

**DRUG TRAFFICKING IN NORTHEAST INDIA: A CASE  
STUDY OF NAGALAND.**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the  
School of Arts and Languages**

**In Partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award for the degree**

**Of**

**Masters of Arts in Political Science**

**Under the guidance of**

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## DECLARATION

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I do hereby declare that the dissertation entitled “**DRUG TRAFFICKING IN NORTHEAST INDIA: A CASE STUDY OF NAGALAND**”, an analytical study submitted for M.A political science degree is entirely my original work and all ideas and references have been duly acknowledged. It does not contain any work that has been submitted for the award of any other degree or diploma from any other university.

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Miss Y Mhalo Kithan

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## CERTIFICATE

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This is to certify that Y Mhalo Kithan has completed her dissertation “**Drug trafficking in North-East India: A Case Study of Nagaland**” under my guidance and supervision. To the best of my knowledge, the present work is the result of her original investigation and study. No part of dissertation has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.

**Date: - .....**

Muhmina Mumthaz Jahan T  
Assistant professor  
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## Abstract

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Nagaland is a small state in the northeastern parts of India, covered by an area of 16579 sq kms, it is an ethnic region comprised of 16 official tribes and other sub tribes. The people of Nagaland mostly depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In Nagaland one of the main problems the community is facing is alcohol addiction and the state being a Christian dominated state this is taken as a serious issue. But we see in recent years this problem is added on by another problem that is drug addiction. Drugs was used since ancient times for medicines and other useful activities but today there is a boom in the abuse of drugs in the state. This problem is often related to the golden triangle and the drugs that come in from it, in this study we will various policies and laws regarding drug trafficking as well as narcotic abuse. There are also numerous organizations and groups set up to keep vigil on this rising issue. There is total prohibition of alcohol in the state of Nagaland but this has not deterred the people from not using it nor has it put an end to the suppliers. The youths are the targeted groups that easily get swept away by modern technology and other factors. The insurgent groups in Nagaland and Manipur also play a major role in the trafficking of drugs into the state, they make links with the law and the drug lords which at times make it hard for the police to catch the miscreants in the act. There are also certain routes that are completely under the control of the militant outfits that makes it easier for the drug peddlers to pass through these routes are also completely cut off from the police and border security forces. The Northeast states are working towards eradicating this issue and many initiatives and policies have also sprung up. There are certain villages that depend completely on the cultivation of poppy plants as the government does not provide funds and the state has no option but to follow this path. This has also lead to serious speculations from the government and every possible way to curb this problem is being looked into.

**Key Words: Drug Trafficking, Drug Peddlers, Insurgent Groups, Narcotic Abuse, North East**

# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

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Drug trafficking is not confined to a single place alone; it is a global illicit crime that takes place every now and then. It involves distributing, manufacturing, cultivating or producing substances that are termed as illegal or banned by law. Global law enforcement is trying to monitor and closely keep watch over the illegal drug trafficking. They are also researching international criminal drug markets so as to get better perception of their operation.

Today in the present scenario, heroin consumed all over the world amounts to approximately 340 tons and drugs seized symbolize a yearly surge of 430-450 loads of heroin into the worldwide heroin market. Of all that the total sum of opium from Myanmar and the “Lao People's Democratic Republic” yields some 50 tons, while the other parts amounts to, some 380 tons of heroin and morphine and is manufactured entirely from Afghan opium. While roughly 5 tons are taken in and caught in Afghanistan, the rest of the 375 tons is smuggled globally through paths coming into and passing through the countries bordering Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup>

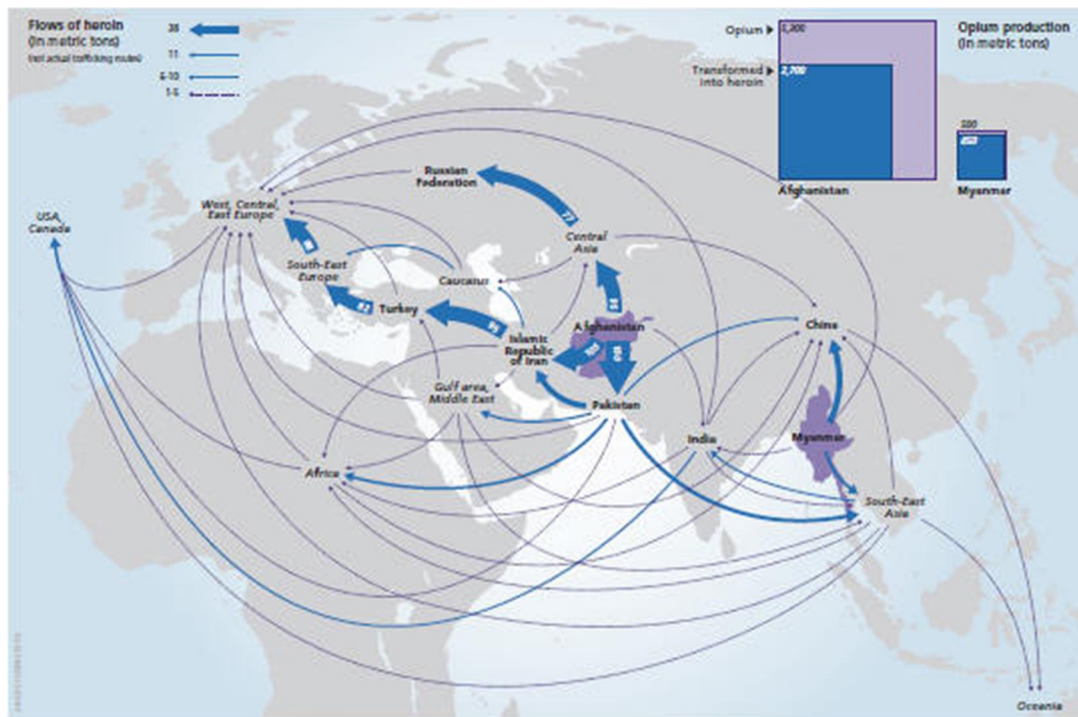
Some of the main heroin trafficking paths linking Afghanistan to the rest of the world are the Balkan and the northern routes. These routes are connected all through Pakistan, the Russian federation, Iran, turkey, Greece and through the whole of southern Europe. These illicit drugs that are trafficked through these routes are estimated to be around 20 billion in US dollars.

Given below is a map of the drug trade routes around the world from the Asian origin. This map pin points strategic spots as to where the drugs are trafficked and to which destination it reaches. Drug trafficking although it is illegal and has many linking chaos and multiple criminal consequences, has not stopped the producers from producing or from abusing it. This map also gives the routes of drugs coming in and out of the country.

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<sup>1</sup> Author anonymous “Drug Trafficking” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, URL: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-trafficking/> (accessed on 24 April 2017).

Today the most common group of people affected by drug trafficking are the teenagers or the younger generation. There are drug peddlers that often influence the younger generation by luring them into trying hashish or marijuana and then hooking them up, which gives rise to their lucrative trade. This can also be termed as indirect drug trafficking using people to create chains of abusing various drugs.



Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime World Drug Report.

In the year 2008, the global heroin caught from different sources reached a documenting high level of 73.7 metric per tons. Bulk of the heroin was caught near the Middle East and South-West Asia accounting to 39 per cent of the global seizures, in South-East Europe also there was 24 per cent seizures and Western and Central Europe amounted for 10 per cent. The worldwide swell in heroin seizures from 2006-2008 was motivated largely by continual growing seizures in the “Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey”. In 2008, these two nations were held for more than half of the international heroin caught and registered, this accounted for the highest and second highest seizures globally for three consecutive years.

In the year 2007 and 2008, cocaine was found to be abused by 16 to 17 million public globally, this number is analogous to the figure of international opiate abusers. In North



America it recorded the use of more than 40 per cent of the international cocaine utilization where the sum was predictable at around 470 tons, on the other hand the 27 “European Union” and four “European Free Trade Association” nations recorded for more than a quarter of total consumption. These two regions account for more than 80 per cent of the total value of the global cocaine market, which was estimated at \$88 billion in 2008<sup>2</sup>

Drug trafficking is most commonly referred to as a serious crime by governments and law makers and the penalties associated with it are quite severe, that is depending upon the drugs involved, it also depends upon the country and the kind of laws they have enforced. The quantity of the drug as well as the type of the drug involved also play major role.

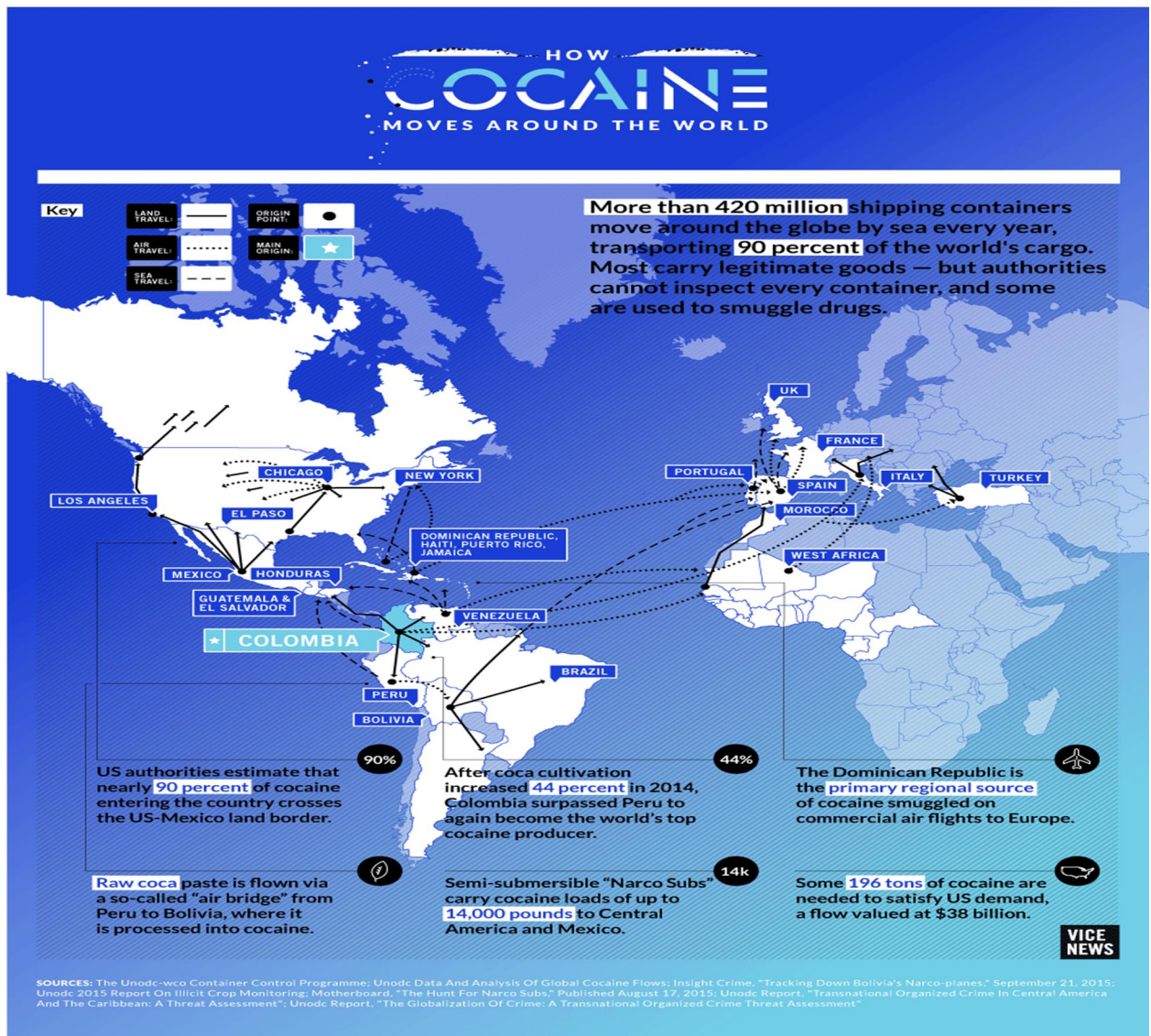
The abuse of drugs and passing it from one continent to another has many effects on the individual and the country. For an individual who abuses drugs or is involved in drug trafficking often gets into trouble with the law or with their superiors when they fail to carry out their assigned task and keeping in mind the severity of these drug lords and the law makers they often run away from the country seeking asylum from some other country. For the country when too many illegal immigrants gain access into their territory their economy as well as the security of the nation is put at stake.

