Why has eastern Nagaland got autonomy?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues

Mains: General Studies - 2
Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

1. Background

- On **February 5**, the Centre signed a **tripartite agreement** with the Nagaland government and the **Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO)**.

- The agreement creates the **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)** for six eastern districts: **Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, Noklak, Shamator, and Tuensang**.

- The FNTA is an **experiment in devolutionary autonomy**, aimed at addressing long-standing political and developmental grievances.

2. Why Autonomy Was Demanded

- ENPO's core demand was a **separate State** (Frontier Nagaland), formally raised in 2010.

- The demand is rooted in **colonial neglect**, when eastern hills were left as an **unadministered frontier.**

- After **Nagaland's creation in 1963**, eastern Naga tribes felt **politically and economically marginalised** by western districts.

- **Resentment** grew into a movement against administrative dominance and persistent **underdevelopment.**

3. Why the Centre Accepted the Demand

- Earlier measures, including **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** and a **₹500-crore package**, failed to address political aspirations.

- In 2024, ENPO called for a **boycott of Lok Sabha elections**, signalling strong collective leverage.

- The region **borders Myanmar** and acts as a **strategic buffer zone** with security risks from armed groups.

- FNTA was seen as a **stabilising mechanism** to prevent alienation in a sensitive frontier region.

4. What FNTA Provides and Wider Implications

- FNTA grants **semi-autonomous governance** with **legislative and executive powers** over 46 subjects.

- A **mini-Secretariat,** led by a senior officer, brings administration closer to local communities.

- **Development funds** will be shared based on population and area, with initial funding from the **Ministry of Home Affairs.**

- **Article 371(A)** remains untouched, protecting Naga customary laws.

- The model offers a **middle path** between **full Statehood and ordinary district administration.**

- Its **application to Manipur's Kuki-Zo demand is limited** due to active conflict, political opposition, and competing territorial claims.

What are the key takeaways from AI summit?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

1. Background

- The **AI Impact Summit** was held in **New Delhi from February 16-20**, attracting over **five lakh visitors** and global leaders.

- **88 countries** and international organisations signed the **New Delhi Declaration on AI**.

- **AI summits** have been **held annually since 2023** (U.K., Seoul 2024, Paris 2025), with **no formal global convening body.**

2. India's Priorities at the Summit

- Promote **democratisation of AI** and **wider access** to AI capabilities.

- Ensure **AI relevance for the Global South**, including better language representation.

- Emphasise **safe and trusted AI**, alongside **innovation and adoption**.

- Position **India as a hub for AI infrastructure, research, and investment,** especially in healthcare, agriculture, and education.

3. Key Outcomes and Investments

- Announcements included **$250 billion in investment** commitments and **$20 billion for frontier deep-tech research.**

- India joined the U.S.-led **Pax Silica initiative** to counter concentration in electronics and critical minerals.

Pax Silica

- **Pax Silica**, launched in **December 2025**, is a **United States-led initiative** for the **AI age**, based on the idea that **economic security depends on compute power**.

- It adopts an **end-to-end approach**, covering **rare earths, chip fabrication, data centres, and AI models**.

- The grouping includes major technology and energy players, with **India contributing demographic scale and large data generation**

- Launch of **India's first domestically trained multi-billion parameter LLMs by Sarvam AI**, supported under the **IndiaAI Mission**.

- Major investment announcements included **₹10 lakh crore by Reliance**, **$15 billion by Google**, and **$2 billion by Yotta.**

- The summit also saw **strategic partnerships** involving **OpenAI, the Tata Group, Anthropic, and Infosys.**

4. New Delhi Declaration and Limitations

- The declaration adopts **voluntary and non-binding commitments** to ensure broad participation.

- It proposes platforms like **Global AI Impact Commons, Trusted AI Commons, AI for Social Empowerment,** and **AI Workforce Reskilling Principles**.

- The summit highlighted India's convening power but **faced logistical, security, and credibility challenges**, underscoring execution gaps.

