CHAPTER-IV

MILITANT GROUPS AND MODE OF OPERATION
"There are two major insurgency movements in Assam – ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam) and Bodos. The latter has two armed groups demanding Bodo-land. One wants it as a State within India and the other is for secession and a sovereign State. Besides these two militant movements, there are also other militant outfits, like the spill over of NSCN from Nagaland and other minor insurgent groups like Karbi National Volunteers, Bangalee Tiger Force, Birsa Commando Force and so on." 1

**Background**

A highly successful student movement against outsiders was launched in Assam in early eighties. In this 3,000 people were killed between 1979 and 1983. In the parliamentary election of 1983 wide support for the movement was demonstrated. As a result of its boycott call, there was only a three-percent voter turnout in Assam. This movement gave-birth to a political wing in AGP (Asom Gana Parishad) and a military wing ULFA. ULFA established contacts with ISI agents of Pakistan and its top leaders visited that country and Afghanistan. They also established contact with NSCN and the cadres went for training to Myanmar. After the Assam accord and elections AGP came to power. During the first AGP Government Prafulla Kumar Mahanta as the CM the ULFA had a free run of the State. ULFA was very influential in the State. Big business houses and corrupt Government Officials too contributed large sums to them. It is believed that ULFA have collected Rupees 400 to 500 crores. Its leadership occasionally helped the poor, acquiring a Robinhood image. By 1990 the ULFA was at the peak of its power and a climate of fear had become all pervasive in Assam. ULFA’s strength was estimated at 3000 hard core militants with some 2000 weapons. They had committed 113 murders and no action had been taken in any of these cases.
**Major Incidents**

In Doom Dooma an incident occurred. The seven leading tea gardens of that region were asked to pay Rupees one crore each. Unilever, a leading multinational, decided to wind up their business. With the help of the Union Government's intelligence agencies, it secretly withdrew its managerial staff and families in a special aircraft to Calcutta. It was at this stage that the Government of India decided to dismiss the State Government and impose President's rule. Army was called out and 'Operation Bajrang' was launched in September 1990. By April 1991 the situation was reasonably peaceful to hold elections. Then Army was withdrawn. This gave an opportunity to ULFA to reorganise. The AGP had got discredited on account of corruption and dissension among its leadership. The congress defeated the AGP at the elections and a congress Government came to power under Hiteswar Saikia. Within a few hours of Saikia coming to power, the ULFA struck by kidnapping 14 senior Officials of Assam's oilfields including a Soviet engineer. In Guwahati an additional secretary to Government was also kidnapped. The Soviet engineer was killed. Then another Indian engineer who was to be released by ULFA was also killed. The new CM lost several close relatives in ULFA attacks. Army was again called in.

**Subsequent Developments**

‘Operation Rhino’ was launched in September 1991. The results achieved were better than ‘Operation Bajrang’ since the Army had been able to build up a good intelligence network. By January 1992 ULFA agreed for a political dialogue and some of their top leaders came to Delhi for talks. These leaders wanted time to get Paresh Barua, the head of the military wing who was at Dhaka, to also agree to the talks. They were allowed to go to meet him.
Political Solution

"Chief Minister Saikia had Army Operations suspended and now tried his hand at a political solution. He got 3,500 ULFA men to surrender but they were allowed to retain their personal weapons for security. Each person was given a soft bank loan of Rupees 2 lakhs with the Government providing Rupees 50,000/- as seed money. The SULFA (Surrendered ULFA) experiment was a disaster with the Government loosing Rupees 25 crores by way of seed money and the banks loosing Rupees 75 crores, as the loans were not repaid. SULFA took to committing crime and many rejoined the ULFA". 2

Saikia’s Death

Died during State elections in 1996 and the second AGP Government came to power with Prafulla Kumar Mahanta as CM. In their election manifesto, the AGP had promised that the Army would be withdrawn, black laws repealed and the people of Assam will be given the right of self-determination. Initially the new Government was hesitant to take action against the militants. However, in 1997 a Unified Command Structure was set up. It is primarily an organization to ensure co-ordinated functioning. However, more important than any framework are the people who operate that organization.

About the ULFA

It is well organised along the lines recommended by Chinese leader Mao Zedong. The control is rested with a central committee. These wings - the civil wing, the publicity wing and military wing – function under it. The organization is similar at the district and local levels.
Basic datas pertaining to ULFA is as under :-

**TABLE NO 4.1**

**United Liberation Front of Assam**

1. **Formed on** 07 Apr 79 at Sibsagar

2. **Strength**
   - **(a) Total** - 3000 persons to 3500
   - **(b) Hardcore** - 1500 persons to 1800

3. **Weapons**
   - **(a) Inter communication set** - 40
   - **(b) AK Series Rifles – 56** - 400 to 500
   - **(c) Self Loading Rifle (other semi automatic and .303)** - 500 to 550
   - **7.62mm Self Loading Rifle** - 25
   - **(d) Light Machine Gun** - 40 to 60
   - **other Machine Guns** - 200
   - **(e) Sten Machine Carbine** - 200 to 250
   - **(f) Rocket Propelled Gun** - 10 to 15
   - **(g) 2” Mortar** - 20 to 30
   - **(h) Pistol/Revolver** - 500 to 800
   - **Pistol** - 350

4. **Chairman** - Arbindo Rajkhowa @ Rajib Rajkonwar
   **C-in-C** - SS Brig Paresh Baruah @ Pawan Baruah
5. **Aim** - To liberate Assam from so called Indian colonial rule and to form an independent State.

6. **Activities** - Kidnapping, killing, extortion, raid and ambush on SF, sabotage and subversion.

7. **Training Camps** - In Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

8. **Nexus** - NSCN(IM), NDFB, NSCN(K), KIFA, LTTE, MFO and ISI.

Source: 8 MARATHA LI, C/O 99 APO.
TABLE NO 4.2

ULFA Organization

Central Committee

Chairman: Arbindo Rajkhowa @ Rajkonwar

Vice Chairman: Asanta Bagh Phukan

Civil Wing
- Golap Barua @ Anup Chetia (In Dacca Jail)

Publicity Wing
- Deepak Das @ Mithanga

Military Wing
- C-in-C: SS Brig Paresh Baruah @ Pawan Baruah
- DY C-in-C: SS Capt Hitesh Kalita @ Raju Baruah

7 BN 27 BN 28 BN 79 BN 23 BN 2 BN
- SS Capt SS Capt SS Capt Not Known Not Known Myanmar
- Anu Das Pradip Aunto Saudang
- Gohain

Eastern Zone
(Purvi Mandal)

Western Zone
(Paschim Mandal)

Central Zone
(Madhya Mandal)

Southern Zone
(Barrak Valley)

Area of Responsibility

AOR

Lakhimpur
Part of Sonitpur
Golaghat
Jorhat
Sibsagar
Dibrugarh
Tinsukia
Bokajan Div
Karbi Anglong

AOR

Dhubri
Kokrajhar
Bongaigaon
Goalpara
Barpeta
Nalbari
South Kamrup

AOR

Darang
Part of Sonitpur
Morigaon
Nagaon
North Kamrup

AOR

Hailakandi
Cachar Hills
NC Hills
Karimganj

Note: @ - alias. Source: 8 MARATHALI, C/O 99 APO
Bodos

The Bodos are plains tribesmen and the original inhabitants of Assam. Today with a population of eight lakhs, they constitute only four percent of the population of Assam. They are not in a majority in any district, sub-division or even Police Station of Assam. They claim the entire North bank of the Brahmaputra, with a population of over six million in which their population is only four and a half lakhs. Moreover, Bodo villages are not contiguous and this poses a problem in delineating a compact Bodo area. A Bodo accord was signed in 1993 between the Government of India, the Government of Assam and Bodo leaders creating a Bodoland Autonomous Council within the State of Assam. The two Bodo militant groups - Bodo Liberation Tiger Force (BLTF) demanding a separate State within the Indian Union and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) demanding sovereign country - have been engaged in ethnic cleansing. It appears that the Bodos want to eliminate the others in the area which they presume as their own to show that they are the majority in that particular place. Santhals are their prime targets. Santhals were the original people from Bihar belt and they are also a tribe of Bihar.

Ethnic Riots: There had been violent ethnic riots between the majority Bodos and the Santhals (both tribal groups) in Assam's Bodo heartland of Kokrajhar and its adjoining districts in the summer of 1996 had displaced more than 3,00,000 people belonging to both communities. About 250 people were killed in the riots that began on May 15 and continued sporadically till the end of 1996. While thousands returned to their homes, an estimated 2,00,000 are still living sub-human lives in thatched or polythene roofed hutments in relief camps run by the State Government. There are 64 such so called relief camps in Kokrajhar district, the adjoining districts of Bongaigaon and Dhubri have some more housing an estimated 1.10 lakh Santhals, 70,000 Bodos and others. There is nothing called sanitation and hygiene and the inmates do not get two square meals a day. Both Salthal and Bodo refugee leaders say that the Government has been providing them ration for just 5 days a month - three kg of rice per adult and about 50 gm of salt (600 and 400 gm of rice for each adult and
child respectively a day). The district magistrate of Kokrajhar cordially admitted this. Lack of funds is cited by the State authorities for the poor relief. They say more than Rs 100 crores has so far been spent on the upkeep of the refugees.

They dig out stumps of trees, felled illegally in the past, and sell them to buyers along the highway. Scores of these refugees have already started migrating to neighbouring Bhutan for which no travel documents are required. Life has been indeed very difficult for these people.

The dimension of this refugee crisis in Assam is no less than some of those in Sub-Saharan Africa. What is sadder here is that even the rest of India is unconcerned, not to speak of international agencies. No Non-Government Organizations, barring the Lutheran World Service, a Christian body, is working among the refugees of Kokrajhar. Kokrajhar need today is aid, irrespective of who provides it.

