Country/entity	India Bodoland
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Memorandum of Settlement
Date	27 Jan 2020
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

India-Adivasi Conflicts (1955 -) (Northeast India)

Several of seven sister states in Northeast India have had ongoing conflicts with the central Indian government, as well as among themselves following India's independence from the British Empire in 1947. Northeast India, in particular, lags behind the rest of India in infrastructure development. Tensions also exist between the various ethnic groups and Indian nationals migrated from elsewhere.

Bodoland:
The Bodo are a predominantly Christian group of about four million people living in the mountainous region of eastern Assam, India. Since 1986, the guerrilla organization – the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) – fought for independence of Bodoland. An initial truce was signed in 1989 and negotiations began with the Assam government. However, the NDFB resumed the conflict and new attempts to reach a peace settlement have not been successful. In 2005, a faction of the NDFB entered negotiations and signed a ceasefire agreement after suffering heavy losses. This splintered the NDFB and more radical factions that continue to fight.

Darjeeling:
Gorkhas in the state of West Bengal waged a guerrilla war against the central government from 1986-1988. Anti-foreign riots started in 1979 after a steady infiltration of Hindus and Muslims from other parts of Bengal. Tensions continued until the Accord of Darjeeling peace agreement was concluded in 1988. This accord provided for an autonomous Gorkha district around Darjeeling, which would remain part of West Bengal. It was implemented in The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (Amendment) Act of 1994. After 2007, a second wave of enthusiasm for Gorkhaland was revived by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, however, this time by non-violent means. Nonetheless, the introduction of Bengali into schools, raised tensions in a Nepali-speaking region and as of 2017 conflict appears to be increasing.

Hmar:
Tension in Mizoram were primarily due to political domination by the Assamese over the Mizo. The Mizo National Front was formed in 1961 in the aftermath of a devastating famine in the Mizo Hills in objection to Indian Government response, or lack of. With popular support the MNF staged an uprising in 1966, but was unable to take control. It was only in 1986 that a peace accord was signed granting Mizoram statehood and the MNF became a political party. The same year the Hmar People's Convention was formed as a political party advocating for the rights of the Hmar which were ignored by the 1986 peace accord. The movement aimed to create an autonomous state in the north of Mizoram. A 1994 agreement between the HPC and Indian government resulted in the formation of the Sinlung Hills Development Council. However, a splinter group - the Hmar People's Convention-Democracy - was formed in 1995 demanding a separate administration.

Manipur:
The Manipur insurgency is linked to national, ethnic and political identity issues that occupy many of the conflicts in India's northeast that emerged following the independence of India in 1947. Among the largest groups are the United National Liberation Front, the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, the People's Liberation Army of Manipur, and the Kanleipak Communist Party. The conflict continues as of 2017.

Nagaland:
The exception is Nagaland, wherein tensions predate 1947 and the Nagas announced

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	India Bodoland peace process
Parties	Lawrence Islary General Secretary, ABSU Pramod Boro President, ABSU Ranjan Dalmary NDFB Gbbinda Basumatary NDFB B. Saoraigwra NDFB Dhirendra Boro NDFB Mihineswar Basumatary President, UBPO Kumar Sanjay Krishna Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam Satyendra Garg Joint Secretary (NE) MHA
Third parties	Signing of the agreement is witnessed by: - Hagrama Mohilary (CEM, BTC) Himanta Biswa Sarma (Cabinet Minister, Assam) Sarbananda Sonowal (CM, Assam)
Description	This agreement deals primarily with development initiatives and the running of Bodoland territories. It also includes provisions related to the disarmament and reintegration of NDFB factions.

Agreement document	IN_200127_Memorandum-of-Settlement-BTAD-2.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Other Page 5, 10. Special Developmental Package 10.2 Bodo youth will be considered for recruitment in Army, Paramilitary forces and Police to increase their representation in the forces. Pre-recruitment training rallies will be organized by the agencies to facilitate the process.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/ national group

Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive
Also see cross-reference with indigenous group.

