

Tribal bodies demand belt protection



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The Indigenous [Tribal](#) Sahitya Sabhas of Assam (ITTSSA), a conglomeration of literary bodies of Bodo, [Tiwa](#), Karbi, Rabha, Dmasa, Mising, Garo, Deuri, submitted a memorandum to [chief](#) minister Sarbananda Sonowal on various issues related to the [indigenous](#) people of the [state](#), including development of [tribal](#) languages and protection of [Tribal](#) Belts and Blocks.

The Sabhas demanded that the term '[Assamese](#)' [as](#) appeared in Clause-[6](#) of the Assam accord, 1985 should aptly be specified [as](#) 'Indigenous [Tribal](#)' people of Assam and 'Indigenous [Assamese](#) people" of Assam for execution of the provisions of clause-[6](#) of the Assam [Accord](#), 1985.

It demanded that the provision of the clause-[10](#) of the Assam [Accord](#), 1985, in respect of the [Tribal](#) Belts and Blocks, should fully be implemented in letter and spirit by way of 'protecting the [tribal](#) people and evicting the encroachers there', without further delay and "necessary steps be taken to include the chapter-[X](#) of Assam Land & Revenue Regulation of 1886 in the Ninth Scheduled of the [Constitution of India](#), it stated.

Demanding complete updating the NRC with further delay, it said no name of foreigners be inducted therein. It also said immigration coming between 1951 and 25 March 1971 may be regarded [as](#) Indian citizens if existing laws of the land allows but “no constitutional safeguard should be given to them [as](#) per the Assam [Accord](#), 1885..

It also demanded that present [10](#)% and 5% reservation quota enjoyed by the existing Scheduled Tribes(Plains) and Scheduled Tribes(Hills) respectively should be kept intact and should not in any way be hampered by way of clubbing the reservation quota with other communities. “Further the benefit provided under the sixth scheduled of the [Constitution of India](#) and other Autonomous Councils of Indigenous Tribals of Assam available for existing [ST](#) people should not be extended to other communities seeking for [ST](#) status, it said.

The [indigenous](#) sabhas also demand to take steps for preservation, protection and development of the tribal languages of Assam by way of adopting a tribal language [policy](#) with provisions for appointment of sufficient number of teachers, publication of books and earmarking sufficient funds with budget provision for establishment of libraries and other infrastructure for protection of these endangered tribal languages of Assam. It also urged the govt to introduced various tribal languages [as](#) medium of instruction [as](#) subject language [as](#) desired by the respective language speaking communities [as](#) per existing language [policy](#) of the SCERT, govt of Assam.

It also demanded the Scheduled tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers(Recognition of Forest Rights) [Act](#), 2006 should be implemented in the [state](#) in letter and spirit to protect the tribal people dwelling in the forest areas.

It also [demands](#) for immediate and full proof measures for the protection [against](#) flood and erosion.

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BY AT KOKRAJHAR BUREAU

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