CHAPTER II

SITUATIONAL PROFILE
Travel requirements:
Inner-line permits are issued from the Liaison Offices at New Delhi, Calcutta, Guwahati, Lilabari, Mohonbari, Tezpur or from the Political Department, Itanagar or from the respective Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Tezpur — 216 Kms — Indian Airlines
Lilabari — 57 Kms — Vayudoot
Harmutty — 34 Kms
North East Frontier Railway
Railhead
Arunachal Pradesh which adorns the crest of North East India is indeed, as its name indicates the land of the rising Sun. It is a mountainous country of steep hills and deep gorges and a sparkling variety of meandering streams. It is inhabited by the world's largest variety of ethnic groups and sub-groups numbering over a hundred and speaking an equal number of languages and dialects. It has a staggering area of over 83 thousand sq. Kms. which makes it the largest among the seven States of North East India. But it has a sparse population of about six lakhs which is one of the lowest in India. Long centuries of isolation has left her economy in the pre-Newtonian age. There is no specialisation, no intensive cultivation, no industry and no surplus produce except in a few pockets. It is thus non-ambitious, non-enterprising, non-economic and non-specialist. During the British rule, the land and people evinced a little more than anthropological interest. Even after independence, a similar attitude prevailed until the northern borders of this land which constitute an international boundary with China and Tibet became sensitive. Since then efforts have been made to improve communications and promote economy, polity and administration of the hillmen of Arunachal Pradesh without destroying their social customs.
Before 1982 the land was popularly known as NEFA and was constitutionally a part of Assam. But because of its strategic importance and the peculiar nature of its problem it was administered by the Ministry of External Affairs until 1965 and subsequently by the Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Governor of Assam acting as Agent of the President of India. In 1972 it was constituted as the union territory and thus rechristened as Arunachal Pradesh. In February 1987 it became the 24th state of the Indian Union.

LOCATION:

"Arunachal Pradesh is a thinly populated hilly tract lying roughly between the latitudes 26° 28'N and 29° 30'N and the longitudes 91° 30'E and 91° 30'E on the north east extremity of India".¹

It has a long international border. It has 160 kms of border with Bhutan in West and 440 kms border with Burma in east both running across almost north to south. To extreme north parallel to Himalayas, it has 1030 kms border with Tibet and China in north.²

Arunachal Pradesh comprises three distinct physiographic units. The eastward continuation of Bhutan Himalayas as seen in Kameng, Subansiri and Siang districts and partly in Lohit district is the first unit. The Tirap district, which is a part of Patkai range and a link between Lohit Himalaya and Naga hills of Nagaland, is the second unit. The third physiographic unit is the fringe portion of eastern Assam plain included in Siang and Lohit districts. The mountainous territory encompasses about 75,000 sq. km. 3

TOPOGRAPHY:

The topography of Arunachal Pradesh may be described as follows.

1. The snow covered Himalayan peaks from 11000' - 22000' which include bare mountains, are mostly uninhabited. They cover an area of approximately 3150 sq. miles.

2. The high altitude mountainous belt from 6000' - 11000' which contains a plateau and narrow valleys etc. is sparsely populated. It covers an area of approximately 7900 sq. miles.

3. The sub-mountainous area from 3000' - 6000' which covers

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broad valleys and slopes, is comparatively well populated. It covers an area of approximately 15,500 sq. miles.

4. The foothills and plain region from 500' - 3000' which contains wide mixed stretches of grassland, swamps and subtropical forest, is suitable for agriculture. It covers an area of approximately 4900 sq. miles.

SOIL:

Very little information is available about soils. In general, soil acidity caused by heavy rainfall is high. For study purpose Arunachal soils can be conveniently divided into three natural groups:

1. Hilly soils deposited through the ages are having high organic contents, nitrogen and acidity.

2. Valley and Plateau soils are clayey aluminium, moisture retaining and rich in organic content.

3. Foothills soil is alluvial by nature being either loam or sandy loam mixed with pebbles brought down by rain from higher altitudes.

CLIMATE:

The high mountainous region with great variation of altitude, restrains any scholar to give a precise picture of
climate in Arunachal Pradesh. The area witnesses snowfall and alternate showers of rainfall. Winters are cold, damp and windy. The temperature is higher at lower altitudes in the south and lower at higher altitudes in the north. Arunachal Pradesh can be divided into three distinct climatic zones.

(a) Foothills or valley flora area is extremely humid, hot and has a sub-tropical climate. Similar to that of plains of Assam. High rate of humidity makes human life difficult and hard.

(b) Sloping mountainous or lesser Himalayan ranges have a cool and pleasant climate which is frequently met by speedy winds.

(c) Higher Himalayan region, has got Himadri type cold (Alpine) climate experiencing snowfall. But snowfall of eastern Himalaya is not that heavy as the western Himalaya.

SEASONS:

In general there are only two distinct seasons. First, the rainy season from March to September. During monsoon, rainfall is heavy. The amount of rainfall decreases from east to west and varies on the windward and westward slopes of the mountains. The hills facing the plains of Assam receive
the full force of the monsoon from the Bay of Bengal. Geographically also Arunachal comes within the regions of heaviest rainfall in India. Dihang, Dinbang and Lohit valleys experience the heaviest rainfall in the whole territory. Whereas an exception to this is the Monpa-Sherdukpen area which gets a very low rainfall compared to other areas. The rainfall varies from 40 inches at Bomdila to 200 inches at Pasighat. The rainfall causes severe and frequent landslides.

Second, the cold season from March to September, the temperature of the territory varies from below freezing point in winter to over 80°F (26°C) in summer. The lower region experiences climatic conditions almost similar to that of plains of Assam. By and large, the weather in Arunachal Pradesh is capricious.

MOUNTAIN RANGES:

North easterly directed montaineous range of Arunachal Pradesh is roughly about 70,000 sq. kms. and rest about 10,000 sq. kms. is foothills area. Eastern Himalaya does not possess that height, snow and solid rocky hills as on the western

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Himalayas. The entire highly mountaneous NEFA comprises spurs radiating southward and constitutes a mass of enormous serrated region criss-crossed in all directions by mighty gorges. Arunachal Pradesh here truly reflects a land of the dawn lit mountains and a land of rugged grandeur. A little varied pattern is found in western Arunachal, where ridges like the Bomdila, Sala and Thag La (La - means "mountain pass" in the Tibetan language) run parallel to the great Himalayas which were traditional trade routes in the present Tawang district, by which the Dalai Lama came to India in 1959 and Chinese army made their major thrust into Assam in 1962.

The 21,450 feet high Gorichen is among the highest peaks of the territory. The two mile broad and seven and half mile long Apatani plateau in the Subansiri district nearly 5000 feet above the level of the sea and twenty square miles in area, is a unique feature in NEFA.

SEISMICITY:

Arunachal Pradesh is earthquake prone and seismicity is very high in the region. There had been earthquakes of considerable intensity in 1897 and 1938 which rocked particularly

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5Ibid. p. 8.
6Ibid. p. 7.
the whole of north eastern India. But the magnitude of the earthquake of August, 1950 was tremendous. As a result of this earthquake Sadiya town located on the north bank of Brahmaputra was completely wiped out of existence and the courses of many rivers were either changed or blocked by the landslides. "It was the greatest earthquake recorded in the history of this area. It was catastrophic. The earth was shaken and shattered and the tremors continued for a number of days".

The terrain in Arunachal is very unstable as it is generally true of the entire Himalayan range. Landslides are frequent. Many early road workers were known to have lost their lives having been carried away and buried under the womb of loosened earth.

RIVER SYSTEM:

The entire area of Arunachal Pradesh is intersected by rivers big and small, numbering about 50, and divided by countless streams. Brahmaputra river almost separated the geographical boundary of Arunachal from the plains of Assam.

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Five major rivers - Kameng, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit and Tirap are flowing from the present eleven districts and from these rivers the erstwhile five districts derived their names.

In Kameng area, the Kameng river and its subsidiaries, the Bhoralli, the Bishom, the Tangapani, and the largest of them Daphla Kho flow into the Brahmaputra in Assam plains.

The Subansiri river originating from Tibet enters subansiri at Longju. Its main tributaries - the Kamla the Khuru, the Sipi, the Plain, the Panier, the Pama, the Popum and the Par - ultimately course down to and augment the subansiri. Subansiri makes a long journey coming across the northern barrier and merging into the mighty Brahmaputra far below in the district of Lakhimpur in Assam.

