

- **Open Channel of Dialogue:** The Centre must negotiate with all the factions and all stakeholders of the Insurgents to have a long-lasting peace.
- **Promote Peace Accord Process:** The Government too realised that privileging one insurgent group could eventually distort the contours of the final peace accord and it subsequently enlarged the peace process by roping in seven other Naga insurgent groups under the umbrella of Naga National Political Groups (NNPG).
- **Recognized the unique history, culture and position:** In order to achieve the long-lasting solution, their cultural, historical and territorial extent must be taken into consideration.
- **Maximize decentralisation of powers:** There is a need to maximize decentralisation of powers to the tribal heads and minimum centralisation at the apex level, which should mainly work towards facilitating governance and undertaking large development projects.
- **Proper Peace Framework:** For any peace framework to be effective, it should not threaten the present territorial boundaries of the states of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. As it will not be acceptable to these states.
- **Provide Autonomy to Naga Community:** Need to provide Greater autonomy for the Naga inhabited areas in these states which would encompass separate budget allocations for the Naga inhabited areas with regard to their culture and development issues.
- **Constitutional Guarantee:** A new body should be constituted that would look after the rights of the Nagas in the other north-eastern states besides Nagaland.
- **Need Consent of Naga Leaders:** Any final resolution package also has a consent of the NSCN-IM as well. Only then will the Naga inhabited area in Northeast India witness real peace after decades of violence.
- **Intent of Government to solve issue:** Moreover, the Centre must keep in mind that most of the armed insurgencies across the world do not end in either total victory or comprehensive defeat, but in a grey zone called 'compromise'.

3. BODO PEACE ACCORD: BODOLAND ISSUE

- **In News:** Recently, the GOI, Assam government and Bodo groups, including all factions of the militant National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), signed an agreement to redraw and rename the Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD) as the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**, in Assam.
- The BTAD and other areas mentioned under the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution have been **exempted from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019**.

FEATURES OF RECENT AGREEMENT:

- **Funding improved by Govt.:** A Special Development Package Rs. 1500 crores over three years will be given by the Union Government to undertake specific projects for the development of Bodo areas.
- **Constitution of Commission:** It proposes to set up a commission under Section 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, which will recommend the inclusion or exclusion of tribal population residing in villages adjoining BTAD areas.
- **Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council:** The Government of Assam will establish a Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council as per the existing procedure.
- **Introduced Associate official language:** The Assam government will also notify Bodo language as an associate official language in the state and will set up a separate directorate for Bodo medium schools. Although Bodo was included in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution in 2004, it is yet to receive an official language status.
- **Tribal status:** Bodos living in the hills would be conferred a Scheduled Hill Tribe status.
- **Structural changes of Bodoland Territory :** The name of BTAD will be changed to Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) and it will have more executive, administrative, legislative and financial powers. However, the "memorandum of settlement" does not have any provisions for a separate state.
- **Central University:** A Central university in the name of Upendranth Brahma will be established within the Bodoland area.
- **Establishment of various Institutions:** National Sports University; Institute of Livelihood management, Regional medical institute; tribal university, rural development centre, veterinary college, music and fine art college and many more centres will be set up in the region to ensure progress.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGREEMENT:

- The accord will successfully **bring together leading stakeholders** under one framework.