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## CONTENT

The Economic Impact of British Rule in India  Ms. Arya. S. S	7
Nehru's Vision on Community Development  Ms. Anupama S. John	п
Domestic Violence against Women and the Effectiveness of PWDV Act 2005: A Study Dr. Asharani. A	15
India-China Water Dispute and the Challenges of Transboundary River Water Governance in India Ms. Aswathy A K	21
Controversy Adjacent to Brahmapuram: An Encounter on Kerala's Waste Management Challenge  Ms. Binduchandran V	27
Role of Innovation on Social Entrepreneurship  Ms. Chinnu Rajan & Dr. Manjula K	33
Unemployment and Labour Crisis in India Dr. Thomson K. Alex & Dr. Geetha Lakshmi	39
The Role of Financial Intermediaries in the Economic Development of Rural Areas  Ms. Jyothi Antherjanam S & Dr Smitha P V	45
E-Commerce and Data Protection  K. Mujakar	53
Relevance of Ambedkarism in The Contemporary World  Dr. Preetha G S	57
Strategic Management and IPR Innovation in Textile Industry  Ms. Rameesa H	67
UN and Sustainable Development: An Analysis of Organization's Role Promoting Environmental and Social Progress Dr. Sujitha B. S.	73

Gender Identity and Socialization  Ms. Aswathy S	79
Foreign Policy Formulations and the Dilemma of Development in North East  Dr. Sreejith P.V.	83
Understanding the Domestic Variants of North East India and its Reflection on India's Foreign Policy  Dr. Shibu M.P.	89
Women Revolutionaries in Indian National Movement  Dr. Anila K.	95
Rise of Nationalism, Reforms and Social Justice  Dr. R. Jaganath	99
Changing Centre-State Financial Relations and Implications on Kerala's Welfare System  Dr. Sudheesh K. M.	107
The Student's Strike (1921) In The Far South: A-Re-Appraisal Dr. Mayadevi. S	113

# Understanding the Domestic Variants of North East India and its Reflection on India's Foreign Policy

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Domestic influences on a particular state's foreign policy are determined by the level of democratization in a society. These influences can be judged by the flow of the input-output process in a political system and the nature of actors for the dissemination of information in the decision making process of that society. Extending the principle of federalism to all parts of the Indian state would maintain the equilibrium for effective foreign policy-making that safeguards the domestic interests of the region.

The north eastern region is one of the most neglected regions in India where consideration of domestic politics in foreign policy making would bring out a tremendous impact on long-standing problems like unemployment, economic marginalization, insurgency etc. It is one of the easiest ways for north-eastern region to access the global market in the era of globalization. The debate between security issues and economic gains dominated the foreign policy-making of India, particularly concerning north eastern states. While India's foreign policy gained on economic and security aspects with South East Asian states but north eastern region as a channel is neglected in this process. The 'political economy of care' resulted in more investment but it failed to find solutions through development, which eventually

created a political class which exploited the common people for their benefits. They have more familiar with their counterparts in developed countries (Sarma 2018). Under colonial hegemony, North East India became divided communities which eventually created excluded areas and thereby instigated various subnational ethnic communities which conflict with each other (Roy 2005). After colonialism also, people aspirations should have been taken into account to decide their future course of action (Mukhim 2005).

Lack of consideration of domestic variants in foreign policy is evident in hill economies whose survival nature is mismatched with the market-driven economy, resulting in underdeveloped products and labour markets in the region. Mainstreaming Northeast development issues within the Policy will provide a development framework for the region. It is essential to recognize that the region's locational advantage and rich resource endowment, including human resources, provides an ideal setting for making Northeast India a central part of the Look (Act) East Policy instead of being a mere gateway. From Look East to Act East Policies which focussed on connectivity, physical infrastructure for trade, trade and investment protocols, bilateral and multilateral relationships etc. neglected the

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