

CHAPTER 2
NORTH EAST INDIA :
A BRIEF PROFILE

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In this chapter the researcher provides an outline description of historical perspective of international trade in North East India, profile of different states of North East India along with the authorized trade outlets from the region.

2.1 HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE :

The ancient trade routes and marts played an important role in international trade in the North East India (NEI). From time immemorial, NEI has major trade links with Tibet and Myanmar (then Burma) through land routes. There were many minor routes connecting Bhramaputra valleys which were used for trading. The human movement between India and Myanmar through Manipur started in the remote past. NEI produced many items which were marketed outside the region. Silk clothes and ivory products from Kamrupa continued to be appreciated outside the region. One of the routes for import of Chinese clothes was through Yunnan and Assam and the same were sent to the Bay of Bengal through Bhramaputra. There were other trade routes linking NEI with foreign countries through which considerable trade was carried. Such trade though illegal, still continues. The tribes inhabiting Indo-Tibet and Indo-Myanmar border had trade links with their neighbour across the border. Some of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh used to be expert traders. The Indian traders used to barter raw hides and chillies for rock salt, woollen clothes, raw wool, Tibetan swords, Tibetan vessels, ear-rings and brass bangles from Tibet.

Mart were regularly held (daily, bi-weekly, weekly or annually) at the foot hills of the Himalayas bordering Bangladesh, Myanmar and Tibet. The trade in Assam,

Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura was mostly carried through such mart. The Khasis and the Jaintiyas used to visit the marts of Bangladesh in the South for trading purpose.

NEI was not the closed corner of the country; it has wider trade links. The region was linked up across the border through major and minor trade routes. The trade flourished whenever the law and order situation was sound and suffered at the time of anarchy. The partition of India created unnatural border and the age-old ties with the part of Bengal (now Bangladesh) were snapped. The trade with Tibet received several jolt after the occupation of Tibet by China and especially after the Indo-Chinese border conflict in 1962. Situation on both sides of Indo-Myanmar border remain fluid. The trade highly decreased after independence of India. The situation further aggravated due to the lack of roads and speedier modes of communication.

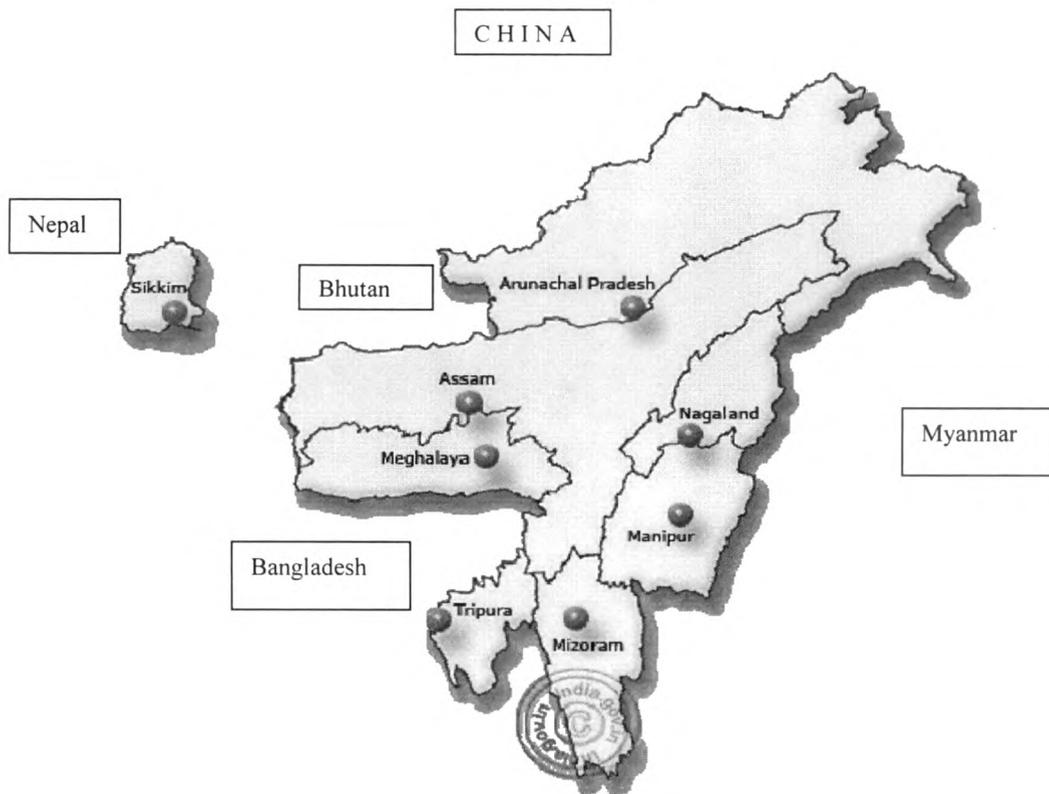
2.2 PROFILE OF THE SISTER STATES :

