



## Greater Tipraland, Demand of Tripura

**For Prelims:** Tripura, Centre State Relations, Separate State Demand

**For Mains:** Constitutional Provision for Separate State, Tripura Demand for Separate State

### Why in News?

Recently, chief of a **political party of Tripura** led a two-day dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, to raise the demand for a “**Greater Tipraland**”.

- The objective is to **secure the rights of indigenous communities in the state.**

### What is the Issue?

#### ▪ Demand:

- The party is 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).
- They are demanding a separate state not only for the indigenous people but also for all communities who live in the **Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD)** area.
- **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.
- **Other Demands in the North East:**
  - [Greater nagalim](#) (Parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam and Myanmar)
  - [Bodoland](#) (Assam)
  - [Tribal Autonomy Meghalaya](#)

## **Does Parliament have Powers to Create a New State?**

- **Parliament** derives powers to create a new state from **Article 2 and Article 3 of the Constitution of India**.
- **Article 2:**
  - Parliament may by law **admit into the Union, or establish, new States** on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
  - 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.

## **What Initiatives have the Government taken 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**.

## **What should be the Approach Moving 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**

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