The map below gives a drug trade route that was issued by the crime and drugs department. This map mainly focuses on the trade and smuggling of cocaine around the world. This smuggling of drugs mostly takes place in the sea and the sea route is preferred as the safest routes. Here the straight lines signify the land travels, where the cargo is taken through lane, the dotted lines signify air travels and how these illegal drugs are smuggled from destination to destination, the long dashes spots the sea travels which routes the ships or submarines, or boats take to carry the drugs, the black dot signifies the place of origin that is from where the drugs are supplied, from the place of origin we have the republic of Jamaica, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Los Angeles, new York, west

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

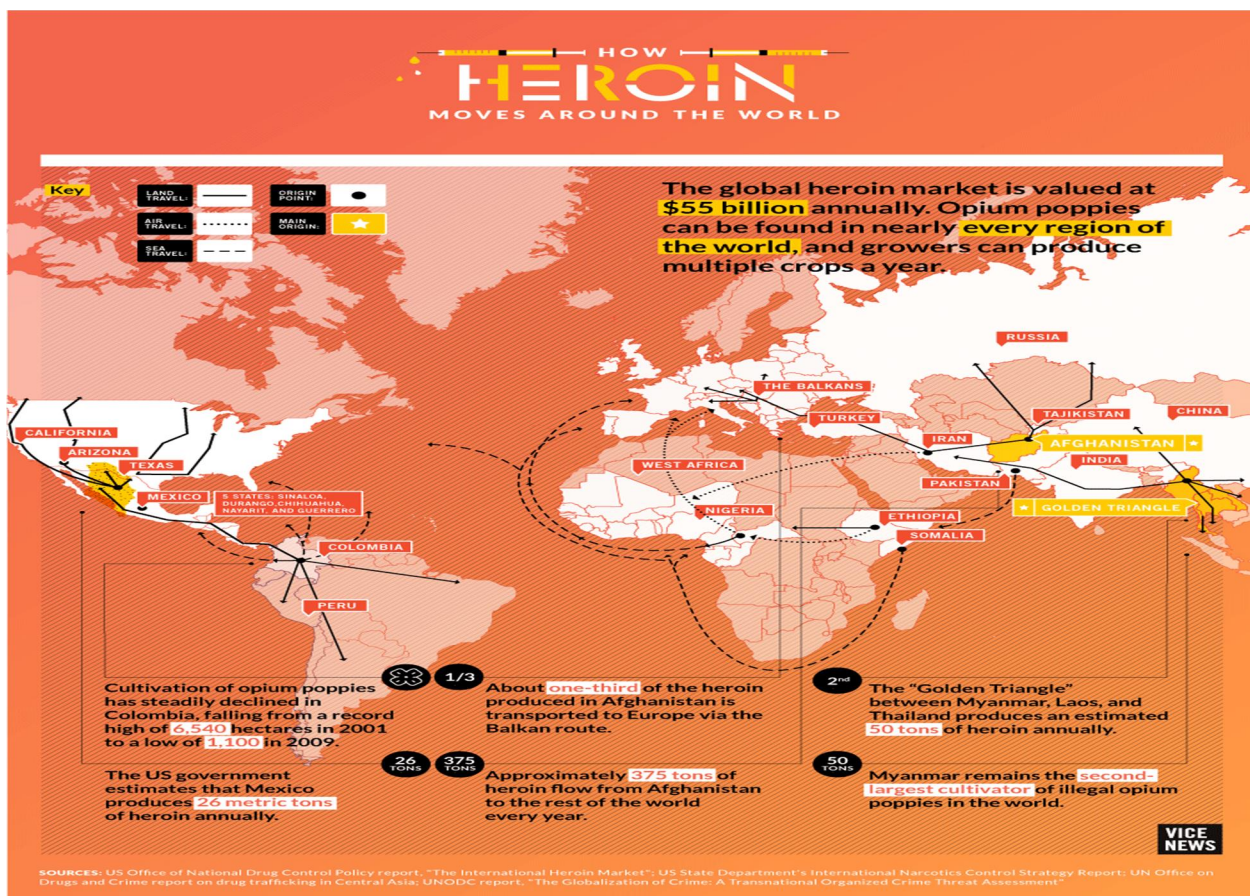
Africa, Spain, Brazil etc. however we will see in the map that the main point of origin that supplies to all other points is Colombia, which is marked with a star.



Source: Data and analysis of global cocaine flow, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The map below further gives another drug trade route that was issued by the crime and drugs department. This map mainly focuses on the trade and smuggling of heroin around the world. This smuggling of drugs mostly takes place in the sea and the sea route is

preferred as the safest way for carrying these drugs. Here the origin points are Somalia, California, Ethiopia, Mexico etc. These countries are some of the main origin points from where heroin is passed to different parts of the world. The main source of origin is Afghanistan, which has its own route known as the “Balkan route”. Afghanistan produces mostly the entire heroin consumed in Europe and Middle East and its net worth is said to be at \$55 billion US dollars and it is estimated to be producing 375 tons of drugs every year.<sup>3</sup>



.Source: The International Heroin Market, US office of National Drug Control Report

<sup>3</sup> Hamilton, Keegan, “The Golden Age of Drug Trafficking: How Meth Cocaine and Heroin Move Around the World,” *ViceNews*, April 2016 URL; <https://news.vice.com/article/drug-trafficking-meth-cocaine-heroin-global-drug-smuggling> (accessed on 20 April 2017)



Substance misuse and obsession can be productively fought when efficient drug treatment programs and drug prevention programs exist. It is also necessary for us to see that we truly benefit from these programs and that the results are positive.

### **Research Methodology**

Research methodology refers to the method applied for conducting research. It is a method used to collect the data and information for the purpose of research. It includes both primary and secondary method.

This research includes only secondary data for the purpose of study. Secondary methods have been used. Books and internet were the major source through which data is collected. Journals, newspapers and magazine have also been used to collect the data.

### **Scope of the Study**

There is much scope in this paper as drug trafficking and drug abuse is becoming a major issue both in the developed and developing world. Despite policies and laws implemented to curb the ever increasing problem there seems to be no end to it, instead today drug abuse and drug trafficking is becoming a major concern. Militant and insurgent groups also fund themselves from drug trafficking.

For a small state like Nagaland it is even more easier for smuggling of this drugs due to its porous borders and close proximity to the golden triangle and also because the use of drugs is becoming common among youths, this is either because of societal pressure or to get an immediate high and also the need to be identified wherein a youth tries a small amount of drug and before long one thing leads to another and the youth is hooked and as such we can see how research on this paper is important and also its various scope of studies.

### **Objectives of the study**

- ❖ To know the nature and extent of drug trafficking.
- ❖ To study the various legislation of Drug Trafficking.
- ❖ To know the various types of Drug Trafficking in Nagaland.

- ❖ To study the impact of drugs on people and the state.
- ❖ To study policies implemented by the government for drug abuse and drug trafficking of Nagaland.
- ❖ To know the prevention of Drug Trafficking Problems in Nagaland.

## Chapter 2

### POLITICAL HISTORY OF NAGALAND

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The North-Eastern states of India when you travel through it you will find that though they are Indians they are quite different from the mainland Indians, from their distinguished looks to their cuisine and their culture. This fact will also tell us how these North-Eastern states are treated or looked upon as different from the rest of the Indian subcontinent. The population of Nagaland is approximately 4 million filled with indigenous people that covers the now present Nagaland state. The Nagas also inhabit certain areas in Burma, specifically seven towns known as Mowlick, Homelin, Laishi, Lahe, Tamu, Hkamti and Namyung, these towns fall under the Sagaing division. Another town under the Kachin state commonly known as the Tanai Township is considered as the Naga Hills District.

The Nagas used to have independent villages like the ancient city states of the Greek, until parts of the Naga lands were first invaded by the British in 1832, to which the Nagas responded with fierce agitation for 47 long years. However again in 1879, parts of the Naga hills were captured by the British although major parts remained unadministered and free from the rule of the British and they were controlled by the Nagas themselves.

A written statement was first submitted to the Simon commission on January 10, 1929 in which the Nagas demanded that they be left alone without any interference from foreign rule. They wanted their lands to be free from captivity and rule on their own as in the ancient times before the British invaded them.

However the Nagas soon realized the cruel reality that after the British left, they were again to be under the control of the newly independent India. Therefore, before India declared her independence on August 15, 1947, the Nagas declared itself a sovereign state on August 14, 1947. This was a sort of message that they did not want to be under the control of any foreign government, they thus cabled their newly declared independence to the United Nations organization.

The Naga independence was short lived, when the Indian government decided to make it a part of the Indian union as it felt that Nagaland was an infant state and that it was too poor and small to run their own government and make laws. This led to the signing of the National Plebiscite on May 16, 1951 with India, where the Nagas refused to be under the Indian government. This was signed under the guidance and leadership of the Naga National Council (NNC), where 99.9% voted for independent Nagaland.

The Nagas further demonstrated their autonomy completely boycotting the general elections of 1952 that took place all over India. This election was imposed by the Indian government but the nagas refused to take part in it saying Nagaland was not a part of India. And they continued to make laws and govern themselves following the customary laws of the ancient times, adhering their beliefs to peace and non-violence.

In 1953, India started sending thousands of armies to captivate the Nagas, following the refusal of the Nagas to be a part of the Indian union. The Indians responded to this autonomy demand by trying to crush the Nagas, giving it a tag as “Rebellious Nagas”. By 1956, thousands of armies had been deployed to the Naga Hills. And as though this colonization was not enough, the most draconian law was imposed on 1958 known as the “Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)”. This gave unlimited power to the Indian armies to kill and shoot any Naga that looked like a threat or was suspected of conspiring against the Indian Government. They were also given unlimited power to search and seize without warrant.