NEI consists of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura having a common border with foreign nations, namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Nepal. NEI shares 2% of the border with mainland of the country and more than 98% is linked with international boundary. Arunachal Pradesh is surrounded on three sides by the international border with Bhutan to the West, China to the North and Myanmar to the East. Assam shares international boundary with Bangladesh and Bhutan. Manipur is bounded by upper Myanmar in the East. The international border of Meghalaya is with Bangladesh whereas Mizoram is bounded on the East and South by Chin Hills and Arakan of Myanmar and on the West by Chittagong Hills Tracts of Bangladesh. On the East, Nagaland shares India's international boundary with Myanmar. The Himalayan State of Sikkim is bordered by China on

the North, Nepal on the West and Bhutan on the East. Tripura is surrounded by Bangladesh on all sides, except for a narrow neck in North-East. Therefore, the entire region may be regarded as landlocked part of India.

FIGURE 2.1

NORTH EAST INDIA – A Geographic Glance



A brief profile of all the states of NEI is put forward below:

2.2.1 ARUNACHAL PRADESH :

ARUNACHAL PRADESH AT A GLANCE

State	Arunachal Pradesh
Capital	Itanagar
Land Area (Sq. Km)	83743
Total Population (2001 Census)	1091117
Mineral Resources	Coal, Limestone Petroleum Dolomite
Agricultural Products	Rice, Maize, Millet, Wheat, Pulses, Sugarcane
Major Plantations	Rubber, Coffee, Tea
Horticultural Products	Pineapple, Apple, Orange, Guava, Ginger, Grape
Land Customs Station (LCS)	Nampong (hell's gate) Non-functioning

Arunachal Pradesh is the largest state in NEI. It attained its statehood on 20th February 1987. Situated between latitude 26° 30' North and 29° 30' North and longitude 91° 30' East and 97° 30' East, it stretches from snow-capped mountains in the North to the plains of Brahmaputra valley in the South. Itanagar is the capital located at an altitude of 530 meters. It is named after Itafort meaning fort of bricks built in 14th century A.D.

Arunachal Pradesh is known for its forest resources. It is basically a hilly state that interspersed among deep valleys and narrow gorges. Forest products and industries based on them are the lifeline of the state providing income and employment to a large section of the Arunachalis. The state is rural based with nearly 75% of its total workforce engaged in agriculture (mainly shifting cultivation). The remaining workforce is concentrated in the gradually emerging tertiary sectors. The secondary sector employment is mainly in the forest-based

industries and carpet making. Tertiary sector employment is mainly in the government jobs. The per capita income of Arunachal Pradesh has been the highest among the North Eastern states in the recent years and it has been above all India average. The main constraint faced by the state is the lack of communication.

Arunachal Pradesh is a state with tremendous untapped capacity to emerge as a major investor destination. The Government has made certain changes in the local laws to encourage establishment of industries in the region. Besides agriculture and allied sectors, silk-based units are also being encouraged. An Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) has been planned at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh. Horticultural items like pineapples, bananas, oranges are grown in significant quantities in the state and plantation crops like tea, coffee, and spices are being tried out with good results. There is also a huge variety of flowers. It is considered to be "nature's treasure trove" and home to orchids, known for their exquisitely beautiful blooms from one of the dominant taxa with more than six hundred species, occurring in varying elevations and climatic conditions throughout the state.

