



Inner-Line Permit in Manipur

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Why in News

Recently, the Union Home Minister has highlighted the importance of **Inner-Line Permit (ILP) system** in **Manipur**, while **inaugurating several development projects** in Manipur.

The projects include **Thoubal Multipurpose Project** (Thoubal Dam), **Integrated Command and Control Center** at Imphal, etc.

- Thoubal multipurpose project was first considered by the **Planning Commission in 1980** and the original cost of the project was Rs. 47.25 crores.
- A scheme for it was **launched in 2004** but **nothing happened till 2014** and the project remained on paper.
- It is **located on river Thoubal**, a tributary of Manipur river and will **irrigate 35,104 hectares**.

Key Points

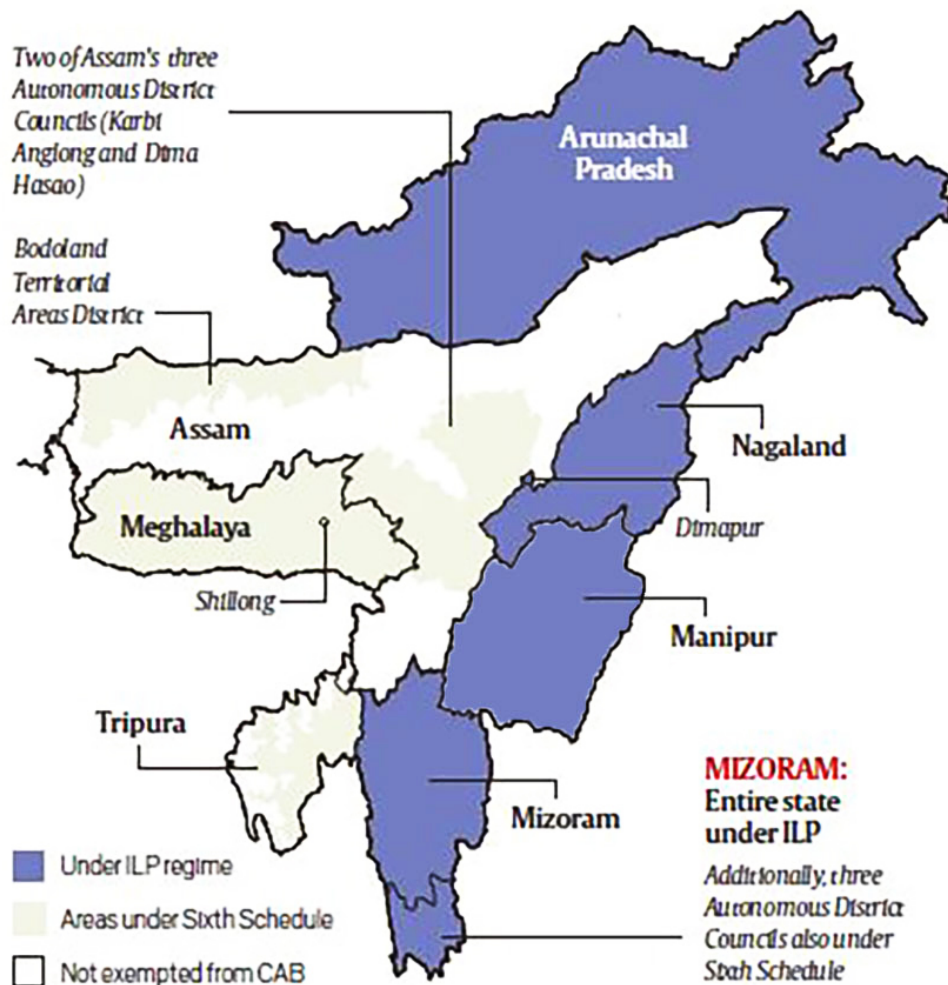
- ILP was a **long-standing demand** of the people of Manipur and **denying it would have been an injustice to the indigenous people**.
- Hence, **Manipur, along with Dimapur district of Nagaland**, was brought under the purview of the ILP System in **December 2019**.
Dimapur was the only place in Nagaland which was not under the ILP system because the district is a commercial hub and has a mixed population (often referred to as '**Mini India**').
- Pressure groups in the northeast **view this permit as a shield against the entry of illegal immigrants**.

- **Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram** were **exempted from the provisions of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019** due to the ILP.
 - The provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants **would not apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram or Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule** to the Constitution and the **area covered under the ILP system.**
 - In **December 2019**, the **Meghalaya Assembly adopted a resolution for implementing the ILP regime** in the state and **urged the centre to include it in the ILP system.**

Inner Line Permit System

- Implemented under the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) 1873**, the ILP is an **official travel document** which **allows inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected/restricted area for a limited period.**
 - This Act was enacted during the British era to **protect the Crown's own commercial interests** by preventing '**British subjects**' (Indians) from trading within these regions.

In **1950**, the Indian government **replaced 'British subjects'** with '**Citizen of India**'.
 - An **imaginary line known as the inner-line** was created to divide between the two communities so that neither party could go beyond the line without a permit from the appropriate authorities.
 - Under **Section 2 of the Regulation of 1873**, the ILP was **only applicable to the three North-Eastern States viz. Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.**
 - On **11th December 2020**, the President signed the order **extending ILP to Manipur**, which became the fourth state where the ILP regime is applicable.
- It is a **special permit obligatorily required by "outsiders"** from other regions of the country to enter the notified states.
- It is **issued by the concerned State Government** and can be issued **for travel purposes solely.**
- Foreigners need a **Protected Area Permit (PAP) to visit tourist places** which are different from ILPs needed by domestic tourists.
 - Under the **Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1958**, all areas falling between the 'Inner Line', as defined in the said order, and the International Border of the State have been declared as a Protected Area.
 - A **foreign national is normally not allowed to visit a Protected/Restricted Area unless** it is established to the satisfaction of the Government that there are **extraordinary reasons to justify such a visit.**



ARUNACHAL PRADESH: Entire state under ILP regime

NAGALAND: Entire state under ILP regime

TRIPURA: Sixth Schedule covers 70% of geographical area

MEGHALAYA: Almost entire state covered under Sixth Schedule, except a part of Shilong

ASSAM: 3 Autonomous District Councils under Sixth Schedule

MANIPUR: Entire state under ILP regime

Merger of Manipur with India

- Before 15th August 1947, by peaceful negotiations, the **rulers of most of the states signed the 'Instrument of Accession'** which meant that their state agreed to become a part of the Union of India.
- The **Maharaja of Manipur, Bodhachandra Singh, signed the Instrument of Accession with the Indian government on the assurance that the internal autonomy of Manipur would be maintained.**

- Under the pressure of public opinion, the Maharaja held **elections in Manipur in June 1948** and the state **became a constitutional monarchy**.

Thus, **Manipur was the first part of India to hold an election based on universal adult franchise**.

- The Government of India succeeded in **pressuring the Maharaja into signing a Merger Agreement in September 1949**, without consulting the popularly elected Legislative Assembly of Manipur.
- On **21st January 1972**, **Manipur along with Meghalaya and Tripura became full-fledged states** under the **North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971**.

The political map of Northeast India underwent a major change and the two **Union Territories of Manipur and Tripura** and the **Sub-State of Meghalaya** got statehood.

Source: TH