**Crux Issue**: The fight for territorial supremacy was one of the triggering factors for the Bodo-Santhal riots in 1996. As per the Bodo Accord signed in February 1993 between the ABSU and the Centre came the Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC). Only those villages with 50 percent Bodo population were to be included in the BAC. This provision is generally believed to have encouraged a section of Bodos, including armed militants of different hues, to attempt ethnic cleansing, driving out the non-Bodos and converting vast stretches into Bodo majority areas.

These refugees may have survived a violent past and are going through a miserable present, but the question is what does the future hold for them. Hundreds of children are just whiling away their time for lack of educational facilities. Disease and hunger have taken their toll on their health. What is the Government doing for their rehabilitation? This is the million-dollar question because a vast majority of the refugees had their homes in recognised forest villages or encroachments inside reserve forest.
Assam’s Bodo heartland continues to be an ethnic cauldron with the Bodo statehood uprising still on in full swing. Unless the hopes and aspirations of the Bodos are properly addressed by the Government, it may not be long before the area witnesses another bout of violence. This may mean another steam of refugees.

**Area Demanded** : The area demanded by Bodos is shown below.

**TABLE NO 4.3**

**AREA OF PROPOSED SEPARATE STATE OF BODOLAND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/Sub division</th>
<th>Present Area (Sq km)</th>
<th>Area to be included in proposed Bodoland (Sq km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kokrajhar</td>
<td>4,716.5</td>
<td>4,716.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhubri</td>
<td>2,745.5</td>
<td>1372.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goalpara</td>
<td>2,843.8</td>
<td>710.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barpeta</td>
<td>3,307.3</td>
<td>1,653.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalbari</td>
<td>2,022.8</td>
<td>1,111.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bongaigaon</td>
<td>2,159.0</td>
<td>1,000.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamrup</td>
<td>4,625.9</td>
<td>1,115.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrang</td>
<td>3,465.3</td>
<td>2,752.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonitpur</td>
<td>5,255.2</td>
<td>4,204.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakhimpur</td>
<td>5,464.4</td>
<td>5,646.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majuli</td>
<td>1,241.0</td>
<td>1,241.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadiya</td>
<td>914.0</td>
<td>914.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>25,478.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Note** : The Map of the above is shown on page No 155.

The organization and basic datas of BLT and NDFB is also given.
DEMAND OF THE BODOS

Proposed Bodoland: 25,478 Sq km

Proposed autonomous district council

Lalung autonomous council

Brahmaputra river
**TABLE NO 4.4**

**Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT)**

1. **Formed**: 1993, after Bodo accord was signed by Prem Singh Brahma who was the leader of the surrendered Bodo Voluntary Security Force militant.

2. **Str**
   - **(a) Hard Core** - 250 - 300
   - **(b) Supporting Cadre** - 500 - 600


4. **C-in-C**: Chairman - Songdam Basumatary
   - Military Secretary - Thebla Moilari

5. **Aim**: Separate Bodoland State within the Indian constitution and pressurise the State Govt to fulfil the demand of Bodos.

6. **Activities**: Killing, Extortion, Kidnapping and Sabotage.

7. **Trg Camp**: Garo hills.

8. **This outfit is now known as NDFB since 1997.**
9. Revival Group of NDFB but co-ordinated with BTF (Bengal Tiger Force).

Chairman - Hungrama Basumatary

Org Secy - Harkab Basumatary

Pol Secy - Gorechwor Urko

OP Secy - Majojila Brahma

C-in-C - Thebla Mahilary

Fin Secy - Mano Jiala

Pub Secy - Mainao Daimary

Arms & Amn – Gobi Gwism

Source : 8 MARATHALI, C/O 99 APO.

**TABLE NO 4.5**

**National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)**

1. **Formed on**: 03 Oct 1986 at Udalguri. NDFB was the Political Wing of BDSF (Bodoland Security Forces)

2. In a meeting of the Gen Council of the BdSF held on 18 Apr 98, it was decided to rechristen the BdSF as the NDFB to be enforced with immediate effect.
3. **Str** : Militant Cadre - 1000 - 1200
   Trained Cadre - 500 - 600

4. **Chairman** : Mr Ranjan Daimari (A Graduate in Political Science).
   
   **C-in-C** : SS Maj Sobin Basumatary.
   
   **Dy C-in-C** : SS Capt Hilaries Basumatary @ Anundwari K @ SS Capt W Onsule.
   Apprehended by 15 Dogra on 14 Mar 1999 in Darrang distt.

5. **Aim** : Achieve a Sovereign Country outside the Indian Federation.

6. **Activities** : Extortion, Kidnapping, Killing, Subversion and Sabotage.

7. **Trg** : ULFA and NSCN.

8. **Nexus** : NDFB is active member of Self Defence of People of South-East Himalayan Region, a banned organization of eight militant outfits.


10. Its Mil Wg was rechristened as Bodoland Army.

11. **Raising Day** : 03 October Yearly.

Source : 8 MARATHALI, C/O 99 APO.
### TABLE NO 4.6

**Organization of NDFB**

**General HQ**

- **Chairman** – Ranjan Daimary @ Nabla (with 15 members executive committee)
- **C-in-C** – Maj Sobin Basumatary @ Sugangra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eastern Region/Comd</th>
<th>Western Region/Comd</th>
<th>Central Region/Comd</th>
<th>Southern Region/Comd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cdr Biblyajyoti</td>
<td>Cdr Arun Goyari (Capt)</td>
<td>Cdr Sankhugur Boro</td>
<td>Cdr Sachin Mushahary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ M Daimalo</td>
<td>@ Dinkhilang</td>
<td>@ Shushanga</td>
<td>@ Soudao</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 IC Dilip Basumatary</th>
<th>2 LT Narhgeraja Basumatary</th>
<th>2 LT Nabin Basumatary</th>
<th>2 IC 2 LT Singhab Borai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>@ Didum</td>
<td>@ Nuhursa</td>
<td>Basumatary</td>
<td>2 LT Narah Boro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 8 MARATHALI, C/O 99 APO.*
The total area of proposed Bodoland - 25,478.1 sq km.

Area of the Rest Assam - 53,044.9 sq km.

If we subtract the area of proposed Autonomous State of Karbi Anglong & N.C. Hills (Karbi Anglong 10,332.0 sq. km + N.C. Hills 4,890 sq km = 15,222 sq km from Assam) the Area of Assam will still remain 37,822.9 sq km.

**TABLE NO 4.7**

**Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population of Assam</th>
<th>- 2,62,04,600.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population of proposed Bodoland</td>
<td>- 77,72,440.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tribal population of Proposed Bodoland</td>
<td>- 54,40,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of tribal population</td>
<td>- 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of non-tribal pop</td>
<td>- 30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total population of the Tribes in the proposed Bodoland :**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Tribes</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boros</td>
<td>42,42,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mishing</td>
<td>6,33,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabhas</td>
<td>1,78,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonowals</td>
<td>1,26,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deoris</td>
<td>1,26,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garos</td>
<td>6,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karbis</td>
<td>50,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalung</td>
<td>75,878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Tribal population in the proposed Bodoland 54,40,024.

Source : 8 MARATHALI, C/O 99 APO.
They have 92 point demand.

The audit report of NDFB from 07 Oct 98 to 22 Aug 99 reveals an expenditure of Rs 8,81,579.00.

**TABLE NO 4.8**

**BLT & ABSU**

(a) Creation of a separate state of Bodoland within the Indian Union.

(b) Creation of two autonomous district councils for Rabha and Tiwa.

(c) Inclusion of Bodo Kacharis of Karbi Anglong dist in to the hills (ST) list.

**NDFB** – Creation of sovereign country.

**Other Militant Groups**

Karbi National Volunteer (KNV) and Karbi People Force (KPF) are now amalgamated and formed as one group known as United Peoples Democratic Solidarity (UPDS).

The aim is to create an autonomous state for the Karbi and Dimasa community people. Since Apr 2000 UPDS has been involved in ethnic cleansing in area of Karbi Anglong resulting in killing of 56 persons. They are also involved in carrying out attacks on home guard camp and police patrols on Jul 09, Jul 17 and Jul 29, 2000. Their organization also carry out activities related to extortion.
MUXTA: Muslim faction. Apart from insurgent activities, smuggling, robbery etc, illegal activity in the forest has become the order of the day for the last few years. The activists are learnt to have been committing robbery and dacoity in the houses of the common people residing in the vicinity of the reserve forest. Illegal occupants of the forest lands are giving shelter to these miscreants. They have also been killing wild animals and endangered birds. The above activities are done in Panpur Reserve Forest.

Some of the Methods of Operation:

1. Killing of VIPs.
2. Blowing up of oil pipeline.
3. Derailment of rail track.
4. Killing SFs personnel.
5. Destruction of public property like bridges.
7. Extortion.
10. Robbery & dacoity.

The newspaper cuttings of the various incidents were collected as part of the field work. The photocopies of some of the incidents are shown in the thesis.

ULFA boss Paresh Barua heads a giant export company Karimuddin Export (Pvt) Ltd in Dhaka in partnership with the brother of a former Premier of Bangladesh.

Muivah's nephew Paul marries a Thai girl and sets up a giant toy factory in Bangkok worth several million dollars.

R K Meghan, undisputed don of People's Liberation Army (Manipur), invests in several blue chip companies based in South-East Asia.

Hawala is the lifeline for Insurgent groups. The man who first thought of investing black money abroad was Barua. But Muivah left him far behind while turning NSCN (IM) into an outfit worth $500 million.
Mohini Basumatary shot dead

NET CORRESPONDENT

BIJINI, AUG 21: Close on the heels of the killing of the Bodoland Sahitya Sabha president, Bineswar Brahma, some unidentified militants today shot dead Mr. Basumatary following which the ultras opened fire in the air. Mr. Basumatary scrambled in panic to the nearby paddy field. But he stumbled and fell down. The militants caught hold of him and pumped several bullets into his mouth. He died on the spot. Later, the militants fled away towards the Kataribari village, where they abandoned the van near a ditch. When the police reached the spot, they found the body with the face downward and covered with mud.

