## Government of Tripura Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs \*\*\*\*

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S-2266 Agartala, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

## **Press Release**

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister chaired a meeting today attended by Hon'ble Chief Minister Tripura, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Ministers and Senior officials of Assam, senior officials from Mizoram in the presence of Union Home Secretary, Joint Secretary, (North East), and other senior officials of Union Home Ministry.

In the meeting, all the proposals of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, w.r.t Amendment of Article 280 and Sixth Schedule of the Constitution were welcomed by Hon'ble Union Home Minister. Especially, the proposal of the Chief Minister, for not limiting the representation of women to only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of strength of the Council, rather, it may be fixed at 'not less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the strength', so as to give flexibility to the State to increase the representation of women, in times to come. The proposal to devolve tangible and financial powers to the Tribal Village Councils was also appreciated. Detailed discussions were held with reference to Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Assam to decide on measures for strengthening of the Tribal Village Councils and District Councils under the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution.

NLFT and ATTF have been declared as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the Home Ministry will finalise a scheme of surrender and rehabilitation of the remaining cadres.

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister directed the Government of Mizoram to provide security to the repatriated Reang (Bru) citizens in Mizoram to ensure that the process continues smoothly and both the State Governments were asked to keep a strict vigil on the process.

The Home Ministry has also constituted a Committee for examining the cultural and linguistic issues affecting the Indigenous Population of Tripura. The Committee has been asked to submit a report in 60 days.

After the meeting Hon'ble Union Chief Minister Tripura joined the Hon'ble Home Minister, for an informal discussion on various issues of importance including funding for flood relief. Hon'ble Chief Minister also apprised Hon'ble Union Home Minister about the unfenced 71 Km international Border with Bangladesh, especially with regard to the vulnerable spots in Gandacherra and Sonamura. Hon'ble Union Home Minister was briefed about how this gap in Border fencing which has been pending for the last decade, is adversely affecting the law and order and security situation of the State, especially in light of the strict crackdown by the State Government on the drug supply routes, cannabis cultivation and Crime against women in the State. Hon'ble Union Home Minister assured the support of the Union Home Ministry in all the abovesaid issues.