



Dima Hasao Peace Pact: Assam

For Prelims: Dimasa National Liberation Army, NCHAC, [Sixth Schedule](#), [Ahom rule](#).

For Mains: Dima Hasao Peace Pact, Dimasa Tribals and their protection under [Schedule six](#).

Why in News?

Recently, the **Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)** signed a Peace Agreement with the Assam government and the Union Government.

- In September 2021, the DNLA had declared a **unilateral ceasefire for a period of six months** following an appeal by the chief minister. The ceasefire has been extended since then.

What does this Agreement Seek?

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed which makes the DNLA lay down its arms and abide **by the Constitution of India**.
 - The group will disband their armed organisation, vacate all camps occupied by DNLA cadres and join the mainstream.
 - A total of 179 DNLA cadres will **surrender their arms and ammunition**.
- The central and state governments **will provide Rs 500 crore each** for the development of the **Dimasa tribal areas**.
- Dimasa Welfare Council will be set up by the **Government of Assam to protect, preserve and promote a social, cultural, and linguistic identity** to meet political, economic and educational aspirations and will ensure speedy and focused development of the Dimasa people residing outside the jurisdiction of **North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC)**.
 - Dimasa Tribal Region is run by NCHAC.
- The MoU also provides for the appointment of a Commission under Paragraph 14 of the [Sixth Schedule to the Constitution](#) of India to examine the demand for the inclusion of additional villages contiguous to the **NCHAC with the Council**.
 - The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions — Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) — that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.

What is DNLA?

- It is an insurgent group **operating in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong districts in Assam**.
- The DNLA was established in April 2019 seeking a **sovereign territory for the Dimasa tribals** and launched an armed insurgency to achieve its goal.
- The group aims to “develop a sense of brotherhood **among the Dimasas** and also to rebuild the trust and faith among the Dimasa society for regaining the Dimasa Kingdom”.
- The group runs on extortion and taxation. “It draws its support and sustenance from the [NSCN\(IM\) of Nagaland](#).”

Who are Dimasas?

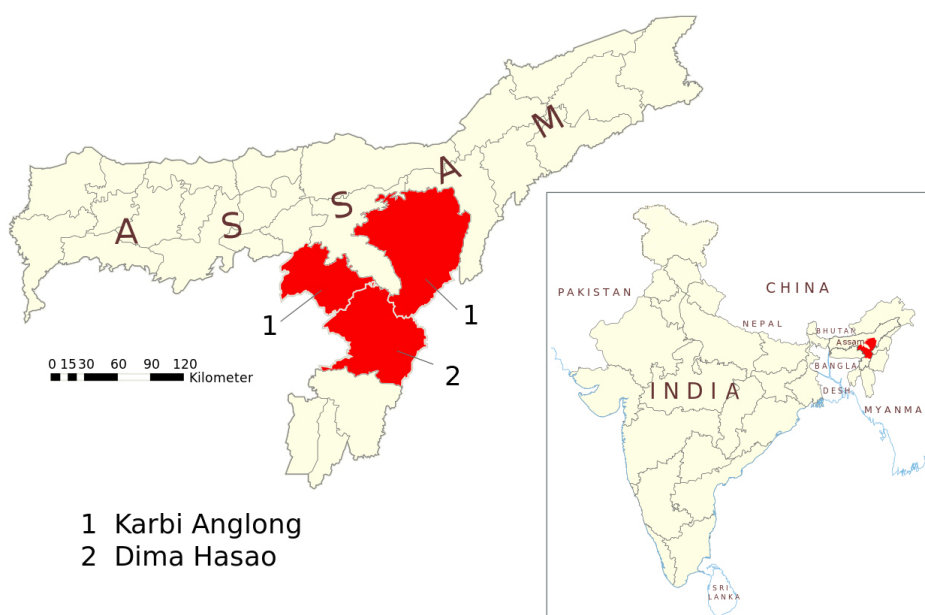
▪ About:

- The Dimasas (or Dimasa-Kacharis) are the **earliest known rulers and settlers of Assam**, and now live in Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, Cachar, Hojai and Nagaon districts of central and southern Assam, as well as parts of Nagaland.
 - Some of the historians describe them as “aborigines” or the “**earliest known inhabitants of the Brahmaputra Valley**”.
- Prior to **Ahom rule**, the Dimasa kings — believed to be the descendants of the rulers of the ancient Kamarupa kingdom — ruled large parts of Assam along the south bank of the Brahmaputra between the 13th and 16th centuries.
- Their earliest historically known capital was Dimapur (now in Nagaland), and later **Maibang in North Cachar Hills**.
- It was a powerful kingdom and had almost all of the southern belt of Brahmaputra under its control in the 16th century.

▪ Protection:

- Dima Hasao district and Karbi Anglong both enjoy the **Sixth Schedule status** granted by the Constitution of India.
- They are run by the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (**NCHAC**) and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (**KAAC**) respectively.
 - The Autonomous Council is a powerful body and almost all the departments of government are under its control **except the police and Law & Order** are under Assam Government.

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- 1 Karbi Anglong
- 2 Dima Hasao

What is the history of Militancy in Dima Hasao Region?

▪ Militancy:

- The hill districts of Assam, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao, have had a long history of insurgency by Karbi and Dimasa groups which **peaked in the mid-1990s**, and was rooted in a core demand of statehood.
- In Dima Hasao, the demand for statehood began in the 1960s, along with other tribal sections of undivided Assam.
- While new states such as Meghalaya were carved out, **Karbi Anglong and North Cachar remained with Assam on a promise of more power** by the government, including implementation of **Article 244 (A)**, which allows for an ‘**autonomous state**’ within

Assam in certain tribal areas. This was never implemented.

▪ **Dimasa National Security Force:**

- A demand for a full-fledged state, '**Dimaraji**', gathered steam, and led to the formation of the **militant Dimasa National Security Force (DNSF) in 1991.**
 - The group surrendered in 1995, but its commander-in-chief (Jewel Gorlosa) broke away and formed the **Dima Haram Daogah (DHD).**
- In 2003, the DHD began negotiations with the government, but its commander-in-chief broke and formed the DHD-J (Jewel) with an armed group called Black Widow.
 - These groups were violent and had popular support. They signed a ceasefire in 2012.

What are the other Peace Developments in North East India?

- [Karbi Anglong Agreement, 2021](#)
- [Bodo Accord 2020](#)
- [Bru-Reang Agreement 2020](#)
- [NLFT-Tripura Agreement, 2019](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Mains:

Q. The North - East region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyse the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. (2017)

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