

# Study of Different Cultures in India: Case Study of Northeast India

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## ABSTRACT

India is diverse country with many cultures and people. We say that language and culture changes in India at every state and region. Northeast is the region where real beauty of country lies. Many people don't know about the state properly because we ignore that part of country. Northeast is untouched by human intervention which makes it a beautiful place with natural beauty. This paper makes an attempt to make you all aware about northeast region and explain its culture and beauty. In this paper we will study each and every state of northeast in detail. We will learn about specific and popular things about the state. There is a lack of knowledge among people about northeast and people of that region face many problems while adjusting in north or south region in India. We will learn more about Northeast region and try to make people aware about northeast and its cultural beauty.

*Keywords:- Culture, Northeast, Indian culture, Northeastern region*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Northeastern states are established in the 19th and early 20th century during British rule. Early they are out of the way from trading to Bhutan and Myanmar, most people in the northeast now northeastern region. Tripura and Manipur endured as the union territory of India from 1956 to 1972, during this period they perfectly evolved as statehood. Later on, in 2002 Sikkim became the 8th northern eastern council of state (taher,2011).

Arunachal Pradesh one of the northeastern states was avowed as south Tibet by China, Sino Indian relations were mortified which resulted as the Sino-Indian war in 1962. During the war, China detained the northeastern frontier agency made by India in

neophyte to Christianity because of the ascendancy by missionaries of British. After the Indian independence in 1947, Manipur and other princely

states of Tripura and Assam along with Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh cropped up as

1954. On 21 November 1962 China withdraw its troops 20 kilometers away from McMahon line and return the Indian prisoners in 1963 (ibid).

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura are the famous The Seven Sisters. "Land of seven sisters" term was devised by the inception of current states on 1972 January by a journalist of Tripura. He wrote a book about the similarity and normalcy of seven sisters and style it "land of seven sisters" (saikiaj.p

1976). Northeast is the easternmost region of India, clutch of eight states- Assam, Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Tripura. It covers the areas of 262,230 square kilometers and shares the 5128 kilometers of international boundaries. It is the zaftig salient in the world ( taher,2011).

Northeast has a hot, humid summer, with several monsoons and milt winters climate. It has last endured rainforest that supports legion leafage and animalia with sundry crop species. The Brahmaputra is the main river that flows with its tributaries (Beki, kolong, kameng etc.). Kanchenjunga is the third boisterous mountain peak altitude of 8,586m (dikshit,2014).

The aggregate population of the northeast is 46 million where 68% consists of Assam only. The density of Assam is 397 people square kilometer. The literacy rate is 74% omitting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The literacy rates of the states are Assam (72.19%), Manipur (79.21%), Meghalaya (74.43%), Nagaland (79.55%), Mizoram (91.33%), Arunachal Pradesh (65.38%), Tripura (87.22%) and Sikkim (81.42%) (Censues,2011).

Northeast India has 220 languages in multiple language families, Assamese and Indo- Aryan is spoken in Brahmaputra valley. Austro-Asiatic is depicted by Jaintia, khasi and the war language of Meghalaya few Tai- kadai speakers are also there. Language is the most important medium of conversation each state has its language. Arunachal Pradesh ( Hindi and English ), Assam ( Assamese, Bengali, and bodo), Manipur ( meliteilon), Meghalaya ( khasi, garo, and english ), Mizoram

( mizo, and English), Nagaland ( English), Sikkim ( nepali, and English ), Tripura (Bengali, kokborok, and English). Bengal was the ceremonial language

of pioneer Assam till 40 years. Those languages which are reorganized by state and central government became the official language rest become vulnerable (taher,2011).

Northeast has mixed religion Islam (23%), Hinduism (58.06%), Christianity (16.89%), Buddhism (1.37%), Jainism (0.07%), Sikkim (0.07%), and other religion (1.65%). It is a diverse state with a different religion of people living together. There are a total of 220 ethnic groups mostly hilly regions Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram are feisty by people of tribes. These tribes also have great assortment among them, the population is high due to the migration of people from Tibet, and Indo-Gangetic India, Major communities are Adivasi, beate, gurug, kuki, tiwa, deori, etc(ibid).

In this paper we will study the culture variation in every state of northeast India. Northeast India is frequently neglected by people, only few times we look at the value of nature. Northeast is highly different; we will see the beauty of its culture and how admirable is the northeast India. In contrary to we will discuss that even though northeast India has a rich culture, people don't consider it much in most of the parameters we left northeast India. Northeast India faces lots discrimination about their look, their features and many more. Many states are not well connected to urban location, transportation system is not well developed this is the barrier for the development of northeast India.