2.2.2 ASSAM :

ASSAM AT A GLANCE

State	Assam
Capital	Dispur
Land Area (Sq. Km)	78438
Total Population (2001 Census)	2,66,38,403
Mineral Resources	Coal, Limestone Petroleum Granite, Iron Ore, Quartzite

Agricultural Products	Rice, Maize, Wheat, Jute, Cotton, Sugarcane, ginger
Major Plantations	Tea, Rubber, Coffee
Horticultural Products	Banana, Orange, Pineapple, Onion
Sericulture	Eri, Muga and Mulberry Silk
Floriculture	Orchids and other flowers
Land Customs Stations (LCSs)	Karimgang Ferry & Steamer Ghat Sutarkandi Mahisasan Railway Station (Non-Functioning) Silchar RMS Office (Non-Functioning) Guwahati Steamer Ghat (Non-Functioning) Dhubri Steamer Ghat (Non-Functioning) Golakganj (Non-Functioning) Mankachar Darranga (Non-Functioning) Hattisar Uttapani (Non-Functioning)
Inland Container Depot (ICD)	Amingaon
Airport	Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport
Main Items of Export	Tea, Coal, Ginger, Fruits, Betel Leaves
Main Items of Import	Hilsa Fish, Malasses (Sporadic)

Assam is the gateway to North East part of India and a principal centre of socio-cultural, industrial and trade and commerce of the entire region. The present state is much smaller in area than what it was forty years ago. It is still the largest economy in North East. The mighty Brahmaputra River that has its origins in Tibet charts its majestic course through this state. This mystic land of eternal blue

hills and beautiful rivers is renowned for its tea, rich flora and fauna, the world famous one horned rhinoceros and other rare species of wildlife that are on the verge of extinction. Situated between 90-96° East longitude and 24-28° North latitude, Assam is bordered in the North and East by the Kingdom of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Along the South lie Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Meghalaya lies to her South-West, Bengal and Bangladesh to her West.

Assam is a state rich in natural resources like natural oil, natural gas, coal, rubber, tea and some minerals like granite, limestone, mica, kaolin etc. Large water bodies and agro base resources are some of the other attractions. Although it is more industrially developed than the other North Eastern states, it is primarily an agrarian economy with 74% of its population engaged in agriculture and allied activities. The state is known for its large industries in the tea and petroleum sectors. New frontiers are also opening up in the area of information technology, biotechnology, agro and food processing, silk processing etc.

There are eleven Land Customs Stations (LCSs) notified in Assam. Out of which, three LCSs are functioning in the Indo-Bangladesh border and one in Indo-Bhutan border. There is one ICD at Amingaon and one International Airport at Borjhar in Guwahati. It is only the ICD that notices relatively healthy trading. The gateway port for this ICD is Haldia in West Bengal. The main item export through this ICD is tea in which Assam has a traditional advantage while import mainly consists of multi-wall paper sack that is mostly used by the tea industry. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport, situated in Guwahati came into the international air traffic map with the commencement of Air India flight from Guwahati to Bangkok on 4th April 2002. It is relatively new point of foreign trade and its potential is yet to be exploited as export / import by air. It is directly related to the growth of industry specializing in low volume high value products. The main item of export is perfumery compound.

2.2.3 MANIPUR :

MANIPUR AT A GLANCE

State	Manipur
Capital	Imphal
Land Area (Sq. Km)	22327
Total Population (2001 Census)	23.89
Mineral Resources	Chromites Limestone
Agricultural Products	Maize, Oil Seeds, Pulse, Rice, Sugarcane Wheat,
Major Plantations	Rubber, Coffee
Horticultural Products	Potato, Pea
Land Customs Station (LCS)	Moreh
Main Items of Export	Wheat flour, Soya bari, Cumin Seed, Skimmed Milk power, Edible buffalo offal

Manipur literally meaning "A jeweled land" nestle deep within a lush green corner of NEI. It seems much like an exquisite work of art executed by superb hands of nature and is indeed a state of exquisite natural beauty and splendors. Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru paid a fitting tribute by describing it as "Jewel of India". Surrounded by blue hills with an oval shaped valley at the centre, rich in art and tradition and surcharged with nature's pristine glory, Manipur lies on a melting pot of culture. Manipur came under the British Rule as a Princely State after the defeat in Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. After independence of India in 1947, the Princely State of Manipur was merged in Indian Union on October 15, 1949 and became a full-fledged state on 21st January, 1972. Agriculture and

allied activities provide the backbone to the economy in both the hills and the valley of Manipur. While weaving and pisciculture are other important and traditional means of livelihood in the valley, logging, cultivation of a few cash crops, handloom and handicrafts are the traditional sources of additional income in the hills. In terms of infrastructure Manipur is quite backward.