Late Basumatary leaves behind his wife and two children.

A 9 mm Chinese made magazine and a bullet were recovered from the spot.

The family members of late Basumatary suspect the killing to be a handwork of the BLT. The police are investigating the case and are yet to ascertain the cause of the murder.

Late Basumatary was born on March 1, 1965. His father is Mr. Dhani Ram (Contd on P-3)

TE executive shot dead

From a Correspondent

TINSUKIA, July 20: Suspected ULFA militants gunned down Shankardev Tea Estate's assistant factory manager RK Chaturvedi under Do倜dorna police station in Tinsukia district at 4.50 p.m today, police said. The ultras shot him dead from close range in front of the gate of his office while he was going home after his duty. The TE executive received 16 bullets. Senior civil and police officials rushed to the spot and launched a search operation to nab the extremists.
Bineswar Brahma shot dead in city

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: The president of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS), Mr Bineswar Brahma was gunned down by four suspected National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) militants at his Bhetapara residence under Basistha police station in the city at around 8.30 tonight.

According to police sources, four armed youths had gone to the house of Mr Brahma at around 8 p.m. After an exchange of hot words with Mr Brahma, the four youths, one of whom was standing outside the house and the other three in the drawing room, shot him dead with a 9-m.m. pistol from close range when the driver of Mr Brahma, Ranbha Brahma went to make tea for the youths. The youths fled the scene soon. Mr Brahma was immediately rushed to Down Town hospital, where the doctors declared him brought dead. Police sources said the militants pumped as many as 12 bullets in the body of Mr Brahma. Nine empty cartridges were recovered from the spot.

Mr Dharmeswar Brahma, a neighbour of Mr Bineswar Brahma, spotted the BSS president lying injured on a sofa in the drawing room when he saw Mr Bineswar Brahma’s dog was barking restlessly.

Soon after the incident the personnel of Basistha police station rushed to the spot and started a search operation. Till the time of filing of this report no one was arrested.

Mr Bineswar Brahma had been elected the president of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha for the second term in the BSS session held at Simimbargaon in Kokrajhar district this year. The session was very stormy.

Daniel Brahma, the only son of the BSS president talking to The Sentinel said that after the firing all the family members thought that Mr Brahma was kidnapped by the youths. But when they began to search him they found Mr Brahma lying in the drawing room with a pool of blood.

State Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, PDF general secretary Gangadhar Ramchandra and Bodo Sahitya Sabha condemned the killing. They sent condolence messages to the bereaved family members.
ULFA reconstitutes mobile action groups

GUWAHATI, Dec. 2 — Samyukta Mukti Faut, the army wing of the banned United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has reportedly reconstituted its mobile action groups to carry out operations.

The Mukti Faut, which was constituted few years back with all army cadres by self-styled Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) Paresh Baruah has decided to go for ‘onslaught’ against the security forces now deployed to contain militancy in the state.

The militant group has suffered a setback due to frequent army operations hence the leadership is understood to have changed tactics to regain its strength.

According to highly-placed official sources, the mobile action groups have been reconstituted with an eye to collect funds and expand the activities as the outfit’s funds sources are getting dried up.

The sources further said that Thresh Baruah has recently promoted several senior members and materials were damaged they are entrusted with launching collection drive and expanding the organisation.

Each mobile action group consists of 10 to 18 members under command of newly promoted members so that they can carry out operations smoothly, the sources said, adding that over 30 groups have already sneaked into the state and they are scattered in different places. They revealed that these groups have entered as per instruction of the self-styled C-in-C Paresh Baruah and initially they will raise funds in lower Assam districts.

Earlier the militant outfit had limited number of mobile action groups, but during 1998 the leadership had disbanded all these groups due to the death of several members.

The sources also said that the leadership has framed strict norms for the army members of the mobile action groups to avoid leakage of information. Recently the personnel of the 109 battalion of BOR

(See page 3)

Ultras bid to blow up oil pipeline to NRL

BOKHARAT, Jan 19: Three home guard jawans have been deployed for security of the pipeline in a hut only about 20 ft away from the spot. The sound of the blast reached up to 8 km circumference area, while the residences in nearby area were damaged severely.

According to police, the militants used powerful explosive substances connected with 250-300 metre long wire and battery.

The Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Golaghat, and DGP PV Sumant visited the spot. Our correspondent adds: The police recovered 655 ft flexibl wire and a few torn clothes between the blast spot and Bewringon pathar. It is suspected that the bomb was...
ULFA ‘action group’ sneaks into city

By a Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Nov 29: Military intelligence operating in the state has got definite lead of the presence of a strong action group of the banned ULFA in the city. We have received feed-back from our forces that a 25-member gang, led by self-styled lieutenant Dristi Rajkhowa of Rangpur in Goalpara district, has made their way through to the State capital a couple of days ago with the sole objective of targeting VIPs and senior officials of the Assam Government*, an Army official commented, adding that the group sneaked into the city by defying the security arrangements.

It has been learnt that dreaded ULFA leader Dristi Rajkhowa, who was the slain ULFA “action commander” Babul Inglis’s deputy, had been entrusted by the “general headquarters” of the underground outfit to target VIPs and senior government officials, and cause explosions in the city to terrorize the public and cause panic. Sources said, that the decision was taken at the general council meeting in the Bhutan camps some months back. The group has divided themselves into smaller units to evade the security forces and are from the local area, the sources said, asserting that strict vigil has been maintained and all efforts taken to thwart any untoward incident and to nab the members.

The defence wing of Press Information Bureau (PIB) has also issued an official statement, warning the public to be on the lookout for any suspicious items, and report to the nearest police station or the Army post for follow-up action.

However, the revelation of such vital information by the Army has taken the State police department by surprise, "I do not understand why the Army has leaked out such vital information, if any, to the press," a senior police officer said, adding that the Army, instead should have taken effective measures to nab the culprits. The official, however, maintained that precautionary measures will be taken in this regard.

Feigning ignorance about the presence of the ULFA group in the city, the official said that they had definite lead of the presence of a six-member ULFA team in Nalbari district and another gang in Nagaon district, who were making all efforts to sneak into the city to create disturbances. The ULFA was totally demoralized after the killing of Babul Inglis at Birubari, and their channels of operation were shattered, the official said, admitting that thereafter, Dristi Rajkhowa had been entrusted to lead the outfit in the city.

Army Caution Guwahatians

ARMY CAUTIONS GUWAHATIANS

From our Correspondent
NAHA, Feb 27: An Army officer and three United Liberation Front of Asom militants were killed in an encounter at Bogoruguri under Jajpur police station in Nagaon district at around 11 last night.

According to reports, acting on a tip-off that a group of ULFA militants had been taking shelter in the house of one Hakekrishna Deuri, at Bogoruguri, a joint team of Army and police led by Lt NA Mayekar of the 11 Sikh Regiment raided the house at about 11 last night. The Army officer was shot dead by the militants when he entered the house with a view to arrest them. Soon a fierce encounter followed in which the three ULFA militants — Tridip Bhuyan (26), the finance secretary of the Mediamandal unit of the banned outfit, Rajani Bordoloi and another cadre who is yet to be identified were killed on the spot. Another militant, however, managed to escape. A pistol, four live and seven empty cartridges and some incriminating documents were recovered from the slain militants.

Another Correspondent adds: It may be mentioned that one of the oldest ULFA cadres of Nagaon district, Tridip Bhuyan, who had been in the charge of the Kolong-Kopili Anchalik Parishad of the banned outfit, was elevated to the post of the finance secretary of the Mediamandal Unit of the outfit last year. The Kachin-trained ULFA cadre had been wanted by the Army and police in connection with a number of cases.

Meanwhile, the body of Lt N A Mayekar was sent to the Army camp at Misra after post-mortem. He was paid tributes there. Lt Mayekar who hailed from Goa, had joined the Army two years ago.

A PIB (Defence wing) release adds that Tridip Bhuyan and Rajani Bordoloi made an abortive attempt to escape when they sensed that they had already been trapped. Lt Mayekar, even after sustaining bullet injuries in the encounter, kept the militants engaged and at last shot them dead single-handedly. The third militant, whom the Army identified as Dhan Bora, who had been hiding in the house, was killed later in a scuffle with a jawan.

The release further said that Lt Mayekar succumbed to his injuries at Nagaon Civil hospital.
ULFA guns down AGP leader in Nagaon

From a Correspondent
NAGAON, Oct. 2: The ULFA struck once again against the AGP within less than 36 hours after its attempt to assassinate Revenue Minister Zoli Nath Sarma. On Thursday, at Nanco inChief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta's constituency of Baharampur yesterday night, when a prominent local AGP leader and former president of Subaragon local committee of the AGP, Mr. Kamala Nath (45) was shot dead by the militants. The incident has created quite a sensation in political circles here and sent alarm bells ringing in the AGP camp, coming as it is within less than 36 hours to go for polling tomorrow.

According to reports, Mr. Nath had come out of his house after dinner for a stroll on the road in front of his house when two youths emerged from the AGP's election office nearby and accosted Mr. Nath for some discussion. An unsuspecting Nath, who was wearing a lungi and a vest at that time, went with the two youths who took him along a narrow village road by the side of a school field where "Saraghat Theatre" was performing a drama. Eye-witness accounts said, Mr. Nath was in his usual jovial mood as he called out to his neighbours if they had had their dinner yet, as he also walked with the boys talking. Going by this account, the two boys must have been well-known to Mr. Nath. Thereafter nobody knows where he had gone.