Among all Arunachal rivers the mightiest is Siang, known as Tsangpo in Tibet and Brahmaputra in Assam. Tsangpo enters the Indian territory at Karbo near Gelling and flows through the Siang district under the changed nomenclature of Dihang. In its course down the valley of Assam, it joins the confluence of two other great rivers - Dibang and Lohit coming from the east. Parasuram Kund is located in the lower reaches of the Lohit river. "It is the legendary place where sage Parasuram washed away his sins. It is a place of pilgrimage
and on Makar Sankranti day people in large number come to
have a dip in the Kund. 9

Tirap and Namchik, two very important rivers of Tirap
district have separate and independent courses. Numerous
mountain torrents and streams flow, and merge into these two
rivers.

MINERAL RESOURCES

From the geological point of view the Arunachal Pradesh,
unlike unlike the other parts of the Himalaya has indeed been
term incognita. Mineral development of the area is yet to come
to light to early sixties. Geologically Arunachal Pradesh can
be divided into two broad zones:

(a) The Himalayan region comprising the Kameng, Subansiri,
Siang and Lohit areas.

(b) The Patkoi region in Tirap area. The Geological Survey
of India has embarked on a scientific programme of exploitation
of oil, coal, Mica, Lignite Salt, granite, asbestos, beryl,
iron ore, pyrite, copper, white clay and brine wells in
different parts of the Arunachal Pradesh and detailed search
for resources is still in progress 10 investigations into the

9 Arunachal Darshan, op. cit. p. 5.
10 Saikia, J.P (Ed.) : The Land of Seven Sisters,
Directorate of Information and Public Relations Assam. 1976.
mineral resources must take note of the some implications. First, most of the minerals are just sampled for preliminary testing which needs thorough re-examination and revaluation. Second, occurrence of any mineral necessarily does not mean that prospects of commercial exploitation are bright. Third, sufficient amount of the minerals and economic viability of extraction are yet to be ascertained.

FLORA & FAUNA:

This is a land wealthy in flora which varies greatly along with the altitude of each separate region. Arunachal's unique geographical position and divergence of climate gives rise to a luxuriance of vegetation and yet Arunachal Pradesh is botanically still terra incognita. Over 50% of its total area is still covered by forest. Among common big trees — Holleck, tita shampa, bela, simul, khokan, makahi and enormous variety of bamboo are found. Vast climatic variations have resulted in the existence of almost all types of timber wealth ranging from the tropical teak like species of the foothills jungles, through temperate evergreen in the middle ranges, to conifers in the higher elevations and the alpine on the extreme north. Hence almost every variety of flora is available.

Out of about thousand species of orchids in India. Over 500 are to be found in Arunachal Pradesh alone. These are
colourful, spectacular and some bear exotic names such as Sita - Pushpa and Draupadi - Pushpa, which were believed to have been worn by Sita and Draupadi for ornamentation.  

Arunachal's treasure of fauna includes Indian elephant, leopard, himalayan black bear, black panther, White brouned gibbon, black deer, barking deer, red pands, musk deer, sloth bear, monkey, cat, wild buffalo, wild goat, flying fox, wild bear etc. and a variety of multicoloured birds.

The hoolock or white browed gibbon of Tirap and Lohit district, is the only ape found in India. The deer family is represented by Sambhar, swamp deer, hog deer, and musk deer. The mithun, bos frontails (a semidomesticated gaur) is highly valued here. A variety of multicoloured birds, in particular the great Indian Hornbill and the white winged wood Duck are found here.

Four wildlife sanctuaries at Fakhul, Lali, Itanagar and Namdapha had been set up by 1979 covering an area of 3000 sq. kms. The Measao wildlife sanctuary was established in sixth plan and Namdapa sanctuary was upgraded to the status of a National Park in 1983. The "Project tiger" was launched

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11Arunachal Darshan, op.cit, p. 9.
in Namdhaa in 1983-84. The Mouling reserve forest in east Siang with an area 483 sq. kms. was declared a National Park in 1986.

SOCIETY:

For convenience of study population of the territory can be classified into three categories:

(a) Non tribal (non-native) people, about 1.95 lakh, who can be further reclassified under three major heads:
1. Labourers (both Government and non Government)
2. Government servants

Majority of these non-native population comes from Bihar-UP, Assam-Bengal, Orissa and Nepal.

(b) Refugees (Tibetans & Chakmas) about 26 thousand.
Refugee population of Arunachal Pradesh, at present potent source of tension, is of two kinds:
1. Chakmas: 20,899
2. Tibetans: 4,637

In addition there are 1618 Tibetan refugees settled outside refugee camps. The total number of refugees in Arunachal
Pradesh is therefore 27,154 persons only. 13

(o) Indigenous or native tribal people, about 4.5 lakh. According to 1981 census, percentage of tribal population is 69.82.

The following tables illustrate the break-up of tribal and non-tribal population.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Percentage of S/T to Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tawang and West Kameng</td>
<td>41963</td>
<td>20900</td>
<td>21063</td>
<td>66.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>East Kameng</td>
<td>37206</td>
<td>18410</td>
<td>18796</td>
<td>87.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Lower Subansiri</td>
<td>87605</td>
<td>43539</td>
<td>44066</td>
<td>77.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Upper Subansiri</td>
<td>36131</td>
<td>17642</td>
<td>18489</td>
<td>91.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>West Siang</td>
<td>62323</td>
<td>30922</td>
<td>31401</td>
<td>84.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>East Siang</td>
<td>50728</td>
<td>25515</td>
<td>25213</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dibang Valley</td>
<td>15044</td>
<td>7376</td>
<td>7668</td>
<td>48.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Lohit</td>
<td>30130</td>
<td>15212</td>
<td>14918</td>
<td>43.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Tirap</td>
<td>79957</td>
<td>40530</td>
<td>39427</td>
<td>62.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>441167</td>
<td>220046</td>
<td>221121</td>
<td>69.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 According to Government of Arunachal Pradesh a total of 27154 refugees are residing within the territory of Arunachal Pradesh, vide their circular No. DCP/SU/86 dt. 16.9.86. Whereas All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union (AAPSU) the figure is quiet high i.e. 80,000 as quoted in the charter of demands of January 1988, p. 2.

Table 2
Showing Non-Tribal Population of
Arunachal Pradesh (Census 1981)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Percentage of Non-tribals to total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tauang and West Kameng</td>
<td>21339</td>
<td>13178</td>
<td>8161</td>
<td>33.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>East Kameng</td>
<td>5450</td>
<td>3509</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>12.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Lower Subansiri</td>
<td>25046</td>
<td>18217</td>
<td>6829</td>
<td>22.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Upper *</td>
<td>3279</td>
<td>2344</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>8.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>West Siang</td>
<td>11841</td>
<td>7673</td>
<td>4168</td>
<td>15.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>East Siang</td>
<td>19723</td>
<td>12582</td>
<td>7141</td>
<td>28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dibang Valley</td>
<td>15934</td>
<td>11270</td>
<td>4664</td>
<td>51.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Lohit</td>
<td>39368</td>
<td>23812</td>
<td>15556</td>
<td>56.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Tirap</td>
<td>48693</td>
<td>28409</td>
<td>20284</td>
<td>37.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 190664 | 119268 | 71396 | 30.18 |

ARUNACHAL PRADSH 631831 | 339314 | 292517 |

There are some 20 major tribes divided into a number of sub-tribes numbering 110 in all. The large number of tribes inhabiting this Arunachal are: 

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15 Ibid.
1. Kameng area divided into three districts viz. Tawang, West Kameng and East Kameng, is inhabited by seven main tribes: Monpa (including its three sections: Dirang, Monpa, Tawang Monpa and Kalaktang Monpa), Miji, Sherdukpen Khowas, Akas, Solungs and Bangnis. The tribes of the Kameng area were collectively known by a generic name Bhutia, except the Hrusos, who were known as Akas for their custom of tattooing their bodies.

2. Subansiri region divided into two districts viz. Upper Subansiri and lower Subansiri, is inhabited by four major tribes besides the Sulung and Bangni tribe of Kameng area. The four tribes are - Apatani, Mishi, Hill Miri and Tagin.

