

Locational Significance of N.E. India:

It shares international borders with four countries - Bhutan in the west, Myanmar in the east and Tibet and China in the north. Only Assam and Nagaland are its entry points to the rest of India. Because of such a strategic location, the state has always been in political and public gaze in the country.

The whole N.E. India is situated between $21^{\circ}31'N - 29^{\circ}26'N$ latitude and $89^{\circ}49'E - 97^{\circ}26'E$ Longitudes. The total area of N.E. India is 2,50,178 sq. km.

North east India (officially North Eastern Region, NER) is the easternmost region of Indian Union. It comprises with the following states:

States	Capital Headquarter	Area sq. km	Population in Millions Lakh
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	83,743	13.83 Lakh
Assam	Guwahati	78,443	312.05 Lakh
Manipur	Imphal	22,327	27.22 Lakh
Meghalaya	Shillong	22,429	29.67 Lakh
Mizoram	Aizawl	21,087	10.91 Lakh
Nagaland	Kohima	16,579	19.78 Lakh
Tripura	Agartala	10,486	36.74 Lakh
Sikkim	Gangtok	7,096	6.10 Lacs.

According to the Census of India, 2011

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim are eight states

located in the North-East of the country and command special importance in India not only because of their location but also their cultural and historical uniqueness.

Surrounded by hills and beautiful rivers, these states fall in the category of eastern Himalayan ranges and Patkai-Naga hills along with Brahmaputra Barak river systems and valley plains.

Rich in natural resources and flora and fauna, the region is a gateway to east and

South-East Asia. The region has remained isolated from the rest of the country because of its location and terrain and has failed to secure equal benefits in the process of development. This has resulted into

social-political disturbances and unrest in the region. Strategically this region has a great importance in the sovereignty of the country because of its unique location surrounded by foreign countries like, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar etc.

The whole region is connected to the rest of India via a 22 km. land strip in West Bengal popularly known as 'Chicken's Neck'. Assam shares an international border with Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Physio graphic Divisions of N.E. India:

The North-Eastern Region can be divided into five distinct physiographical units. These are: (On the basis of geological structure)

- (A) Highly folded formations into the mountain systems of Assam and Pradesh in the north and north-east, it comprises diverse group of rocks belonging to Palaeozoic (Archean) quartzites, protozoic-Abor volcanics, Permian-Gondwana, Tertiary-sivaliks as well as recent to sub-recent alluvial and terrace deposits;
- (B) The Meghalaya or the Shillong plateau with its extension of Mikir Hills. These are the north-easterly extension of the peninsula whose intervening parts were submerged by the Gangetic delta. It largely comprises of Archean granite and gneisses.
- (C) The Patkai and Arakan Yuma Zone is a thrust zone. It is known as the Patkai Range, this is localised with phases of volcanism.
- (D) The Brahmaputra alluvial plains between the Extra-Peninsula in the north and the Peninsular system in the south and the Patkai range in the east.
- (E) The Barak plains-alluvial-occurring between mountain chain with a north-east-south trend in Mizoram in the south and Naga Patkai thrust in the north and north-east