Today morning his bullet-ridden body was recovered at Bishoy Chariali, two km away from Nanco. There were four bullet marks in his body. Significantly, Mr. Nath had not been very active with the campaigning for the party this time, understandably because he had left the party's organizational election held two weeks ago and he was unhappy about it. He did not attend the meeting addressed by party president and Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta at Rangali yesterday. This has given rise to speculations that the motive of the killing was something else.

The killing of the popular AGP leader has cast a pall of gloom in the state and the rising popularity of the AGP, had been masterminding such dastardly killings of AGP members in league with the ULFA.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta today strongly condemned the dastardly killing of Mr. Kamala Nath by the ULFA and termed it as a deep-rooted political conspiracy hatched by the Congress. In a statement, he alleged that the Congress, untroubled by its bleak prospects in the polls in the state and the rising popularity of the AGP, had been masterminding such dastardly killings of AGP members in league with the ULFA. He fervently appealed to the voters of Assam not to panic by such threats and muster strong in the polling booths tomorrow to cast their votes.

ULFA blast kills 3 policemen

From a Correspondent
NALBARI, Feb. 17: Close on the heels of the blowing up of a truck carrying personnel of the Seventh Assam Police Battalion (APBn) at Malandubi under Golaghat police station in Dhubri district yesterday in which a policeman was killed and seven others sustained injuries, and the killing of the second officer of Dholai police station in Tinsukia district on February 15.

suspected United Liberation
Front of Asom (ULFA) militants blew up a 407 minitruck carrying policemen killing the officer-in-charge of the Ghograpar police station, Mr. Achyut Talukdar, sub-inspector Nipon Boro and some battalion jawans left for Kundargao with two 407 minitrucks at 11 a.m. today. When the two police vehicles reached Kundargao, between Satra and Nahauli, suspected ULFA militants blasted a remote-controlled device planted on the PWD road killing officer-in-charge Achyut Talukdar, sub-inspector Nipon Boro and Home Guard driver Achyut Kalita. While the officer-in-charge and the sub-inspector died on the spot, driver Achyut Kalita breathed his last in the hospital. One of the two trucks was badly damaged.

Injured policemen in GMCH

Achyut Talukdar, sub-inspector Nipon Boro and Home Guard driver Achyut Kalita. While the officer-in-charge and the sub-inspector died on the spot, driver Achyut Kalita breathed his last in the hospital. One of the two trucks was badly damaged.

Battalion jawans Kulendra Das, Ranjit Singh and Home Guard personnel Md Ali, who sustained serious injuries in the blast have been sent to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital (GMCH).

Ultras shoot dead businessman son at Sorbhog

From our Correspondent
SORBHOG, March 4: Three unidentified miscreants shot dead Mulchand Dugar (75), prominent businessman of Sorbhog yesterday when his son Mr. Chand Dugar (46) at his residence-cum-shop at ward No. 2 in Sorbhog town at about 8 a.m. today. The four miscreants came in two motorcycles and tried to kidnap Mulchand Dugar. When Sri Chand tried to resist them, the miscreants opened fire killing Mulchand on the spot. Sri Chand who received several bullet injuries died while he was being taken to the hospital. Anand Dugar, another son of Mulchand Dugar was also hit by a bullet. He is, however, out of danger at the moment.

People of the locality have rained the police inaction during the incident. They alleged that police arrived at the scene half an hour after they had received of the incident over telephone.
ULFA killed Oswal when hope of ransom ended

ULFA strikes again, kills eight

From our Staff Correspondent

In the continuing violence in Assam, the ULFA cadres have continued their attack on civilians and officials in the state. According to reports, on February 13, a ULFA cadre, identified as Mohan Jhawar, was killed in a clash with the police in Majuli, a small island in the Brahmaputra river.

On February 14, another ULFA cadre, identified as Sanjib Baruah, was killed in a clash with the police in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh.

On February 15, a ULFA cadre, identified as Kamal Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Dibrugarh district of Assam.

On February 16, a ULFA cadre, identified as Biju Bhuyan, was killed in a clash with the police in Goalpara district of Assam.

On February 17, a ULFA cadre, identified as Dipak Bhaumik, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 18, a ULFA cadre, identified as Shankar Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Dibrugarh district of Assam.

On February 19, a ULFA cadre, identified as Bipul Bhuyan, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 20, a ULFA cadre, identified as Nabin Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Dibrugarh district of Assam.

On February 21, a ULFA cadre, identified as Tarun Bhaumik, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 22, a ULFA cadre, identified as Rupam Bhaumik, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 23, a ULFA cadre, identified as Pranab Bhaumik, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 24, a ULFA cadre, identified as Biju Bhaumik, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 25, a ULFA cadre, identified as Dipak Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 26, a ULFA cadre, identified as Dipak Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 27, a ULFA cadre, identified as Dipak Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 28, a ULFA cadre, identified as Dipak Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 29, a ULFA cadre, identified as Dipak Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.

On February 30, a ULFA cadre, identified as Dipak Das, was killed in a clash with the police in Nagaon district of Assam.
11 massacred in Karbi Anglong

BY A STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, APRIL 20 — AT LEAST ELEVEN PERSONS BELONGING TO NEPALI COMMUNITY WERE GUNNED DOWN IN TWO VILLAGES UNDER BAITHALANGSHU POLICE STATION IN KARBI ANGLONG HILL DISTRICT BY MIGRANTS BELONGING TO THE UNITED PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY (UPDS) YESTERDAY.

Police sources said here that a group of heavily armed militants went to the east Umlichap village at around 10 am yesterday and gunned down three persons — Dhan Bahadur Basnet, Bahadur Khatwai and Keshab Khatwai. In the evening, the same group of armed militants raided the west Umlichap village and started indiscriminate firing, killing eight persons including two minors on the spot. Those killed in the incident have been identified as Prabhurani Dohal, Motilal Dohal, Ganesh Dohal, Ghanashyam Dohal, Bhim Prasad Dohal, Ganesha Shyam Dohal, Kasiram Dohal and Gobinda Dohal. The militants also set ablaze 20 houses in the village.

Sources said that the UPDS has been formed recently after two militant outfits — Karbi National Volunteers and the Karbi Peoples’ Front (KPF) and the outfit is being backed by the Indian – Mizoram faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN). Though the motive behind the massacre is not yet known, police suspects that it was an effort by the insurgents to resort to ethnic cleansing.

As the incident occurred in a remote place, the police came to know about it much later. However, senior police officials rushed to the spot to launch a combing operation in the area.

It may be mentioned here that it was the second major massacre by the militants in Karbi Anglong within this month. On April 9, eleven labourers of a timber merchant were gunned down by militants at Longaesh forest area.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister, Sri Prabha Kumar Mahanta, who is currently in New Delhi, has condemned the killing and described it as a shameless act. He has also directed the Industries Minister Sri Ganesh Hazarika to visit the place to take stock of the situation, official sources said.

The Assam state committee of the CPI (M) has also strongly condemned the killing.

In a release here, the secretary of the state unit of the CPI(M), Sri Hemen Das urged upon the state government to take stern action against the offenders. He also demanded that the government should take steps to provide security to all sections of people of the hill district.

Army jawan killed in blast

NET JOURNALIST
KOKRAJHAR, NOV 18: An army jawan was killed and another injured critically in a powerful explosion triggered by suspected NDFB militants between Sarai Beel and Saplota under Gossaigaon police station in Kokrajhar district around 2:10 p.m. today.

The injured jawan was identified as constable Rabindra Singh (27) while the injured was Atmaram (26). The injured jawan was shifted to Basistha base hospital here.

Sources said that the militants set off the explosive device when three vehicles of 6 Jat Regiment were coming from Sarai Beel to Gossaigaon. The first vehicle of the convoy was extensively damaged in the blast.

Meanwhile, one Phani Rava (14) was killed when a bus hit him at Serphunguri bazar of the district around 12 noon today.

FIR AGAINST DARRANG DC

NET staff in Guwahati adds:
The so-called co-ordination between the Army and the civil administration appears to be a toothless waffle, with the Army filling an FIR against the Darrang DC.
Much Ado about SULFA

The illustrious group of ULFA cadres who had surrendered during Hiteswar Saikia's second stint as Chief Minister (commonly known as the SULFA), who secured general amnesty without trials, got the right to retain their clandestine weapons for 'self-defence', wangled loans of Rs 2 lakh each that they have not repaid and got into diverse criminal and shady 'business' activities without let or hindrance, are again much in the news. There are several reasons for this. First, they have made any legitimate and honest business impossible for anyone, and cornered all contracts in their incompetent hands. Second, they have levied goonda taxes on almost everything that has to be bought, and thus hiked all prices for the common man. Third, they have carried on extortions and monopolized all major cultural activities. The recent 'centralized' Bihu of Dibrugarh is a classic example. They raised 'donations' in crores and did not spend all of it. And who is to ask the SULFA for accounts? We propose to highlight their recent activities in the days and weeks to come. The outfit has become so much of a nuisance that the Centre too is understood to have directed the Assam Police to keep a tab on it. In any case, a meeting of the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup with the Railways, the Telecom Department and other Central and State Government officials on May 16 brought to the fore the fact that the SULFA is indeed making it impossible for bona fide contractors to bid for contracts. A beginning can be made in tackling this menace by cracking down on the SULFA at any place where tenders are received on the right day. Monthly checks on offices are no deterrent at all.

Breakthrough in Shubham Banerjee case

By a Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Feb. 17: In a major breakthrough, Paltan Bazaar police nabbed a notorious criminal, one Dhiraj Das, from his house at North Guwahati yesterday in connection with the kidnapping of Shubham Banerjee, a school student and son of Mr Gautam Banerjee, proprietor of an established business firm in the city. B.N. Day & Co. The court today remanded him to 10 days' police custody.