This special power brought atrocities and barbaric treatments were meted out to the Nagas and the armies in question were not held responsible in any way. The full details of these uneventful times can be read in the book “The Naga Saga” written by Kaka D Iralu. It must also be noted that many Naga villages were burnt down in an attempt by the Indian army to cut off all sources of food and shelter.

As a result of this, guerilla fighting groups started emerging among the Nagas, that came together to fight against the cruelty inflicted upon them. These groups usually hid in jungles and later came to be termed as the freedom fighters of Nagaland. During this

phase more than 200,000 Nagas lost their lives, many women were mercilessly raped and severe atrocities were caused.

Before the AFSPA act was enacted Nagaland was a district under the Assam state where they were under the “Assam Maintenance of Public Order (autonomous district) Acts of 1953”, this act restricted congregation of five persons or more, and afterwards the Nagaland legislative assembly passed the “Unlawful Activities Act in 1972, when the state was moved from the external affairs ministry to the ministry of home. And when Indira Gandhi imposed emergency rule in the whole of India in 1975 to 1977 many Naga politicians, both underground and above ground, youth leaders were arrested like wildfire and jailed in different parts of India. It was also during the emergency period that the shilling accord was signed by the underground organization on November 11, 1975.

After all the hardships and various peace talks held amid the Government of India and the Naga National Council from 1968-1997 and around 70 rounds of peace talks held in different parts of the world the Government of India finally documented the distinct past and circumstances of the Nagas. The purpose of holding the various peace interactions in different parts of the world was in view of the need for a neutral environment so that the question of national identity is not confused.

The government of Nagaland was created in 1964 with P Shilo Ao as the first chief minister of Nagaland. The major political parties in Nagaland are Naga People’s Front, Bhatia Janata Party and Janata Dal (secular) and Naga National Democratic Party. With the congress being the first political party in Nagaland, We can see how the structure of government has evolved over the years.

Before any political party came into being the Nagas were ruled by their village chiefs who administer the villages according to their customary laws and regulations and punishments and actions were also taken according to it. The Nagas were also head hunters before the British missionaries brought Christianity into the state. The Ahoms that reportedly came to Nagaland in the early 1228 A.D were the first known rulers of Nagaland. It is said that the Ahom kings treated the Nagas very barbarously but later



when they settled in parts of Assam, they found that they had similar eating habits and ethnic cultures and soon formed bonds of mutual understanding between them.

When the British first came to Nagaland in 1832, they had no intention of conquering Nagaland, they rather had to cross through the Naga Hills to have trade relations with Assam but when the Nagas started raiding the British troops they had no option but to invade parts of Nagaland so as to safeguard themselves as well as the Nagas. Their invasion brought drastic socio-economic changes, their polity and development was also greatly enhanced. Their head hunting customs were also brought to an end.

When the British invaded Nagaland they had the policy of non-intrusion in matters of the Nagas but when the Nagas continued raiding them and when 232 British subjects were killed, wounded or carried off they had no option but to invade Nagaland so as to maintain peace between them. After which the British established the Naga Hills district in 1866 with Chumukedima then known as Samaguting as the deputy commissioner's headquarters, which was later moved to Wokha in 1875 and again later to Kohima in 1878, the present capital of Nagaland.

The Naga leaders in ancient times were not elected or appointed; rather it was a hereditary process where the son succeeded the father. And these leaders were entrusted with the task of looking after the villages and their word was the law and it was binding on all. It could not be objected nor questioned. It was a very transparent and inflexible process.

The Nagas are often referred to as animistic with a varied pattern of near-dictatorship and extreme democracy with a vaguely imagined supreme being and many other ghosts, gods and also the believe in the afterlife. Each Naga tribe has its own identity in terms of language, culture, and geography although they all belong to the same race.

The Naga culture mainly revolves around agriculture with terrace field cultivation or jhum cultivation. This agricultural practice has been going on since the ancient times. And the various Naga tribes also host feast when it's time for harvest or after the harvest. Each tribe has different ways of celebrating it.

The coming of British to the Naga changed the whole of the Naga society, while it brought political, economic, and social changes it also left untold miseries that can never be erased. This brought out a feeling of common identity among the Nagas when they came together to fend off the British for 50 long years.

The British felt the need to establish a central governing system to look after the whole of the Naga society and as such they formed the Dobashis, the Goanburas, and district administrators, which in turn led to major changes. The British although they were forming this local self-governance, they felt the need so as not to disturb the traditional system of governance while bringing the whole system into the colonial political framework. Thus the independence of the Naga village state slowly disappeared.

The British introduced the Nagas to education through the first missionaries that came to Nagaland; they also introduced the Roman script and tried to expose the Nagas to the outside world as much as possible. However there were some traditions and cultures that the British termed pagan and evil and tried to stop its practice, today some Naga youths are feeling the need to revive their lost cultures and traditions.

Before the introduction of money the Nagas lived in equality where there was no class distinction or difference between the rich and the poor, where the rich shared their wealth with the poor but with the introduction of money the wealth difference was greatly seen. And moreover with the Nagas fighting for sovereignty, they did not accept the funds coming in from Delhi and treated it as though it were foreign. This further led to more inflation and gap between the rich and the poor.

This was made worst when as the Nagas were coming to terms with the use of money over bartering things for food, the Second World War started while leaving the Nagas limp economically and politically. The Nagas had to face another war before the first had ended. And after the war when India gained independence and when her troops were sent to Nagaland, the underground movement started with many Nagas giving up their lives.

All these drastic changes in the lives of the Nagas that opened new horizons of thought, speech and action led to identity crisis which they had never felt before. The Nagas were torn between the British and the Indians and their own traditional roots. The Naga society

has also been too much affected with the changes that they have no chance of digesting this changes or gathering what is happening around them. This has made them incoherent and affected their ability of choice to make decisions for them.

As a result of these the Nagas were unsure of themselves and after the subjugation from the British they again had to go through the rigorous fights with the government of India as they felt the need to prove themselves over any supreme and powerful rule. This made them even more traditionally united and strong and gave them the feeling to safeguard their identity and nation.

This cause for a common Naga identity was the only thing left for them and the insurgents continued their blood wars and with the Indian army insignificantly trying to force and control the Naga conflict without caring for the people only made the Nagas more enraged and urged them to further fight for their right and land. However today with better understanding between the Indian government and the Naga army there has been several cease fire agreements and negotiations that has paved the way for better cooperation between the two sides and the problem is no longer a simple proposition. In the mean time all these changes also introduced many new innovations.

Technological advancement also took place around the 1960s when the radio was first introduced followed by newspaper and then computers and television. Today the Naga society has developed so much that we are talking about e-governance and globalization. Various cultures are making their way into the Naga society. It can be even safe to say that the Nagas are now deeply intertwined with the western culture, their food, their way of living, their music and cultures etc, the very thing that our forefathers fought against for 50 long years. It is an irony if you look into the genesis of it and the repercussions thereafter.

The Naga society has gone through a transitional change from rural traditional to urban city. The Nagas have also accepted the administration of the Indian government and they now work in sync with each other providing services and funds for the required. The political reorganization that the British had started gained its affirmation after the Indian

independence. This generated nontraditional modes of achievement which given able exposure to the Nagas about the outside world.

The “Nagaland People's Front” had only one seat in the only Lok Sabha allotted to the state, which they won beating foremost Congress and Trinamool Congress oppositions. It can also be viewed as a support for Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio's “Eastern Nagaland Policy” the people who were free to vote gave weight to the administration of the regional party when voting for its delegate from the state. However the independent process is not all that good in Nagaland, where the village councils and other local bodies bend their muscles to ensure votes go to candidates of their choice.

### **Drug Trafficking**

The golden triangle and golden crescent in the last few decades have become the major point of heroin and hashish produced in the world this production is so high that this place has gained world recognition. Some other locally made pharmaceutical and psychotropic drugs are also smuggled around the world. Developing as well as developed countries are struggling to deal with the issue of illicit drug produced and trafficked in trans-nations.

It is impossible to access the extent of drug trafficking as it is a stealthy activity. Drugs that are seized everyday in huge and small consignments by the authorities and the narcotics department throw light on the alarming increase in drug abuse and drug trafficking. With India accounting for a major section of the world's seizures these can be related to the close immediacy to Southeast Asia. Air and sea linkages that are unconstrained and linked to other countries also make India exposed to drug trafficking. The use of opium and narcotic drugs in India can be closely associated with policy referencing.

India is a country with well over half the world's population, and in countries such as this where licit and illicit drugs are produced and supplied by the minute, it is impossible to keep track of the amounting crimes associated with it as well as the escalating increase in the trafficking of drugs. In many parts of the country especially in parts where development is scarce there is increase in health issues, with people sharing needles and

having unsafe sex, this problem has become a major concern for the government and the country.

India is also facing challenges of national security and economic safety, drug traffickers, militant groups, and criminals have created a bond so strong that their link is posing a threat to India, the revenue generated from drug trafficking is also found to be funding militant groups and insurgencies. Many militant groups are associated with funding their operations through drug trade, some of which has been reported are the militant outfits in Jammu and Kashmir, the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM) and the Sikh militancy in Punjab. Opium, Ganja, bhang, and marijuana were traditionally used in festivities and for religious purposes. However today it has led to an increase in the abuse of this drugs, people have also evolved to using pharmaceutical drugs that has added catalyst to this rising issue.

Earlier when people used it traditionally it did not create much of an issue as it was only used for medicinal purposes and in festivities but today there is a rising increase in its abuse. The use of synthetic and medicinal drugs in recent years have added dimension to the use and trafficking of drugs. When you look at the global pattern of smuggling drugs we will find that synthetic and local made drugs travel quickly and quite easily, however cocaine and heroin travel the longest and farthest. Some drugs of psychotropic substances like Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS), travel the shortest distance. When these drugs are trafficked the country's borders are first point of contact and this is because drugs are carried through land using various modes of transportation.

A bill known as the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Bill, 1985 which was presented in the Lok Sabha on 23 August 1985, was approved by both the Houses of Parliament and it was presided by the President on 16 September 1985. It came into effect on 14 November 1985 as the "Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985", NDPS Act. Under this Act, an individual is lawfully liable to be punished if

he/she is caught possessing selling, carrying or involves in abuse of psychotropic and pharmaceutical drugs.<sup>4</sup>

One of the needs of the act namely the Narcotics Control Bureau came to be achieved from March 1986. The Act is proposed to fulfil India's agreement and duties under the Psychotropic Substances act, and This Act has been changed three times first in 1988, second in 2001, and most recently in 2014. This act covers the whole of India both aircraft and ships and the laws and policies of this act applies to the whole of India.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Author anonymous "Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act URL; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcotic\\_Drugs\\_and\\_Psychotropic\\_Substances\\_Act,\\_1985](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narcotic_Drugs_and_Psychotropic_Substances_Act,_1985)( accessed on 22 April 2017)

<sup>5</sup> ibid

## Chapter 3

### DRUG TRAFFICKING IN NAGALAND

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Drug hazard in Nagaland boomed as a huge societal wickedness in the early 1980s a period when increasing drug practice amid the Naga youth became shockingly obvious. Along with the abuse of sedative drugs in the state, drug trafficking also emerged as a major alarm for the law enforcement agencies as well as the common public. Due to its close immediacy to the Golden Triangle Nagaland is mainly used as a carrier route by drug traffickers. Law enforcement agencies in Nagaland gave the news that a major part of the different opium based derivatives like ganja, heroin, brown sugar, opium etc entering the state from Manipur and Myanmar state is most often meant for locations other than our state, mainly towards Assam, Bihar and Tamil Nadu and only a small amount of the total drugs circulates in the state.