3. Siang area, divided into two districts viz. West Siang and East Siang, is inhabited by Adi (which included a large number of tribal groups like - Padams, Minyongs, Gallongs, Milangs, Pangis, Pasis, Ramos, Boris, Bekans Paibos, Washings, Rangams etc. and two Buddhist tribes - Khambes and Membes.

4. Lohit portion, divided into two districts, viz. Lohit and Dibang valley is inhabited by Mishmi (with its three different sections Idu, Digu and Miji), Khamptis, Singphos and some Adis (Padems).

5. Tirap district is the home of four major tribes viz. Noces, Wanchos, Tangas and Singphos. The tribes of Tirap
district were called Nagas. They are now recognised by their group names like Wanchos, Tangas and Nootes.\textsuperscript{16}

Districtwise inhabitation of tribes in tabular form is given below:

\textbf{Table 3}

Showing districtwise inhabitation of tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of District</th>
<th>Name of Tribes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tawang</td>
<td>Monpas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. West Kameng</td>
<td>Monpas, Aijis, Akas, Sherdupenis, Khowas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. East Kameng</td>
<td>Bangnis, Sulungs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lower Subansiri</td>
<td>Mishis, Apatanis, Sulungs, Hill Miris, Bangnis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Upper Subansiri</td>
<td>Tagins, Hill Miris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. West Siang</td>
<td>Adis, Membas, Khambas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Dibang Valley</td>
<td>Mishmis, Adis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Tirap</td>
<td>Nootes, Wanchos, Tangas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A map titled as "Arunachal Pradesh: A land of many tribes" illustrates their respective locations.

\textsuperscript{16}Lakhipur Deputy Commissioner's Collection No. XII F. 7, 1904-08.
In Arunachal tribal world there is no casteism and racialism in any tribal community though social grades exist. Each tribe is divided into endogamous (exonomous) clans. Patrilineal and primogeniture are the fundamental laws of inheritance though variations are also there. Polyandry was common but is now dying out.

The foregoing description of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh has to be appended with a note of caution about the problems involved in such an attempt. First, the problem of exact number of tribes and sub-tribes. It varies in all the census reports of 1961 and 1971 and other official records/books. Lack of proper previous survey, documentation and evidences etc. have restrained the efforts of judging the exact number and origin of tribes. Sometimes it becomes difficult to determine what is a major tribe and which is a minor tribe. Many communities designated as sub-tribes regard themselves as an independent tribes and not the branch of any tribe. Different names of tribes and their different languages create ambiguity as two tribes bearing two different names may be of same origin and family. It is also possible that they would have migrated to some other place at a particular point.
of history after having been compelled by some indefinite circumstances. 17

Second, the problem of nomenclature of tribes. The tribes of Lohit district were called Mishmis but they have objected to be known as such and they would now like to be known by their group names as Idu, Miji, Taraon. As they do not like to be called a branch of some tribe, they want to have their separate identity. Adis hate their old name "Abor". Mishis detest their old name Dalsa nowadays preferring a term "Nishang". As both Adi and Mishis view their old names derogatory in nature, the Khamptis and Singphos are the only tribes who do not express any objection to being called by their age long popular names. "It has been pointed out that the assumption of the present nomenclature is perhaps more due to the rise of a sense of dignity and pride among the tribes who no longer like to be branded by their plain fellows in any manner they want." 18

17 President of India in exercise of his power under Article 342 of the constitution by order issued the notice on the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in 1956, which is different from the report of the commission for scheduled Areas and scheduled tribes (1961-62) enumerating 29 main tribes and 41 sub-tribes in NEFA. (Vol. I, p. 476). The census of 1961 and 1971 contain 80 and 110 tribes respectively. Different publications made by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh also give different numbers as 20, 22 and 26. The Sentinel, News Daily, Guwahati dated 1st March 1987. p. 3 gives reference of 55 tribes. Formally a final list of the tribes and the sub-tribes of Arunachal Pradesh is not yet made available by the Government.

18 Roy, Sachin : Aspects of Padam Minyong Culture, pp. 1-5.
Third, some tribes like Mishing (Hill Miriis) and Deoris who are also found in Assam face identity crisis as sometimes and in some cases they are deprived of facilities which are generally available to the other indigenous tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. Though these tribes are living in Arunachal for many generations their claim to be called an indigenous tribe is yet to be fully recognised.

Finally, most of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh entered into their present homes from different directions. Their migration was due to a number of factors. No accurate data about their original home and date of migration is available except in case of one or two tribes. The history of these tribes is largely based on legends and myths. But it can be said without doubt that the tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh belong to the Indo-Mongoloid family and most of them have migrated from Tibet, Bhutan and Burma.

DEMOGRAPHY

The 628050 population of Arunachal Pradesh constitutes 0.83 percent of India's total population and 83576 sq. kmc. area of Arunachal Pradesh constitutes 2.73 percent of India's land surface. The North East Region (NER) miniature India accounts for 8 percent of the total India's land and 3.88 percent of
the total India's population. Areawise Arunachal is the
largest in size among all seven sisters as it constitutes
about 33 percent area of entire of North Eastern Region. But
populationwise Arunachal Pradesh accounts 2.5 percent population
of entire North East. It clearly exhibits the acute shortage
of manpower in Arunachal Pradesh. This disparity in proportion
to man and area is bound to hinder the speedy process of
development. In India there are 935 females to per 1000 males
but in Arunachal there are 870 females to per 1000 males. In
the period 1971 to 1981, Arunachal Pradesh which has registered
a 6.32 percent of urbanisation, thus stands to be least urbanised
state of North Eastern Region and India as well. Further the
lowest density of population in India and North East is of
Arunachal Pradesh with only 7 persons per sq. km. The encouraging
point is that highest percentage growth rate of 77.95 percent
of literacy during 1971 to 1981 is registered by Arunachal
Pradesh. It is not only highest in the North East but also in
India. If Arunachal continues with this literacy growth rate,
then it is assured that 20.09 percent literacy rate of Arunachal
Pradesh, which is recorded lowest in India, will be brought at
the national rate of 34.8 percent within a minimum possible time.

The following tables explain the demographic profiles
of Arunachal Pradesh.
### Table 4
Comparative Population figures of Arunachal Pradesh with others States in the North Eastern Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical</th>
<th>Total Area in Population</th>
<th>% of total population of India as per 1981</th>
<th>Decadal Density of population growth per sq. km.</th>
<th>Decadal Density of No. of Tribes population growth per sq. km.</th>
<th>% of ST Sex ratio</th>
<th>Literacy% increase in a period of 10 years</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Population ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>78522</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>36.09</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>97.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>22489</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>80.82</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>33.22</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>22356</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>33.66</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27.30</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>41.99</td>
<td>27.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>10477</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>32.37</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28.44</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>41.58</td>
<td>34.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>16527</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>49.73</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>83.99</td>
<td>867</td>
<td>41.99</td>
<td>53.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>83578</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>34.34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>69.02</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>20.09</td>
<td>77.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>21087</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>46.75</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>93.82</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>89.50</td>
<td>10.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>3280483</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>34.78</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>7.78</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>36.17</td>
<td>17.96 (about)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5

Showing Districtwise Break-up of Population in Arunachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Area (sq. kms)</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Decadal growth rate(1971-81)</th>
<th>Density</th>
<th>Sex ratio Female per 1000 males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. West Kameng</td>
<td>9594</td>
<td>34078</td>
<td>29224</td>
<td>63302</td>
<td>(+) 23.75</td>
<td>6.56 (7)</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. East Kameng</td>
<td>4134</td>
<td>21999</td>
<td>20737</td>
<td>42736</td>
<td>(+) 21.60</td>
<td>10.33 (10)</td>
<td>943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Lower Subansiri</td>
<td>13010</td>
<td>59756</td>
<td>52894</td>
<td>112650</td>
<td>(+) 40.02</td>
<td>8.71 (9)</td>
<td>883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Upper Subansiri</td>
<td>7032</td>
<td>19986</td>
<td>19424</td>
<td>39410</td>
<td>(+) 23.09</td>
<td>5.60 (6)</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. West Siang</td>
<td>12006</td>
<td>38797</td>
<td>35367</td>
<td>74164</td>
<td>(+) 25.17</td>
<td>6.18 (6)</td>
<td>912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. East Siang</td>
<td>6512</td>
<td>38097</td>
<td>32354</td>
<td>70451</td>
<td>(+) 43.40</td>
<td>10.79 (11)</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Dibang Valley</td>
<td>13029</td>
<td>18646</td>
<td>12332</td>
<td>30978</td>
<td>(+) 81.96</td>
<td>2.13 (2)</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Lohit</td>
<td>11402</td>
<td>39024</td>
<td>30474</td>
<td>69498</td>
<td>(+) 45.70</td>
<td>6.09 (6)</td>
<td>781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Tirap</td>
<td>7024</td>
<td>69939</td>
<td>59711</td>
<td>129650</td>
<td>(+) 31.46</td>
<td>18.24 (18)</td>
<td>872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>83743</strong></td>
<td><strong>339322</strong></td>
<td><strong>292517</strong></td>
<td><strong>631839</strong></td>
<td><strong>(+)</strong> 34.34</td>
<td><strong>7.40 (7)</strong></td>
<td><strong>870</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Table 6

