

Halām subtribes

August 4, 2021

In news- People from the Halām sub-tribe, who had taken shelter in Assam after confrontations with Bru refugees in north Tripura, have returned to their village Damcherra in North Tripura district.

A brief note on the issue

- At least 700 people of Halām sub-tribes were displaced after rioters torched several houses at Damcherra area of north Tripura district.
- The displaced people crossed the Longai river to reach Karimganj of Assam. Karimganj district administration provided them shelter and distributed relief materials.

About Halām sub-tribe

- Halām communities of Tripura belong to the Kuki-Chin tribes of Tibeto-Burmese ethnic group.
- **Halams are also known as Mila Kuki**, though they are not at all Kukis in terms of language, culture and living style.
- It is believed that the **name Halām was created by Tipra Maharaja**.
- However their verbal tradition says that **they called themselves as “Riam”**, which literally means “Human being” and they also call themselves “Riamrai, Reivon, Longvon, Manyâ etc.
- Halām Community consists of **some sub-tribes**, namely; Koloi, Korbong, Kaipeng, Bong, Sakachep, Thangachep, Dab or Nabin Bongcher, Molsom, Rupini, Rangkhawl, Chorai, Lankai, Kaireng(Darlong), Ranglong, Marchafang & Saihmar.
- **Their language** is also more or less similar to that of the **Tibeto-Burman family**.
- As per 2011 Census their total population is 57,210 and

distributed throughout the State.

- **Halams live in typical “Tong Ghar”** specially made of bamboos and Changrass (thatch).
- Apart from plain land cultivation, they still practice Jhum cultivation and depend on both the activities, apart from other substitute works.
- Koloi, Rupini, Molsom, Ranglong, Lankai have their colourful **dances** and also have specific dances related to Jhum culture.
- **Hi-Hook dance of the Halams is the most popular among all.**
- **Rai Balmani Festival** is now-a-days is celebrated with great significance by the Koloi clan of Halams.

Bru-Reang refugees

- The **Brus—spread across Tripura, Mizoram** and parts of southern **Assam**—are the most populous tribe in Tripura.
- They are one of the 21 scheduled tribes of the Indian state of Tripura.
- Also known as Reangs in the state, they are ethnically different from the Mizos.
- They **speak the Reang dialect of Kokborok language** which is of Tibeto-Burmese origin and is locally referred to as Kau Bru.
- While Mizoram has as many as 40,000 Brus living in the state, in Tripura, their numbers stand at approximately 32,000.
- In Tripura, they are recognised as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- They are primarily an agrarian tribe. In the past, they mostly **practised the Huk or Jhum cultivation like most other Tripuri tribes.**

Their important festivals are Buisi, Ker, Gonga Mtai, Goria, Chitragupra, Hojagiri, Katangi Puja, Lampra Uóhthoh.