According to police sources, police was looking for Dhiraj since a long time. It may be mentioned here that suspected ULFA militants had kidnapped Shubham Banerjee on December 14, 1996 from near Bora Service Station, Bharaiumukh area of the city. on February 15, but he flaunted an anticipatory bail order of the Guwahati High Court. The Guwahati High Court had allowed 12 days' time to Dhiraj to surrender before the magistrate concerned. The time was granted because the accused had pleaded that he was out of station. But on expiry of 10 days which was allowed to him earlier, he moved the court again for 10 days more time and the court granted him 12 days time, asking the police not to arrest him during this period in the Uttam Medhi kidnapping case. Circles concerned have expressed surprise.

Continued on page 3.
Militants kill 11 in Karbi Anglong

DIPHU; JULY 16: Continuing with its killing spree and ethnic cleansing, suspected UPOS militants gunned down 11 people including women and children at Long-per Pam village under Kherani Police Station in Hamren subdivision late last night. Two others were injured in the shooting.

According to police sources here, a group of heavily armed extremists numbering about eight went to this peaceful hamlet of people from Bharat and Nepal, and started firing indiscriminately on the unarmed, innocent villagers. In many cases, death was instantaneous as the AK-47s kept splitting fire.

The dead have been identified as Nithin Dahal (34), Atul Kumar Chauhan (41), Aruna Devi (37), Rajesh Sahoo (416), Puna Sahoo (6), Rampyari Devi (35), Sita Nath Chauhan (6), Rima Devi (6), Kishan Kumar Chauhan, Gaurak Nath Chauhan (6) and Soman Chauhan.

Meanwhile, top level police and civil officials rushed to the spot and a massive combing operation has been launched.

Net Staffer adds: The UPOS have been on a killing spree in Karbi Anglong since April this year. This is considered to be the fallout of a decision arrived at a meeting of different insurgent outfits held under the leadership of the NSCN(IM) held in Guwahati, sometime in March. Since then, the UPOS in Karbi Anglong and DHD in NC Hills have started their murderous campaign so as to create political instability and a sense of insecurity among the people in the two Hill districts.

With the latest killings, the toll in Karbi Anglong has gone up to 51 since the massacre of 11 Nepalese at Langtaloo village under Diphu police station on April 10. On April 14, at Langcholli, another two were killed and at Umaliha under Balitalangoo in Hamren subdivision, another 12 people were massacred on April 19.

On April 23, the militants killed six people at Aaloiphuta in Bokajan subdivision. On May 3, 13 two women were killed in an encounter and on June 9 and 15, three people were killed under Kherani police station. Again, one more person was killed under Kherani on June 22.

On July 2, four were killed in Hamren. The pattern of the killings shows that there is a clear game-plan by the UPOS to terrorise the non-Karbi people living in the Hill districts who are mostly considered to be the supporters of ASDC.

Meanwhile, the ASDChas called for a 12 hour Karbi Anglong bandh tomorrow in protest against the killings.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Shubham Banerjee case

that the High Court should have granted the prayer of an accused in the kidnap-and-murder of a student.

However, police moved yesterday again and nabbed him — this time in the kidnapping case of Shubhram Banerjee. It may be mentioned here that Uttam Medhi, went missing from his house on December 29, 1998. Police investigation revealed that he had gone to Shillong along with a friend, one Sandip Das. A Bharalimukh police team went to Shillong but could not find Uttam. Meanwhile, some extortionists started to make telephone calls at the house of Mr Banerjee. It was revealed by him that Uttam Medhi was killed after his parents expressed inability to pay Rs 21 lakh.

Intervention of these BLT militants revealed further that Dhiraj Das was an important link in the whole chain. It was he who had introduced Uttam to Shashikumar Boro, alias Sandip Das, who is also a student of Arya Vidyapith College. He revealed that he had kidnapped Uttam Medhi and handed him over to BLT leader George Basumatary at Jorhat and handed him over to BLT leader George Basumatary at Jorhat under Boko police station in Karmup district. Meanwhile, Dhiraj Das was caught a hard-core BLT militant, who was brought to Boko police station in connection with another case. It was revealed by him that Uttam Medhi was murdered after his parents refused to pay Rs 21 lakh. Intervetion of these BLT militants revealed further that Dhiraj Das was an important link in the whole chain. It was he who had introduced Uttam to Shashikumar Boro.

Vigorous interrogation of the criminal is in progress. Police hopes to unearth some spine-chilling cases of kidnap and killing from the case.
4 killed, 9 hurt in blasts

From a Correspondent
TINSUKIA, Oct. 2: Four persons, including three CRPF jawans, were killed on the spot when a powerful bomb exploded on the Kathailgun road at Bhargupi under Digboi police station this afternoon.

According to reports, the bomb went off soon after the bus carrying CRPF jawans proceed the spot at Obiriyan-Kathailgun road where the bomb had been planted.

Soon after receiving the information, police-rushed to the spot. Search operations are on.

A Correspondent from Nalbari adds:
At many a nine CRPF personnel were injured in another blast at Baharaghata near Nalbari today. According to reports, the device which had been planted over a bridge went off when CRPF personnel were returning after dropping polling materials and personnel in their respective destinations.

NALBARI SP ATTACKED
Our Staff Reporter adds: Nalbari Superintendent of Police A J Baru’s convoy came under heavy firing from suspected ULFA extremists at an isolated place near Siling while he was returning to the headquarters from the blast site at 7.40 p.m. this evening. However, the SP and his security personnel had a providential escape. Though the police also retaliated the fire, no casualty has been reported on either side. According to police sources, the militants, armed with sophisticated weapons, were hiding on both sides of the road from before and fired upon the convoy as they approached the isolated place.

2 ULFA ULTRAS KILLED
A correspondent from Nityananda adds: Two hard-core ULFA ultras were killed in an encounter with the Army at Akayana village of Barpeta district in the wee hours today. The slain ultras have been identified as Bimal Das and Dinesh Das.

In another incident in south Kamrup, two hard-core ULFA militants: Sudarshana Choudhury and Radha, were apprehended by troops of the 31 Mountain Division.

ULFA shifting bases to N Bengal dists

From Fahimul Barmak
TEZPUR, Dec 23 — With the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan planning to launch a joint operation in Bhutan to flush out the banned ULFA and Bodo militants from the Himalayan kingdom where they have set up their training camps, the ULFA with the help of Kamatapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) might have started shifting their operational base camps to Cachar, and other districts of North Bengal, disclosed a senior police official of Cachar (West Bengal) on condition of anonymity.

Talking to this correspondent, he said that the ULFA which has been imparting training to the Rajbongshis of Assam and North Bengal in Bhutan camps is believed to have made an agreement with the KLO and the Koch-Rajbongshi Security Forces (KRSF) to provide a safe passage to the overground organisations of Assam through North Bengal district due to the ongoing counter-insurgency operation in Assam. Even the KLO and KRSF are helping the banned ULFA militants by making arrangement for the treatment of the injured ULFA ultras in the local nursing homes etc in the various districts of North Bengal, the official said adding that even food and other materials for the Bhutan camps are supplied by them.

The Kamatapuris are none other than the Koch-Rajbongshis who are inhabitants of Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar districts in (See page 3)
MULTA goes for ethnic-cleansing in Jiribam

From our Correspondent
SILCHAR, May 15: Along with Tripura and Karbi Anglong, Jiribam-Jirihat area in the eastern side of Manipur and Assam divided by the river Jiri is emerging at yet another trouble spot of ethnic cleansing. But while in Tripura and Karbi Anglong, the indigenous tribals are worried about their “identity crisis” despite constitutional safeguard, in Jiribam the motive behind the so-called ethnic cleansing is prompted by a class of people of doubtful citizenship.

Quite interestingly, Meiteis, the original and dominant group of people of doubtful citizenship. Anglong, the indigenous Tibals safeguard, in Jiribam the motive behind this “tenor tactics” is to intoxina these Hindus in a sense of panic and insecurity, so that they never come back. And ultimately, the outsiders want to grab their hearths, homes and lands. Significantly, some of the Manipuri insurgent groups PLA, KCP, UNLF, PREPAK and KYKL — is involved in this operation.

Intelligence agencies monitoring the situation do not rule out the possibility of confrontation between the PULF-MULTA-NSCN (IM)-ZRA combine and the Meitei insurgent groups. Explaining the plausible ground for it, an intelligence officer said, “It is a question not only of hegemony before the Meitei groups but also of territorial integrity of Manipur.”

Paradoxically, the NSCN (IM), despite its ceasefire agreement with the Centre, is violating it outside Nagaland for its territorial ambition.

Mr Biswajit Roy, the president of the North East Young Bengal Association describing the situation in Jiribam-Jirihat zone as “quite alarming”, alleged that the militants are also using the area as a corridor for gun-running and drug trafficking.

In identical messages faxed to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Manipur, the NEYBA has demanded strengthening of security measures in order to protect the life and property of the Hindus and Bengalis, besides setting up outposts to be manned by the Army or CRPF at the hotspots of extremist activities at Jakibahar, Gholarba and Lasingkhei.

The Sengmei said, however, the MULTA has convened a meeting of its top leaders and also made several telephone calls to the police officials in the state to avert any untoward incident.

Meanwhile, security arrangements have been tightened and the security forces have been alerted to maintain a strict vigil and take all precautionary measures to thwart any such possible attacks. Army and additional troops of the CRPF have been deployed in full strength here to keep a strict vigil.

BLT guns down 12-year-old girl, another in Goalpara

From a Correspondent
DUBNOI, Aug 12: A 12-year-old girl and a shopkeeper were killed on the spot when a gang of BLT militants opened indiscriminate firing at Damra Bazar in Goalpara district, 3 km from here at about 8.15 in the evening. According to reports, the BLT militants opened indiscriminate firing when one Haji Mohamed Aziz Haque, a grocer by profession, was busy in counting cash after closing the shutter of his shop. The wife of Mr Haque also received bullet injuries on her left hand when she was trying to close the door while her 12-year-old daughter. Almina, also on the militancy’s hit-list, was a student of Don Bosco School. Mr Haque, however, escaped unhurt.