Showing comparative population trends in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. (The two units had undergone similar stages of political development and became states on the same day, i.e. 16.2.1987).  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Arunachal Pradesh</th>
<th>Mizoram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>83743 sq. kms.</td>
<td>21081 sq. kms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12th rank in India and had been biggest union territory of India)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>628050</td>
<td>487774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of India's population</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban population percentage</td>
<td>5.32</td>
<td>25.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density</td>
<td>7 persons per sq. km.</td>
<td>23 person per sq.km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decadal growth rate 1971-81</td>
<td>34.34</td>
<td>46.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>870 female to 1000 male</td>
<td>936 females to 1000 males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total literate population</td>
<td>125195</td>
<td>290241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literate population percentage</td>
<td>20.09</td>
<td>59.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy growth rate percentage</td>
<td>77.95 (Highest in India)</td>
<td>18.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M.5. Mizoram state have the largest percentage of Christian population of 85.09%.

21 Ibid.
RURAL-URBAN COMPOSITION:

Tribal villages are small. Any village comprising about 60-70 houses is considered to be a big village in Arunachal Pradesh. Some villages go on shifting from place to place along river banks in search of a land for Jhum cultivation. There are at present 3257 villages in all in Arunachal Pradesh as per 1981 census. The villages of the Apatani, Wancho, and Tangsa are the largest and houses are built close to each other. The Apatani villages accommodate even 100 families. The smallest villages are seen in the Mishmi hills where the village is practically the house of a single family. In 1961 census no place of Arunachal was mentioned as urban area. Later in 1971 census four towns namely Bomdila, Along, Tezu and Pasighat were recorded as urban areas. The development of these urban characteristics were more due to official efforts than to any other tangible economic or social factor. In 1981 census there has been addition of two more towns - old Itanagar and New Itanagar. This increase in percentage of urban population from 3.70 in 1971 to 6.32 in 1981 is due to various developmental projects and the shifting of the capital from Shillong to Itanagar.

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Table 7

Showing rural-urban composition of Arunachal Pradesh (Census 1981)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Rural Population</th>
<th>Towns</th>
<th>Urban Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tawang and West Kameng</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>59442</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3860(6.09%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>East Kameng</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>42736</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Lower Subansiri</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>98534</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14116(12.53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Upper Subansiri</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>39410</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>West Siang</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>66090</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8074(10.89%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>East Siang</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>61312</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9139(12.97%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dibang Valley</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>30978</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Lohit</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>63259</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6239(8.98%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Tirap</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>128650</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>3257</td>
<td>590411</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>41428(6.32%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(93.68%)

POSITION OF WOMEN:

The position of women in Arunachal Pradesh is respectable but not very high. The prevalence of polygamy among the Nishi, the Defa and Mishmi tribes has no doubt lowered their position.

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24 Census of India 1981, Series 25, Arunachal Pradesh, General Population Tables and Primary Census Abstract, Part II-A, Part II-B.
Sometimes wives are forsaken without being divorced. In spite of laxity in sex relationship, prostitution is practically unknown.

Among tribal societies generally, marriage is a civil contract terminated at the will of the parties. Till recently child marriage was quite common. Marriage is usually negotiated. The groom's party has to pay a bride-price to the parents of the bride. Women are generally debarred from inheriting property. Tribal women have a busy life, helping menfolk in almost every walk of life. From cooking to cultivation and from hard work to dance they are always busy. In fact they are the backbone of the tribal pastoral economy and society as well. But their status in society is no way rewarding or worthy of their work. Economically they remain dependent on men and thus they virtually hold a subordinate position. Members of the tribe generally marry within the tribes.

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

There are three notable social institutions which are basic to village life. First, village councils which are discussed in detail in the chapter to follow. Second, Bachelor's Dormitory.

and third, slavery, an institution which is virtually non-existent today.

BACHELORS' DORMITORIES:

The unique youth dormitory system of Arunachal Pradesh is the nerve centre of tribal life. The youth dormitory is generally located at the centre of the village. It serves the following purposes:

(a) It is a training centre of youths, where training is imparted to them in civic duties and the manners of mythology, sociology and history of their community.

(b) It is a meeting place of youths for developing mutual understanding. It may also promote premarital sex relationship to mature into marriages.

(c) Visitors are received and accommodated here for their comfortable stay.

(d) Social gatherings are organised here for discussing any matter of concern and to resolve disputes with the help of village elders.

(e) It is a reservoir of youth force which can be quickly mobilised in case of any emergent necessity.

In short, youth dormitories promote tribal cohesion, integrity,
mutuality and understanding and above all, serve the purpose of youth club.

Bachelors dormitories are called by different names by different tribes. They are common among all tribes except Mishmi, Gallong, Akas, Hijis, Khowas, Mompas, and Miris.

SLAVERY:

Slavery as an institution existed since time immemorial, mainly for the following reasons:

(a) Some tribes have a superstition that slaves possessed during life would be there to serve even after death and be carried to next birth.

(b) Slavery is considered as an accident or misfortune that might be fall upon any man, not as the natural and indelible condition of inferior race.

(c) Slavery is also the result of economic backwardness and poverty as a person having failed to repay his debt will render his manual services to the lender. Some tribes had been selling their children into slavery. The Apatani used to purchase a good number of former Dafala children for enslavement.

(d) The predatory incursions of the hillmen to the plains of Assam recently in carrying away of innocent persons also led to slavery.
(e) Inter-tribe and inter-village feuds led to surprise attack and carrying away of women and children. Among these captives those who failed to pay a ransom by themselves or their relatives became the slaves of their captors.

(f) Slavery by inheritance was also prevalent in Arunachal Pradesh as children born to a slave are added to slave wealth. Children of a slave can never be freemen.

(g) Slavery by enforcement upon the people, who had been habitual law offenders and were incorrigible too, was also a practice. Here slavery is meted out as punishment for the crimes committed against the community.

(h) Slavery had also its origin in the extreme need for manpower, for purposes of cultivation which had he done manually without the use of cattle or implements.

But the nature of slavery in Arunachal Pradesh differs somewhat from the notion of slavery in the West where the slave was practically a servant hired for life. Unlike in the West, the treatment of the slaves was quite humane. Their clothing, food, housing and other general requirements did not differ materially from those of the masters. It was not only a human institution but was limited to a small section of population. Slaves were largely of the same race as their masters. So

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26 Elwin, Verrier : A Philosophy for NEFA, Shillong, 1960, p. 150.
that the difference between master and slave was not embittered by prejudices.

RELIGION:

Arunachal religious system bears some contrasting features due to a variety of tribal groups situated in far-flung remote areas. Each tribe has its own beliefs and religious notions. "In no field our old record are more imperfect than in that of religion. The general attitude of European writers towards the tribal religion is that the tribes did not have any religion at all, or that it was a mixture of all the varied idolatries and superstitions."

The religious beliefs of the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh had been influenced by Buddhism from across the international boundaries with Tibet (China) and Bhutan. The influences of Hinduism and Christianity from across the plains of Assam could also be seen. The indigenous faith Hinduism and Christian population of Assam and Nagaland is usually known as animism.

