



Greater Tipraland, Demand of Tripura

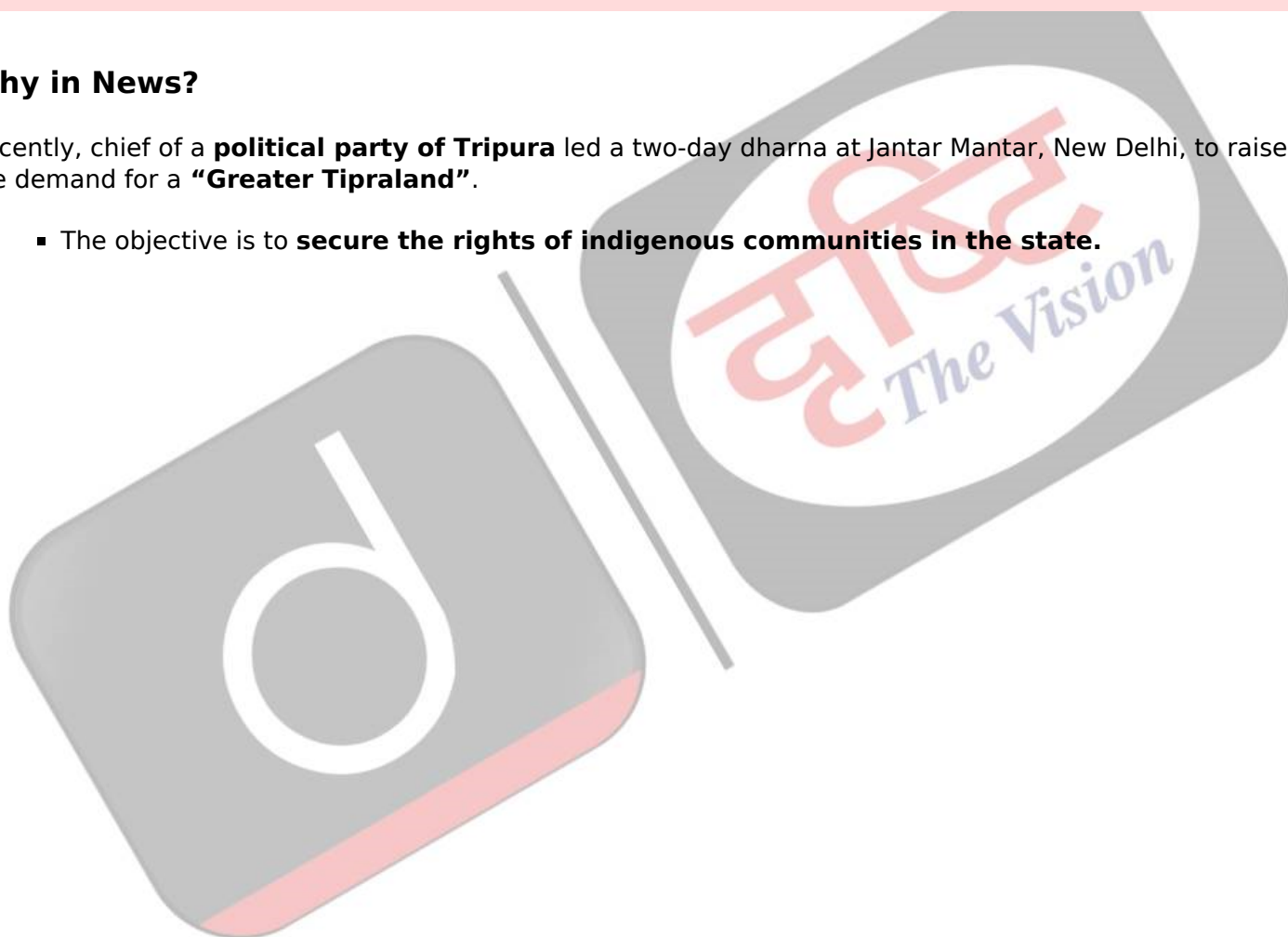
For Prelims: Tripura, Centre State Relations, Separate State Demand

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 (TTAADC)** area.

▪ Historical Background:

- **Tripura** was a kingdom ruled by the **Manikya dynasty** from the late 13th 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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