

The Quest for Governance in Northeast India: A Critical Appraisal of Sixth Schedule in Bodoland

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Abstract

The problems that the Northeast region encompassed have no precedence, as ethnic nationhood started emerging, with demands for autonomy and separation. The non-state spaces which prevailed in the region during the British colonialism under the Excluded and Partially excluded areas have garnered political mobility alongside India's national building process. The immediate explosion was recorded in the Naga hills, but it soon engulfed the entire region with violent secessionism. Initially it was perceived as military adventurism, but as time passed, the situation in Northeast India had eclipsed into a parochialism and exclusivist mindset for homogenous territorial spaces. It is here in this context that this paper is going to look into the ethnic homeland demands by the tribal populations of the Northeast region. Under the heads for governance and autonomy, the ethnic mobilisation in the region is multi-faceted which include memorandums, protest, agitations, ethnic riots and insurgencies. This research study exclusively focuses on the ethnic mobilisation of Bodo tribes of Assam and how a political upheaval under the sixth schedule of the constitution is pacifying social-political unrest in the region.

Keywords: Autonomy, Bodoland, Ethnicity, Governance, Sixth Schedule, Tribal

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