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27 For detailed study see S.K. Chaube's "Hill Politics in North East India (pp. 37-38); Elwin's A Philosophy for NEFA op.cit (pp. 200-222); J.D. Baveja's Across the Golden Heights of Assam and NEFA (pp. 134-138); Sita Ram Johari's op.cit (pp. 202-220); Census 1971. Social and Cultural Tables; Vivaka-Nanda Kendra Patrika - Christianity in India.

28 Bose M.L. op.cit, p. 31 wherein Verrier Elwin's North East Frontier Agency in 19th century, p. XVIII-XIX is quoted.
As per 1971 census 63.46 percent of the Arunachal tribes professed animism, as their religious faith. Most tribal communities believe in the existence of spirits that move nature and guide human activities. But they give different names to them and worship them in their own distinct way. Their attitudes to life have been influenced by the sense of awe and reverence. Their belief is a kind of ancestral and nature's worship. The Adis, Aka, Khowas Mishis, Mishmis, Wanchos, Tangas, etc. tribes believe in several types of heavenly spirits and offer sacrifices to propitiate them. The so-called animism, is a sort of primitive religion generally found in all tribal societies of the world. Tribal religion is evolved, reformed and received from within itself. Any religious movement whether east or west did not reach them. There may be differences in regard to nomenclature and worship but the essence is the same animism. It is in fitness of things that the land inhabited by these tribes has been named "Arunachal" as they are worshippers of the Sun and Moon, called Donyi-Polo in local dialects.

Their animistic persuasion is based on a strong sense of history, a pride in descent of the race from a great ancestor and a belief in the value of sacrifice for the common good. From this they derive strength "to reconcile themselves to the frequent
According to 1971 census Buddhists in Arunachal Pradesh comprise 13.13 percent of the total population, which is incidentally the highest percentage of Buddhists in any state or union territory of the country. In absolute numbers of Buddhists Arunachal Pradesh comes next only to Maharashtra and West Bengal. Monpa, the largest Buddhist tribe, is followed by Khampti, Membas, Singpho, Kama, Miji Mishmi and Khowa. But all these Buddhists do not belong to the same school of Buddhism. Khampti, Singpho and possibly the Mishmi belong to the Hinayana sect (a Burmese form) of Buddhism. Whereas the Monpa, the Khamptis and Membas prefer the Mahayana form of Buddhism. The Singpho's who have accommodated the religious practice30 of their neighbours follow Buddhism and Brahmanism and have decorated their temples with images of different gods and goddesses.31 Thus we find that the Buddhists of the Mahayana school are in the Lohit and Tirap side and Buddhist of the unreformed Tibetan

30 Bose M.L., op.cit., p. 31.
31 Ibid., p. 31.
(Lamaistic form) exist are in Siang and the reformed are in Kameng. In Tawang a magnificent statue of the Buddha in Buddhist Monastery is the largest of its own kind in India.

HINDUISM:

Hinduism accounts for the second largest group of people i.e. 22 percent as per 1971 census. Among these, 24,446 persons belong to the scheduled tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. Noktes are the largest group of persons belonging to the schedule tribe of Arunachal. Hinduism reached them in the 18th century through the efforts of the followers of Shri Shankara Deva of Assam.32 Nishi tribe, the second largest in this respect is followed by Mishmi, Mishing/Miri, Deori, Miker and Tangas all have adopted Hinduism.

CHRISTIANITY:

There was not a single christian in Arunachal in 1951; their number rose to 1438 in 1961 and 2593 in 1971. The impact was the highest in Subansiri where the adherents of christian faith swelled from 187 in 1961 to 782 in 1971 and Lohit where their numbers increased from 287 in 1961 to 1504 in 1971

(420.04 percent variation). In the foothill areas of Arunachal Pradesh, particularly Lohit and Subansiri districts the missionaries have been making determined efforts to spread the gospel of Christ and have made considerable headway in bringing a sizeable number of tribals into the fold of Christianity.

LANGUAGE:

Though English is the official language of Arunachal Pradesh, Hindi is widely used by over half of the population of the territory as link language. As a result Hindi may be called the semi-official language of the people. Assamese language generally prevalent in foothill areas adjoining Assam, is followed by Bengali and Nepali languages.

The total number of mother tongues in India is 1652. In the North East India except Darjeeling, the number of languages and dialects used is 420. In Arunachal Pradesh there are 108 languages and dialects. Besides languages, the

33. Indian Express, 3rd September 1978.

34. Sarin V.I.K : India's North East in Flames, Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi, 1980. p. 177

35. For detailed study see G. Brierson's Linguistic Survey of India.


number of known indigenous dialects of Arunachal Pradesh according to the 1961 census is about 80. These different languages of different tribes of Arunachal have different origins. Tribal societies disintegrated into innumerable groups under a typical geographical conditions, remained isolated from each other for centuries and thus had given rise to a number of dialects.

All the languages of Arunachal tribes belong to "Tibeto-Burman family". Khamptis belonging to Tai group of the chinese-siamese family, are the only exception to this rule. The census report of 1901 mentions three branches of Tibeto-Burman viz. the Tibeto-Himalaya branch, the North Assam branch and the Assam-Burman branch. This classification is the basis of the discussion to follow. 38

(a) Tibeto-Himalayan group include the Monpas, the Membas, the Khambas, the Sherdukpen etc.

(b) The North-Assam group, comprises the Akas, the Nishis, the Tagins, the Tangas, the Bangnis, the Sulungs, the Rijis, the Adis, the Mishmis, and the Apatanis.

(o) The Assam-Burmese group, consists of the Nectes, the Tongas, the Wanshos, and the Singhpos. The group is very often called as Naga group of language. The language of the Singphos is of Kachin sub-group of the Assam-Burmese group.

Languages of Khamptis and Monpas have Tibetan and Tai script and some literature. But the rest of the language are in the form of dialects and do not possess any kind of script.

CULTURE

Culturally the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh can be classified under three broad categories as Verrier Elwin has done. Firstly, the Buddhist pattern the Monpas, Sherdukpena, Akae and Khambas of the Kameng district are largely of the Tibetan Buddhist cultural tradition and the tribes like singphos and Khamptis of the Lohit district are of the Burman Buddhist cultural tradition. Their life style is based upon Buddhist ideals. They are characterised by their expertise in carpet-making, weaving, dance, painting, wood-carving, mask-making and elaborate dresses. Secondly, the central pattern, which includes the tribes of upper Subansiri (except for Apatanis) Siang, Lohit and some eastern part of Kameng area. All these tribes have close cultural and linguistic affinities among themselves. Their notable features are bamboo, cane, Mithun, shifting, cultivation, weaving, domestication of dog, pig, goat, etc. and scanty dress. Thirdly, the communities of Tirap district of southern Arunachal witness clear impact of
neighbouring cultures. The Nee, the Wenchos and the Tangas are known for their masculine dances, use of elephants in timber work, and art of carving. They have been known for their contacts with Burmese tribes and have thus been influenced Burmese culture. 39

These varied cultural patterns constitute the multi-coloured fabric of the culture of Arunachal Pradesh.

ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

The philosophy for the development of Arunachal Pradesh was spelt out by Jawaharlal Nehru in five principles as follows -

(1) People should develop along the lines of their own genius and we should avoid imposing anything on them. We should try to encourage in every way their own traditional arts and culture.

(2) Tribal rights in land and forests should be respected.

(3) We should try to train and build up a team of their own people to do the work of administration and development. Some technical personal from outside will, no doubt, be needed specially in the begining. But we should avoid introducing too many outsiders into tribal territory.

(4) We should not over-administer these areas or overwhelm them with a multiplicity of schemes. We should rather work through, and not in rivalry to, their own social and cultural institutions.

(5) We should judge results, not by statistics or the amount of money spent but by the quality of human character that is evolved. 40

The main features of the economy of the State may be stated as follows —

(i) Tribal economy is predominantly based upon agriculture.

(ii) Forestry is the major source of revenue.

(iii) Development depends upon public investment; private investment is minimal.

(iv) The impact of inner line regulation of 1873 on economic growth

(v) Tribal ownership of land and licenced trade system under state government makes business unexplorative, uncompetitive and thus ensuring a well regulated development and economic activity through government effort.

40 Jawaharlal Nehru in his forward to the second edition of the Eluin’s A Philosophy for NEFA (1960) op.cit.
(vi) Shortage of manpower hindering growth.

