



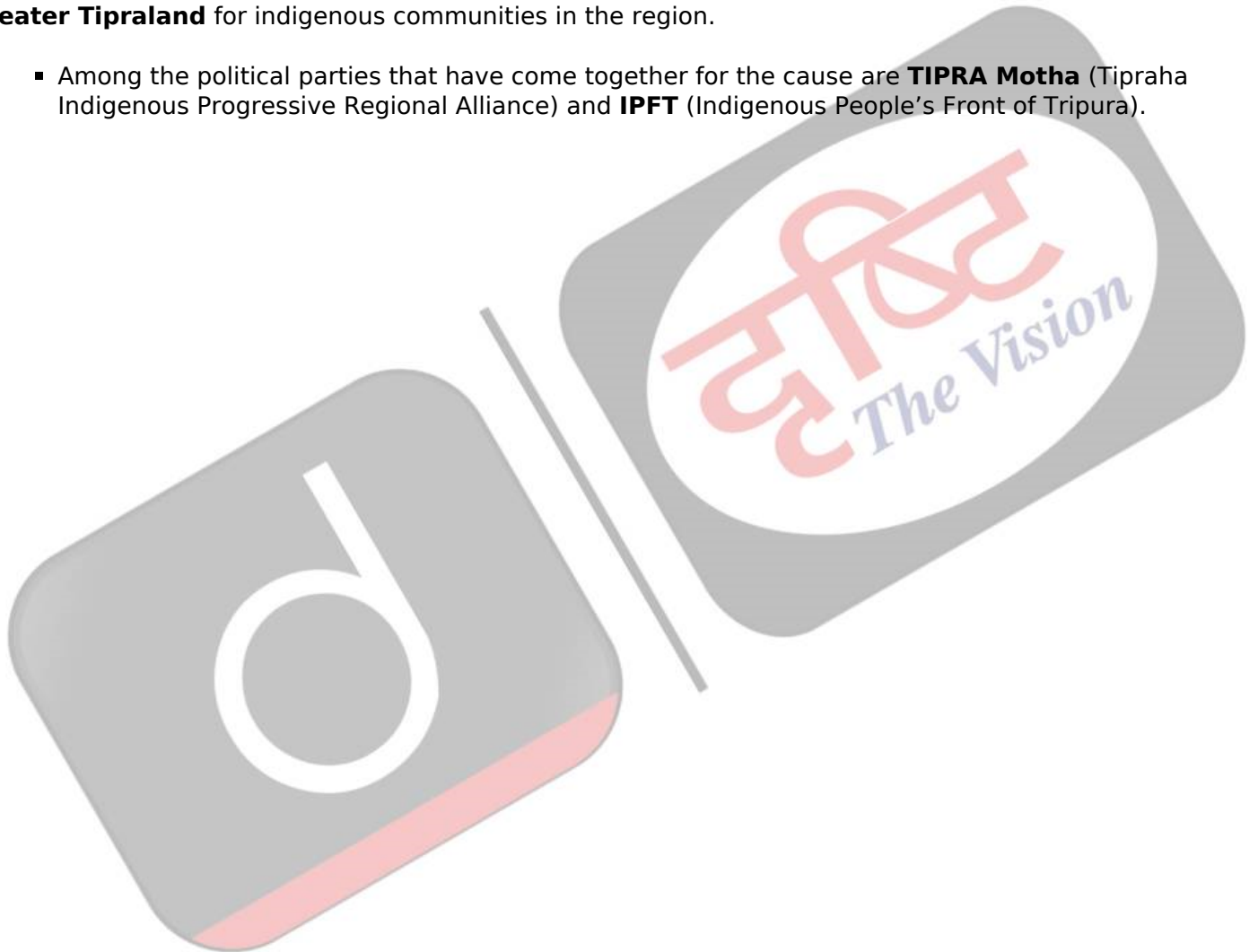
Greater Tipraland: Tripura

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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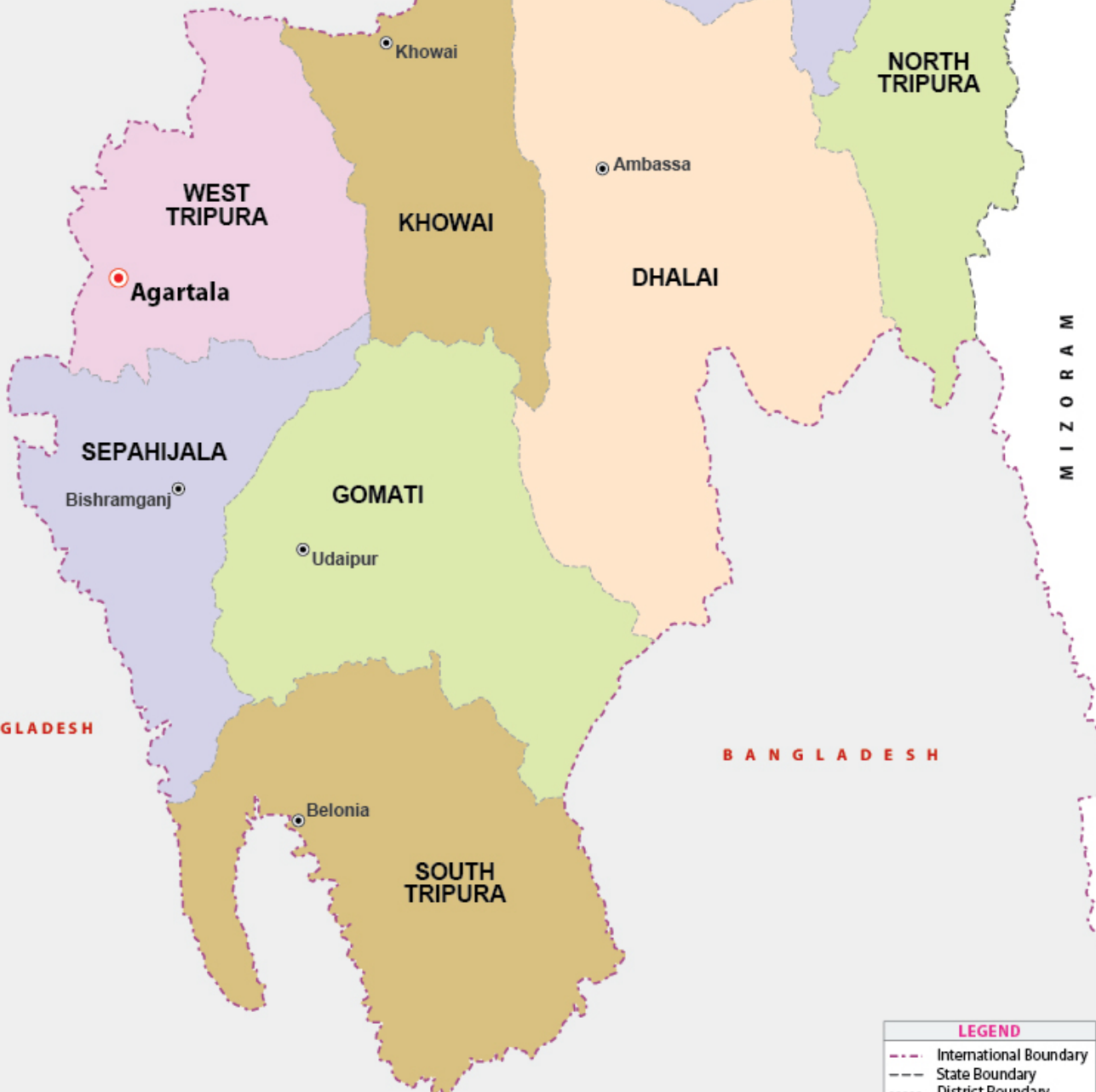


TRIPURA
DISTRICT MAP



ASSAM

BANGLADESH



BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH

MIZORAM

LEGEND

- - - International Boundary
- - - State Boundary
- - - District Boundary
- State Capital
- ⊙ District Headquarter

Key Points

▪ The Demand:

- The parties are demanding a **separate state of 'Greater Tripaland'** 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 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**.
- **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 Tripaland' 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 Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiiias.com/printpdf/greater-tipraland-tripura>