There is also the issue of pharmaceutical drugs that are not prescribed being sold openly in pharmacies and clinics, this drugs are sold by the bulk in the state, prescription drugs like morphine, Spasmoproxyvon, Relipen, Diazepam, Phynsedel etc that are banned in the state are being trafficked to Nagaland, mostly from Assam and is widely circulated among drug abusers in Nagaland.

The main entry point of narcotic drugs to Nagaland is from Manipur state through National Highway 39. A substantial quantity also enters Nagaland through the districts on the porous frontier with Myanmar. It is evident that the border districts of Nagaland are primarily exposed to drug trafficking. Many of the places along the districts neighboring Myanmar do not have good roads that link them to other states and thus the routes used are often foot tracks in intricate landscapes.<sup>6</sup>

This however does not stop drug trafficking from putting an end to their lucrative activity and instead when the authorities are made aware of their routes and the paths they take,

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<sup>6</sup>India post “Drug Trafficking in Nagaland” *The India Post*, URL;  
<http://www.theindiapost.com/nation/nagaland/drug-trafficking-in-nagaland/>( accessed on 22 April 2017)

they form new routes to continue on. This illicit activity has major affects on the social and economic aspects of the state. Politically this issue arises many questions as to the initiatives taken by the authorities in order to curb the problem of drug trafficking or what procedures are being taken to keep this crisis under control and the penalties or punishments interrelated to this crime.

Narcotic drugs like heroin which can fetch high amounts even though the quantity is less are often carried by foot through this complex landscapes and then carried on towards other destinations through other means of transportation that have good road connectivity.

The issue of Controlling drug trafficking should not be concerned with the law enforcing agencies only. Individuals should also take up steps to look into one of the most society destroying problem as their own and come up with solutions to tackle it at the earliest before the state losses more of its assets to death and un restrainable drug trafficking.<sup>7</sup>

A multi-sectoral move concerning the police, NGOs, village councils, students' bodies, church and other civil societies should join hands and battle the drugs threat before it is too late. It is a well known fact commonly used cough syrups and some other drugs are sold in some pharmacies, even without doctor's prescription. This is a serious crime in itself, but we see today no action is being taken against these issues. And these drugs may seem small and ineffective but when you look at it in a broader sense of view you will find that these drugs have more lasting and adverse effects than the high end drugs that are being sold in the market for higher value.

The obsession on drugs and alcohol is progressively bringing down the state of Nagaland, primarily its youths. The use of drugs is not only confined to the male sections of the society but with the female counterparts as well, lately drug addiction and alcoholism is increasingly becoming more and more prevalent among the students who are continuously falling prey to this covert activity. The major sections of the students mainly use drugs for enjoyment and also because they want to feel closer to their peers. Students

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<sup>7</sup> India post "Nagaland and drug trafficking" URL;  
<http://www.theindiapost.com/nation/nagaland/drug-trafficking-in-nagaland/> (accessed on 23 April 2017)



in the north-eastern region are not aware of the drastic effects or the harmful effects of substance use.

The students using drugs and other narcotic substances may not always have wanted to use it their use may be started because of class differences. If for example if a student from an affluent family takes a drug, the one belonging to the middle class may be enticed and encouraged to use it as well. Unemployment, poverty, frustration, etc. are also some of the main reasons for taking drugs and alcohol during youth since they feel that it can ward off tensions and worries.

The condition in North-eastern states of India, particularly in Manipur and Nagaland, is very alarming. A recent newspaper took survey of two North-Eastern villages namely Manipur and Nagaland in which it was found that a huge part of the state was under the influence of alcohol and drugs, this group of people comprised of the age group from 15 years to 75 years of age. We will see that the younger age was more into the influence of alcohol and many youths are battling addiction today, this is a very sensitive piece of news as students and teenagers abusing alcohol should not be making headlines in the first place. It was also found that more than 10 crore bottles of country made liquor and 2 crores of beer were consumed in just one year in these two states. This information is seemingly alarming as you will see that it is a huge quantity to be consumed by these two small states.

It is mainly affecting people in the age group of 15 to 30 years. However, the teenagers are most prone to it. Some of the main reasons can be associated with unemployment, peer pressure, financial problems and the lack of society to curb this issue. It has also been found that there are many hidden female drug users in the state, the number of female drug users in the state is often kept under cover keeping in mind the psychological and emotional effects it have on them. The increase in petty crimes as well as major crimes are increasing in the state and if you study this problem you will find that this is all due to drug addiction and alcoholism, there is increase in rape, robbery, mugging, and murder.

The North-Eastern state keeping in mind that it is a dry state as in total prohibition of alcohol; there is increase in the number of the abuse of alcohol so the state has confirmed that the ban on alcohol will go on and that they will continue taking measures to tackle this issue. As a result of the abuse of these two substances there is increase in HIV/AIDS as well because people fail to have safe sex under the influence and they also share needles among each other either because they are unable to pay for it or because they are less concerned about the repercussions it could have on their health. This has in turn affected the social and economic status of the society leaving very little or few to be done by the state.

The governments as well as the states should take care of this rising issue and take up initiatives to encourage the youth towards better lives as well as to encourage them to give up this ugly habit that is degrading the society as well as themselves. People in the North- Eastern states should not only depend on the law enforcers to take action but should take this issue personally so that more and more can be done. In this way many lives will be saved and the states can develop as a whole.

We should also see that drugs were traditionally used in ancient times as medicines and it cured many ailments. It was also used during celebrations as a form of merry making. These drugs were traditionally made and had very little effects on the body but today with advancement we see that other pharmaceutical as well as synthetic drugs are also available in the market that have adverse as well as long term effects on the society and individual. If we deeply study this issue we will find that globalization and technology has major roles to play as well. Earlier there was no transportation so availability of this drugs were also few but today the networking has become so vast and fast that these drugs are available in any parts of this north- eastern states. Traditional values should also be kept into consideration but at the same time its escalating usage should also be kept in check.

The illicit opiates operation is one of the central explanations behind the diligence of insurrections in the North-east. Sedate trafficking is one of the significant issues financing the rebellions in the North Eastern states. The relationship between arms, medications and rebellion relies on upon three between related components. Firstly to

fight against the government they needed arms and money and so poorly trained policeman or village guards are often the victims of such raids and which also leads to increase in the number of murder cases, and as they become more frequent and organized they attack bigger places like abandoned post offices, police check gates etc, often in collusion with fraudulent and compassionate policemen.

Furthermore as the war between these insurgents and the state rages on the guerilla fighting groups require more sophisticated weapons and as such there is increase in robbery and other such crimes, during this times the groups are fiercely in need of funds which they try to source out from unsuspecting people and poor villagers. They exploit the people for war of drugs and alcohol, they extort from people forcefully who have no choice but to give them what they want for fear of family and life.<sup>8</sup>

Northeastern states did not produce any narcotic drugs in ancient times whatever little was available came from the outside; these states started producing their own narcotic drugs after the Indian independence. Unlike other insurgent groups in other states who take drugs as a form of generating funds, the insurgent groups in Nagaland and Manipur routinely collect taxes from each household, government contractors and employees, transporters, businessmen and even government officials including ministers. However the situation is changing at a quicker rate with the insurgent groups indulging in drug trafficking as well as abusing it themselves. Thus the rate of drug trafficking is escalating at a startling rate, with the insurgencies fueling more to it.

Nagaland exercise commissioner has stated that Nagaland has become one of the major transit points of drug trafficking, that are smuggled to other states and countries even Europe. It must be noted that most of these drugs enter the state from Myanmar (Burma) and Nepal. These two states are the major producers of narcotic drugs in the Northeastern states and they are also the major suppliers of local made drugs as well. These drugs are smuggled from Pansha a village in Tuensang and Longwa, Mon<sup>9</sup>, authorities are taking

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<sup>8</sup> Indian defence review "Northeast the Role of Narcotics and Arms Trafficking URL; <http://www.indiandefencereview.com/spotlights/northeast-the-role-of-narcotics-and-arms-trafficking/> (accessed on 22 April 2017)

<sup>9</sup> Author anonymous "India and Drugs URL; <http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20150517/2594744.html> (accessed on 22 April 2017)

up more vigil and strict laws are being implemented in these areas to tackle this increasing issue. However with the laws becoming more and sterner, the drug traffickers are also becoming equally cunning and carve out new routes almost every day.

Many young people in the age group of 15-30 die young as a result of drug abuse, if you visit the North Eastern states you will see or hear from many ex addicts who were under its influence or are still under its influence. Drugs and alcohol abuse is like a enigma and epidemic among the young group of people, their addiction is further fuelled by the close proximity to the golden triangle which is the highest opium producing region in India. Drug traffickers take this to their advantage to smuggle these narcotic substances into the state and spread it amongst the youth.

It would be injustice to say that this issue is beyond help as there are several rehabilitation centers around the states that are working around the clock to help the people battling with substance addiction and there are several organizations like NACO, UNODC, Azad Foundation, etc., who take amble action against various initiatives and work towards helping this youths in their purpose in life some of such schemes are providing clean syringes and drugs like Buprenorphine, this is a kind of synthetic drug that gives almost the same effects but with less effects. Some might question this step as to why these organizations are encouraging the use of drugs by providing them with their resources, this is done simply so that while in the process of counseling so that they do not drift further away from the treatment or withdraw from their progress. This initiative by the government works towards step by step achievement of goals. Despite having several rehabilitation centers in the state the problem of drug trafficking cannot be completely eradicated if the root causes are not studied properly and the problem of drug trafficking and drug abuse should be eradicated from the roots and people involving in drug trafficking as well as drug related businesses should be severely penalized by the authorities.

The people who battling and indulging in substance abuse should be properly guided on the value of life and the impact of HIV/AIDS on them and the society. The governments should also provide them with good job opportunities and open up portals for education and employment. They should also be given adequate love and their condition should not

be shunned by the society. It is not only the responsibility of the NGOs and the government alone to help this group of people; the society should shoulder their despair and give them hope for a better future.

Local officials Nagaland stated that in the year 2000 there was a high increase in the demand for local drugs known as Spasmoproxyvon, which is often substituted for heroin. Exercise officers in Manipur and Nagaland also stated that there was alleged link between drug traffickers from Myanmar and china. They claimed that although china did not have direct link they were roping individuals from the northeastern states to smuggle drugs from the Golden Triangle area, they are also known to be financing them for these lucrative works. It was also discovered that China provided a platform for insurgencies in the Northeastern states in Pakistan and Myanmar and brought together the drug lords from provinces, which go as far as Thailand to buy weapons.