(vii) On Investment pattern through five year plans, the following table gives the details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Outlays (Rupees in Lakhs)</th>
<th>Actual expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>First Plan</td>
<td>1951-52 to</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td>201.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1955-56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Second Plan</td>
<td>1956-57 to</td>
<td>509.00</td>
<td>356.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1960-61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Third Plan</td>
<td>1961-62 to</td>
<td>715.00</td>
<td>920.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1965-66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>1966-67 to</td>
<td>847.15</td>
<td>830.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1968-69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Fourth Plan</td>
<td>1969-70 to</td>
<td>1799.00</td>
<td>2157.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Fifth Plan</td>
<td>1974-75 to</td>
<td>6330.00</td>
<td>6086.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>4681.00</td>
<td>2341.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Sixth Plan</td>
<td>1980-81 to</td>
<td>22290.00</td>
<td>20585.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Seventh Plan</td>
<td>1985-86 to</td>
<td>40000.00</td>
<td>N.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>11000.00</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Annual Plan</td>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>12600.00</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arunachal Pradesh is a late starter in development. But since the 5th five year plan, the economic structure had acquired a new vibrancy and dynamism. The per capita income of the territory which stood at Rs.456 in 1970-71 had increased to Rs.2160 by 1984-85, which might be the highest among the states of Indian union.  

The following table shows central grants and state contribution to the development of Arunachal Pradesh:

Table No. 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Central Grant (in '000)</th>
<th>State's Contribution (in '000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>166981</td>
<td>24940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>244966</td>
<td>41500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>251153</td>
<td>49448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>299342</td>
<td>63246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>408511</td>
<td>67485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>526954</td>
<td>65147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>555287</td>
<td>102083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>800612</td>
<td>100501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>756208</td>
<td>141101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>944937</td>
<td>155658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>1252451</td>
<td>168292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


TRIBAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE

The maxim "nature governs mankind" is in true sense applicable in this tribal world of Arunachal Pradesh. "Agriculture is one of the main links between a human group and the 'Landscape' in which it lives. Through agriculture every environment has taught its inhabitants a certain way of life. The teacher of culture is its environment and agriculture its classroom. The refined functions of a culture, laws and customs, social and political organisation morals and beliefs are in a sense the superstructure on the foundation of agriculture.\(^\text{44}\)

The Jhuming cultivation as the first stage in the evolution of agriculture is a widely accepted method of backward hilly regions of world, and people of Arunachal Pradesh are in no way exception to it. The tribes of Arunachal widely follow the practice of Jhum cultivation or shifting cultivation. The area under Jhum and sedentary cultivation is not known exactly. It is believed that to cultivable land is 88 thousand hectares in 1971, out of which 66 thousand hectares were under Jhum cultivation and 22 thousand hectares were under permanent

Ownership of land varies from tribe to tribe though, generally speaking, it can be considered under the categories of land owned by individuals, land owned by clan and common village land. Tribes which practise Jhuming and those which have taken to regular cultivation will naturally have rather different systems of ownership. The existing order of land ownership is in transformation as the primitive method of shifting cultivation is gradually changing into the process of sedentary cultivation. Though the three Jhum land regulations of 1947-48 over their Jhum-land is still a link with their past nomadic life and the present dynamic setting of land possession. All tribes grow paddy, maize, millet, mustard, sugarcane, etc. and also undertake some subsidiary economic activities like animal husbandry, fishing, hunting, poultry, orchids, coffee and tea plantation etc. Woodcrafts, weaving, handicrafts, woodcrafting etc. constitute an important sort of specialized economic activities to make up the deficit of agricultural produce with developments new professional

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46 Elwin Verrier, A Philosophy for NEFA op.cit., pp. 63-64.
groups like civil servants, businessmen, contractors etc. are emerging.

Agriculture in Arunachal Pradesh is primitive and primarily carried on by women folk. Agricultural stagnation was the main constrain on economy, resulting in the low standard of living of the people. That is why, in every annual plan, next to communication, agriculture is given importance. Therefore, a noteworthy programme has been made in the field of agriculture and allied activities and Arunachal Pradesh has reached a stage of near self sufficiency in food-grains. Foodgrain production which stood at 57,000 mt. in 1956 had gone to 1,22,000 mt. in 1980 and 1,73,000 mt. in 1985 and is expected to increase to 2,42,000 mts. in 1990. About 48,000 hectares of Jhum land has been brought under settled cultivation by the end of 6th plan and another 13,000 hectares are proposed to be reclaimed during 7th plan. The gross cropped area is 167290 hectares.47

FOREST

The greatest known source of natural wealth of Arunachal Pradesh is forestry, which constitutes an essential element of

the environment. Forest cover extends over 51540 sq. kms. accounting for 61.5 percent of the total area of the territory. Cut of this 11391.00 sq. kms. had been brought under reserve forest by 1979-80 rest being declared as state forest. Besides this, the state has an area of about 500 sq. miles under bamboo. In the 6th plan 2000 sq. kms. were added in the reserve forest and another 3700 sq. kms. are proposed to be declared reserve forests in the 7th plan. About 9000 sq. km. of reserve forests had been covered by "working plan" upto 1984-85, and this is expected to increase to 14000 sq. kms. by the end of the 7th plan. An important component of the forest programme has been to set up Arunachal Reserve forest by involving the local village communities. 113.34 sq. kms. had been brought under Arunachal Reserve upto 1979-80. 139.74 sq. kms. were added in 6th plan and 346.18 sq. kms. are proposed to be added during 7th plan. The Arunachal Pradesh forest corporation was established in 1977. Out of 20 crores of revenue earned by the State Government, Rs. 14.1 crores is contributed by the forest resource in 1987-88. Forest based industry is now being promoted by the Government. The territory has very big prospects of forest based industries. An amount of Rs. 871.47 lakhs has been earned as forest revenue by 1985.
### Table No. 10
Showing Revenue from and Expenditure on Forests in Arunachal Pradesh (Rupees in lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gross Revenue from Forest</th>
<th>Expenditure on Forest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forest Deptt.</td>
<td>Corpn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>383.22</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-82</td>
<td>716.11</td>
<td>364.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-83</td>
<td>629.32</td>
<td>469.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-84</td>
<td>883.09</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including lease rent and Income tax.

N.A. = Not Available

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

Arunachal Pradesh had only two roads worth the name covering a total of 360 km in length in 1947. The present road length of about 8600 km is expected to increase to 9800 km by the end of 7th plan. Arunachal Pradesh capital is not directly connected with a single district and there is circuitous route for travelling from one district to another through Assam. Almost all district headquarters and many sub-

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divisional headquarters have been connected by road. Road communication warrants urgency. Thus top priority has been given to the development of road communication and efforts are made to link the district headquarters and various administrative centres with the capital. Road length in Arunachal Pradesh per 1000 sq. kms. area comes 8.8 kms against the All India index of 48.90 percent (1978-79). The present target is to construct about 100 kms. of surfaced road and 150 kms of unsurfaced road per annum. The state transport department which commenced with a fleet of two buses in 1975, presently operates 83 buses on 42 routes, the fleet covering an average of 9100 kms. per day. There is no railway track so far available in the state. Transport in Arunachal Pradesh means only vehicular traffic.

The 750 M span bridge costing about 12 crores is to be constructed on river Siang on the NH-52 alignment at Pasighat. There are also proposals to construct bridge over river Lohit (near Parsuram Kund) and river Noa-Dihing (near Namsai) in the near future. A big boost has been received in recent past with introduction of Vayudut services to Ziro.

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49 Synopsis of Statehood submitted by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to the Government of India.

Pasighat, Along, Daporizo and Tezu. The government is trying for an early introduction of passenger helicopter service, which is under the aegis of the Helicopter corporation of India in the difficult and remote terrain of the state on subsidised rates.

Presently only four district headquarters Bomdila, Pasighat, Tezu and Khonsa have telephone links with the state capital. Establishment of telephone links with the remaining district headquarters is likely to be completed within 7th plan period.

Telecommunication links with the rest of the country have improved greatly with the setting up of satellite earth stations. Radio stations are already functioning at Itanagar, Pasighat, Tezu and Tauang and are to be upgraded in the 7th plan. Three low power TV transmitters have been set up at Itanagar, Pasighat and Tezu. The government has also plans to instal sixteen very low power TV transmitters at various district and sub-divisional headquarters during the 7th plan.

