



## Greater Tipraland: Tripura

### Why in News

Recently, several tribal outfits in Tripura have joined hands to push their demand for a separate state, **Greater Tipraland** for indigenous communities in the region.

- Among the political parties that have come together for the cause are **TIPRA Motha** (Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance) and **IPFT** (Indigenous People's Front of Tripura).

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**TRIPURA**  
DISTRICT MAP



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BANGLADESH

ASSAM



**LEGEND**

- - - International Boundary
- - - State Boundary
- - - District Boundary
- State Capital
- ◎ District Headquarter

## Key Points

### ▪ The Demand:

- The parties are demanding a **separate state of ‘Greater Tipraland’** for the indigenous communities of the north-eastern state.
- They **want the Centre to carve out the separate state under Article 2 and 3** of the Constitution.
  - Among the 19 notified **Scheduled Tribes** in Tripura, **Tripuris** (aka Tipra and Tiprasas) **are the largest**.
  - According to the 2011 census, **there are at least 5.92 lakh Tripuris in the state**, followed by **Bru or Reang** (1.88 lakh) and **Jamatias** (83,000).

### Article 2 & 3

- **Article 2:** Parliament may by law **admit into the Union, or establish, new States** on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
  - However, **Parliament cannot establish a new union territory by passing a law**, that can only be done through a constitutional amendment.
  - States like Sikkim (previously not within India) became a part of the country under Article 2.
- **Article 3:** It empowered the Parliament **to make law relating to the formation of new states** and alteration of existing states.

### ▪ Immediate Cause:

- The churn in the state’s politics with the rise of TIPRA Motha and the **Assembly polls due in early 2023** are the two major reasons behind the development.

### ▪ Historical Background:

- Tripura was a kingdom ruled by the **Manikya dynasty from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century** until the signing of the Instrument of Accession with the Indian government in 1949.
- The demand stems from the **anxiety of the indigenous communities in connection with the change in the demographics of the state**, which has reduced them to a minority.
- It happened due to the **displacement of Bengalis from the erstwhile East Pakistan between 1947 and 1971**.
- From 63.77% in 1881, the population of the tribals in Tripura was down to 31.80% by 2011.
- In the intervening decades, **ethnic conflict and insurgency gripped the state, which shares a nearly 860-km long boundary with Bangladesh**.
- The joint forum has also pointed out that the **indigenous people have not only been reduced to a minority, but have also been dislodged from land reserved** for them by the penultimate king of the Manikya dynasty **Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman**.

### ▪ Initiatives to Address the Issue:

#### ◦ Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council:

- The **Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTADC)** was formed under the sixth schedule of the Constitution in 1985 to ensure development and secure the rights and cultural heritage of the tribal communities.
  - ‘Greater Tipraland’ envisages a situation in which the entire TTADC area will be a separate state. It also proposes dedicated bodies to secure the rights of the Tripuris and other aboriginal communities living outside Tripura.
- The TTADC, which has legislative and executive powers, covers nearly two-third of the state’s geographical area.
- The council comprises 30 members of which 28 are elected while two are nominated by the Governor.

#### ◦ Reservation:

- Also, out of the 60 Assembly seats in the state, 20 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

## **Other Demands in the North East**

- **Greater nagalim** (Parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam and Myanmar)
- **Bodoland** (Assam)
- **Tribal Autonomy Meghalaya**

## **Way Forward**

- **Economic and social viability** rather than political considerations **must be given primacy**.
- There should be certain **clear-cut parameters and safeguards to check the unfettered demands**.
- It is better to allow democratic concerns like **development, decentralisation and governance rather than religion, caste, language or dialect** to be the valid bases for conceding the demands for a new state.
- Apart from this the fundamental problems of development and governance deficit such as **concentration of power, corruption, administrative inefficiency etc must be addressed**.

**Source: IE**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/greater-tipraland-tripura>