Page 1,
1. The Government of India and Government of Assam have been making concerted efforts to fulfill the political, economic, social, cultural and identity related aspirations of Bodo people. Tripartite agreements in 1993 and 2003 were signed leading to creation of Bodoland Autonomous and Bodoland Territorial Councils under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution for Bodo inhabited areas in Assam. ABSU and its associated organizations as well as various factions of NDFB continued with the demand for separate Statehood. Negotiations were held with Bodo organizations for a comprehensive and final solution to their demands while keeping intact the territorial integrity of the State of Assam.

Page 1, 2. Objectives of the MoS
i. to augment area and powers of BTC and streamline its functioning;
ii. to address issues relating to Bodos residing outside BTAD;
iii. to promote and protect social, cultural, linguistic and ethnic identities of Bodos;
iv. to provide legislative safeguards for land rights of tribals;
v. to ensure accelerated development of tribal areas; and
vi. to rehabilitate members of NDFB factions.

Page 1, 3. Alteration of Area of BTAD
3.1 A commission will be appointed under Paragraph 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution soon after signing of the MoS to examine and recommend on the following:-

i. Inclusion of villages contiguous to BTAD and having majority tribal population, as demanded by Bodo organisations.
ii. Exclusion of villages currently under BTAD which are contiguous to non-Sixth Schedule areas and have majority non tribal population.
iii. Increase in constituencies of BTC upto the maximum of 60 seats after alteration in the area, without adversely affecting the existing percentage of reservation for tribals.
3.2 The Commission will include representatives of the State Government as well as other stakeholders incuding ABSU and BTC as its members. It will submit its recommendation within six months from the date of notification.
3.3 The existing Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) shall be renamed as Bodoland Territorial Region comprising area covered under BTAD.
3.4 Government of Assam may consider reorganizing the districts consequent to alteration of area of BTAD on administrative considerations.

Page 2, 4. Review of Powers and Functions of BTC
4.1 The process of BTC to have more legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers in respect of additional subjects as enumerated at Annexure-I will be initiated within 90 days.
4.2 Principal Secretary, BTC will have monitoring powers of Registration Department within BTAD area.
4.3 Amendments to Article 280 and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution as per the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019 to improve the financial resources and administrative powers of BTC has been initiated. The Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in the Parliament in January, 2019.
4.4 Executive functions of BTC shall be exercised through its Chief Executive Officer not below the rank of Principal Secretary to Government of Assam. Senior most officers of various Departments of BTC shall not be below the rank of Addl. Secretary to Government of Assam.
4.5 Deputy Commisioners and Superintendents of Police of the districts within BTAD will

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people Groups→Indigenous people→Substantive
Also see cross-reference with indigenous group.

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Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	No specific mention.
State configuration	No specific mention.
Self determination	No specific mention.
Referendum	No specific mention.
State symbols	No specific mention.
Independence/ secession	No specific mention.
Accession/ unification	No specific mention.
Border delimitation	No specific mention.
Cross-border provision	No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed)	Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Page 2 4. Review of Powers and Functions of BTC 4.1 The process of BTC to have more legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers in respect of additional subjects as enumerated at Annexure-I will be initiated within 90 days. 4.2 Principal Secretary, BTC will have monitoring powers of Registration Department within BTAD area. 4.3 Amendments to Article 280 and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution as per the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019 to improve the financial resources and administrative powers of BTC has been initiated. The Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in the Parliament in January, 2019. 4.4 Executive functions of BTC shall be exercised through its Chief Executive Officer not below the rank of Principal Secretary to Government of Assam. Senior most officers of various Departments of BTC shall not be below the rank of Addl. Secretary to Government of Assam. 4.5 Deputy Commisioners and Superintendents of Police of the districts within BTAD will be posted normally in consultation with Chief Executive Member of BTC. 4.6 Deputy Commisioners in BTAD will report to Chief Executive Member of BTC through Chief Executive Officer in respect of all developmental activities in their districts with regard to the responsibilities assigned to them by BTC. 4.7 A tripartite mechanism, headed by the Cabinet Minister of Government of Assam looking after BTC affairs, and with Chief Executive Member of BTC and a representative of MHA as members, shall be set up to periodically review (not less than once in six months) the status of all laws/regulations passed by BTC and sent to the State Government for assent of Governor of Assam. 4.8 A tripartite mechanism headed by the Chief Secretary of Government of Assam and having Chief Executive Officer of BTC and a representative of MHA as members, shall be set up to periodically review (not less than once in six months) status of all proposals of BTC pending with the State Government relating to creation of new posts and posting of officers to the vacant posts.
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 4 9. Settlement with NDFB factions ... 9.3 A committee headed by IGP, Special Branch, Assam with representatives of other Departments as members will make an assessment of rehabilitation needs of the cadres based on age profile, educational qualification, general area of residence, etc. The Committee may also involve successful entrepreneurs/NGOs in this effort.

