



The Encounter

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FRONTIER *NAGALAND*

A DEMAND ROOTED IN
— DELIBERATE —
NEGLECT

-Jael Manya Konyak, XI

Nagaland became a state on December 1st, 1963 under Article 371A of the Indian Constitution, which included special provisions for the Naga Hills Tuensang Area. Decades later, this region—now comprising six districts and eight tribes—remains mired in underdevelopment, poverty, and neglect. Despite covering over 8,000 sq km and accounting for more than 40% of the state's population, Eastern Nagaland has seen little tangible progress. Since 2010, the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) has been demanding the creation of a separate "Frontier Nagaland Territory"—not out of rebellion, but as a cry for dignity and development long denied.

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The roots of this disparity run deep. Many tribes in the east were among the last to convert

to Christianity, and this cultural distinction, though rarely acknowledged, has shaped their continued marginalisation. Resources allocated by the central government often fail to reach this region, diverted instead to the more influential "creamy layer" of Naga society. Eastern Nagaland was excluded from India's first four Five-Year Plans. It was not until the end of the fifth that development even entered the conversation. Even today, bamboo bridges collapse regularly, roads remain unusable during rains, and infrastructure is poor to non-existent. In contrast, western districts have advanced, benefitting from political favouritism and access to state resources.

Despite making up a large portion of the population, the people of Eastern Nagaland face limited employment, political voice, and educational access. Revenue generated for the state rarely translates into welfare for this region. Instead, decisions are made in Kohima, while the east continues to suffer. The demand for Frontier Nagaland is now at the national stage, with talks underway between the Government of India, the

Nagaland State Government, and ENPO. The proposal includes enhanced legislative, executive, and financial autonomy—offering a real chance for equitable development. This is not a demand for division, but a plea for

justice. The creation of Frontier Nagaland could finally address a history of purposeful neglect and allow this region to move forward—with pride, progress, and its rightful place in the future of Nagaland.

WAR OF NARRATIVES

—Aanya Paul Sarkar, Deputy Editor, XII

Modern warfare has changed. It's no longer just about soldiers and missiles. Today, wars are fought as much on social media as they are on the battlefield. The real fight? Controlling the story. Take Operation Sindoor, where India launched a successful strike deep into enemy territory. It didn't just silence enemy radars—it downed top-end American and Chinese fighter jets that were supposedly “unbeatable.” India had proof: videos, satellite images, pilot footage—everything. But strangely, the global headlines were not celebrating India's win.

Why? Because America and China had business to protect.

Those same jets were being sold to countries worldwide. But now, their image had crashed harder than the jets themselves. With India's missiles like Brahmos, proving more effective—and home-grown, no less—defence buyers have started looking East. That is billions in losses for US and Chinese arms companies.

TODAY WARS ARE FOUGHT AS MUCH AS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AS THEY ARE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

So, what did they do?

They launched a different kind of attack—a narrative war. Suddenly, Western newspapers, think tanks, YouTubers, “defence analysts” and even AI platforms began downplaying India's success. Headlines spoke of “unconfirmed claims” and “fog of war.” Many of these voices came from

IN THIS NEW WAR TRUTH DOESN'T GO VIRAL—NARRATIVES DO.

universities and influencers quietly funded from... somewhere.

We're seeing the same pattern in the Israel-Hamas conflict. Every bomb is followed by a Twitter thread. Each side pushes its version of the truth, and social media turns into a battlefield. People around the world are fed completely different realities, shaped by what they see online.

In this new war, truth doesn't go viral—narratives do. And anyone can join in. Freelance YouTubers, “fact-checkers,” bloggers—many backed by money from unknown sources—are shaping public opinion more than diplomats ever could.

So what does this mean for India?

Winning battles on the ground is no longer enough. India must win the war of perception too. If not, real victories will be buried under fake news and clever captions.

To counter this, India urgently needs to organise a well-informed, unified body tasked specifically with narrative warfare. This agency must combine expertise from media, cybersecurity, psychology, and geopolitics to detect, decode, and defuse disinformation in real time. A decentralized information battlefield needs a centralized response—swift, smart, and strategic.

The Encounter

-Mrs. Dayita Bira Dutta, Department of History

bhromon*
chapter II

“I sometimes look back at my youthful travels. Am I the same person, who with the ignorant optimism of youth...travelled solo across Europe...?”

As I end my seventh decade of life, I sometimes look back at my youthful travels. Am I the same person, who with the ignorant optimism of youth, travelled solo across Europe with only a backpack – on trains, trucks, buses, sleeping on railway platforms, and on decks of ships? Who booked passage on the world’s worst airline, which left me stranded in Athens for four days without any money? Who had her passport stolen and had to create a scene to get a new one at the Indian High Commission?

Today when I can afford to stay in decent places, eat the odd gourmet meal, listen to a concert or two, those days seem like a different world: Counting my meagre foreign exchange (in those days there was a cap of \$500), working out that I could afford to spend \$2 for a bed in a grotty youth hostel, wondering if some bread cheese and fruit could nourish me for the whole day, should I hitch a ride to save money, rather than take a bus (a decision I regretted).