Later, the militants continued their firing in the market killing one shopkeeper, Bashlarun on the spot and injuring many.

A Staff Reporter adds: The banned United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) is planning to trigger a powerful bomb explosion in the vicinity of Janata Bhawan on the eve of Independence Day and has already dispatched a consignment of explosive materials to 150 places of Assam.

Disguising this to The Sentinel today, a senior police official said that the matter came to light following intelligence reports and the arrest of several suspects. He also informed that the outlawed outfit had convened a meeting at Longha near Chhaygaon yesterday morning at 8 a.m. to draw up a similar plan to cause major explosions in the city before the Independence Day. The hard-core rebels like Dhanpat Sinowal and ULFA hunger, Moinak Bhogali and SIMI have been expected to attend the meeting. However, the police have managed to make good their escape before the arrival of the police forces.

The police official informed, confirming that a 11-member gang of the outfit under “second-in-command” Dima Rajkhowa had recently sneaked into the city to disrupt normal activities.

The police had, however, achieved a breakthrough when it stopped the car and the three were booked for violation of Indian Penal Code and National Security Act.

The police official further informed that the ISI had issued strict instructions to cause major bomb explosions in the city before Independence Day and also imparted special training in handling explosive materials and to trigger explosions to the ULFA cadre.

However, police believe that another large consignment of explosives is being stored in the banned outfit’s hide-out in the city. The police have, however, planned to take steps to destroy the explosives to prevent any attack.

Meanwhile, security arrangements have been tightened and the security forces have been alerted to maintain a strong vigil and take all precautionary measures to thwart any such possible attack.
IED expert among 4 ultras killed in Tinsukia

From our Correspondent

TINSUKIA, Aug 12: In a sensational anti-insurgency operation, a joint team of Tinsukia police and the Army shot dead four ULFA militants in a hotel room here in the wee hours today.

According to reports, acting on a tip-off that a few militants had been staying in Room No. 22 of Rex Hotel on Ramagoroh Road here, the security forces cordoned off the hotel. Seeing the security forces, the militants opened fire which was retaliated by the security personnel. In the encounter that followed all the four militants of the outfit were killed on the spot.

Of the four slain militants only one could be identified as Aparba Gogoi, an IED expert, till filing of the report.

A Chinese .32 pistol with ammunition, a Chinese grenade, explosives, cordex and some incriminating documents were recovered at the postmortem of the slain militants.

According to the Superintendent of Police, Tinsukia, the slain militants were planning subversive activities in the run up to the Independence Day celebrations. The operations in and around Tinsukia have further been intensified; the SP added.

According to sources, the room of the hotel in which the incident took place was booked by somebody else.

PTI adds: Two other slain militants have been identified as Hemanta Meah and Gohin Rajkowar.

A Staff Reporter in Guwahati adds: Anticipating that the militant outfit would carry on subversive activities on or before the Independence Day, anti-insurgency operations are being conducted in the city and other towns of the State by the security forces. Strict vigil is being maintained along the railway stations, refineries and other important places. However, all the places cannot be protected with the available manpower, said a high-ranking police official and urged the people to help the administration to thwart the subversive activities of the militants.

Blast at Tihu

TIHU, AUG 11: As the historic 15 August is approaching and there have been brisk preparations for celebrating the 53rd Independence Day, militant groups once again proved that they are also not lagging behind to disturb the peaceful atmosphere. The people of Tihu and nearby villages were reminded of this by a heavy bomb blast last night around 10.15 p.m. near Madhapur village under Tihu police station.

The bomb reported to be a rocket, caused much damage to the high tension power line (132 kv), resulting in disruption of the power supply between Rangiya and Sakaltali.

It is learnt that the sound echoed upto Rangiya in the east and to Shabanspur in the west. The fear-stricken residents of the nearby areas clearly saw the flame with their frightened eyes.

Meanwhile, police personnel from Tihu police station visited the spot and arrested 11 persons including students and farmers for interrogation. On the other hand, Army personnel from Naibari Army camp made a door-to-door search on the same night and took 22 persons into their custody for interrogation.

However, the local people, while condemning the incident, have expressed strong resentment over the arrest of innocent people while the real culprits are at large.

Top police personnel from Naibari visited the spot and ordered an immediate enquiry into the incident.

It is learnt that the incident occurred when the patrolling police party of Tihu police station was returning to Tihu from Barauni.

Zoii Nath Sarma attacked, 4 killed

By a Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Sept 30: Assam Revenue Minister Dr Zoii Nath Sarma had a miraculous escape when armed ULFA rebels, in a pre-planned attack, ambush the convoy at Dholpur, ten kilometres from Sipajhar in Darrang district at 4.25 p.m. today.

Four persons, including a personal security officer (PSO) of the minister were killed on the spot and 15 others were injured, six of them sustaining bullet injuries and others hurt in the stampede following the indiscriminate firing by the extremists. The condition of the six of the injured has been stated to be critical, and they have been rushed to the Mangaldai civil hospital. Later, one of them has been shifted to the GMIC.

The militants attacked the convoy when the minister, after attending an election meeting at Uparia Chapori under Dholpur police outpost, was crossing the river Brahmaputra in two country boats.

District police sources informed The Sentinel over telephone that the militants opened indiscriminate fire at the convoy with AK-47 assault rifles from atop a nearby hilllock on the banks of the river.

The victims have been identified as the PSO Nitul Bora (30), civilians Waheb Talukdar (40), Chandni Nath (38), and Aminul Haque (38). Five of the injured have been identified as Title Sarma, who was later shifted to the GMIC in a critical condition. Nandeswar Bora, Mahendra Saikia, Sapun Nath and Naba Kumar Nath. Dr Zoii Nath Sarma escaped unhurt.

This was the second attack on a political leader in the last seven days after ULFA militants brutally gunned down the BJP candidate Dr Pannalal Oasen at Sabaipara char under Bogboria police station in Dhubri district. The ULFA has already sent shivers among the political parties and senior leaders, announcing that they would target those who fail to support their demand for sovereignty in the ensuing Lok Sabha polls. Acting on intelligence reports, the Union Home Ministry was quick to react, ordering review of personal security of several State Cabinet ministers, including Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, for carrying maximum risks.

The Chief Minister, Mr Mahanta has severely condemned the cowardly attack on his Cabinet colleague and party workers by ULFA rebels. Expressing grief at the loss of lives, Mr Mahanta, talking to The Sentinel, said that the culprits would be booked soon. Mr Mahanta announced ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh to the slain Nitul Bora, Rs 3 lakh each to the next of the kin of the three civilians, besides Rs 25,000 each to the injured ones.
Role of ISI

"A spy in the right place is worth 20,000 soldiers in the Battlefield"
Napoleon Bonaparte.

It is difficult to trace the history of espionage because it is perhaps as old as the history of mankind. Roughly speaking we may equate the history of espionage with smuggling man’s one of the oldest profession. In the early years of evolution, man in order to survive needed to hunt for his food as well as to protect himself from other living beings and wild animals. For both these purposes he needed information and intelligence. The history of espionage in India is age old. The English word spy and espionage have been derived from the Rig Vedic term ‘Spasha’ and the Avestan term ‘Spas’. The words for spies are similar in Sanskrit and Avestan.

In Arthashastra written by Kautalya, the author clearly lays down that a ruler must employ spies and organise espionage and sabotage in neighbouring territories in order to defend his own territory and if necessary for expansion of empire.

In Pre-Independence India a limited intelligence set up primarily oriented for gathering internal intelligence related to law and order situation were run mostly on imperial intelligence system. Trans-border intelligence was not entrusted to Indians because of global ramifications and strategic British interests and as such it was a skeleton network that started functioning after Independence from a scratch. The task of collecting Trans-border intelligence was given to Intelligence Bureau (IB). After partition in 1947, Pakistan had its Intelligence Bureau (PIB) responsible for both internal and external intelligence.
The titanic struggle for information has been going on between the two sides ever since the partition of the sub continent in 1947. With the dire need of acquiring more intelligence, subsequently a few more organizations came in to existence. The politics of Pakistan has always been Army oriented and the IB being a civilian organization did not find favour with Army top brass. Thus President Ayub Khan’s lack of faith in the IB paved the way for the emergence of the defence intelligence system known as The Inter Services Intelligence Directorate (ISID). During Bhutto’s time PIB once again came in to prominence but with the emergence of President Zia, ISID regained its lost importance. ISID engaged itself with the primary task of collecting offensive intelligence. In due course of time the ISID became the most powerful intelligence collecting agency of Pakistan.

**Objectives of Pak Intelligence**

Espionage, subversion and sabotage are the main objectives of Pak intelligence operations in India. Pakistan has been concentrating more on espionage and subversion, and its efforts towards sabotage have been restrictive. The objectives of Pakistan’s subversive activities in India are as under :-

(a) To undermine the integrity and internal security of the country by instigating and encouraging the growth of dissatisfied and disloyal elements.

(b) To create disaffection and dissatisfaction among the members of the minority communities specially Muslims and Sikhs, by highlighting the alleged discrimination to which they are subjected by the Indian Government and the Hindus. This is done on a large scale in the States of border areas.

(c) Before dismemberment of Pakistan, it was training and assisting for procurement of arms and amn, for Nagas and Mizos.
Pakistan intelligence effort against India is broadly directed towards gaining knowledge of significance pertaining to its capabilities, vulnerabilities and probable course of action as also assessing its eventual war potential. Pakistan espionage activity in India is facilitated by some factors such as:

(a) Common ethnic and cultural background, making it difficult to readily differentiate a Pakistani from an Indian and

(b) Existence of groups and classes or persons in India, apart from anti-national elements, who are open to exploitation by Pakistan or grounds of past affinities, common religion etc.

