Prosecution of Criminal Cases:** Criminal cases related to insurgency must be prosecuted promptly to deliver justice.
5. **Pushing for Political Agreements:** Efforts should be directed towards achieving political agreements between various stakeholders to foster sustained peace.

The Way Forward: Given Manipur's volatile border status, appointing a political negotiator supported by a team of administrators to engage with diverse stakeholders and formulate a comprehensive, inclusive, and peaceful agreement should be a strategic way forward. This approach aims to address the multiplicity of challenges and build a foundation for lasting peace in the region.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper 3 – Economy- agriculture (issues of buffer stocks and food security)s.

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The hidden costs of agrifood systems in India encompass various dimensions, spanning environmental, health-related, and social aspects. These include factors such as greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen emissions, water usage, land-use changes, decreased productivity from unhealthy dietary patterns, and social costs associated with poverty and productivity losses due to undernourishment.

Key Findings from the State of Food and Agriculture Report:

1. Global Scale:

- Global hidden costs of agrifood systems surpass \$10 trillion.
- India ranks as the third-largest contributor, with hidden costs amounting to approximately \$1.1 trillion, following China (\$2.5 trillion) and the United States (\$1.5 trillion).

2. Impact on India's GDP:

- Current farming practices in India contribute to nearly 11% of the country's GDP in hidden costs, contributing to elevated poverty levels.

3. Breakdown of Hidden Costs in India:

- Burden of disease (productivity losses from dietary patterns) constitutes the largest share (60%), followed by the social cost of poverty among agrifood workers (14%), and the environmental cost of nitrogen emissions (13%).

Reasons for Hidden Costs in Current Farming Practices in India:

1. Green Revolution Impact:

- The Green Revolution, focused on monocultures of rice and wheat, has led to a loss of seed sovereignty, reduced crop diversity, and increased farmer debt.
- The debt-to-asset ratio for farmers rose by 630% from 1992 to 2013, highlighting the economic strain of these practices.

2. Agriculture Policy Impact:

- The National Food Security Act of 2013 and the emphasis on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rice and wheat encourage water-intensive and chemical-dependent farming practices, contributing to monoculture systems and impacting biodiversity and soil health.

3. Global Market Influence:

- Fluctuations in global markets directly impact local farmer incomes.
- Historical global trade relations, such as enforced exports of cotton during British rule, have shaped local production in alignment with global demands.

Recommendations for Mitigation:

1. Shift to Multi-Cropping Systems:

- Diversify crops through systems like 'akkadi saalu' in Karnataka, promoting the mixing of legumes, pulses, and oilseeds for enhanced farmer well-being and nutritional outcomes.

2. Reduce Chemical Usage:

- Gradually transition from chemical-intensive practices to natural farming methods to reduce input costs and improve soil health.

3. Rebalance Crop Allocation:

- Increase the cultivation and procurement of coarse grains and nutritious crops to

promote dietary diversity, reducing the emphasis on rice and wheat.

4. Policy and Subsidy Reforms:

- Redirect subsidies to support sustainable farming and diverse crop cultivation, incentivizing eco-friendly practices.

5. Collaborative Efforts:

- Encourage collaboration among institutions, policymakers, and farming communities to develop and implement sustainable agricultural strategies.

Addressing these recommendations is crucial for mitigating the hidden costs associated with current farming practices in India and promoting a more sustainable and resilient agrifood system.