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Protest Against Bru Resettlement

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Why in News

Recently, parts of north **Tripura** have witnessed violent protests over the **proposed resettlement of Bru tribals.**

Key Points

- **Background:**
 - **Bru or Reang** is a community **indigenous to Northeast India**, living mostly in **Tripura, Mizoram and Assam**. In Tripura, they are recognised as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group**.
 - In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state.
 - In 1997, following **ethnic clashes**, nearly **37,000 Brus** fled **Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei districts of Mizoram** and were accommodated in **relief camps in Tripura**.
 - Since then, **5,000** have **returned to Mizoram** in eight phases of repatriation, while **32,000** still live in six relief camps in **North Tripura**.
 - In January 2020, a **quadrilateral agreement** was signed by the Centre, the two state governments and Bru representatives to allow the **remaining 32,000 to permanently settle in Tripura**.
- **2020 Agreement:**
 - After the agreement was made in January 2020, the state has planned **12 resettlement spots across six districts with 300 families each**.
 - The Centre has announced a **special development project with funding of Rs. 600 crore**.

Each resettled family will get an estimated 0.03 acres of land for building a home, **Rs. 1.5 lakh as housing assistance**, and **Rs. 4 lakh as a one-time cash** benefit for sustenance, a **monthly allowance of Rs. 5,000** and **free rations for two years** from the date of resettlement.

- **Reason for the Protest:**
 - The 2020 agreement led to protests from **Bengali and Mizo** groups in Tripura. They claim that settling thousands of migrants permanently in Kanchanpur sub-division of North Tripura district would lead to **demographic imbalance, exert pressure on local resources and potentially lead to law and order problems.**
 - They alleged that 650 **Bengali families** from around Kanchanpur and 81 **Mizo families** from Jampui Hill range, who **fled due to “atrocities” by Brus**, were **yet to be resettled** two decades on.
- **Conditions of the Brus:**
 - They are in fear and uncertainty as they suffer an **economic blockade** due to these protests.
 - They haven't received foodgrains as per their **relief package** this month and if the protest continues, their **condition will deteriorate** further.

Source:IE