## **II. STATE WISE STUDY OF NORTHEAST**

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura are the eight states located in the northeast of India, has a great importance not only because their location but culturally and historically. They are known as

eight sisters and also referred as seven sisters or seven sisters and one brother. Now we will look at the state wise cultural description of northeast India. We will understand briefly the culture and tradition of every state of northeast India

#### **A. Arunachal Pradesh**

Arunachal Pradesh is called as the realm of “dawn lit mountains” it is the most populated land of the northeast with a population of 13.83 lakh according to the census of 2011. It covers the area of 83,743 sq.km; it is the huge state of northeastern India. It lies between 26°30’ north and 29° 030’ North Latitude and 91° 030’ east and 97° 030’ east Longitude. It has great historical value; this place is mentioned in Ramayana and Mahabharata. Sage pashuram washed away his sins in this state, lord Krishna married rukmani here and sage vayas meditates in the forest (shubamj, 2018).

Arunachal Pradesh is consisting of 26 tribes and many sub-tribes that have their own culture and customs. There are main three groups of tribes: Monpas and sherudkpens is the first group, adis, akas, apantan, bangnis, mijis, mishims is the second group and octes and wanchos is the third group of tribes. Everyone follows their religion freely in Arunachal Pradesh. 30% of people follow Christianity; some small group of people follows Hindu. Buddhism is the most dominant religion in west kameng (ibid).

Arunachal Pradesh is lionized for its arts and crafts which are carried on from one generation to another generation. Men are expert in bamboo making, wood carving, weaving, carpet making, pottery making. Women are experts in handloom and handicrafts.

Arunachal Pradesh staple diet is rice, meat and leaf vegetable and its popular dishes are thukpa, momo, apgon. It is situated in the northeast of the

region and influenced by the Himalayan civilization. Due to high varieties the method of food preparation is different from districts to districts.

The main occupation of Arunachal Pradesh is jhum agriculture (ibid). Jhum cultivation means clearing of land cutting down the trees and burns the forest to increase the fertility of the soil and the sowing the seeds on the land. They also do the cultivation of timber plant and plywood. Many industries are dependent on the land for tea, petrochemical, and cement. Arunachal Pradesh is the beauty of nature it is truly magical. It also preserved its ancient culture and tradition beautifully.

#### **B. Assam**

Assam, located south of the northeastern Himalayas is one of those 7 siblings. This lovely earth is the small heaven on the rough terrain and worth to be found for its pure appearance. These natives are named Sonya which is also the government words of Assam. (britannica, 2018)

The newly established Kaziranga human flower and biodiversity arena features more than 500 of the reckon 1,314 flower races seen in India (ibi). The history of art in Assam gets back into bygone as demonstrated by metal sheet inscriptions and art about shaivism and Shaktism traditions. Singing and singing traditions, likewise, have been described to Assamese music singing practice for Asian epic that Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Two third of the Assamese are Hindu and worship the god Vishnu. Some one-fourth of this population practice religion, most Muslims representing colonists from Bangladesh or converts from the lower strata of the Asian community. The social experience of Assam is woven with the action of the number of social institutions and religious cent.

The people of Assam are very well-educated and have good knowledge about their own culture, for example, the Satra (place of the sacred head called the satradhikar) and namghar (prayer hall) (ibid). A good number of Assam's mortals sleep in rural areas. The system of the population is rough, yet, reflecting the mountains terrain, the size of rivers, the forests, the smaller amount of cultivable farming, and the need for industrialization.

Assam has a affluent tradition of crafts, stem and wood business, bell alloy and brass craft, textile and cloth weaving, miniature and mask production, craft and terracotta work, woodcraft, jewelry making, making music tools are great to work of Assam. Women are experts in weaving which socially important in Assam. Almost every Assamese family, regardless of status, creed, and culture status, has at least one loom, and most women are expected to be proficient at making good silk and cotton cloths. (Assam tourism2002, government of Assam)

### *C. Manipur*

Surrounded by dark hills with the oval-shaped valley in the center rich in art and practice and surcharged with the world's pure beauty. Manipur rests on the melting pot of society. It is the first home of polo. Having a different and respected past from the earliest times, Manipur fell under the British law as the princely government after the ending at the Anglo- Manipuri battle of 1891 after the independence of India in 1947, the princely government of Manipur was unified in the Asian state on October 12, 1949, and turned into the full-fledged government of India on the 21st January 1972 with the legislative congregation of 60 rooms of which 20 are appropriated for the scheduled nation and 1 appropriated for scheduled status.

The population of Manipur is 2,855,794 as per 2011, total of this 58.9 percent sleep in the valley and the left 41.1 percentage in the mountains area (Britannica, 2018). These lands are populated primarily by the kuki, and naga, and smaller tribal societies and this valley primarily by that meiteis, Manipuri Brahmins and pangal. These settlements in this valley area are likely less in the figure.