It would be safe to say that drugs and weapons correspond with each other; there is a flourishing arms market in Thailand situated near the three pagodas pass that borders with Burma. Here one can find all sorts of arms ranging from assault rifles to American hand rocket launcher. This close proximity between the two countries gives easy access to conflict groups. Ethnic groups control this areas, it has been found that arms are smuggled out of the country through fishing boats, these consignments are smuggled through southern Thailand and Burma which then goes on to Bangladeshi ports and airstrips where security are less and from then on to other parts of the world.

The close closeness of Burma and Thailand possess as a threat to India as India is not safe as long as unchecked weapons keep coming into the country, ethnic groups and insurgencies greatly benefit from these weapons. It has been found that weapons collected from insurgent groups in Northeastern states are more sophisticated than the previously used ones and some even included Chinese riffles some are M-21 assault rifles, Chinese 9 mm pistols and Chinese grenades, some insurgents are known to have gained the expertise of explosives making.

Insurgents groups are known to trade drugs and weapons, where they supply drugs to Pakistan who in turn give those weapons. Certain insurgents groups are known to have

undergone guerilla training from the Taliban terrorists group. Militants who get asylum in neighboring countries are putting their own country at risk and the country giving them hospitality should also be more patronizing towards this issue.

While seizing drugs from insurgent groups many weapons have been recovered and these people are mostly leaders of insurgent parties, for example like the Zomi Revolutionary Army who supply heroin in exchange for arms and weapons to fight against the military rule in Myanmar. The Moreh highway 29 in Manipur is partially controlled by insurgents who allow the passing of drugs through their region with a few percentages in the total amount of drugs carried along with them. The NSCN(IM-K) insurgent groups of Nagaland are also found to be collecting 20% taxes on all drugs being passed through their line of control. Drugs have also been used as a way of gaining control of certain provinces.

Certain amount of leniency is given to drug trade through this highway by the government officials, this is keeping in mind the sensitivity of the youths and so that they do not turn to handling of guns and firearms. A study in 2000-2001 found that 10,280kgs of heroine and 8000kgs for the year 1999-2000 was seized from the northeast region in India alone.

In late reports by the National Aids Control Organization (NACO – 2006) there are 50,000 IDUs infusing drug clients in the northeastern area, most of them in Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram and, of late in, Meghalaya. This number does not possibly incorporate numerous IDUs having a place with families who have the methods and assets and who can manage the issue of medication utilize themselves without looking for help from NGOs and other restoration focuses. They stay hidden for an assortment of reasons; disfavor and disrespect being the major noteworthy one. Learning demonstrates that there are a significant number of medicated clients in this piece of society in the areas.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Moses, Gopen Drug Use, HIV/AIDS and Human Trafficking in the North East” *Asthabharati*, URL; [http://www.asthabharati.org/Dia\\_July07/gop%20.htm](http://www.asthabharati.org/Dia_July07/gop%20.htm) (accessed on 23 April 2017)

Along these lines, the number specified above can well be characterized as a poor portrayal of the issue. We additionally comprehend that throughout the most recent two decades the causative elements for uncontrolled drug abuse said before have stayed unaltered in the locale and the circumstance as we see it today is not prone to enhance sooner rather than later. On the off chance that this is valid, we can securely anticipate that medication use in the district will rise. Trial insights of various NGOs working in the area in the field of Drug and HIV additionally recommend that medication mishandle has not enhanced in the Northeastern states in the course of the most recent two decades regardless of the extraordinary diligent work of the Government and other common society associations.

The havoc created by HIV/AIDS is so high in the Northeastern states particularly Nagaland and Manipur that it has now become an epidemic and the government needs to take this rising issue into account. This HIV/AIDS has become such a phenomenon that epidemiologists are calling it an epidemic in the state. Mizoram is the third state fighting this issue where the epidemic seems to be heading in the same course. Equally alarming and shaming is the fact that non-injecting IDUs are also becoming victims of aids and that is due to unsafe sex among partners.

It might be shocking to know that in some of the North Eastern states the rate of HIV/AIDS is the same as it was in the previous years as in there has been no progress from the 1990s till date. Thus it proves that government initiatives have failed and the increase in drug use is increasing by the year. One of the added imperative but less talked about reasons is the way fear has been driven towards drug abusers, people with HIV/AIDS are treated differently by society, they are looked upon as degrading and misinformation is given out about them.

People often think HIV and IDUs are synonymous with each other because they think a drug addict will obviously have AIDS however in many cases people who share needles also are not infected by AIDS; it is the sharing of infected needles that spread the disease. As a result, motivated by such unfortunate unawareness, IDUs in the region unfortunately are subjected to judgments and demeaning attitude from the common people and as such

no progress has been made. Until such things evolved there was no prejudice and judgments against IDUs.

Drug use was not really a stigma among the youngsters; they rather used it as fashion or a way of being included into their peer groups. The regrettable rise of such disrespect on the IDUs users made them conceal their practice. As a result of this they stopped accessing the treatments and facilities provided for them. This resulted in them sharing needles which further led to the increase in the spread of AIDS. The society and their discriminations and rejections is how northeast came to be in the map of the highest AIDS infected area along side Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, thus adding more bad news to the already trouble states in the northeastern parts of India.

The outbreak in the states has already crossed from the IDU group of people to their sex partners and to the bigger population. This is an indication that the spread of AIDS is not simply confined to the IDU group of people or the people with sex partners or even those involving in homosexual sex, it has spread to the greater sections of the society. A study done by Manipur Network of HIV positive people in 2005 found that Manipur had a sharp increase in the number of sex workers in the state during the past one decade. There is no difference in any of the states regarding the spread of AIDS and the use of drugs.

According to reports from certain NGOs in Nagaland there are cases of homosexual sex between partners that lead to AIDS the same has been reported in Imphal as well. The increase in same sex partners involved in physical activity is posing a threat to the society in Nagaland. A study in Manipur also concluded that there are over 200 people with same sex partners, they comprise of 33% of the total AIDS infected area.

Until recent years this term same sex couples was completely unheard of, it was only in the west that was heard of, but in recent years with Westernization and increase drug addiction in the Northeastern states. However today this case has become quite a common problem and they account for 44% of the total AIDS infection in the state. The same percentage could be found even in heterosexual partners but since they keep it hidden due to social problems, their numbers are quite low and they could be even acting as agents of spreading diseases even within their families, this number has not changed



since recent years. These poses as a difficulty for the NGOs at work who are trying to curb this issue and the world as a whole.

AIDS is pretty much transmitted through sex, in India this has observed to be 87% of the cases identified with HIV/AIDS. In the Northeast, in its place, the speed of spread through the sexual means has been become dynamic implying plainly that the flare-up is getting far reaching and has moved from irresistible gatherings (like IDU) to the basic tenants and from the metropolitan to the regressive. More number of pregnant ladies is observed to be HIV positive. In a matter of only 10 years, recurrence pace among the Anti-Natal Care (ANC) participants in Manipur hopped from 0.4% to 1.7%. There is an expanding event among ladies (40%) in the world today which is clear affirmation of an aimless rise.<sup>11</sup>

Additionally, it is of even larger apprehension that the Northeastern states are starting to observe the increasing number of orphans and contaminated children. Particularly focusing concern and maintenance of such Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), in an area manifested by underprivileged opportunities for health care, is a strong confrontation.

There is yet an additional cause, however susceptible the matter may be, why HIV incidence became elevated in the Northeast: it's Socio, cultural and spiritual obstacle to impediment actions. The states of Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya are Christian states and churches have tough and unrivaled authority on the citizens. Regrettably the churches' approach and their ensuing measures have not been very contributing for HIV avoidance effort in the districts. Most of the time churches from all over the world take moral short hand, and more predominantly in Northeast, they viewed Drug use, HIV and AIDS as a topic of transgression and dishonor, this did not bring any changes and the increase continued unchecked as a large sum of effective podium of authority, the platform that churches single-handedly have, did not take the responsibility it could have to build an important change on the circumstances.

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<sup>11</sup> Author anonymous "Asthabharati" URL;  
[http://www.asthabharati.org/Dia\\_July07/gop%20.htm](http://www.asthabharati.org/Dia_July07/gop%20.htm) (accessed on 23 April 2017)

Additionally, it is also accurate that huge quantities of the plentiful cultural societies that comprise the inhabitants of the area are closely knitted small ethnic communities with well built intellectual relationship and firm communal norms. Many of these ethnic communities have efficient customary societal structures and facilities such as the Dorbar Snong in Meghalaya, the village development in Nagaland, Village establishment in the hills of Manipur which could have played a successful task in HIV avoidance. Overwhelmed by lack of knowledge and fed with unfinished and mistaken information on drug exploitation, HIV and AIDS, these structures and public facilities too played as the most important basis of disgrace and prejudice which only added to the increase of the disease. Since these discrimination and prejudice continue the stretch still goes on.

A further appealing and notable reality is that in the Northeast states citizens' usually are usually mistaken to take sex lightly. There are frequent reports of untailed sex amongst the immature and elderly alike in some of the states in the province. Unabated sex is taken as a regular practice amid numerous ethnic societies. Only among very little section of the society it is considered a forbidden by custom. At the stir of the outbreak in the district there was an enormous movement for HIV deterrence and an announcement was put up all over the place which said, "Don't just do it. Use a condom".

This announcement, which was selected after much solemn contemplation was found to be most appropriate in the local position, this campaign speaks volumes on the untailed approach of citizens towards physical contact; it denoted that the public very little thought to it. Given this revelation, NACO's constrained dread is that the HIV plague in the Northeast may straightforwardly go the South African way. It is hoped that the public of the region will not increase a casual approach to HIV, too.<sup>12</sup>

The states of Nagaland and Mizoram which share 404 km and 215 km of unattended boundary with Myanmar correspondingly, have close propinquity with the Golden Triangle, composed of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand. The Golden Triangle is one of the largely infamous narcotic manufacturing and trafficking area in the North Eastern region, because it produces opium derivatives as well as locally made drugs that are smuggled to

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<sup>12</sup> ibid

the rest of the world. Being in immediate proximity with the Golden Triangle, Mizoram has to battle drug exploitation on a conflict foothold, the Chief Minister of Mizoram Lal Thanhawla reported in a convention on drug misuse and smuggling of narcotics, appreciating the labours of the non-governmental associations in decreasing drug abuse amongst the public, Thanhawla stressed on the call for reinforcement and giving more authority to the excise and narcotics department and police force. It is a subject of immense apprehension that overseas citizens are also occupied in trafficking narcotic drugs into the North Eastern states. Citizens of the states also have to make renewed and immense efforts in the change trend of drug abuse.

The chief minister Nagaland during the rise in drug abuse burned drugs value at Rs.22.80 crore, caught by the excise and narcotics division and police during 2011-2013. The Nagaland Commissioner of Excise Maongwati Aier said “that the state has been placed sixth amongst the HIV/AIDS rampant states in India. Aier also says: "The extent of the crisis of drug exploitation has become very severe as the bulk of youngsters of 15 to 25 years of age are exposed and influenced by drug abuse due to sharing of needles and numerous changes of partners involving in unprotected sex." He implored all police enforcement agencies, organisations and NGOs to put efforts cooperatively in fighting the drug threat in the North-Eastern region.<sup>13</sup>He also further says "A map of the drug routes with actions to pursue it, multiple ways of approaches and policy has to be engaged to battle the threat of drug abuse,”. The Nagaland police also apprehended drugs comprising opium, Ganja, capsules and cough syrup worth Rs 38.55 lakh which were damaged before the media.