Manipur is the gateway to South East Asia for Indian sub-continent Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The existing Indo-Myanmar border trade currently underway in the border town of Moreh (India) and Tamu (Myanmar) has already paved the way for a full scale trade between India and Myanmar which may further extend to other adjacent countries. With a vast pool of trained manpower, the state has potential in the area of information technolohg, engineering, medicine and agriculture. Compared to some of the metros in India, the cost of setting up an industry in Manipur is just half or less. Handicraft, handlooms, agro and food items like pineapple, passion fruits, bamboo shoots, fruit juices (lemon and oranges), ginger oil and oleoresin, medicine plants, horticulture, floriculture are some of the high potential areas for exports. State has already earmarked certain areas as export parks and is committed to facilitate investment through a single window mechanism to ensure speedy disposal of applications.

2.2.4 MEGHALAYA :

MEGHALAYA AT A GLANCE

State	Meghalaya
Capital	Shillong
Land Area (Sq. Km)	22489
Total Population (2001 Census)	23,06,069
Mineral Resources	Coal, Limestone Dolomite Feldspar, Kaolin, Iron Ore, Glass sand Quartz
Agricultural Products	Rice, Maize, Jute
Major Plantation	Rubber, Coffee
Horticultural Products	Banana, Pineapple, Guava, Ginger, Chili
Land Customs Stations (LCSs)	Dawki Bholaganj Borsora Shellabazar Rynku (Non-Functioning) Baghmara Dalu Ghasuapara Mahendraganj
Main Items of Export	Coal, lime stones, boulders, crushed stones, ginger
Main Items of Import	Negligible and Sporadic

Meghalaya emergence as an autonomous state on 2nd April 1970 and as a full-fledged state on 21st January 1972 marked the beginning of a new era of geo-

political history of North East India. The state is situated on the North East part of India and extends for about 300 kilometers in length and about 100 kilometers in breadth. It is bounded on the North by Goalpara, Kamrup and Nowgong districts, on the East by Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts, all of Assam, and on the South and West by Bangladesh. The state offers enormous natural attractions like landscapes, mountains, peaks, beaches, rivers, waterfalls, flora and fauna. It also applies to a multitude of man-made attractions like monuments, places and unique rural and city environment. Tucked away in the hills of Eastern sub-Himalayas, Meghalaya is one of the most beautiful states in the country. Tourism development is as significant to Meghalaya, as it has been in other more progressive states of India. Nature has blessed her with abundant rainfall, sunshine, virgin forests, high plateaus, tumbling waterfalls, crystal clear rivers, meandering streamlets and above all with sturdy, intelligent and hospitable people.

The strength of the state of Meghalaya is many. It has sizeable reserves of natural resources like coal, limestone, granite, uranium etc. There are little value addition activities in the state. Most of these natural resources are extracted and sent outside the state only in raw form. Varieties of agricultural and horticultural products are also available. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Meghalaya and playing a predominant role in the state's economy. Its climate is ideal for the growth of a large number of horticultural crops like fruits, spices and mushroom. It has vast hydro and thermal power potential. There is high potential for border trade with Bangladesh as the state has a long stretch of international border with the country; spanning approximately 400 km. Presence of industrial estate has made the state even more noteworthy. Byrnihat is fast emerging as a new industrial growth center in the NEI due to its strategic location, relatively cheap power and tax holiday. There are nine LCSs in Meghalaya. Among those eight LCSs are functioning in Indo-Bangladesh border from where considerable volume of trade is taking place.

2.2.5 MIZORAM :

MIZORAM AT A GLANCE

State	Mizoram
Capital	Aizawal
Land Area (Sq. Km)	21087
Total Population (2001 Census)	891058
Mineral Resources	Coal, Limestone, Natural Gas
Agricultural Products	Rice, Maize
Major Plantations	Rubber, Coffee, Tea
Horticultural Products	Banana, Pineapple, Orange, Chili, Ginger
Land Customs Stations (LCSs)	Champhai (Non-Functioning) Damagiri (Non-Functioning)