Manipur pirouette also called as jogi, is one of those leading Indian classic art samblance, named after the state of Manipur. (lochtefeld,2002) It is especially known for its Hindu vaishnavismiseas, and beautiful performance of the love-inspired art genre of Radha-Krishna named raslila. The origins of Manipur art, as with all classical Indian dance, is the old Asian Sanskrit book natya shastra, but with influences from this society combination between India and Southeast Asia.

Manipur remains slightly separated from the outer world of India, and connections within the council are bad. The national route runs through the council from tamu on the Myanmar border in the region via Imphal to dimapur in the region; the road also links imphla to Guwahati and silchar at Assam and Calcutta at West Bengal government. (Britannica, 2018)

### *D. Mizoram*

The eastern government of India is also known worldwide for its weather. The beautiful-looking government has also named the earth of mountains because most of Mizoram is surrounded by lands. It borders 2 neighboring oceans like Burma east and region and Bangladesh west. The North portion of Mizoram is bordered by some of these eastern states, including those states of Manipur, Assam, and Tripura. Mizoram is famous for its traditions and cultures which are followed throughout the

year and that is why Mizoram is called evergreen land.

The majority of Mizos represent Christians at sundry persuasions, typically Presbyterian. Mizoram has the Chakma Thravada Buddhist population as per to 8.5 percent giving them the lofty number, accompanied by Hindus in 2.7 percent as per to the 2011 census. There are some thousand people, largely cultural Mizo, who has converted to region claiming to be one of those missing Judaic kin group Bnei Menashe, with ancestry from the Biblical Menasseh. Muslims compromise about 1.3 percent of the government population ( Britannica, 2018). Those hanging in the air 3,000 people present Sikhs, Jains, and other faiths.

Mizoram constitutes one of those most sparsely inhabited states of Bharat. Aizwal is the government's single great city; huge towns include Lunglei, in the northeastern part of the government, and Champhai, in the south-central area. More than three-fourths of this estate region of Mizoram equals forested. Deep evergreen woodlands include precious land trees, such as Champak, ironwood, and gurjun. These forests also provide an environment for numerous animals, including elephants, cats, and bears, deer, monkeys, Gibbons, and serows. Such creatures are protected in the number of public parks and wildlife refuges( *ibid*).

The most popular dance form of Mizoram is Cheraw dance in which 4 people hold long bamboos. It is one of the most famous dances at Mizoram and the area of attraction during joyous times. Some dances are seen in this Far East and the Philippines, where it is recognized as Tinking. It is thought that this Cheraw art arose as early as the first century AD. Long bamboo staves are used for art, so some people call it "bamboos art" (*ibid*).

The powwow is a celebration in Indigenous society that boasts traditional art, music, food, and regalia. As both formal and cultural events, powwows give religious meaning and continue passed through generations. Nowadays, Powwows are often open gatherings that take people from all societies as a means to meet and share social traditions.

#### *E. Meghalaya*

Meghalaya, one of northeast India states, equal population by two great tribal clumps khasi and garo. Our earlier investigation of ethnohistoric, communication and demographic information indicated that neighboring khasi and garo as this putative maternal population of lyngngam. We received admixture appraisals of lyngngamverus that putative maternal populations (*bitannica*, 2018).

Meghalaya, the government of India, located in the eastern part of this nation. It equals bordered by this Indian government of Assam north and northeast east and by Bangladesh south and SW. this government capital is the hill town of Shillong, placed at east-central Meghalaya. English constitutes the official and widely spoken words of this government. The main languages at Meghalaya are khasi and garo.

The population is predominantly agricultural, and some towns exist in this government. The largest municipal center is Shillong and other urban centers are listed in descending order jowai, nongthymmai, mawali, and tura(*ibid*).

Meghalaya has no strong industries; small-scale industries allow the manufacturing of concrete, plywood, and groceries. Internal connections are bad, and some countries remain separated. There are no railroads at Meghalaya. The federal road goes through the government from Guwahati in the north to karimganj in the region.



#### ***F. Nagaland***

Nagaland is situated at the extreme Northern East frontiers of India. The Nagaland is bordered by Assam and Myanmar in the east in the region. Nagaland Tour Packages provide an unbelievable education, where you can unravel current surprises. The North government is home to more than 17 tribes, each having different cultures, and traditions. "The land of festival" is known as Nagaland (Britannica, 2018). Nagaland shows many festivals celebrated nearly every month. Hornbill is celebrated in December being the most popular figure to go.

The Nagaland population is mostly agrarian with only 28.86 percent living in urban areas in the 2011 census. (Government of Nagaland, 2011) These larger urbanized regions of Nagaland represent Dimapur, Kohima, and Mokokchung.