A variety of types of drugs that come in from the Golden Triangle are brought in through a small town called Moreh that falls alongside the borders of the India-Myanmar area that shares a border with Manipur, these narcotics are flowed into Manipur, Nagaland,

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<sup>13</sup> India TV news “Mizoram and Nagaland to tighten vigil against drug abuse URL; <http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/mizoram-nagaland-to-tighten-vigil-against-drug-abuse-24525.html>(accessed on 23 April 2017)

Mizoram, and some erstwhile North Eastern states and metros cities like Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai.<sup>14</sup>

The Ministry of Social Welfare Government of India 1992 report states, India has 2.25 million drug abusers with 70 thousand users addicted to heroin, it has been exposed after a case study of 33 cities and towns in India.. As per the information these are the lists of the narcotic drugs abused by the younger sections of the society in the north east region i.e.:

1. Spasmoproxyvon (SO) – Relipen, Lobain, etc: Spasmoproxyvon or SP is used in oral and IV-injecting form also substituted for heroin, and unstable solvents etc. The Total ban in Mizoram has led to numerous youth reaching for inexpensive medical drugs like Proxyvon, societal employees in Mizoram stated; the shift to cheap drugs is the foremost destroyer of young citizens in Mizoram. The drug losses control and affect the veins leading to following bodily disabilities and early deaths and accelerate the spread of HIV/AIDS through unsafe sex and needles sharing.

2. Phynsedel Cough Syrup: a prominent magazine known as The Outlook Magazine August 2005, reported that about 75% of Phynsedel cough syrup produced in India was discovered to be trafficked in the North Eastern States and then to bordering countries like Myanmar.

3. Volatile Solvents: the inhaling and smelling of commercial materials like glue, petrol, diethyl, ether chloroform, paint thinner, correcting fluids, etc.

4. Speed pills: the use of Amphetamine and Methamphetamine has been quite low in recent years that it has been overtaken by Ephedrine, precursor for producing the speed drugs.

5. Heroin: Nagaland and Mizoram the two northeastern states report for highest heroin use and associated deaths.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Author anonymous "drug free Nagaland" URL; <https://drugfreene.wordpress.com/category/nagaland/> (accessed on 24 April 2017)

## **Drug Trade Routes**

The immediacy of the India-Pakistan frontier to the Golden Crescent, the largest producer of opium and cannabis in the world, has made it exposed and open to the trafficking of heroin and hashish. Some other factors also accounted for the enlarged inflow of heroin through the boundaries. First, the stopping of the predictable Balkan course through Iran during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) led to the rerouting of drugs throughout India. Second the already active gold bar smugglers along the perimeter area and the input of illegal networks in drug smuggling in the mid-1980s further gave stimulation to the ever escalating smuggling of drugs.

Third, the outburst of the Sikh revolution in the mid-1980s and the Kashmir revolution in the late 1980s also added to the amplified smuggling of drugs as these militants involved in smuggling of drugs for funding their actions. Finally, the availability of conventional smuggling paths and a permeable boundary provided agreeable circumstances for drug trafficking.

Heroin and hashish found in the Golden Crescent area are brought into India through the perimeter of states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. One of the favoured paths through which narcotic drugs were trafficked into the country during the early 1980s was the Thar Desert. Some of the reasons are

first; this was a conventional path through which opium manufactured in Malwa was smuggled to Karachi and then onward to China through the colonial days. Second, as the desert is enormous, unproductive and inadequately protected, it provided sufficient hiding places for the illegal drugs to be carried through.

Heroin that are trafficked into India come from the bordering towns of Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan, Sukkur and Khokhrapar in Pakistan and from there the illegal drugs got across the border to diverse delivery towns such as Churu, Sikar, Kishangarh, Ramgarh, Barmer, Jaisalmer, and Anupgarh in Rajasthan from then on they were consequently shipped to Delhi and Mumbai. Heroin and hashish drugs are trafficked in from across the border on camel backs and once the shipment reaches the gathering hub, it is passed on to

other main destinations by road transportation. Heroin continues to be trafficked through these paths in Rajasthan.

Additionally, the Thar Express going to and for connecting Khokhrapar and Munabao has been alleged to have developed into a chief transporter of drugs from Pakistan since its installation in 2005.

Punjab became a key route for drug smuggling with the increase of the Sikh insurgency in the state. During the 1980s, the most preferred path for smuggling was the Lahore-Fazilka-Bhatinda-Delhi route. An additional regularly used route was the Attari-Wagah route. This route is still being used for trafficking drugs. The Samjhauta Express has been suspected to have turned into a main transporter of prohibited drugs from across the border. As an outcome, Amritsar has turned out as a key point for contact for heroin trade in Punjab.

Boundary towns of Ajnala and Gurdaspur have also turn into well-known heroin gathering centers. Farming territory across the barrier, high-quality system of infrastructure and rails right up to the perimeters and quite a few revering areas down the boundary, all make possible for the trafficking of drugs in these regions. In spite of insurgency having passed in the state, Punjab continues to be a passage peak as well as objective for the heroin manufactured in the Afghanistan-Pakistan province. Heroin brought in through Punjab and Rajasthan are transported to Mumbai and Tamil Nadu from where it is smuggled to worldwide markets.

The growth of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir also ended up in a raise in heroin smuggling through the state since 1995. Heroin was mostly trafficked into the state through Ranbirsingh Pura, Samba and Akhnoor. Recently, the majority of the heroin which reaches the main point of contact is being passed through the Jammu sector. The heroin shipment enters India through Sunderbani and Rajouri and reaches Jammu by the Poonch-Jammu highway. From there the path taken to further send the consignments to other parts of the state is Pathankot-Gurdaspur-Amritsar-Faridko Jaisalmer/Barmer-Ahmadabad and lastly Mumbai. Acetic anhydride, an element for developing heroin,

flows through the similar routes but in the reverse course, i.e. from India to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Hashish and marijuana/ganja are the two derivatives of cannabis that have been customarily smuggled from Nepal into India. Recently, there is a mounting stipulation for Nepalese and Bhutanese cannabis in India and a equivalent requirement for codeine based medical preparations as well as less quality heroin in Nepal and Bhutan have ended up in two way smuggling of narcotics and drugs through the India-Nepal and India-Bhutan perimeters.

Good networking of roads as well as unchecked and badly protected borders has provided huge degree of smuggling of drugs through these borders. With more than one billion inhabitants, India account for being one of the most inhabited countries in the world and the second country with the maximum HIV/AIDS reports. It has been anticipated that around 2.4 million Indians are at present living with HIV. Within the country, the maximum HIV occurrence rates are reported in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in the south; and Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland in the north-east.

Experimental statistics from NACO said that HIV/AIDS outbreaks in north-eastern states are increased by intravenous drug-users who then passed it on to their partners by having unguarded sex. Nagaland has already reported and such a trend may also follow soon in Manipur. By 1987 the National AIDS Control Programme revealed that the epidemic had become very common in Mizoram as well. There are nearly two lakhs IDUs users in India out of which, 50,800 are from Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya. It has been discovered that over 20% of them are HIV positive mainly due to sharing of infected needles.

The misuse of drugs is not restricted to a particular region it is widespread in all parts of the world. The abuse of drugs and the idea of drug trafficking is often confused and considered as synonyms. Drug abuse can be termed as something or someone using drugs that is not prescribed and that too in high doses whereas drug trafficking is the process where illegal drugs are shifted from one place to another, across states, across countries, and across continents. It is the trading of substances that is against the law. There are

severe penalties associated with this crime and these penalties often differ from country to country or from state to state. The punishment also depends upon the amount of drugs that you are caught with. If it is beyond the limit of the set trafficking amount then the consequences are harder than when one is caught with the set trafficking limit.



## CHAPTER 4

### POLITICS IN NAGALAND AND THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

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Nagaland, a state in the North Eastern region of Nagaland released a policy against drugs keeping in mind the increase in the abuse of substances in the state. Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Policy June 27, 2016 were officially given out by Minister for Social Welfare, Kiyaniie Peseyie during the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held with the theme “Listen First.”

This policy was initiated so as to curb the rising problem of drug trafficking and also to harmonize the people against this one cause, the state cabinet accepted this policy and gave it the approval to go ahead with the policy, this policy was initiated with the core idea of eradicating drug problems in the states, the NGOs, rehabilitation centers and organizations have also been given the idea as to how this policy is going to work. The state minister for social welfare has given the authority to the State Social Welfare Department to be the state nodal bureau for execution and achievement of the policy.<sup>16</sup>

Certain core objectives are laid down in the policy that is preventing the use of drugs and alcohol, keeping tight vigil, to reinforce efforts for contribution and demand reduction, this policy also looks forward to providing them employment opportunities and giving those chances at leadership. The policy also aims at sensitizing the societies against drug abuse and giving the addicts access to treatment facilities and proper health care, providing recuperating facilities where addicts can easily recover.

The policy has stated that Nagas by custom have a tradition of brewing their own rice beer for eating and drinking which changed into selling in the commercial market for financial provisions of the family. We see that with the evolution of circumstances and standard of living the Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) are sold explicitly with Government approval in Nagaland. The use of Opium was also in carried out in some

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<sup>16</sup>Morung Express “Nagaland government releases drug abuse and prevention policy URL; <http://morungexpress.com/nagaland-govt-releases-drug-abuse-prevention-treatment-policy/> (accessed on 24 April 2017)

parts of the state. Soon substances derived from Opium like heroin and codeine were discovered to be rampant by the youngsters, which disrupted the family structure and the society.

The policy also found that heroin was freely accessible from across the Golden Triangle, which had a route that went through the heart of Kohima and passed through NH 39 (now NH 29) to the other parts of the country. It is also discovered that heroin was smuggled through the global borders of Tuensang and Kiphire districts.

The Naga Mothers Association (NMA), which consisted of all concerned women in the state, initiated a movement against availability and decrease by giving focus and support to law enforcing agencies. However this did not provide much outcome as drug abusers inexorably became larger in number. To meet the needs of the addicted, detoxification and rehabilitation centers were established in 1986 and 1987 correspondingly.

The Policy stated that whilst such programmes were in progress it was realized that alcohol was rampant abused. The Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) demanded for prohibition in the state and, the Government of Nagaland adopted the 'Total Prohibition Act 1989' in the state. However, all these measures have not been able to address the problem of drug and alcohol abuse. This prompted the government to bring out 'The Nagaland State Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Policy.

The policy also is of the opinion that drug and alcohol abuse is a medically accepted ailment that affects an individual, family and society. Suitable approaches have become a must apprehension, to tackle the prevention, management and social reestablishment.

