

## ***Topic : Popular Northeast Rock Bands***

Northeast India, the land of wonderstuck scenic beauty comprising of rich and varied cultures and wildlife is one of the most fascinating and exotic places of India filled with surprises. The region constitutes of the Seven Sister States also called "Paradise Unexplored", and the Himalayan state of Sikkim. However, the most interesting part of Northeast is the musical influence it has on the rest of the country.

Music is an art and an expression of emotions and feelings through sound. Northeast India has always been justified as the bedrock of music, especially western music and has always amazing things to offer to all the rock music lovers. Over the years with the knowledge of breathtaking music, Northeast has become a hard rock hub of India. Shillong also known as 'the Rock Capital of India' is recognized for its best rock bands and famous Hornbill National Rock Contest. Several Rock Bands has born from this region and are extremely talented and applaudable when it comes to creating rock music ranging from soft rock and roll and rock pop, to metal and hard rock. Some of them are famous locally while some have performed both in National and International platforms and demand equal respect from people. Hence let us dig deeper below to know and understand about some of the most well-known Rock Bands of Northeast India.

- **Soulmate- (Shillong)** : This band was formed in Shillong by Rudy Wallang and Tipriti Kharbangar with the aim of playing the blues and to spread awareness about the music to the rest of the country and was the first band ever to represent India in the world platform. The name 'Soulmate' comes from the song "The Blues Is My Soulmate" from their first album called 'Shillong'. Over the years, the band has played across the country and is the most recognized and loved blues bands in India.
- **Girish and The Chronicles (GATC)- (Sikkim)** : Founded by vocalist Girish Pradhan, GATC is a Hard Rock/Melodic Rock/Progressive/Heavy Metal band hailing from Sikkim, India but currently based on Bangalore. It is a four-piece Live band popular for electrifying and energetic Live shows and is heavily influenced by veterans like Deep Purple, ACDC, Iron Maiden, Guns N' Roses and Led Zeppelin.
- **Lucid Recess- (Guwahati)** : Lucid Recess, one of the most powerful Indian metal band was formed by brothers Siddharth and Amitabh Barooa in Guwahati, Assam. The band mainly

believes in making music that appeals to people's head and heart with the lyrics being based on life and its various constituents. The band won the Toto Award for Music in 2011.

- **Alobo Naga & The Band- (Dimapur) :** Nagaland is one of the most rich state in terms of music and dance. Alobo Naga and The Band is considered as the best Indian rock outfit comprising five typical young Naga men. The band is associated with progressive contemporary rock and the lyrics are mostly based on love, youth and society. It was the first band from the region to be the winner of "Best Indian Act" MTV Europe Music Awards in 2012.

- **Still Waters- (Gangtok) :** Still Waters is the best rock band from Gangtok (Sikkim), the only brother of seven sister state to have reached great achievements. The name 'Still Waters' is derived from an old saying "Still waters run deep" and it reflects the bands music. The band has earned respectable accolades and their primary focus is to produce original music.

Therefore, these are some of the most popular rock bands which have emerged from Northeast India and have been achieving heights of success in the world platforms despite facing several challenges and obstacles from the society.

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