Traditional/ religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	Governance→Constitution→Constitution affirmation/renewal Page 2 4.3 Amendments to Article 280 and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution as per the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019 to improve the financial resources and administrative powers of BTC has been initiated. The Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in the Parliament in January, 2019. Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making Page 2 4. Review of Powers and Functions of BTC ... 4.3 Amendments to Article 280 and the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution as per the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2019 to improve the financial resources and administrative powers of BTC has been initiated. The Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in the Parliament in January, 2019.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development

Page 1

2. Objectives of the MoS

...

v. to ensure accelerated development of tribal areas;

Page 3

5. Provisions for Bodos outside BTAD

5.1 Government of Assam shall set up a Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council for focussed development of Bodo villages outside BTAD in the lines of other existing Councils for Plains Tribes. State Government will consult Bodo organisations and existing Councils before notifying areas to be included in the proposed Bodo-Kachari Council.

5.2 An Advisory Committee comprising representatives of Government of Assam, BTC and Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council shall be set up to identify specific developmental needs of Bodo villages outside BTAD and advise the State Government.

Page 5

10. Special Developmental Package

10.1 Government of Assam may earmark a sum of Rs. 250 crores per annum for a period of three years for development of area under BTC. GoI may contribute an additional amount of Rs. 250 Crores per annum for the same period. Illustrative lists of specific projects to be taken up on priority under the Special Development Package are appended at Annexure- II, III & IV.

10.2 Bodo youth will be considered for recruitment in Army, Paramilitary forces and Police to increase their representation in the forces. Pre-recruitment training rallies will be organized by the agencies to facilitate the process.

Page 9

Annexure - III

Industries and Employment generation projects

GoI

1. Development of Industrial Estates at Ramphalbill (Kokrajhar District) and Kokilaribari (Baksa District) for setting up small/medium industries.
2. Food processing plants with cold storage facilities at identified centers.
3. Training, production and marketing centres for Handloom and Textile products at identified locations.
4. Bamboo Nursery cum production and Processing Centre
5. Promotion of Eco Tourism in (a) Manas National Park (b) Bornadi Wild Life Sanctuary (c) Chakrasila Wild Life Sanctuary (d) Bhairabkunda (e) Kalamati (f) Bagamati (g) Ullapani (h) Kachugaon (h) Jam Duar (i) Diplai Lake (j) Dheer Lake (k) Saraichar lake, and (l) Daranga Mela
6. Mother Dairy plants at identified locations.
7. Railway Coach Factory in BTAD

Government of Assam

8. Formulation of suitable Industrial Policy for BTAD
9. Farm machinery bank at identified centers with infrastructure to support livelihood and agricultural development.
10. Organic Horticultural Park.
11. Animal Feed plants at identified centers
12. Centres for fish breeding, training and farming at identified centers in BTAD
13. Organic manure production centre at Jharaguri
14. Indigenous Food Park at identified locations
15. Emporium for tribal women to showcase handicrafts