“...one incident which the fictional Rani (played by Kangana Ranaut) did not experience was a truly terrifying one – the experience of being suspected as a drug smuggler.”

All this came back to me, when younger staff members forced me to watch the film “Queen”. Not being a Bollywood fan, I was initially reluctant – only to keep exclaiming “Oh my god! That happened to me!” – to their evident amusement. But one incident which the fictional Rani (played by Kangana Ranaut) did not experience was a truly terrifying one – the experience of being suspected as a drug smuggler. It happened in some god forsaken border crossing of a country that no longer exists (Yugoslavia). From Greece I decided to cross Yugoslavia by bus, en route to Italy. At some time past midnight, the bus halted at the border and a border policeman boarded and in peremptory tones demanded our passports. As soon as he saw mine, he exclaimed in guttural tones “Indian? Komm vit me!” Under the curious gaze of my fellow travellers I alighted from bus with some trepidation. Yugoslavia was a Communist country in those days, and I was already having feverish visions of languishing in some Dalmatian prison.

Thereafter commenced a curious exchange in broken English and sign language – since they could not speak English and I could not speak Serbo-Croat. I



All this came back to me, when younger staff members forced me to watch the film “Queen”.

was taken to a counter, where another border guard through signs asked about my luggage. I mimed a backpack..”Go. Get.” he said. So I had to crawl into the luggage space and fumble around in the dark till I found it. After which it was subjected to a thorough search, taking out every item of clothing, even shaking out my Ponds Dreamflower talc for the sniffer dog. Not satisfied, they then indicated that I should remove my clothes... at which point I panicked and said “No, no, Lady..Lady”

At this point the bus driver who had been watching this

pantomime with sympathy seemed to understand what I was trying to say...that I would only consent to a search by a woman. He spoke to them and they consented to let me be led away into a small room, where I was thoroughly searched (I won't go into the details here). Eventually they realized I was just another sloppily dressed traveller (wearing the usual uniform of shabby jeans, tee shirt and

sandals) and let me go. The whole thing took just under an hour – and once back on the bus, I was the subject of sympathetic looks and comments. With resilience of youth, I put this behind me, determined to get the most out of my travels. Although I had several other “interesting” encounters, that midnight stop at an obscure Balkan border crossing still haunts me to this day.

CAMPUS NEWS

INTERDISTRICT TABLE TENNIS

The Inter-District Table Tennis Tournament for schools was held in Tezpur on May 25, 2025, organized by the Tezpur District Sports Association. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 18 students, who competed in both team and individual categories. The players displayed remarkable energy, sportsmanship, and passion throughout the tournament. Among the standout performers, Darsh Sharma was declared Best Player of the Tournament, earning praise for his outstanding skills and consistent performance.



DANCE FEST

AVS Dance and Music School participated in the 21st National Music and Dance Festival held by Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrutik Sangh, Pune, from May 21-31, 2025, with over 30 performers. Held at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium, students showcased Nepali folk, Bollywood, Odissi, and Xattriya.

Results:

1st – Nepali Folk

2nd – Bollywood

Odissi Solo:

• 2nd – Anushka Shivkumar Iyer

3rd – Manipuri Duet

3rd – Odissi Duet

ROUNDSQUARE

Aviators took part in the Round Square Day Global Challenge on May 31, 2025. The initiative aims for participating schools worldwide to collectively cover 100 miles while raising funds. Students from Classes 7 to 12 ran as part of the main challenge, while Classes 5 and 6 joined in a fundraising race and games event the same day. Proceeds will support International Service Projects and student bursaries.



DESIGN WORKSHOP

Design Thinking Workshop was held on June 7 and June 8, 2025 by ULPT Edu Consultancy and Services for around thirty students on campus. It included 12 sessions on hands-on learning experience in critical thinking, creativity and innovation for staff and students.

Among several highlights were the Wallet Project and introduction to Social Innovation, Social Entrepreneurship and Business Model Canvas. All the students not only benefitted from it greatly but also enjoyed a new approach to life, one full of thinking and ideation.



Ripple #253

- Aanya Paul Sarkar, Deputy Editor, XII

*A crooked grin on his face,
studying the winds emerging from
the west.*

"The mission's finally over Chief."

The conman smiled.

*"Well you know what they say,
don't you?"*

"The wicked get no rest."

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Do we have any juniors in our batch?" - Bornil Phukan, XII (You. You're the junior.)
2. "I am calm down" - Dr. Kuljeet Singh (Baby calm down.)
3. "We can't wait for you all the day." - Debangnan Nath, XII (Well it's not like you have anything else to do... anymore.)
4. "Making reputations of Academics' Captain going down." - Urvee Rathi (We can see why, Urvee.)
5. "Question number one is a specimen question paper question paper." - Mr. Panigrahi (But I have a question sir!)

bed of lavender!

Keep It Reel!



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