

Country/entity	India Bodoland
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Agreed Ground Rules for Suspension of Operations between the Security Forces and the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT)
Date	29 Mar 2000
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

India-Adivasi Conflicts (1955 -) (Northeast India)

Several of seven sister states in Northeast India have had ongoing conflicts with the central Indian government, as well as among themselves following India's independence from the British Empire in 1947. Northeast India, in particular, lags behind the rest of India in infrastructure development. Tensions also exist between the various ethnic groups and Indian nationals migrated from elsewhere.

Bodoland:

The Bodo are a predominantly Christian group of about four million people living in the mountainous region of eastern Assam, India. Since 1986, the guerrilla organization – the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) – fought for independence of Bodoland. An initial truce was signed in 1989 and negotiations began with the Assam government. However, the NDFB resumed the conflict and new attempts to reach a peace settlement have not been successful. In 2005, a faction of the NDFB entered negotiations and signed a ceasefire agreement after suffering heavy losses. This splintered the NDFB and more radical factions that continue to fight.

Darjeeling:

Gorkhas in the state of West Bengal waged a guerrilla war against the central government from 1986-1988. Anti-foreign riots started in 1979 after a steady infiltration of Hindus and Muslims from other parts of Bengal. Tensions continued until the Accord of Darjeeling peace agreement was concluded in 1988. This accord provided for an autonomous Gorkha district around Darjeeling, which would remain part of West Bengal. It was implemented in The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (Amendment) Act of 1994. After 2007, a second wave of enthusiasm for Gorkhaland was revived by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, however, this time by non-violent means. Nonetheless, the introduction of Bengali into schools, raised tensions in a Nepali-speaking region and as of 2017 conflict appears to be increasing.

Hmar:

Tension in Mizoram were primarily due to political domination by the Assamese over the Mizo. The Mizo National Front was formed in 1961 in the aftermath of a devastating famine in the Mizo Hills in objection to Indian Government response, or lack of. With popular support the MNF staged an uprising in 1966, but was unable to take control. It was only in 1986 that a peace accord was signed granting Mizoram statehood and the MNF became a political party. The same year the Hmar People's Convention was formed as a political party advocating for the rights of the Hmar which were ignored by the 1986 peace accord. The movement aimed to create an autonomous state in the north of Mizoram. A 1994 agreement between the HPC and Indian government resulted in the formation of the Sinlung Hills Development Council. However, a splinter group - the Hmar People's Convention-Democracy - was formed in 1995 demanding a separate administration.

Manipur:

The Manipur insurgency is linked to national, ethnic and political identity issues that occupy many of the conflicts in India's northeast that emerged following the independence of India in 1947. Among the largest groups are the United National Liberation Front, the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, the People's Liberation Army of Manipur, and the Kanleipak Communist Party. The conflict continues as of 2017.

Nagaland:

The exception is Nagaland, wherein tensions predate 1947 and the Nagas announced

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	India Bodoland peace process
Parties	Signatories not listed. Preamble states agreement was negotiated by a team led by Dr. P.D. Shenoy, Additional Secretary (Home), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and representatives of the BLT led by Chimang Brahma @ Chandan @ Kamal Muchahary, Vice Chairman, BLT.
Third parties	-
Description	An agreement setting up a ceasefire between the Government of India and the Bodo Liberation Tigers. Agreement sets out basic terms of the ceasefire, and establishes a Joint Monitoring Group for overseeing the implementation of the ceasefire.

Agreement document	IN_000329_Ground Rules for Suspension of Operations between SF and the BLT.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing Power sharing→Military power sharing→Proportionality
Joint monitoring group will contain members from both sides.

Page 2, ANNEXURE

The agreed ground rules envisage composition of Joint Monitoring Group.

The composition of the JMG is as follows:

a) Joint Secretary (NE), MHA – Chairman-cum- Convener.

b) Two representatives of MHA

c) Representatives of the Army to be intimated by AHQ.

d) Representatives of CRPF to be intimated by DG (CRPF)

e) Two representatives of the Government of Assam to be intimated by Chief Secretary, Assam.

f) Two representatives of the BLT. The meetings of JMG may be held once in two months in routine or earlier if some emergency arises. Chairman may decide the venue of the meeting.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Note: Agreement as a whole deals with the implementation of a ceasefire

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

The Union Home Minister has made an announcement on suspension of operations by Security Forces against the Bodo Liberation tigers (BLT) in both the Houses of the Parliament on March 15, 2000. In pursuance of this decision taken by the Central Government in consultation with the Government of Assam, a tripartite meeting among the representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Assam and the BLT took place at New Delhi on March 28-29, 2000. The official team led by Dr. P.D. Shenoy, Additional Secretary (Home), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India have had talks with the representatives of the BLT led by Chimang Brahma @ Chandan @ Kamal Muchahary, Vice Chairman, BLT to pave the way for lasting peace and to build up a conducive atmosphere for further discussions to peacefully resolve the problems relating to the Bodos:

Both sides have agreed to suspension of operations w.e.f. March 15, 2000.

Page 1, The ground rules mutually agreed upon are as follows:

- i. The BLT (a) will completely abjure the path of violence; (b) will not engage in violent or unlawful activities like killings, injuries; kidnappings, extortions, intimidation, carrying of arms in public etc; and (c) agree to abide by the Constitution of India and the laws of the land.
- ii. The Security Forces (the Army, Para-Military Forces and the State Police) will not launch operations against the BLT.
- iii. Both sides also agreed to set up a Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) comprising the representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Assam and the BLT to oversee the suspension of operations.
- iv. The composition of JMG is annexed.
- v. The suspension of operations is initially agreed upon for a period of 6 months w.e.f. March 15, 2000. The suspension of operations may be extended by mutual agreement thereafter.

Page 2, ANNEXURE

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- f) Two representatives of the BLT. The meetings of JMG may be held once in two months in routine or earlier if some emergency arises. Chairman may decide the venue of the meeting.

Police	Page 1, The ground rules mutually agreed upon are as follows: ii. The Security Forces (the Army, Para-Military Forces and the State Police) will not launch operations against the BLT.
Armed forces	Page 1, The ground rules mutually agreed upon are as follows: ii. The Security Forces (the Army, Para-Military Forces and the State Police) will not launch operations against the BLT.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.

Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
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Other international signatory	No specific mention.
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Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
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International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
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Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
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Related cases	No specific mention.
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Source	UN Peacemaker. Available at: https://peacemaker.un.org/india-blt-ground-rules2000 (Accessed 14 October 2020).
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