



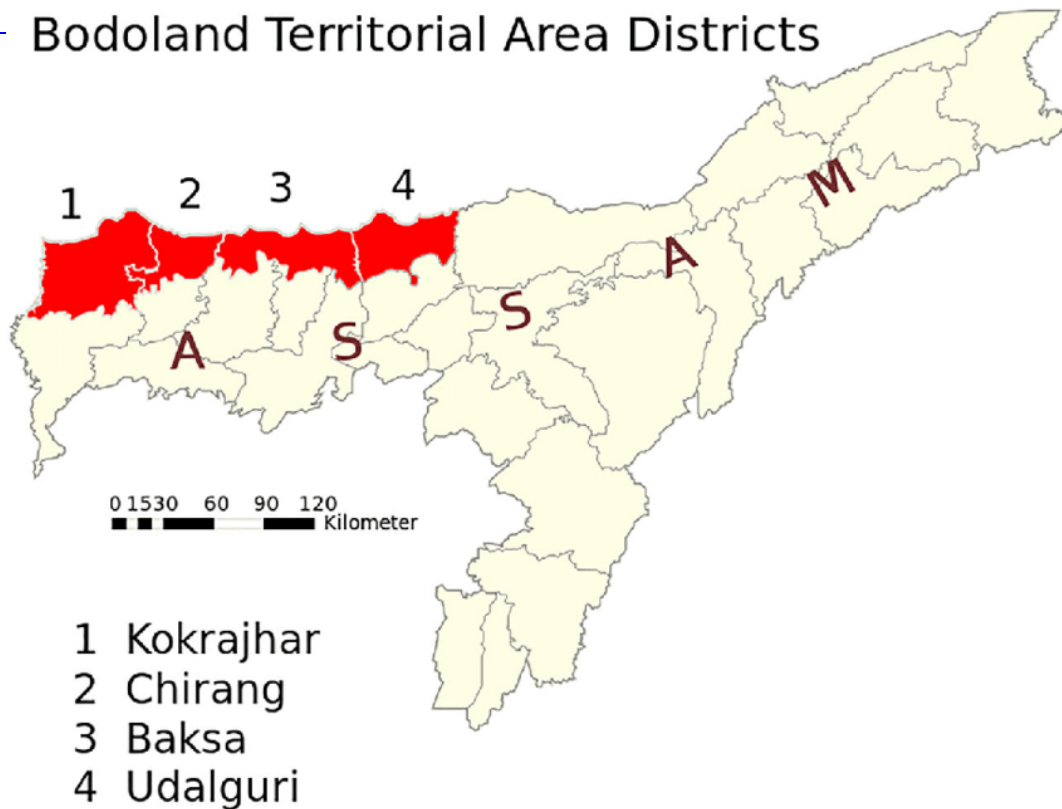
# Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)

## Why in News

The people displaced by ethnic and communal riots in areas under the [Bodoland Territorial Region \(BTR\)](#) since 1996 are set to return to the homes they left behind.

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, the **Assam government** and the **Bodo groups** signed a **tripartite agreement** to redraw, rename and change power-sharing agreement in the **Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD)** in Assam.

## // Bodoland Territorial Area Districts



## Key Points

- **About:**
  - **Population:** Bodos are the **single largest community** among the **notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam**. They constitute about **5-6% of Assam's population**.
  - **Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri** and **Chirang** districts in Assam constitute the Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD) and are home to several ethnic groups.
- **Dispute:**
  - **Demand of Separate State:** The **first organised demand for a Bodo state** came in 1967-68 under the banner of the political party called **Plains Tribals Council of Assam**.
  - **Assam Accord:** In 1985, when the Assam Movement culminated in the Assam Accord,

many Bodos saw it as essentially focusing on the interests of the Assamese-speaking community.

- As a result of this, several Bodo groups led by the **All Bodo Students Union (ABSU)** and **National Democratic Front of Bodoland** have been demanding separate land for the ethnic community, a movement that has claimed nearly 4,000 lives.
- **Displacement of People:** Between 1993 and 2014, more than 970 Bengali-speaking Muslims, Adivasis and Bodos died in clashes triggered by indiscriminate shooting by extremist groups, primarily the **now-disbanded National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)**.
  - Some of the 8.4 lakh people displaced by the violence have remained in shabby relief camps while others relocated to areas beyond present-day BTR. Over 2.5 lakh people were displaced in the Bodo-Santhal conflict.
- **Bodo Accord:**
  - **First Bodo Accord:** After years of violent clashes, the first Bodo Accord was **signed with the ABSU in 1993**, leading to the creation of a **Bodoland Autonomous Council** with limited political powers.
  - **Second Bodo Accord:** Under this, it was agreed to create a self-governing body for the Bodo Areas in the State of Assam.
    - In pursuance of this, the **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** was created in 2003 with some more financial and other powers.
  - **Third Bodo Accord:** The [agreement](#) was signed in 2020, it renamed the BTAD as **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**.
    - It promises more legislative, executive and administrative autonomy under the [Sixth Schedule](#) to **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)** and **expansion of the BTC territory** in lieu of statehood.
    - It provides for alteration of the area of BTAD and provisions for Bodos outside BTAD.
    - BTR includes the villages which are dominated by Bodos but are outside BTAD presently.

### **Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)**

- It is an **autonomous region** in the **state of Assam** in India.
- It is made up of four districts (**Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri**) on the north bank of the **Brahmaputra river**, by the foothills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The area under the jurisdiction of BTC, formed under the 2003 Accord, was called the **Bodo Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD)**.
- BTC is an area governed under the [6<sup>th</sup> schedule](#). However, BTC is an exception to the constitutional provision under the 6<sup>th</sup> schedule.
  - As it can constitute up to 46 members out of which 40 are elected.
  - Of these 40 seats, 35 are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes and non-tribal communities, five are unreserved and the rest six are nominated by the governor from underrepresented communities of the BTAD.

### **Autonomous Districts and Regional Councils**

- Along with ADCs, the [Sixth Schedule](#) also provides for **separate Regional Councils** for each area constituted as an autonomous region.
  - In all, there are **10 areas in the Northeast** that are registered as **autonomous districts** - three in **Assam, Meghalaya** and **Mizoram** and one in **Tripura**.
  - These regions are named as district council of (name of district) and regional council of (name of region).
- Each autonomous district and regional council **consists of not more than 30 members**, of which four are nominated by the governor and the rest via elections.
  - All of them remain in power for a **term of five years**.

**Source: TH**

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