**Motivational Techniques**

In his book on the ‘Art of war’ in the chapter called ‘Employment of Secret Agents’ Sun Tzu gives the basic principles of espionage as it was practised in 400 BC by the Chinese which is almost like what is practised today. He described five kinds of agents namely native, inside, double, expendable and living. What Sun Tzu advocated many centuries ago, the Pak intelligence agencies practice it now and heavily lean both on long term ‘resident’ agents and short term agents. Such agents may be Pakistan nationals sent under cover wherever necessary or Indian nationals or even nationals of the third country. In the majority of cases, it is the motive of pecuniary either in the form of cash payment or permitting smuggling gain that renders a target prone to the approaches of Pakistan intelligence. In other cases, the following susceptibility factors have promoted approaches:

(a) Desire for visit/residence in Pakistan.

(b) Threat to resort to blackmail in case the ‘direct’ approach does not succeed.
(c) Camouflage of the 'destination' of the desired or procured intelligence, i.e. seeking it in the name of the country other than Pakistan.

(d) False flagging.

(e) Undue favours.

(f) The intelligence 'brief' of such agents include -

(i) Collection of intelligence by observation.

(ii) Talent spotting, raising of sources and contacts in target areas or establishment especially among ex-servicemen, serving defence personnel or employees or defence oriented installations etc.

(iii) Developing sub-agents.

(iv) Infiltrating in to sensitive services or organizations and

(v) Facilitating the visit or settlement or operations of other agents as also the transmission of collected intelligence.
**Source of Recruitment**

Pakistan intelligence agencies have been noticed chiefly recruiting its agents from the following:

(a) Smugglers – who may act as couriers or escorts to the agents who are infiltrated in a clandestine manner into India. In addition, they may be made to work by promising them protection or by coercing them to perform tasks by holding hostages from among their associates confiscating their goods and promising to return these on completion of task.

(b) Indian nationals visiting Pakistan on valid travel documents or clandestinely.

(c) Pak nationals visiting India on travel documents among such visitors, there may also be some agents who go underground after arrival in India.

(d) Indian national held in custody or duress by Pakistan authorities. Pakistan agents may be infiltrated among repatriates.

(e) Pakistan nationals recruited specifically for espionage. They may include defence personnel, criminals, volunteers etc. They are clandestinely infiltrated into India.

(f) Indian national who are won over to obtain intelligence, both consciously and unconsciously.
Training

Pakistan intelligence agencies impart thorough training to individuals recruited as resident agents or those with potentials and likely to serve for longer duration. The training is job oriented to derive maximum from the agent. The level and degree of training of such agents is variable. Broadly, these agents are imparted training in the following:

(a) Organization of Indian defence services with special reference to the agents own brief.

(b) Map reading.

(c) Penetration and collection of intelligence by observation.

(d) Communication through ‘drops’ domestic code, secret writing materials, wireless (in cipher), photography etc.

(e) Counter Surveillance.

(f) Cover and alibi, including elementary tenets of Hindu religion and culture, local geography, Indian way of life, etc. A cover story is usually given, but in actual experience this is found to crumble on careful verification.

(g) Sabotage and subversion.
Methods of Collection and Communication

Pakistan agents involved in collection of armed forces intelligence are trained to collect intelligence by the following means and methods:

(a) Contacting out-door patients in the armed forces hospitals and eliciting information from them.

(b) Visiting Post Offices in cantonment areas and finding out Units by means of different letter racks.

(c) Cultivating civilian clerks and other targets in defence establishment, if necessary by lending money.

(d) Eliciting information about children of military personnel in cantonment area schools.

(e) Eliciting information from Units, installations etc. from taxi drivers, rickshaw pullers etc.

(f) Mixing with defence personnel during sports and matches and getting information.

(g) Developing friendship with washer men, barbers, newspaper hawkers, etc in cantonment areas for obtaining information.
These agents communicate with their handlers in India or in Pakistan (or elsewhere) through a variety of means, such as personal visits (either under escort or at their own initiative), via couriers, post boxes, accommodation addresses etc.

**Pak Intelligence Organization**

**National Security Council (NSC)**: It was formed by Gen Yahya Khan. It is the apex intelligence body in Pakistan which formulates long term intelligence strategies and policy directives for all intelligence organizations in the country. It also carries out intelligence assessment and co-ordinates intelligence efforts of all intelligence agencies in Pakistan. NSC was reformed under Article 99 in the first week of November 1996 after the dismissal of Benazir’s Government. Earlier NSC had seven members under the chairmanship of Director ISI, but now it has ten members presided over by President of Pakistan. The members of National Security Councils are:-

(a) Prime Minister.
(b) Defence Minister.
(c) Foreign Minister.
(d) Interior Minister.
(e) Finance Minister.
(f) Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee.
(g) Chief of Army Staff.
(h) Chief of Air Staff.
(i) Chief of Naval Staff.
(j) Principal Secretary to the President (Acts as Secy to the Council).
The three main intelligence agencies of Pakistan are:

- The Inter Services Intelligence Directorate (ISID)
- The Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- The Services Intelligence Directorates, DGMI, DMI

**ISID**: Principal intelligence organisation in Pakistan for collection, collation, interpretation and dissemination of intelligence related to military, political, economical, industrial, science and technology etc of target countries. According to an estimate about 20,000 people are working in ISI. It was raised in 1948, on the basis of plan drawn by an Australian born British Army Officer Maj Gen Cawthrone who had opted to serve with Pakistan Army after the partition of India in August 1947. It has under gone various changes over a period of time.

**Role and Tasks of ISI**:


2. Vigil over political leaders, labour Unions and other Government as well as private departments in the country.

3. To collect trans border intelligence of target countries.
4. Planning execution of subversion and sabotage activities in target countries.

5. To impart subversive and sabotage training to militants.

6. Counter intelligence.

7. Smuggling of arms and explosives to militants.

**Organization of ISI**: The HQ of ISI is located in Islamabad and it is headed by a Director General, who is a serving Lt Gen of the Pakistan Army. As on date Lt Gen Naseem Rana is the Director of Pakistan ISI and Maj Gen Mohammed Aziz is the Additional Director General. There are three Deputy Director Generals to assist the DG, ISI.

**K2/K3 Plan of Pakistan ISI**: Pakistan suffered humiliation of defeat in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak conflicts. To revenge its defeat it worked out a long term plan with ISI. Its aim was to destabilise and disintegrate India. The ill-conceived and over ambitions plan was named as ‘K-2 Plan’. The aim of the plan:-

(a) To spread hatred in communally sensitive parts of India.

(b) To gradually shape India in to militancy and terrorism by killings, subverting minds of masses and destroying the economy of India.

(c) To identify potential criminals and militants who had developed difference with their leaders and then motivate them and train them for specific jobs.

(d) To task them in small groups in different parts of India.

They misguided the Sikh youths for a separate Khalistan.
To further broaden the scope of 'K-2 Plan' the ISI opened a cell by a Colonel in Dhaka in which the NSCN, PLA and ULEA rebels having their camps in Chittagong Hill Tracks, were also included and this plan was named as K-3 plan. A Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, one Major and eight instructors from Pakistan ISI have been imparting militant training to these rebels at Bangladesh Military Academy at Dhaka.

As per the uncorroborated information, Pakistan ISI in Bangladesh co-ordinates various activities in consultation with National Security Intelligence (NSI) of Bangladesh. Reportedly a locality known as Wireless Gate, Dhaka is being used for meeting and briefing militant leaders of NSCN (I), ULFA and PLA. Presently these rebel leaders are being imparted specialised training in spreading ethnic disturbance, target killing and other terrorist activities.

The reports indicate that the youth leaders of Islamic Sotobir Songho (ISS) which is the militant wing of Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh, are also being trained by ISI in Bangladesh. The main aim of this co-ordination is to pressurise Indian Government for keeping its striking force engaged in the North-East so that adequate number of troops may not be mobilized to fight militancy in Kashmir.

**Modus Operandi of Planting & Penetration**: Pakistan intelligence agencies are known for their aggressive posture and they are not barred to achieve the results. They apply all possible methods to recruit a person and then thoroughly black mail him. Their targets are generally poor people with compulsions of life. Some of the methods used are as under :-

(a) Through Double Agents: By offering large sums of money, electronic goods etc.

(b) Troops visiting civil locations or mixing with civilians.
(c) Vulnerability of serving personnel belonging to border.

(d) Exploitation of sentiments.

Pak intelligence employ all possible means to entice information. These are car chasing, phone tapping, third degree interrogation methods are all part of the day's work for personnel working in any one of the three main intelligence agencies of Pakistan.

Activists who have been interrogated by members of these elite agencies admit that their methods are far more sophisticated than the tricks employed by the Police. The intelligence personnel almost always secure the information that they are after. Pliers that pull out nails and burning cigar butts are only some of the old techniques that these agencies employ. The interrogators today appear to be experts in psychology and just invade your thought process, says a lawyer who was once in an interrogation cell run by a premier intelligence agency of Pakistan.