- The summit marked a **shift towards AI for economic growth and social good,** while balancing innovation with trust.

Why has NGT cleared the Nicobar project?

> **Prelims:** General Studies Paper - 1
> Current events of national and international importance

> **Mains:** General Studies - 3
> Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

1. What is the Great Nicobar project?

- The Great Nicobar Project is a **mega infrastructure initiative on Great Nicobar Island,** proposed by **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO).**

- It includes:

  ⮕ **International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT)**

  ⮕ **Greenfield international airport**

  ⮕ **450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant**

  ⮕ **Large-scale township development**

- It will **divert 130.75 sq km of forest land** and is expected to generate 1.28 lakh jobs by 2052.

2. Regulatory & Legal History

- **May 2021:** Approval process began.

- **October 2022:** Stage-I forest clearance granted.

- **November 11, 2022:** Environmental and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances granted.

- **April 3, 2023**: National Green Tribunal raised concerns and formed a High-Powered Committee (HPC).

- **2026(Final Order):** After reviewing the HPC report, the NGT upheld the environmental clearance.

3. Strategic & National Importance

- Expected to **generate 1.28 lakh jobs.**

- Aims to **strengthen India's maritime position near key global shipping routes** (Malacca Strait region).

- **Seen as boosting national security** and trade logistics.

- It helps **prevent illegal marine resource exploitation.**

4. Ecological Concerns

- **Translocation of** 16,150 out of 20,668 identified **coral colonies.**

- Impact on species like the Leatherback Sea Turtle, Nicobar Megapode, and Saltwater Crocodile.

- **Alleged destruction of nesting grounds** at Galathea Bay.

- The study **used only data of one season and did not properly consider earthquake risks.**

- However, the **NGT accepted that there is no major coral reef in the project area and that translocation safeguards** are sufficient.

5. Impact on Tribal Communities

- The island is **home to the Shompen and Nicobari tribes.**

- Authorities say **no tribal displacement will occur.**

- Tribal rights are protected under the Forest Rights Act.

- **Some tribal leaders allege pressure** to sign land surrender papers.

6. NGT's Final Position

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT) upheld the environmental clearance.**

- It said **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) rules should not be applied too technically.**

- It accepted the **Zoological Survey of India finding that there is no major coral reef in the project area.**

- It ruled the **port is not in a prohibited CRZ zone** and one-season data is sufficient.

- The **project can now proceed under ANIIDCO and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**

KEYWORDS

Shalimar Wheat

- Shalimar Wheat **refers to early-maturing wheat varieties developed by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K)** using conventional breeding.

- The main varieties are **Shalimar Wheat-4** (matures by the last week of May) and **Shalimar Wheat-3** (matures by the first week of June).

- They **suit Kashmir's climate and fit into the rice-wheat cropping system** for timely paddy transplantation.

- The **varieties are resistant to yellow rust** (a fungal disease that causes yellow stripes on wheat leaves and reduces yield).

- **Shalimar Wheat-3 gives high yield** (up to 38 quintals/hectare) and has higher iron, zinc, and protein content.

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

- The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a **four-day global bird-counting event**.

- It was **started in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society.**

- It **aims to help researchers understand bird populations and protect birds** and the environment.

- **Participants count birds for at least 15 minutes** and **submit their observations online** from anywhere in the world.

- In India, **birdwatchers have participated since 2013, and the event is coordinated by Bird Count India.**

- The data collected helps scientists study how birds are affected by habitat and weather changes

Article 371A

- Article 371A provides **special constitutional protection to the State of Nagaland**, inserted by the **13th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962.**

- Acts of **Parliament do not apply to Nagaland** in matters relating to **Naga religious and social practices.**

- They also do not apply to **Naga customary law and administration of justice** based on customary law.

- Laws on **ownership and transfer of land and resources** apply only with the **approval of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly.**

- The **Governor of Nagaland** has **special responsibility for law and order** during periods of internal disturbance, with discretionary powers.