INDUSTRIES AND POWER:

Industrially the region is still backward, because of private entrepreneurship is almost absent. The pace of industrial development is slow. The territory has a rich heritage of arts and crafts. There are bright prospects for
forest based industry. More than 80% of industries established in the state are wood based and the total number of such industries are 90. Number of medium and small scale industries including saw mills, plywood and veneer mills, rice mills, fruit preservation units, oil expellers, besides handloom and handicraft industries have come up. There are 64 crafts centres and 1507 villages and small industries in 1986. The territory presently has 16 medium scale industries including a 30 TPW cement plant at Tezu\textsuperscript{51} a 5 TPP fruit processing factory at Nigmoi, an electronic unit assembling TV sets. Magnaphones and stereo and APIFDC. Another cement plant is likely to be set up at Hunli in Dibang valley during 7th plan and drilling of crude oil has been in progress in Khasang (Tirap). A paper mill with a capacity of 100 tonnes per day is also to be set up very soon. The industrial infrastructure has been strengthened with the setting up of industrial estates at Naharlagun, Pasighat and Deomali and ten more industrial estates are at different stages of construction. "The hydro-electric potential, if developed to its logical capacity, will transform the face of the land. If human efforts come to the aid of nature Arunachal can develop into a second

\textsuperscript{51}Ibid. p. 3.
Switzerland. Of the 76,000 MW total estimated hydro-electric potential in the country, 20,000 MW is in Arunachal Pradesh alone. The state of Arunachal Pradesh has already 23 micro-hydel installations generating 13 MWs of electricity another 10 schemes are at various stages of implementation, which would bring an additional capacity of about 9.5 MWs. Till today 500 villages are electrified out of 3257 villages. That is 25.33% (APL-1985) villages are electrified against all India Index of 64.88 percent. Thus the huge potential for hydel power generation has begun to be exploited in recent years.

EDUCATION:

There were two primary schools in Arunachal Pradesh in 1947 and the literacy rate was below one percent. Thus within a single generation from a nil base a literacy percentage of 11.22 had been achieved at the time of 1971 census. According to 1981 census it is 20.79 percent compared to the all India average of 36.23 percent literacy growth rate of

52 Shri Geogang Apang, Chief Minister, Government of Arunachal Pradesh - Speech on 2nd February 1987 at the time of the visit of Shri Venkta-Raman, the President of India at Pasighat.

53 Synopsis of statehood. op.cit.
Arunachal Pradesh is about 78 percent which is known to be the highest in India which indicates that the territory will be at All India figure by the end of 7th Plan. A Table showing Literacy in Arunachal Pradesh as follows:

**Table No. 11**

**Showing Total Literacy in Arunachal Pradesh**

*(Census 1981)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>% of literates to total persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>West Kameng</td>
<td>13277</td>
<td>9645</td>
<td>9632</td>
<td>20.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>East Kameng</td>
<td>3305</td>
<td>2707</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>7.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>L. Subansiri</td>
<td>21989</td>
<td>16693</td>
<td>5296</td>
<td>19.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>U. Subansiri</td>
<td>5082</td>
<td>4084</td>
<td>1028</td>
<td>12.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>West Siang</td>
<td>16639</td>
<td>11952</td>
<td>4737</td>
<td>22.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>East Siang</td>
<td>18344</td>
<td>13305</td>
<td>5039</td>
<td>26.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dibang Valley</td>
<td>8141</td>
<td>6477</td>
<td>1664</td>
<td>26.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Lohit</td>
<td>19640</td>
<td>14296</td>
<td>5345</td>
<td>28.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Tirap</td>
<td>24866</td>
<td>19083</td>
<td>5783</td>
<td>19.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arunachal Pradesh 131333 30211 33122 20.78

In the field of education 1,50,000 students are on rolls. The state has a university of its own, 4 colleges, 1 science and technology institution, 33 higher secondary schools, 51...
secondary schools, 211 middle schools, 1274 lower primary
and nursery schools. 55

The enhanced rates of stipends will be about the
highest available anywhere in the north east. Apart from
central schools, Navodaya vidyalayas, Ramakrishna Mission
schools are already in operation. The following Table shows
the figures of Literacy among scheduled tribes of Arunachal
Pradesh.

Table No. 12
Showing Literacy of Scheduled Tribes. 56
(Census 1981)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>% of literates to total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>West Kameng, and Tawang.</td>
<td>5293</td>
<td>3836</td>
<td>1457</td>
<td>9.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>East Kameng</td>
<td>1430</td>
<td>1238</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>L. Subansiri</td>
<td>9146</td>
<td>7097</td>
<td>2048</td>
<td>8.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>U. Subansiri</td>
<td>3286</td>
<td>2624</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>8.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>West Siang</td>
<td>11532</td>
<td>8309</td>
<td>3223</td>
<td>15.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>East Siang</td>
<td>11690</td>
<td>8190</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>16.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dibang Valley</td>
<td>3076</td>
<td>2228</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>9.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Lohit</td>
<td>7446</td>
<td>4563</td>
<td>1883</td>
<td>9.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Tirap</td>
<td>10024</td>
<td>7664</td>
<td>2360</td>
<td>7.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arunachal Pradesh 61922 45749 16173 9.70

55 Shri Geogang Apang, Speech on 2nd February 1987, op.cit.
In many respects the ratio of higher posts filled by Arunachalis to the total population has already surpassed the all India average. 57

POLITICO-ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT:

North East Frontier Agency, commonly known as NEFA was a part of the province of Assam till 1972. By the North Eastern States Reorganisation Act 1971, NEFA was reconstituted as a union territory under the name of Arunachal Pradesh. In 1987 Arunachal Pradesh was admitted as the 24th State of the Indian Union.

The Political and administrative history of Arunachal Pradesh began with the British penetration in North East Frontier areas started right from 1826, when the Burmese authorities renounced all claims upto Assam and her independencies. British took possession of Assam in 1938 from the East Ahom king. The Ahom king, who began to rule Assam in the 16th century, exercised some amount of political control over these frontier tribes. But the tribal lands were not fully absorbed within the Ahom kingdom.

The objectives of British rule in Assam and the north East were as follows -

(1) to protect the administered areas that is plains of

57 Sarin V.I.K : India's North East in Flames, op.cit. p. 173.
Assam from the raids and depredations of hill tribes and taking out occasional punitive expeditions against them. For this purpose the British devised an administrative demarcation called the "inner line". The areas beyond this line were known as frontier tracts.58

(2) to extend some kind of administrative control in view of defense of British empire in North East region. British apprehended future Burmese aggression and also could not rule out the possibility of Chinese advance into this frontier hills.59

(3) Inadequate knowledge of the north eastern tribes, topography of the region hostile nature of tribes etc. restrained the British from extending direct political control over the tribes.60

(4) British preferred the path of conciliation and persuasion to that of coercion in their effort to bring the northern hill tribes within the framework of the British administration in Assam.61


59 Chakravarty B.C. : British Relations with the hill tribes of Assam since 1858, Calcutta 1964, p. 22.


61 Ibid.
In 1911, the Government was faced with major issues of this frontier: (i) the murder of Neol Williamson, Assistant Political Officer and slaughter of his party at Komsing by Minyong tribesmen; (ii) sporadic Chinese incursions, at some points on the northern border and the threat posed by them. It therefore adopted the forward policy which it had rejected in 1906-1907. The government despatched a strong punitive force called the Abor Expedition in 1911 both to punish the persons involved in Williamson's murder and to utilise the opportunity to survey, explore and map as much of the north eastern frontier as possible. The maps prepared after this survey found a notable place in Simla tripartite (India, Tibet and China) conference of 1914, when MacMohan Line was drawn. A formal pattern of administration in this region began with the promulgation of a notification in 1914 by the foreign and political departments of the then Government of India. The notification provided that the Assam Frontier tracts Regulation of 1880, would be extended to the hills inhabited or frequented by Abors (old name for Adis), Miris, Mishmis, Singphos, Khamtis, Shutias, Akas and Dafles (old name of Nishis). That the hilly areas of north East Frontier of Bengal (mentioned above) were separated from

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63 Rahul Ram: The Himalayan Borderland op.cit. p. 50.
the Darrang and Lakhimpur districts of Assam and were made into separate tract and called "North East Frontier Tract" came into being. This tract might be considered as the nucleus of the territorial and jurisdictional pattern of present Arunachal Pradesh. It had three administrative units created by three separate notifications of the Government of India.64

(1) Central and Eastern section
(2) Lakhimpur frontier tract
(3) Western section.

