

Kohima

Region of The Society of Jesus



A Assam: The largest state in Northeast India at nearly 50,000 sq. miles and a population of 22 million (82% Hindu and 12% Muslim). One quarter of the world's tea is grown here where green hills and rolling plains abound in the fertile Brahmaputra River Valley. The Jesuit regional offices are located in the capital city, Guwahati, where they are also active in social research and human rights work. In rural Assam, Jesuits focus on pastoral, educational, environmental, and economic development work, primarily ministering to the tea garden workers.

B Arunachal Pradesh: Shares international borders with Bhutan, China (Tibet) and Myanmar. Rivers formed by snow melt in the Himalayas flow to subtropical plains. Elephants, tigers and leopards, gibbon, bears and even the red Panda live in higher altitudes. The area is one of the least-developed, most restricted and under served regions in India. Polygamous family structures are common and prevailing religions are animism along with Buddhist influences. Jesuits have established village schools and modest churches to foster evangelization and education.

C Manipur: Has a population of 1.5 million and a rich tribal culture known for fierce fighting, martial arts, and horsemanship. The international sport of polo is said to have originated here. Jesuit works include two high schools, small parish activities, spiritual direction, pastoral training, and inter-religious dialogue with the Hindu majority.

D Meghalaya: Dubbed the "Scotland of the East" by homesick British tea planters seeking refuge in the mountains from the heat of the plains. Indigenous people dominate the population. The new Jesuit novitiate is located in Shillong, as well as a parish center and school near Cherrapunji—known for heavy rains during monsoon season. Jesuits have also assisted the diocese as spiritual directors and teachers in the local seminary.

E Mizoram: One of the few predominantly Christian states in India. Due to a high level of other religious orders and diocesan priests, the state is not presently a Jesuit priority.

F Nagaland: Folklore and music are integral to life, with songs eulogizing ancestors and traditional heroes. Tribes are distinguished by colorful, intricately designed attire where the lower Himalayas create picturesque landscapes. The historic town of Kohima is where British and Indian troops turned back the Japanese in WWII. Jesuits have long been present in rural villages along the old Burma Road which passes through Kohima, and have established a dozen parishes (connected with elementary, middle and high schools), as well as an orphanage, a university, and a teachers college. The Jesuit pre-novitiate is in Phesama and the juniorate is nearby in Jakhama. Jesuits also provide spiritual direction and retreat ministries.

G Tripura: The second smallest state in India. Due to rigorous missionary restrictions, Jesuits are not now present here.