Mizoram lying in southernmost outpost of North East India, is a land of Blue Mountains. Manipur, Assam and Tripura bind the Northern end of this little land of tranquility with neighbouring countries like Myanmar and Bangladesh nestling most of the states between them. In nineteenth century, this region was annexed to Assam, under the British rule, as the Lushai Hills District and in February 1972, it became the 23rd state of Indian Union. From 19th Century, the Christian Missionaries have played a dominating role in the state. 85.73% of the population are Christians and are greatly responsible for westernization of its social life. Oral tradition reveals (there is no known recorded history) that the Mizos migrated from their homeland in China about 3 centuries ago, in search of new pastures and settled in these remote Mizo Hills (Lushai Hills). The Mizos are friendly and very hospitable. English is one of the commonly spoken languages. The joyful, enthusiasm and gregarious spirit of local populace has been vastly responsible for establishing some of the most attractive tourism features in this tiny state.

It is predominantly an agrarian state like most of the other states of North East with more than 70% of its population engaged in agriculture. The present state of the economy is far from satisfactory with very less improvement in agricultural productivity level. Handloom and handicrafts are the other traditional means of livelihood. The bamboo products of Mizoram are very famous. Bamboo products like mat ply, chopsticks, and handicrafts are some of the exportable items from the state. It is also surplus in some of the spices. A very good investment opportunity exist in the form of passion fruit, orange, pineapple, soft cucumber, cotton, etc. Shell milestones, oil and mineral also have very good export potentials. Tourism and information technology projects are coming up in the state. Two LCSs have been notified by the Government of India but both are non functional at present due to lack of proper infrastructural arrangement. Two more important border trade points have already been developed to facilitate international trade in Zokhawthar (Mizoram-Myanmar border) and Tlabung (Mizoram-Bangladesh border). Mizoram has the advantage that it shares borders with Bangladesh and Myanmar. With the opening up of border trade, the state would be able to become a major business hub.

2.2.6 NAGALAND :

NAGALAND AT A GLANCE

State	Nagaland
Capital	Kohima
Land Area (Sq. Km)	16579
Total Population (2001 Census)	1988636
Mineral Resources	Coal, Limestone Petroleum Slate
Agricultural Products	Rice, Maize, Cotton, Jute, Sugarcane

Major Plantations	Rubber, Coffee, Tea
Horticultural Products	Banana, Pineapple, Ginger, Garlic
Land Customs Station (LCS)	No LCS

Nagaland is one of the hill states in North East, famous for its rich mosaic of numerous tribes with their rich culture. Agriculture and animal husbandry including poultry are the main occupations of the Nagas. The Naga work force is mainly agricultural with around 73% of the people engaged in different types of agricultural practices, Jhum or shifting cultivation being the main one. Bamboo, cane, spears making and weaving are the traditional occupations of these people. The secondary sector is small. Traditional village industries based on local forest product form the backbone of this sector. The state also possesses natural oil reserves. Infrastructure bottleneck has been an outstanding problem of the state. It shares border with Myanmar and hence has huge potential to develop international trade.

Nagaland is in the process of reviving its growth after a prolonged armed conflict. A five hundred acre developed industrial growth centre is on the anvil. An export Promotion Industrial Park, Food Park etc are also in pipeline. Traditional exportable items like tea, fruits are available in plenty. Sericulture, agro-based products, pharmaceuticals and handicraft are also possible investment opportunities.

2.2.7 SIKKIM :

SIKKIM AT A GLANCE

State	Sikkim
Capital	Gangtok
Land Area (Sq. Km)	7096
Total Population (2001 Census)	4.6 Lakhs
Agricultural Products	Rice, Wheat, Maize, ginger
Major Plantations	Tea, Medicinal herbs
Horticultural Products	Fruits, Large cardamom, Ginger
Land Customs Station (LCS)	No LCS

Sikkim - “The Land of Peace & Tranquility”, with the grandeur of her mountain peaks, terraced hills, verdant valleys, fast flowing rivers and lush tropical forest, brilliant with richness of vivid flowers, birds and butterflies, simple tilted villages and colorful monasteries, is a rare and unique experience. This beautiful tiny hill state of Sikkim lies on Eastern tip of Himalayas bounded on the North and North-East by Tibet, on the East by Bhutan, on the West by Nepal and on the South by the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Sikkim is well-known for Kanch-Endzonga, at 598 mtrs, which is third highest mountain peak in the world. Being second smallest state in India, Sikkim covers 7,096 sq kms and measures 110 kms from North to South and 64 kms from East to West.