- It provided for a **special administrative arrangement** for the Tuensang district, including direct Governor administration and a regional council (now discontinued).

- The Article was enacted following the **1960 agreement between the Government of India and the Naga People's Convention**, facilitating Nagaland's integration into the Indian Union.
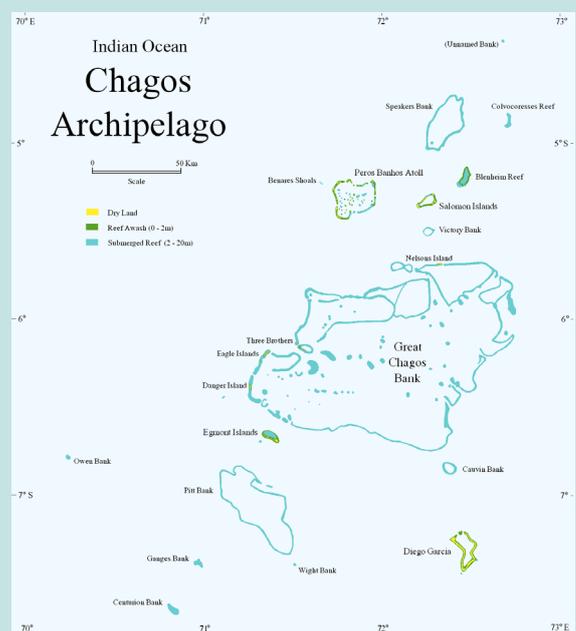
New Delhi Declaration (AI Impact Summit, 2026)

- The New Delhi Declaration was adopted at the **AI Impact Summit 2026**, hosted by India.

- It was signed by **88 countries and international organisations**, including the **United States and China.**

- Guided by **"Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya",** it emphasises the **equitable sharing of AI benefits** across humanity.

- The Declaration is **voluntary and non-binding,** similar to the **G20 consensus approach**.

- It proposes a **Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI** to promote access to foundational AI resources and locally relevant innovation.

- It introduces a **Global AI Impact Commons** for sharing AI use cases among governments.

- The Declaration stresses **AI safety, trust, and security**, along with **human capital development**.

- It also emphasises **AI literacy, reskilling, and workforce preparedness** for an AI-driven economy.

Places in News

Chagos Archipelago

- The Chagos Archipelago is a **group of islands in the central Indian Ocean**, about 1,600 km south of India, officially known as the **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).**

- Its **largest island, Diego Garcia**, hosts a strategic **U.S.-U.K. military base**, crucial for operations in West Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

- The islands were **separated from Mauritius by the U.K. in 1965**, and the Chagossian population was forcibly relocated between 1967-73.

- In 2019, the **International Court of Justice** held that the **decolonisation of Mauritius** was illegal and advised the U.K. to end its administration.

- In **2025**, the U.K. agreed to **transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius**.

- **Diego Garcia was leased back for 99 years**, while **Chagossians were allowed to resettle on all islands except Diego Garcia**.

- The deal has sparked **geopolitical debate**, including concerns raised by the U.S. over the strategic importance of Diego Garcia.

Hoysala Temples

- Hoysala temples were built between the **11th and 13th centuries** in present-day **Karnataka.**

- They are carved from **soapstone** (chloritic schist), allowing very fine and detailed sculpture.

- The architecture features **stellate (star-shaped) sanctums**, circumambulatory platforms, and **lathe-turned pillars.**

- Temples follow **ekakuta, dvikuta, and trikuta plans**, with ornate sanctums.

- Hoysala temples display **multi-tiered friezes** with highly realistic and intricate sculptures.

- Friezes are **horizontal bands of carved stone on temple walls**, used to depict epics, deities, dancers, animals, and scenes of daily life.

- The **Sala killing the tiger motif** is a distinctive symbol of Hoysala art.

- The style reflects **Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakta, and Jain traditions**, showing religious diversity.

- **Sculptors often signed their works**, indicating their high artistic status.

- The **Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas**-Belur, Halebidu, and Somanathapura -are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**