National economic plan	No specific mention.
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	No specific mention.
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights	Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Other land rights Page 1 2. Objectives of the MoS ... iv. to provide safeguards for land rights of tribals; Page 3 5. Provisions for Bodos outside BTAD ... 5.3 Government of Assam shall take effective measures to confer rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on tribals living in the forest areas outside BTAD in accordance with prescribed procedure under the Act. Page 4 7. Issues related to Land Rights 7.1 Government of Assam may consider enacting a special legislation to provide adequate safeguards to land rights of STs living outside tribal Belts and Blocks in areas outside BTAD. 7.2 Government of Assam will take effective measures to protect khas land, grazing land and water bodies from illegal encroachment.
Pastoralist/ nomadism rights	Page 4 7. Issues related to Land Rights ... 7.2 Government of Assam will take effective measures to protect khas land, grazing land and water bodies from illegal encroachment.

Cultural heritage	Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible Page 3 6. Issues relating to identity, language, education, etc. 6.1 Government of India will implement the commitment made in the earlier agreement in 2003 to include Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao Districts in the ST (Hill) list of Assam in a time-bound manner. 6.2 Government of Assam will notify Bodo language in Devanagri script as an associate official language in the State. 6.3 Government of Assam will initiate measures to provincialise (i) schools and colleges established in BTAD, and (ii) Bodo medium schools outside BTAD, as per special need and requirement. The State Govt. will also take measures to appoint lecturers in Bodo Departments in colleges outside BTAD as a special consideration. 6.4 Government of Assam will establish a separate Directorate for Bodo medium schools in the State. 6.5 A Cultural Complex-cum-Centre of Excellence in the name of Bodofa Upendranath Brahma will be established at Thulunghapuri (Kokrajhar District). The Centre will study and recommend measures for protection and promotion of language, culture, identity, etc. of Bodos residing in Assam as well as other States of India. The Centre will be managed by BTC with financial assistance from both Central and the State Governments. Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Promotion Page 1 2. Objectives of the MoS ... iii. to promote and protect social, cultural, linguistic identities of Bodos;
Environment	No specific mention.
Water or riparian rights or access	Page 4 7. Issues related to Land Rights ... 7.2 Government of Assam will take effective measures to protect khas land, grazing land and water bodies from illegal encroachment.

Security sector	
Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.

DDR	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions Page 4, 9. Settlement with NDFB factions 9.1 All NDFB factions under SoO shall abjure path of violence, surrender their weapons and disband their armed organisations within one month of signing of this MoS. Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes Page 4, 9. Settlement with NDFB factions ... 9.2 Government of India and Government of Assam will take necessary measures to rehabilitate the cadres in consultation with NDFB factions. Such measures may inter alia include (i) lump sum payment of ex-gratia, (ii) funding economic activities through existing Government schemes relating to fisheries, piggery, organic farming, poultry farming, etc., (iii) trade/vocational training based on locally available resources, and (iv) recruitment in appropriate Govt. jobs as per eligibility. 9.3 A committee headed by IGP, Special Branch, Assam with representatives of other Departments as members will make an assessment of rehabilitation needs of the cadres based on age profile, educational qualification, general area of residence, etc. The Committee may also involve successful entrepreneurs/NGOs in this effort.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 4, 9. Settlement with NDFB factions 9.1 All NDFB factions under SoO shall abjure path of violence, surrender their weapons and disband their armed organisations within one month of signing of this MoS.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper Page 4 9. Settlement with NDFB factions ... 9.4 Criminal cases registered against members of NDFB factions for non-heinous crimes shall be withdrawn by Government of Assam as per procedure established by law. Criminal cases registered in connection with heinous crimes shall be reviewed case by case according to the existing policy on the subject.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 5 11. Joint Monitoring Committee A Joint Monitoring Committee shall be constituted with representatives from MHA, Government of Assam, BTC and Bodo organisations to monitor implementation of this MoS.