The state is rich in natural, mineral and water resources. Mineral deposits of Sikkim are copper, zinc, lead, coal, dolomite, quartzite, graphite and talc. While 75% of the land is covered under forest, it is natural that Sikkim looks at it as major natural resources at its disposal. Apart from timber, the forest is a major source of herbs and medical plants. The main crops produced in Sikkim are rice,

wheat, maize, large cardamom, and ginger. There is also a plethora of exotic flowers and orchids that grow in Sikkim's forests. The flora and fauna naturally covers a wide spectrum as no where else in the world. In such a small area one can find 4000 varieties of flowering plants, orchids (some 600 varieties) and rhododendrons. Naturalists have catalogued over 550 species of birds and over 600 species of butterflies.

2.2.8 TRIPURA :

TRIPURA AT A GLANCE

State	Tripura
Capital	Agartala
Land Area (Sq. Km)	10486
Total Population (2001 Census)	3991168
Mineral	Gas
Major Corps	Rice, Sugarcane Cotton, Jute,
Major Plantations	Tea Rubber, Coffee
Fruits & Spices	Banana, Orange, Mango, Guava, Pineapple
Land Customs Stations (LCSs)	Agartala Srimantapur Muhuri Ghat (Non Functioning) Khowai Ghat Dholai Ghat (Non Functioning) Old Raghna Bazar Manu
Main Items of Export	Coal, Ginger, Rubber products, Fruits, Agricultural / Horticultural products

Main Items of Import	Mineral water, processed food products, dry fish, Hilsa fish, MS road, raw jute, waste of wool, scrap of iron, glazed tiles, cement, plastic tubes, molded chair, fabric
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Tripura is one of the eight states in North East India located between 22 degree and 56 minutes and 24 degree and 32 minutes North latitude and between 90 degree and 09 minutes and 92 degree and 20 minutes East latitude. It is bounded on the North, West, South and South-East by Bangladesh whereas in the East it has a common boundary with Assam and Mizoram. There is a common belief that the name of the state has originated from 'Tripura Sundar' - the presiding deity of the land which is famous as one of the 51 pethos of Hindu Pilgrims. Apart from this traditional view it is believed that originally the land was known as 'Tuipra' meaning a land adjoining the water. It is fact that in days of yore the boundaries of Tripura were extended up to the Bay of Bengal when its rulers held sway from Garo hills to Arakan. The history of Tripura as an administrative unit dates back to the days of Maharajas when the territory was a native state. It is significant to note that although Tripura was conquered by force of arms in 1761, no political agent was appointed till 1871 - a gap of 110 years.

The former princely state of Tripura was ruled by Maharajas of Manikya dynasty. It was an independent administrative unit under the Maharaja even during the British rule in India though this independence was qualified, being subject to the recognition of British, as the paramount power, of each successive ruler. After independence of India, an agreement of merger of Tripura with Indian Union was signed by the Regent Maharani on September 9, 1947 and the administration of the state was actually taken over by the Govt. of India on October 15, 1949. Tripura became a Union Territory without legislature with effect from November 1, 1956 and a popular Ministry was installed in Tripura on July 1, 1963. On

January 21, 1972 Tripura attained statehood. The economy is predominantly agrarian. Agriculture generates about 64% of employment in the state. It has now excellent opportunity for Tourism and has many places of interest. Folk dances of Tripura speak its rich cultural heritage.

Tripura is among the fastest developing states in the entire North East India. It is rich in natural resources and second largest producer of rubber in the country. A major investment opportunity exists in food processing, rubber, tea, bamboo, ginger, cut flowers, handloom and handicraft etc. Information technology and tourism are two other sectors which can contribute to the state's export trade. The strategic location of Tripura, particularly its proximity to Bangladesh, is a great advantage. Most of the important cities and markets of Bangladesh are within 150 km from the capital town of Tripura. The state has about 856 km of international border with Bangladesh i.e. 84% of its boundaries are shared with Bangladesh. 'Ashuganj' a river port in Bangladesh is only 30 km from Agartala. 'Akhaura' railway station in Bangladesh is only 8 km from Agartala. The port of 'Chittagong' in Bangladesh is just 75 km from 'Sabroom', a district town in South Tripura. The state's resources and location are complemented by improved infrastructure, incentives for industries, supportive administration etc. The locational advantage has a positive impact on border trade. Tripura has very good quality natural gas which can be traded in the international market. The state has seven LCSs. Out of which, five are operational and the rest are not functioning.