However despite the total ban, the demand for drugs and alcohol has not been concentrated. The policy also says that vigorous coordination and immense efforts has to be initiated to meet the problems of demand and flow. And there should be a combined and synchronized hard work of the government, the church and civil community to look into the demand and supply reduction.

The policy also insisted that political leaders must cut across the party rules to make a key task to make certain that suitable policies and initiatives are organized and taken up

to check the rising drug abuse. It said that the most important preventive measures and programmes, instruction and education ought to be included in all educational institutions so that the students as well as the youngsters' problems and issues are taken care of at the right time. In the field of young people education and training programme, a special section on substance misuse and abuse has to be included.

Organizations that mainly worked on the spiritual and moral aspects were encouraged to integrate fundamental education and knowledge in their set of courses to make sure that life skills are included in their standard programmes particularly targeted for adolescent citizens and susceptible groups.

On the topic of supply reduction and implementation plan, the strategy called for providing close watch services at considered position in the airport, railway station, bus terminals, and highways and across the permeable national and international boundaries. The state government has also been given the authority to manage with national and international departments to carry out prevention policies, treatment centers, and investigation and law policies.<sup>17</sup>

### **Golden triangle**

The Golden Triangle is a region between Myanmar, Thailand and Laos; it is an area that comprises approximately 950,000 sq. km. Afghanistan is currently leading the world in opium production, and in the second place is Myanmar with enormous availability and supply of narcotic drugs since 1950s. Opium was abounding globally from Myanmar in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century until Afghanistan took over with its mass production. Myanmar has been indulging in intercontinental drug trafficking since World War 2, according to discoveries by the UNODC in 2005 there was about 430 sq. km. of opium crop growing in Myanmar.

When drug lord Khun Sa Mngo's Thai army surrendered in January 1996, it was held as a major success by the police force and anti trafficking officials. However his arrest did not stop the smuggling and production of drugs, in Burma almost every household has

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<sup>17</sup> ibid

poppy plants growing in their homes, these people are mostly below poverty line and their only source of income are these drugs. The Burmese army or soldiers are also paid very little by the government as a result of which they themselves indulge in drug trafficking, here they sell drugs to the senior officers who then sell it on to prominent buyers.<sup>18</sup>

Myanmar oil and gas enterprise was accused of being associated with laundering of revenues from heroin smuggling and other narcotic drugs; this gas agency was found to be one of the major channels of trafficking drugs and revenue. Drug money in Myanmar is juicing out every source of economy from the country leaving it very poorly developed.

Raw form of opium and heroin are transported by horse drawn carriages or donkey which is then taken to the borders of Thailand and Burma, here it is processed into heroine and heroin base from where it gets smuggled to Bangkok and Thailand which gets sold in the international market. This has greatly hampered the economy of the country where the poor are getting poorer and the smuggling of illicit drugs go on.

The Thai Chinese and Burmese Chinese are the ones mostly involved in the distribution of the heroin to the international market, however circumstances such as pressure from law enforcements, drought and publicity has led to a decrease in their role. As a result now there are small gangs or groups of people that control the trafficking of drugs to the international market.

Heroin is smuggled into the United States through foreigners or through US nationals that come to visit the state. The entry point of heroin from the golden triangle into the United States is through California and Hawaii although a few portion of it enters through New York. Today Asians have gained access for drug trafficking to Europe however it is still difficult for them for street haggling, the Asian drug traffickers have also gained access to supply drugs into the American prisons and so they have established a relationship between the prisons which makes it easier for the circulation of the narcotic drugs.

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<sup>18</sup> Author anonymous "Golden Triangle: Southeast Asia URL; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden\\_Triangle\\_\(Southeast\\_Asia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Triangle_(Southeast_Asia)) (accessed on 24 April 2017)

Similar ethnic groups like the Chinese Muslim Panthay and the Chinese chin work I close association with one another in the Golden Triangle. Several drug lords are known to form secret organizations that operate mostly in the golden triangle area that widely circulates among the drug dealers and various other organizations associated with them. These secret groups also formed secret routes to transport opium from Burma to the international market through south china.<sup>19</sup>

The opium farming in the Golden Triangle is found to have upped by 22 per cent in 2013 followed by a 13 per cent increase in Myanmar. This included a 26 per cent increase from 2012 in opium farming and production. Some few years ago, the Golden Triangle provided for a partial of the world's heroin, but drug lords supported by tribal armies in Myanmar have turned to trafficking of enormous amount of amphetamines and methamphetamines, drugs which can be created inexpensively in diminutive, concealed facilities, with no requirement for vast areas of uncovered land and these narcotics have now taken over the Myanmar division of the golden Triangle. Militant outfits in Myanmar have been given monetary assistance by narcotics smuggling.

The Cease fires with the resident administration of Myanmar have left insurgent groups without charge to carry on their development and smuggling with no meddling. Since rebellions are based solely on cultural problems they are on the means out to carry out high profile earnings and admission to the money-spinning Thai and overseas markets which now make narcotics manufacture and smuggling. The Myanmar administration can only do slightly to oppose drug smuggling in the Golden Triangle as traffickers are well prepared Chinese associates in commission from outer Myanmar.

An ethnic group in Myanmar known as the Wa ethnic group is the main manufacturer of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS). The United Wa State Army (UWSA) is funded by narcotics revenue in addition to the weapons illegal imports. The rise in the exploitation of methamphetamine in Thailand has added to the local volatility and Thailand's National Security Council now acknowledges narcotics trafficking as a serious risk to its general sanctuary. Thailand blames Myanmar of setting the narcotic aggression rampant on

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<sup>19</sup>ibid

Thailand and with the astonishing raise of Methamphetamine manufacture inside Myanmar; drug smuggling into Thailand from Myanmar is on the growth. Racial insurgents like the UWSA and Shan State Army (SSA) are in charge of most of the 1800 km Myanmar bordering Thailand and illegal activity within the Thai security armed forces has put an end to a flourishing narcotics operation. Within Myanmar, the UWSA has gained momentum as the major manufacturer of Methamphetamine. Mong Yawn, the drug support of the UWSA in the Shan state in Myanmar, has straight admission to the Thai region of Chiang Mai, rising as one of the largest drug explosion towns near the Myanmar-Thailand border. Methamphetamine trafficking from Myanmar into Thailand by UWSA adds up to 200 million medicines per year. In addition to checking illegal activities of the border inside its position, the Thai army has a perilous mission, faced by challenges as it is by the Shan and Wa militants complete with narcotics passing through the border.<sup>20</sup>

Illegal drug operation along the Golden Triangle has grave consequences for Northeast India. First, breaching up to Southeast Asia has a twofold sword. On one hand, it encourages progress and increase in the economy of the state. On the other hand, it poses the threat of quick surge of illegitimate drugs and weapons. Second, with no efficient drug management operations that promise that illegal operations aside to the bare minimum, the unfavourable penalty of illegal drugs on Northeast people could put down extensive long term unconstructive consequences. Thirdly, India ought to set up institutional operations with China, Myanmar and Thailand to oppose illegal smuggling. And lastly, there must be a long term Indian scheme to control drugs smuggling, to check the communal crash of drug obsession, widely spread concern about the poor issues of drug abuse in educational institutions, and well-known proficient rehabilitation facilities in HIV and drug affected zones in Northeast India. There is conceivably no erstwhile means to tackle the life menacing implications of drug dependence and HIV, is at present destroying youngsters in Northeast India particularly in Manipur.<sup>21</sup>

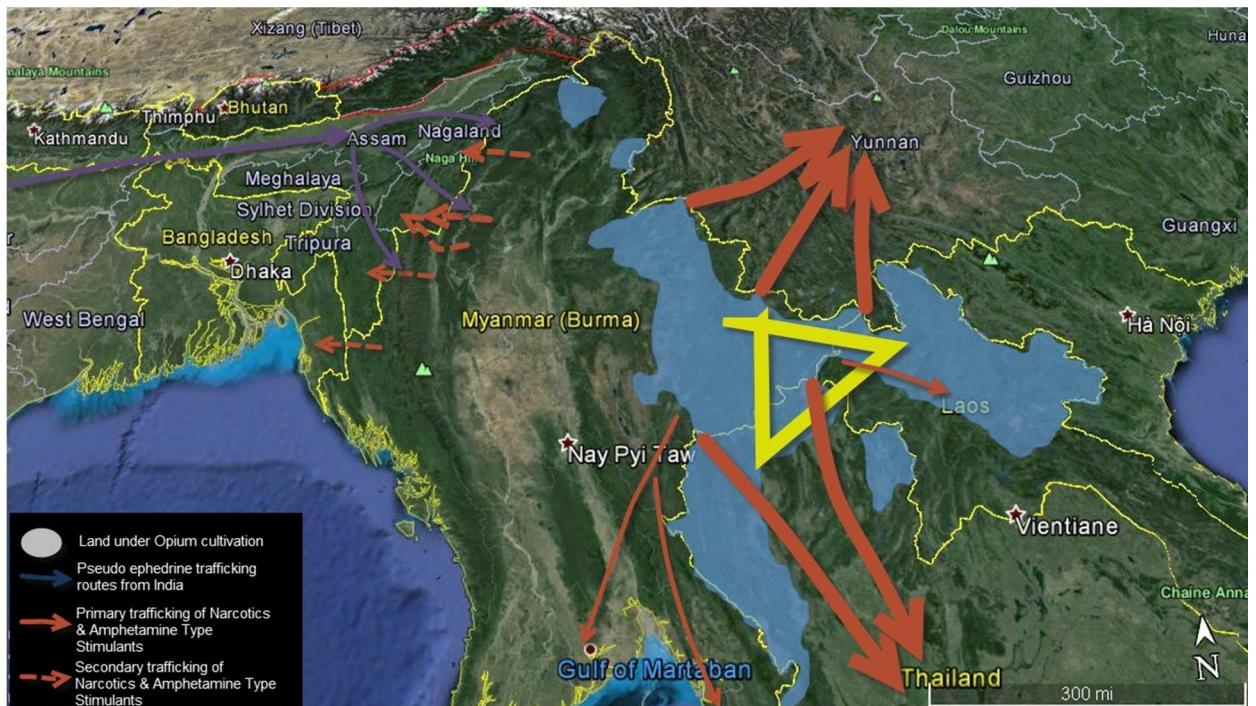
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<sup>20</sup> Namrata, Goswami, *Drugs and the Golden Triangle* (New Delhi: Penguin Publishers, 2008)

<sup>21</sup> Author anonymous "Golden Triangle" URL;  
<http://idsa.in/system/files/Figure%20I%20Golden%20Triangle.JPG> (accessed on 25 April 2017)

Therefore, its close relation to the Golden Triangle and also the Golden Crescent that is the (Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran) has certainly made the Indian continent defenceless to narcotics smuggling. The quickly rising smuggling of illegal drugs in the West Bengal-Bangladesh frontier is also fast fetching a topic of apprehension for the Indian security officials placed on the borders. There are places like Murshidabad and Bongaon in Bengal which have turned into convenient and suitable paths for trafficking drugs. These incorporated both drugs manufactured in Uttar Pradesh and going to Bangladesh and also drugs that are originated in the Golden Triangle course of smuggling that enters India through Bangladesh.<sup>22</sup>

Given below is a map of the Golden Triangle that is marked by the yellow triangle and the red flow of arrows mark the routes through which drugs are being supplied to the rest of the world. This map gives a clear depiction of how when drugs are being smuggled to the international market, the smaller markets as in the bordering towns come into view.



