

Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)

Event Report

Symposium on “Northeast India: 2030 & Beyond”

Date: 11 April 2025

Venue: Agartala, Tripura

Organised by: Assam Rifles (East)

In Collaboration with: Asian Confluence & Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)

1. Overview

In a significant effort to catalyse strategic dialogue on the developmental trajectory of Northeast India, the Assam Rifles (East) organised a high-level symposium titled **"Northeast India: 2030 & Beyond"** on 11 April 2025 in Agartala, Tripura. Held in collaboration with **Asian Confluence** and **Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)**, the event brought together leading minds from academia, strategic affairs, and governance to deliberate on a comprehensive roadmap for the region's socio-economic and security landscape.

2. Inaugural Session

The symposium commenced with a welcome address by **Brig Manish Rana, SM Commander, 21 Sect AR**, followed by **Maj Gen Suresh Bhambhu, YSM, SM, Inspector General Assam Rifles (East)**, who highlighted the strategic importance and untapped potential of the Northeast. He emphasised the need for an integrated developmental and security-centric approach to ensure long-term stability and prosperity in the region.

The event was graced by the **Hon'ble Governor of Tripura, Shri N. Indrasena Reddy**, who lauded the initiative and acknowledged the relevance of such dialogues in reinforcing the national commitment to the Northeast's inclusive development.

3. Keynote Deliberations

The symposium featured a distinguished panel comprising strategic experts, diplomats, and policymakers, including:

- **Lt Gen K Himalay Singh (Retd), PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM**
- **Brig Jeewan Rajpurohit (Retd), CENJOWS**
- **Ms. Patricia Mukhim**, Editor for The Shillong Times
- **Dr. Binayak Dutta**, Professor at North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) & Hon Senior Fellow, Asian Confluence
- **Mr. Pradip Phanjoubam**, Journalist

- **Dr. Monish Tourangbam**, Director at KIIPS
- **Brig Jaideep Chanda**, National Defence College
- **Dr. Sreeradha Datta**, Professor at Jindal Global University
- **Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das**, Former Sec, East, MEA and Member, Governing Council, Asian Confluence
- **Dr Prabir De**, Professor and policy expert on connectivity and trade
- **Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta**, Executive Director, Asian Confluence

Deliberations centred on the strategic relevance of Northeast India in the national and regional context. Discussions focused on:

- Enhancing **infrastructure and cross-border connectivity**
- Addressing **policy bottlenecks** hindering regional integration
- Security imperatives in the face of emerging transnational threats
- Opportunities for Northeast India to serve as India's **gateway to ASEAN**

Each speaker emphasised the importance of building robust institutional mechanisms, people-centric development, and leveraging the Act East Policy to unlock the region's full potential.

4. Valedictory Address

The symposium concluded with closing remarks by **Lt Gen Abhijit S Pendharkar, AVSM, YSM**, General Officer Commanding 3 Corps. He commended the collaborative spirit of the event and reflected on the evolving security architecture of the Northeast. Emphasising a **whole-of-nation** approach, he called for deeper synergy among security agencies, civil society, and policymakers to shape a peaceful and prosperous Northeast India.

5. Participation and Impact

The symposium witnessed inclusive participation from across the spectrum—armed forces personnel, defence veterans, policymakers, scholars, media representatives, and local community leaders. The event emerged as a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue and reinforced the strategic imperative of collaborative efforts for the region's future. The speaker from CENJOWS highlighted valuable points giving key takeaways on important issues.

The presence of civil society stakeholders and strategic thinkers from across the country contributed to generating actionable insights and practical recommendations, which are expected to inform future policy and military-civil cooperation in the region.

6. Conclusion

The “**Northeast India: 2030 & Beyond**” symposium marked a crucial step in consolidating developmental and security discourse on the Northeast. CENJOWS, in collaboration with Assam Rifles and Asian Confluence, reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating thought leadership on national integration, border management, and regional strategy.

The insights gathered from the symposium will be further synthesised into a series of events for further action and policy deliberation.

Prepared by:

Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS)

Date: 9 June 2025