

Assam-Meghalaya border dispute

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In news-The Union Home Minister is expected to seal the final agreement to end the dispute in six areas of the Assam-Meghalaya boundary ahead of Meghalaya's 50th Statehood Day celebration on January 21.

About the border dispute-

- Meghalaya was carved out of Assam under the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, a law that it challenged, leading to disputes.
- The **boundary differences between the two states at 12 points along the 885-km-long inter-state border** have existed since the **birth of Meghalaya in 1972**.
- A major point of contention between Assam and Meghalaya is the district of Langpih in West Garo Hills bordering the Kamrup district of Assam.
- Langpih was part of the Kamrup district during the British colonial period but post-Independence, it became part of the Garo Hills and Meghalaya.
- Assam's capital was Shillong, Meghalaya's present capital, before it was shifted to Dispur in 1972.
- Of the 12 areas of dispute between the two states **six had been selected for resolution in the first phase**.
- **Those sites have been identified as** at Tarabari, Gizang, Hahim, Baklapara, Khanapara (Pilingkata) and Ratacherra, which fall under Cachar, Kamrup and Kamrup Metropolitan districts of Assam, and corresponding districts of West Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi and East Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya.



- Assam and Meghalaya had formed three regional committees each to inspect the disputed areas and record the views of the local residents.
- Six regional border committees, comprising cabinet ministers of both sides for recommending the way forward, submitted their reports recently.
- **Historical facts, ethnicity, administrative convenience, mood and sentiments of the people concerned and the contiguity of the land** are the five aspects to be considered for resolving this dispute.
- The more complicated disputes at the remaining six sites at Langpih, Borduar, Nongwah, Matamur, Deshdemoreah Block I and Block II and Khanduli will be taken up in the next phase.