

Dima Hasao Peace Pact

May 1, 2023

In news– Assam-based insurgent groups have signed a peace agreement with the State Government and the Centre recently.

About the agreement-

- **The Assam-based insurgent group was represented by Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA)/Dimasa People's Supreme Council (DPSC)** – which operates in the Dima Hasao district.
- The agreement will put a complete **end to insurgency** and with this, there are no more armed groups in Assam.
- Under the agreement, the **DNLA representatives have agreed to give up violence, surrender including the surrender of arms and ammunition**, disband their armed organisation, vacate all camps occupied by DNLA cadres and join the mainstream.
- As a result of this agreement, more than 168 armed cadres of DNLA surrendered with their weapons and joined the mainstream.
- **Dimasa Welfare Council will be set up by the Government of Assam** to protect, preserve and promote a social, cultural, and linguistic identity to meet political, economic and educational aspirations and will ensure speedy and focused development of the Dimasa people residing outside the jurisdiction of the Autonomous Council.
- The MoU also provides for the **appointment of a Commission** under Paragraph 14 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India to examine the demand for the inclusion of additional villages contiguous to the **North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC)** with the Council.
- It also provides for necessary measures to be taken by the Government of India and the Government of Assam to

- rehabilitate the surrendered armed cadres of DNLA.**
- To this effect, a **Special Development package of ₹500 crore** each, will also be provided by the Government of India and Government of Assam over a period of five years, for all-round development of NCHAC as well as Dimasa people residing in other parts of the State
 - The **DNLA was established in April 2019 seeking a sovereign territory for the Dimasa tribals** and launched an armed insurgency to achieve its goal.

Who are Dimasa tribes?

- The Dimasa people are an **ethnolinguistic community presently inhabiting in Assam and Nagaland states** in Northeastern India.
- They **speak Dimasa, a Tibeto-Burman language**. This community is fairly **homogeneous and exclusive**, with members required to draw from both parents' separate clans.
- **The Dimasas form a "sealed" society—every member drawing his or her patriarchal lineage from one of the forty two male clans** (sengphong—"holder of the sword") and the matriarchal lineage from one of the **forty-two female clans (jalik or julu)**. These clans are distributed among twelve territorial "sacred groves" called *daikhos*.
- The Dimasas are **one of the oldest inhabitants of the Northeastern part of India and is one of the many Kachari tribes**.
- Following political problems in the 18th century, the Dimasa ruler moved further south in the plains of Cachar and there took place a division among them—with the hills Dimasa maintaining their traditional living and political exclusiveness, the plains Dimasas have made no attempt to assert themselves.