In the year 1914 the first and third units were each placed under the charge of a political officer and the second unit under the Deputy Commissioner Lakhimpur district in addition to his own charge. The political officer of the central and eastern section had his headquarters at Sadiya. The political officer of the western section was located at Charduar.

In 1919, on the recommendation of Sir Beatson Bell, the then chief commissioner of Assam, the central and eastern section was renamed as the Sadiya Frontier Tract and western section as the Balipara Frontier Tract. The Lakhimpur Frontier Tract, however continued to be known as such. This position

was obtained till 1937, during which certain areas were either excluded from or included in, the so-called North East Frontier Tract. Government of India Acts 1919 and 1935 classified frontier areas as excluded and partially excluded areas outside the ministerial system eventually introduced in India. In 1937, the foregoing frontier tracts came to be known collectively as the excluded areas of the province of Assam under the provision of section 91(1) of the Government of India Act 1935, which was given effort to by the Government of India (Excluded and partially excluded areas) order of 1936. These excluded areas came under the direct charge of the Governor who administered them in his discretion under section 92 of the said Act, through the political officers and the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur.

In 1943 a new administrative unit named Tirap Frontier Tract was created taking out certain areas from the Lakhimpur Frontier Tract and the Sadiya Frontier Tract and placed under a separate political officer with headquarter at Margeherita in Assam. For administrative convinience the Balipara frontier was divided into

(1) Sela Sub Agency and

(2) Subansiri area in 1946

Subsequently by the north East frontier Tract (Internal) Regulation 1948, the remaining portion of the Sadiya Frontier
Tract was divided into two administrative units viz. (i) Abor hills district and (ii) Mishmi hill district with headquarters at Pasighat and Sadiya respectively. The headquarter of Mishmi hills was shifted to Tezu in August, 1952 and the headquarter of the Abor hills district was shifted to Along in February 1953. This internal arrangement made as such prevailed till 1954.

During transition period from 15th August 1947 to 26th January 1950, from provisional constitution finally adopted NEFA was administered as before. The constituent Assembly of India, appointed a sub-committee headed by Gopinath Bordoloi to recommend the future pattern administration of the hill of Assam and the Frontier Tracts. The Bordoloi committee had envisaged the gradual development of frontier tracts and their assimilation with the province of Assam. But the problem of communication in the frontiers highlighted by the earthquakes of 1950 and the problem of defence, caught the attention of Government of India. Therefore, (a) from January 26, 1950, the administration of NEFA hitherto known as "Excluded Areas" was retained in Assam was administered in a different way by the President of India through the Government of Assam, acting in his discretion under the supervision and control of the ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. For security reasons NEFA was placed directly under administration of the
Union Government in 1949. (b) The area had no representation in the Assam Legislature. The provisions of Article 240 of the new constitution of India was applied though the area was not a union territory. (c) In 1959, a new service cadre was created by Nehru, mainly recruiting personnel from Ex-Army men and were imparted special training to administer these frontiers effectively. The new cadre Indian Frontier Administrative Service (IFAS) was later amalgamated with the Indian Administrative Service and brought under the newly created cadre of union territories service. (d) A new post of Advisor for Tribal Affairs was created for helping the administration in tribal Affairs. Mr. Verrier Elwin, a noted scholar on Indian tribes, was appointed as the first Advisor for tribal Affairs.

In the year 1950, the plain portions of the Balipara Frontier Tract, Tirap Frontier Tract, Abor Hill district and Mishmi Hills district were transferred to the administrative jurisdiction of the Government of Assam. The aforesaid areas minus the transferred plain portions of the frontier tracts together with the Naga Tribal Areas were therefore collectively renamed as North East Frontier Agency - NEFA in 1954. NEFA was

65Panorama Year Book 1982, p. 673.


thus the name of an administrative unit rather than a proper name by which the area was known traditionally.

Moreover the units were re-constituted again and renamed Kameng, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit and Tirap frontier division after the name of the five rivers of Arunachal Pradesh. The Tuensang Frontier Division which was later merged with Nagaland in 1957 vide Naga Hills Tuensang Areas Act 1957 Act No. 42 of 1957. The NEFA consisting of five divisions after transfer of Tuensang Area, (viz. Naga Tribal Areas, comprised an area of 83578 sq. kms. This is the exact area of present Arunachal Pradesh. A chart showing the position of each tract alongwith division, and their headquarters is as follows -

(a) Balipara Frontier Tract, bifurcated into and renamed as:

(i) Kameng Frontier Division - HQ: Bomdila

(ii) Subansiri Frontier Division - HQ: Ziro

(b) Tirap Frontier Tract was renamed as

(i) Tirap Frontier Division - HQ: Khonsa

(c) Abor hills district was renamed as

(i) Siang Frontier Division - HQ: Along

(d) Mishmi hills district was renamed as

(i) Lohit Frontier Division - HQ: Tezu
(9) Naga Tribal Areas was renamed as -

(1) Tuensang Frontier Division - HQ : Tuensang,

NOTE : This was transferred to Nagaland.

The NEFA which was administered under Ministry of External Affairs was transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India, with effect from August 1, 1965. From September 1, 1965, the five frontier divisions became known as the five districts and there was no change of their Headquarters Administrative cadres were also enlarged and streamlined. Political Officers, Additional Political Officers, Assistant Political Officers I, Assistant Political Officers II, Base Superintendents were named as Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Extra Assistant Commissioner and circle officer.

On October 2, 1969, a four tier-territory, District, Block, village level Panchayat Raj system was introduced on the recommendations of Dying Ering Committee, which initiated the systematic process of democratic decentralisation.

NEFA acquired an independence political status of union territory with a new name - Arunachal Pradesh in 1972. NEFA was part of Assam State until January 21, 1972 and was administered by President of India through the Governor of Assam acting as his agent under the provision of part B of
the 6th schedule of constitution. The 37th constitution amendment, passed by Parliament provided an elected 30-member Legislative Assembly with the chief Minister and a cabinet to assist the Lieutenant Governor. This Act also made provision for two elected MPs from Arunachal Pradesh in the house of people. Therefore, on August 15, 1975, the Pradesh Council - an agency of Panchayat Raj was converted into provisional legislative Assembly and the rank of chief commissioner of the union territory was redesignated as lieutenant Governor. In the same year Itanagar in Subansiri district was made capital of Arunachal Pradesh and the secretariat of Arunachal Pradesh situated in Shillong till 1974 started shifting at this new capital.

Till May 1980, Arunachal consisted of five districts under the Arunachal Pradesh Reorganisation of districts Act 1980, four new districts were formed by dividing the areas of Kameng, Subansiri, Siang and Lohit districts. In 1984, a new district Tawang carved out of old Kameng district and further in 1987, out of Tirap district, which was remaining unaffected by now, was reorganised. A new district Changlang was created. The position of present 11 districts of Arunachal Pradesh can be well understood by the following table.
Table No. 13

Showing the position of present districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Districts</th>
<th>New Districts</th>
<th>District Head-Quarters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Kameng</td>
<td>1. Tawang</td>
<td>Tawang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. West Kameng</td>
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<td>3. East Kameng</td>
<td>Seppa</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Subansiri</td>
<td>4. Lower Subansiri</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5. Upper Subansiri</td>
<td>Daporijo</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Siang</td>
<td>6. West Siang</td>
<td>Along</td>
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<td>Pasighat</td>
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<td>4. Lohit</td>
<td>8. Dibang Valley</td>
<td>Annini</td>
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<td>9. Lohit</td>
<td>Tezu</td>
</tr>
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<td>5. Tirap</td>
<td>10. Tirap</td>
<td>Khonsa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11. Changlang</td>
<td>Changlang</td>
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</table>

On February 20, 1967, the union territory of Arunachal Pradesh was elevated to the position of statehood with a 40 member legislative Assembly. The strength of Legislative Assembly was raised to 60 in September 1968.

Thus in the last 40 years since Independence, Arunachal Pradesh has experienced fast changing constitutional and political developments. It would not be an aggregation to say that the people of Arunachal have traversed many centuries within the span of a few decades.