A study of the Pakistan espionage cases show that although Pakistan intelligence agencies have generally followed a well set pattern of conducting their operations in India (the bulk being directed in quest of intelligence), yet there is evidence of growing refinement in their techniques of training agents, specially their covers (imposing as Hindus) and the means of communicating with base. Individual accommodation has been allotted to the agents for communicating with the base. The ISI have a fair educational background and their training is intensive and thorough. Such ISI agents receive more handsome allowance than others. The operational weakness has been the inability to provide a foolproof life cover to Pakistan agents who would withstand careful verification after detection.
Modus Operandi of ISI - in India & North-East

Some of the aspects are highlighted here:

1. "Chandigarh, Aug 26 (PTI): Three militants of a Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) have offered to Pakistan’s ISI to act as human bombs to eliminate Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Home Minister LK Advani and Congress President Sonia Gandhi during poll campaign, Haryana Police Chief said today". (Sentinel dt 27 Aug 99)

2. ISI now plans to cut NE off from India: After its failure in Kargil, Pakistan is now attempting to separate the entire North-east from the rest of India by cutting off the “Chicken’s neck” area between northern Bengal and Assam.

According to a recent book Terror in the Valley and Kargil, the task of cutting off the Chicken’s neck portion has been assigned to the ISI and has been planned along the lines of the Kargil operation. It is being fully supported covertly by the Pakistani Army.

The Chicken’s neck area, a narrow space between Srirampur in Assam and New Jalpaiguri in North Bengal, connects the North-East with the rest of the country. Pakistan plans to control the area which would make it easier for them to cut off the entire North-East and also spread terrorism in other parts of India. It is significant that Pakistan’s deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had warned that he could open several fronts similar to Kargil.
To execute the operation, about 24 active Islamic fundamentalist groups have been formed in Bangladesh, Nepal and India. These groups have been trained on the pattern of the Laskhar-e-Toiba and Taliban militia. These include groups as under:

Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam (MULTA).

Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam MULFA.

People’s Liberation Front (PLF).

International Liberation Army (ILA).

Muslim Security Force (MSF).

Liberation of Islamic Tiger Force (LITF).

Muslim Security Council of Assam (MSCA).

United Liberation Militia of Assam (ULMA).

Minority People’s Action Committee – MPCA.

Muslim Volunteers Force – MVF.

Majahid Vahini.

Jubo Commando.
Nearly 5000 Bangladeshi youths have been trained by ISI for executing a Kargil-type operation, the book says quoting intelligence agencies. Some youths among these have also been trained in guerrilla warfare. The training was imparted by the Mujahid Vahini in Bangladesh under the patronage and instructions of ISI. Training camps were organized with support from Gajir Dargah Madarassa and Alima Madarassa. Pakistan had appointed retired Major Rustam Ali in Bangladesh for this task.

As per an article published in The Sentinel dated November 21, 1999 by Sukumar Bagchi, Dispur was aware of ISI scheme for Assam 6 years ago. More than a dozen ISI activists have been arrested. They have established close connections with the extremist outfits including ULFA, and helping them in carrying out violent operations by supplying arms and money.

ISI has been active in Assam for a period not less than 6 years, at least from 1994. There is a definite proof to suggest that the then congress Government headed by the late Hiteswar Saikia also knew about it. A senior officer of Barak Valley administration had brought the facts to the notice of the State Government as early as on July 27, 1994 to the then Chief Secretary H. N. Das. He informed about ISI activities in the Barak Valley, especially Karimganj district with a ten-point detailed note. The subject of discussion of Muslim youths is reported to be incitement of terrorism. A college lecturer of Karimganj was also associated with that. Funds were also collected for purchase of arms. The Chief Secretary neither replied to the above letter nor was a decision taken at the political level to tackle the ISI menace, which was a nascent stage at that time. If it was handled at that time, the problem could not have assumed such serious proportions as it has done now. The present CM of Assam Prafulla Kumar Mahanta had admitted that the Congress Government at that time knew about this (Sentinel 22 Nov 99).
As part of the recommendation of Central Plan to tackle ISI the CM had stated that by creating a second line of defence behind the Border Security Force (BSF) along the Assam-Bangladesh border by strengthening the Border Police Force to effectively check the infiltration of ISI agents and Bangladeshi nationals. Interestingly, despite the presence of BSF, the ISI agents managed to sneak in to the State from Bangladesh.

**ISI, infiltration pose severe threat to National Security (NE Times 09 Jan 2000):**
"Forty million people in Bangladesh are found missing according to their Government records. Where have they gone? Has the sky or earth have swallowed them? Or such a huge population, has disappeared in the air? No. These are the people who have infiltrated in Assam and other parts of the country".... Rajen Gohain – MP.

**Stepped up Activities:** Shiva Nath Sharma - President of Hindu Yuva Chatra Parishad (HYCP) of Assam in his speech said that the ISI have increasingly stepped up their activities of disintegration by promoting terrorism in the whole of the country in general and in North Eastern region in particular with the aim of establishing ‘Islamistan’ here. He claimed that HYCP is the only organization which has come openly to fight against the anti-national activities of ISI to save motherland with utmost sincerity.

**Fake Notes:** Concern over ISI role in fake notes (The Hindu, Saturday, January 15, 2000) Of late there have been several detections of fake currency in the capital. The involvement of the ISI of Pakistan in this has been established. By pumping fake currency into India, the ISI not only intends to weaken the economic structure, but also aims to build a vast reserves to finance its activities in the country. As a senior Delhi Police Officer says, the ISI is bent upon creating trouble in every perceivable area of activity in the country.
**The ISI bugbear** : (Sentinel 14 Feb 2000) Latest statistics indicate a quantum jump in the circulation of counterfeit currency notes smuggled in to the country by ISI operatives, through India's international borders not only with Pakistan, but also Nepal and Myanmar.

Statistics available from National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB) indicate that there has been a three fold increase in the seizure of fake currency notes across the country last year as compared to 1998. As against the seizure of fake currencies amounting to Rs 64.97 lakhs in 1998, there had been a recovery of over Rs 1.84 crore during 1999. The ISI operatives use small time criminals and unemployed youths to flush into the market fake currency notes, the law enforcing agencies have no clue about the real operator.

(The Assam Tribune, Sunday February 13,2000) Pritish Nandy says, "The CIA is gone but, to fill its gap, we have now found the ISI. Everything that we cannot explain today is attributed to the ISI. By giving the ISI too much undue importance, we are actually exacerbating our problems and making Pakistan look far stronger than it is".

ISI – backed rebels, ULFA, Bodo Ultras Intensify Activities (NE Times 08 Mar 2000) : Calcutta, Mar 7 PTI : West Bengal Deputy Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee today informed the State Assembly that ULFA, Bodo and ISI – backed militants have intensified their activities in North Bengal and said that the State Government has strengthened its intelligence network to check it.

**Action Group to curb ISI activities (The Assam Tribune 14 Mar 2000) :**

Guwahati March 13, The Government of Assam has set up a four-member action group headed by the State Director General of Police to take steps to check the activities of the Pakistani ISI in the State. This was disclosed by the Chief Minister, Sri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, in the State Assembly.
The Chief Minister said that the ISI has launched a three pronged attack in the State:

(a) Training and supply of arms to the insurgents.

(b) Destabilising the age old communal harmony in the State.

(c) Launch of disruptive activities including blasts in oil pipelines, rail lines and passenger trains.

**ISI Operations in India**: The ISI has emerged as the greatest threat to the unity and integrity of India. It has succeeded in spreading its tentacles from Punjab and Kashmir to the North-East and Bengal. The Government needs to take hard and fearless decisions to defeat the nefarious designs of the ISI. The ISI has prepared a master plan to convert all the North Eastern States of India into a separate sovereign Islamic country. Muslim population in Bangladesh has come in handy for this. The migration of Muslims on a large scale from Bangladesh to various North-Eastern States of India provides a solid base to the ISI plan.

**A Statement on ISI (NE Sun Cover Story May 15-31, 2000)**: ISI has procured different passports for Paresh Barua, the self-styled C-in-C of ULFA in different names. Assam Police has been able to procure a copy of one passport issued to Paresh Barua in the name of Kamaruddin Zaman Khan.

**Militant Outfits organised along religious lines**: These are:-

- Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam -- (MULFA)
- Muslim Liberation Tigers of Assam -- (MLTA)
- Islamic Liberation Tigers of Assam -- (ILTA)
- United Muslim Liberation Front of Assam -- (UMLFA)
<table>
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<th>Organization</th>
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<td>United Reformation Protest of Assam</td>
<td>(URPA)</td>
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<td>Peoples United Liberation Front</td>
<td>(PULF)</td>
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<td>Muslim Volunteer Force</td>
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These outfits have been actively engaged in extortion of money, recruitment of cadres and training in handling of arms and explosives. During the last two years i.e. 1998 & 1999, 101 MLTA activists, 60 other cadres belonging to other outfits were noticed.

**Misuse of Madarassas and Mosques**: Although some of the top arrested militants have been connected with the activities of Mosques or Madarassas, nobody should jump to a conclusion that all these sacred religious institutions have been maligned. This being a very sensitive issue care has been taken to see that Muslim Police Officers alone are deputed for such enquiry in religious places.

**Public Chase away Police, ISI agents (The Sentinel 25 May 2000)**: ISI activists Md Fasiullah Hussain and Zaved Waqas under Police protection were produced before the court in the city on Wednesday in Guwahati. An irate crowd of several hundred people, who gathered in front of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kamrup's court, chased them away. But subsequently, they have revealed that they came to India to do business with valid documents.
**Design of Pakistan**

Pakistan has been successful in the past fifty years in spreading insurgency and terrorism from Nagaland upto Assam. This graph shows that next in the line are going to be West Bengal, Bihar - east and south-eastern part and Orissa - north and north-eastern part. Already there is a lot of law and order problem existing in Bihar and Orissa is economically a poor State as compared to other States in the Indian Union. These aspects give the indication that unless we as a Nation take proper preventive measures it is matter of time probably by next two decades or so we will find that insurgency would have spread to these two States and would be too late to handle the situation.

The map of India in that case would be as shown on page No 196. This is what Pakistan is aiming at which is a **long term challenge** for the democracy of our country. The various militant outfits and their nexus with ISI is one of the **biggest challenge for the SFs** operating in this **part of the country**.
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