Sources: Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis

<sup>22</sup> Author anonymous “Drug Trafficking in India a Neglected Issue on the rise URL; <https://yffpindia.wordpress.com/2015/07/11/drug-trafficking-in-india-a-neglected-issue-on-the-rise/> (accessed on 25 April 2017)

The Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (k) is accused of involving in opium trade with the Golden Triangle. If you study Nagaland you will find that of all insurgent groups, the NSCN (k) is the most volatile who often breaks cease fire regulations, and who in recent years has caused the death of many Indian soldiers. They are also responsible for most of the extortion taking place in Nagaland. These insurgent groups also take part in smuggling arms and weapons from Pakistan and China, so to say that they indulge in drug trafficking with the Golden Triangle is not a new story.

It has also been declared as a terrorist group and they have been caught up in innumerable acts of hostility in opposition to the Indian regime and the public. This NSCN (K) is practically a separate faction, which came separately from the superior and politically powerful assembly NSCN (IM) which was founded by Isak Swu and Thuingaleng Muivah to fight for the freedom of Nagaland.

The Security forces in the borders say that revenues from the operations of opium support the Khaplang faction's rebel actions. Through this drug money they prepare individuals, manage camps and employ private armies to carry out their illegal activities.

The Government of Myanmar and its citizens has completely failed in inspecting the expansion of the drug smuggling inside its boundaries, and which has amounted to an unrestrained increase in fabrication of all types of narcotics. However we cannot completely blame the Government for this failure as the people are mostly economically not stable and sometimes the cultivation of opium remains their source of livelihood and hope. Thus opium farming is in trend in which their livelihoods depend and numerous go up in opposition to any type of police initiatives that threaten their cultivation and production. Sometime in 2015, law enforcement agencies had to resort to physical force when the narcotics control bureau agency an effort to wipe out the poppy manufacture in the area.

It is obvious that wherever there is opium production, compulsion towards using it will surely follow and as a result puts serious risk in the condition of the citizens. But radical institutions, such as the insurgent group NSCN (K) of Nagaland, continue to create havoc. In a recent survey, the Assam Rifles it discovered that the connection of NSCN



(K) in drug smuggling is creating solemn troubles particularly for the Naga society and the entire North Eastern province as a whole. If India plans to construct stronger relationship with the South East Asian countries both tactically and financially, it requires focusing this apprehension as early as possible.<sup>23</sup>

The NMA is Naga Mothers Association that strives to work for various causes in Nagaland among those they also tackle the rising issue of drug trafficking they use inventive methods. They begin by questioning the primary feature of the crisis, although there is reluctance in admitting that this problem of drug abuse and addiction exists due of the various communal dishonors that are attached to it. The NMA has also helped government officials in napping drug peddlers around the state; they also have policies regarding keeping tight security and vigil of drug moved around the state.

As we discuss the Golden Triangle it would be impossible not to mention Moreh also known as the “Smugglers’ Village”, it is pretty much obvious as to why the name has been given so, it is the main point of contact where drugs are smuggled through it, it is the point where two way drug trafficking takes place and law enforcement agencies suppose that the major basis of these activities are Imphal that is 150 km on the Indian region, and Tamu, that is 10 km through the border areas in Myanmar. India is planning on strategies of constructing trade and industry operations in the North East region to increase foreign operations and provide for the financial system the essential jump forward and there is no doubt to this initiative. But the question remains as to if the capital city New Delhi is aware of the consequences it could have opening up to the South East region of the country. It could both be disastrous as well as beneficial.

While on the one hand this initiative of the centre could bring in major development and revenues and open up corporal foreign relations, it could also open up the gateway for increase drug trafficking in the region. The citizens of Moreh that mostly take part in trafficking consist of carriers and small agents who toil on little or less incomes. An area of little people in the far reaches of North East, its population comprises of 6,000 citizens from South India (mostly Kerala), around 4,000 consist of Mizos and erstwhile ethnic

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<sup>23</sup> Author Anonymous “Drug production trafficking in northeast India URL; <http://topyaps.com/drug-production-trafficking-india-northeast> (accessed on 25 April 2017)

groups, 3,000 include Manipuri, while the other population in the state consist of Nepalis, Biharis, Sikhs and Marwaris. And it has been estimated according to an Intelligence representative who has done extensive study in this field for quite some time that roughly 90 per cent of the population are traders of drugs or promoters who work on small time basis.

The Central Government is conscious of the North East and its scope of development, prosperity and ultimately its ability to triumph over its predicaments by appealing to its eastern overseas counterparts. Particularly with the current accord on the Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar development and friendly relations proposal, India can gain right of entry to markets in China's west and South West region in the course of the North Eastern borders. Yunnan region of China is the set of connections that act as a centre for market and association with the rest of the nation. Similarly, significant for North East India is its provincial connectivity under the semi regional and local collaboration. Keeping all this in mind vigilance is necessary to comprehend the hideous actions of narcotics smuggling entangled with racial rebellion in the bordering Golden Triangle.

A tablet known as Yawa or WY which contains a mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine is being used and trafficked and it is escalating by the day, mainly amongst Manipuri youths. Other form of drugs smuggled in though the golden triangle like pseudoephedrine and ephedrine are also increasing day by day, similarly massive amounts of WY drugs that are vibrantly tinted in red, orange or lime green and bear initials like "R" or "WY". These drugs are small in size, round and approximately six millimetres in width. A person who uses this drug after consuming five to 20 WY drug in a day is capable of practically doing running, jumping and undertaking any tedious labour without sensing the smallest amount weariness for two to three days consecutively without sleep. This narcotic drug gives vigour and assurance to the users and there is no estimate in the total use of this drug, which is proving to be tough to manage. These drugs are also known to give quick ecstasy to the users which often lead to crimes and as such repeated acts of rape and other related social evils can be connected to this.

It is believed that the instantaneous reaction after eating a single tablet is of dizziness and light-headedness, followed by elation, improved bodily movement, sharp attentiveness

and better restlessness as a resulting consequence of the core nervous system being tapped. Many countries around the world have prohibited the trade of this drug and its related kind, the state of Manipur is battling this threat currently for the first time.

Enormous quantities of illegal drugs can with no trouble travel the innovative access paths of better and superior connectivity and propel the previously existing problems of protected human wellbeing and security of the public. Although Afghanistan is the largest producer of opium in the world it has been observed that Myanmar is the major manufacturer of methamphetamine in the world, with the bulk of Yawa drug available in Thailand that is produced in Myanmar, mainly the Golden Triangle region and the North Eastern Shan state that shares a border with Thailand, Laos and China.

Yawa drug is also known as bhulbhuliya as in a person losing senses, in India and is usually made in tablet form, which makes it easy to be filled within a synthetic soda straw that makes it easy for transportation or they are also put inside reusable mint containers.

These WY or Yawa tablets are also known as the “world is yours”. These pills have 25-35 mg of methamphetamine, an extremely addictive composite stimulant, in addition with 45-65 mg of caffeine. However at equivalent doses, the level of methamphetamine is much supplementary and powerful, durable and further more damaging than amphetamine. This drug directly affects the cardiovascular and central nervous system. WY drugs can be taken in many forms like eating, sniffing or injecting directly into the veins.

As mentioned earlier Myanmar is the chief producer of illegal WY or Yawa tablets and provides the highest quantity of effortlessly obtainable precursors like ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Another north-eastern state Manipur, with admission to the international bordering areas across Moreh town and hence to Myanmar, is now becoming fast suitable to the targeted smuggling centre for WY, which the governments and citizens should take as a great cause for concern.

On the borders of Myanmar in the East are Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Where each state’s analysis from the National Aids Control Organisation study

indicates soaring statistics of HIV related sickness and volumes of drug smuggling. Narcotics and illegal imports firearms are frequently smuggled across the unguarded borders as the paths of western Myanmar are guarded by India's North East tribal army.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

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The entire circle of drug trafficking and drug abuse can be closely related to the Golden Triangle, although the entire blame cannot be put on the drug peddlers alone, the law enforcement agencies are also partially responsible, as in they do not carry out appropriate measures to check the rising issue of drug abuse. The younger sections of the society are the most affected because they are very vulnerable to these social evils and it is hard for them in differentiating between the right and the wrong. The drug peddlers also cunningly target these younger sections so that they can achieve their goal in earning money. Most of the time this lead to increase in crime because drug abusers resort to robbery, mugging and murder to meet their need for drugs.

The Golden Triangle area is the chief supplier of narcotic and opium derived drugs, these drugs that come in from the golden triangle are mostly meant for the international market as well as for other metro cities in India but often in the course of trafficking this drugs they often seep into the northeastern states of Nagaland and Manipur, which possess as a great threat to the state. Sometimes when these narcotic drugs are not available they resort to cheap pharmaceutical drugs that act as substitute for these drugs. These drugs often give them the required satisfaction of the moment, but it has been found that it has adverse health effects that lead to many sicknesses and sometimes even death.

Relipen and spasmoproxyvon etc are some of the drugs that are used as substitute for narcotics and these drugs are banned to the rest of the world but the North Eastern states are battling this issue today. Drug abuse in the North Eastern states was not much of a social stigma until the Golden Triangle boomed in the region. Some villages in Manipur are found to be cultivating poppy plants as regular agriculture as that is their only source of income and this is a huge concern for the government as they are straddled with the problem of whether to stop their only source of livelihood or protect t the people from drug abuse.

The drug trafficking in most parts of the North East region are funded by the regional insurgents and since the influences of these groups are very strong the police forces in the region are also helpless most of the time. The insurgents also exchange weapons and firearms for drugs, most of the drug routes are also not properly manned and since the expanse of the North East region is mostly covered in forest area it is often difficult to man this huge expanse, which provides easy access to the smugglers to carry out their illicit activities. The border security forces can also only do so much in checking every area. Drug traffickers often use foot tracks to pass through this treacherous terrain as it is easier for them to conceal themselves in the forest and also because it is safer, this consignment then goes on further to other destinations.

The youths in Nagaland and Manipur also gets roped into the business of transporting narcotic drugs to clients from different places. An organization known as the Naga Mothers Association also plays a major part in combating the problem of drug abuse among the youths. They have set up initiatives and schemes to tackle the various problems of drug abuse. Several other laws have also been laid down both by the government of India as well as the state government to look into the rising issue of drug abuse.

The problem of drugs is not prevalent in the North Eastern states alone it is a global phenomenon and drug abuse has also been recognized as a medical disease that can either be treated or not. With Afghanistan leading the world in drug trafficking and production of opium it spreads throughout the rest of the world. To answer the question of if drug trafficking can be solved or not? Is a serious thing to contemplate because while on the one hand drugs can be prevented to a certain extent one cannot completely eradicate its use because people are always going to find new and innovative works to continue its use, they could resort to pharmaceutical drugs and other cheap substitutes so drug trafficking and abuse as a whole cannot completely be solved.

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