

ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATIONS

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Theme 2: Security and Trade: Internal and External Dimensions- Lt. Gen. Arun Sahni (retd),
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*“The economic development in the North Eastern States of India, has not been in harmony with the development in the other parts of the country. One of the major causes for the shortfall has been the very fragile/ nebulous security situation that afflicts, almost all the North Eastern States, in varying degrees, coupled with the neglect and lack of understanding of their aspirations, at Delhi. The adverse security situation continues due to the various separatists/ insurgent movements in different parts of the North Eastern States and the numerous ethno - nationalist conflicts. The latter an outcome of the multitude of ethnic groups that inhabit this region. Some of the reasons for the conflict are steeped in historical events and others are due to internecine conflicts, triggered by the personalities/ tribal animosities or fight for space & limited resources. Therefore, **their solution lies in addressing each of their problems separately for a lasting solution instead of applying a general set of measures to redress the problem.***

Another facet which influences the security situation in the North Eastern States, is the fact that all of them share their borders with at least one of the neighbouring South Asian countries of either China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. The socio- economic, development and internal security imperatives of each of these countries is being exploited by the Indian Insurgent Groups. The support could be in the form of using the territory of the neighbouring states as safe havens, or financial assistance and regrouping etc. This facet of exploitation of the territory of the also needs to be redressed for creating the conditions for economic resurgence of the region. In this overall scenario the aim will be to

(a) *Examine the contributory reasons for the poor state of security in the NE States.*

(b) *Review the current situation and identify measures to enhance the security.*

(c) *Identify the contours of actions necessary for promoting economic development of the region. “*