2.3 AUTHORIZED TRADE OUTLETS :

As per Government of India notification, the country has a total of 138 authorised LCSs along her land borders with the neighbouring countries. Of them, 100 LCSs are within the neighbouring Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. Out of these 100 LCSs, 32 are only with NEI. To have a detail look at the prevailing LCSs in NEI, the following section provides an overview of the same.

Details of border-wise strength of LCSs, functional and non-functional, along NEI are presented in tabular forms as depicted below.

Table 2.1
Border wise strength of LCSs along North East India

Border	Functioning	Non-Functioning
Indo-Bangladesh	16	10
Indo-Bhutan	01	02
Indo-Myanmar	01	02

Source: The Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Shillong, Meghalaya

Table 2.2
Details of Functional and Non-Functional LCSs along North East India

State	Land Customs Stations (LCSs)	International Border	Status
Arunachal Pradesh	Nampong (hell's gate)	Indo-Myanmar	Non-Functioning
Assam	Karimgang Ferry & Steamer Ghat	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Sutarkandi	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Mahisasan Railway Station	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
	Silchar RMS Office	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
	Guwahati Steamer Ghat	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
	Dhubri Steamer ghat	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning

	Golakganj	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
	Mankachar	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Darranga	Indo-Bhutan	Non-Functioning
	Hattisar	Indo-Bhutan	Functioning
	Uttapani	Indo-Bhutan	Non-Functioning
Manipur	Moreh	Indo-Myanmar	Functioning
Meghalaya	Dawki	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Bholaganj	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Borsora	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Shella bazar	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Rynku	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
	Baghmara	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Dalu	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Ghasuapara	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Mahendraganj	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
Mizoram	Chaamphai (Zokhawthar)	Indo-Myanmar	Non-Functioning
	Damagiri	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
Nagaland	No LCS		
Sikkim	No LCS		
Tripura	Agartala	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Srimantapur	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Muhuri Ghat	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
	Khowai Ghat	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Dholai Ghat	Indo-Bangladesh	Non-Functioning
	Old Raghna Bazar	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning
	Manu	Indo-Bangladesh	Functioning

Source: Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Shillong, Meghalaya

The table 2.1 and table 2.2 portray that in order to facilitate NEI trade with Bangladesh and movement of passenger of both the countries; customs department has set up 26 numbers of LCSs along NEI and Bangladesh border that indicates the importance of Indo-Bangladesh trade. Out of them, 16 are functional that exist in NEI - Bangladesh border. Basically, the export to Bangladesh takes place through the LCSs of three states namely Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

Coming to Indo-Bhutan trade, twelve exit/entry points in India has been identified. They are Jaigaon, Chamurchi, Ulta Pani, Hattisar (Gaylegphug), Darranga, Calcutta, Haldia, Dhubri, Raxaul, Panitanki, Chakrabandh and New Delhi. Of these, Calcutta and Haldia are the designated seaports, Dhubri is the riverine route, New Delhi and Calcutta are the air routes and Raxaul is the rail route. The others are the designated land routes. Out of the 5 LCSs along Indo-Bhutan border, 3 are located along Assam – Bhutan border and 2 along West-Bengal – Bhutan border. The three notified LCSs on Assam-Bhutan border are Darranga, Hattisar and Ultapani. Darranga and Ultapani are not operational and are largely used for the purpose of keeping records. The trade between the two areas primarily runs through Hattisar LCS of Assam which was formally started in 2002-03.

In order to facilitate trade with Myanmar and movement of passenger of both the countries, there are three notified LCSs in NEI, one each in Manipur (Moreh), Mizoram (Champai) and Arunachal Pradesh (Nampong) sector. But, currently the trade with Myanmar is functional only at Moreh in Manipur. The other two LCSs are yet to be operational. The border at Moreh and Tamu (Saggine division, Myanmar) was opened on 12th April 1995. The Government of India has certainly taken some measures to enlarge the volume of trade. India's green signal to trade with Myanmar is marked with its declaration of free trade zone at Moreh.

Along the Indo-China border, the NEI do not have any authorized trade outlets.