There is a heterogeneity among tribes and people living together from a long period of time and acknowledge their culture. All Christian festivals are also celebrated by the government. Farming is the most important occupation of the people there, so there every festival is related to farming.

Nagaland depends largely on ways of transport. The general roads run from Dimapur to Kohima and then on to Imphal at Manipur. The single railway connection with the rest of India in the northeast boundary passing from Dimapur to Assam. Air delivery is accessible from Dimapur to Guwahati in Assam to Calcutta at the West Bengal government (Britannica, 2018).

#### ***G. Sikkim***

The culture of Sikkim is rich and vast people of different beliefs live together. Aside from the conventional Sikkimese text and tribal languages that people of Sikkim also speak different languages like Sanskrit and English. They are

mostly characterized a hot and friendly for yet of other societies occupying the government they even like in Harmony. There are cultural or spiritual or festivities that may not lose out the music and art of these people of Sikkim.

The big majority of Sikkim's population is involved in farming, living in dispersed village and villages. Gangtok equals Sikkim's largest village. Different famous townships consider Singtam, Rangpo, Jorethang, Naya Bazar, Mangan, Gyalshing, and Namchi (Britannica, 2018).

Noodle dishes are famous in Sikkim such as Wonton, Gyanthuk, Thenthuk, and chowmein. Momos steamed dumplings filled with veggies, buffalo meat, or pork and served with the dish – are the favorite meal (ibid).

Sikkim human transportation work car and cart companies. Privately go bus, tourist cab, and companies run throughout Sikkim, and also link it to Siliguri. Township at South and West Sikkim is related to hill stations of Kalimpong and Darjeeling in North West Bengal.

#### ***H. Tripura***

Tripura society is comprised of concomitant to those of indigenous people of northeast India. Still like Assam, Manipur, Burma and Southeast Asia society of Tripura is delineated in minor part living in plain regions by lea stream Indian social force vanguard by Asian society prevailing around native tribal tradition practices especially living in those plain areas, not often expanding to hill population of Tripura mucho this Tripuri society. At this census of 2001 Bengalis constituted nearly 70 percentages of this population and this tribal population represented 30 percent of Tripura's population (Britannica, 2018).

Religion is the belief of the good number of Tripura's people. Muslims represent the largest number but according to not as much as one-tenth of the population (ibid). There also exist smaller About half of the Tripura's land region is under land top. One of the most famous cases of trees of the state forests is sal, the precious tropical wood. There also exist huge parcels of wood; some varieties of which are considered to be indigenous to the government. Tripura's towns are concentrated on the west earth. The government asset of agarthala is the largest metropolis; great towns allow bandharghat, jogendranagar, and dharmanagar (ibid).

As we have seen above this unknown paradise of India is well known for its different attitude and traditional style there. North Asia region provides the mixed society of Asian, religion, Muslim and Buddhism, Buddhist culture is occupying an important area and large number of cultural groups as compare to other religions. Every tribal grouping of these states has its own specific tribal society, tribal people art and matter and crafts. We have seen above that each and every state is different from other in its own way. Northeast India itself has Variety of culture, religion, art and craft.

### **III. Conclusion and Recommendation**

This paper briefly discussed about each and every state of northeast, which has its own culture, tradition, and its own identity. It is the most

minorities of Christians, especially among those tribal peoples. Most of these chakma and mogh represent religionists.

beautiful and heavenly place of India which increases the beauty of India. As a child, all we taught about this northeast of India. Resting at the north east area of India, this northeast i.e. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland and this Himalayan government of Sikkim collectively exist named this northeast. This have always been secluded and away from the ordinary man's heart and this is the fact that northeast India should take the future traveling destination, because of its untouched beauty, there won't be one person on the look of this world who won't be surprised with the physical appearance of the northeast. Only removed the surplus industries, pollution and population from where you go, but you still won't get this appearance. Now question comes how much we appreciate northeast or its culture, northeast people facelots discriminations, people called them as Chinese, Koreans, and more. The most prominent and diverse region of our country is being treated like this. Northeast India is ignored by people for so many years. Northeast is the part of India but people isolated it we don't talk or read much about northeast India. It is the disaster that the part of the nation- a land of beauty, a rich social heritage, and this variety that India then enjoys-has not been able to understand among the governing elites. Rather these people of northeast India have mostly been pictured as separates. As recently the world is suffering from a great epidemic coronavirus every state in India is suffering, but the fewer cases are from the northeast because people believe that their immune system is strong due their food habit. We should learn more about the northeast adapt their culture, food, tradition which is good. India is a

diverse country and everyone lives there with peace and harmony so why anyone should be left out; northeast is part of our country we should know about it. This will help the northeast to become more developed and achieve statehood properly.

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