



NORTHEAST India – Where South Asia meets Southeast Asia

- The region is connected to rest of India by a narrow stretch of land (21-40 km width), popularly known as chicken’s neck corridor.
- 99 percent boundaries with transnational neighbors- China in North; Nepal in West; Bhutan in North-West; Myanmar in East; Bangladesh in South-West
- 75 major ethnic groups and sub-groups with 400 languages and dialects depict India’s Northeast as a truly multi-ethnic society.



- Together, these seven (plus one- Sikkim) states represent around eight percent (262,230 Sq Kms) of total area and four percent of the total population of India.
- Tribes having unique social and cultural practices constitute around 30 percent of the region’s population.
- Assam, the largest state in the region with 68 percent of the 46 million people living here.
- Assam, alone is the home to 23 different tribes.



Regional and Transnational Contiguity

- States (the sisters) have a geographical and political contiguity, but people's customs, traditions, culture, values, and beliefs, although co-exist but distinctly vary

- Border or peripheral region of India, the Northeast is contiguous to its transnational neighbors like Bangladesh, China, Bhutan and Myanmar.

- The over-stretched state machinery coupled with very few private investments in industries has resulted in high incidences of unemployment

- The region suffers from lack of basic entitlements and social infrastructure. Education, health and livelihoods much to be desired

- The incidence of poverty, in rural areas has been increasing. The Human Poverty Index (HPI) has been higher than the National average.

- This diversity has also given the Northeast a sense of plurality but serious engagement with the region in terms of its rich cultural-martial heritage still inadequate. (Manipur an example)