



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Reang Tribe (Bru)

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The **Reang** (locally known as **Bru**) is an indigenous ethnic group primarily found in the states of **Tripura**, **Mizoram**, and **Assam** in India. They are recognized as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** in Tripura, highlighting their unique cultural heritage and the challenges they face in maintaining their traditional lifestyle.

Key Details About the Reang Tribe:

- **Location:**
- Primarily in **Tripura**, also found in **Mizoram** and **Assam**.
- **PVTG Status:**
- The **Reang** community is the **only PVTG** in Tripura, which recognizes their socio-economic vulnerabilities and the need for protection and development.
- **Origin:**
- The **Reang** migrated from the **Shan State** (Myanmar) to the **Chittagong Hill Tracts** and later to **Southern Tripura**.
- Another group of Reang migrated via **Assam** and **Mizoram** in the **18th century**.
- **Ethnic Stock:**
- The tribe belongs to the **Indo-Mongoloid racial stock**, sharing similarities with other tribes in the region.
- **Language:**
- They speak "**Kaubru**", a dialect of **Kok-Borok**, which has tonal influences from the **Kuki** language. This places their language under the **Tibeto-Burmese** linguistic family.
- **Clans:**
- There are two major clans: **Meska** and **Molsoi**.
- **Social Structure:**
- The community has a **well-knit** structure, with a **rigid and self-governing** system that preserves traditional practices and governance.
- **Economic Activities:**
- Traditionally, the Reang people practiced **Jhum cultivation** (shifting agriculture), but they have increasingly transitioned to **modern agricultural practices**.
- **Religious Beliefs:**
- The majority of the **Reang** follow **Hinduism**, worshipping several deities such as **Buraha**, **Bonirao**, **Songragma**, **Jampira**, and **Lampra**.

Cultural Heritage:

One of the most notable aspects of **Reang culture** is their **Hojagiri folk dance**, a traditional dance form that has gained **global recognition**.

- **Hojagiri Dance:**
- **Performers:** The dance is typically performed by **young women and girls** from the Reang community.
- **Team Size:** Usually, the dance involves **4–6 members**.
- **Props:** Performers balance objects like a **bottle or pitcher** on their heads and **lamps** in their hands.

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- **Movement:** The dancers only move the **lower half of their body**, creating a graceful wave-like motion from their **waist down to their feet**.
- **Music:** The dance is accompanied by traditional instruments such as the **Khamb**, **bamboo flute**, and **bamboo cymbals**.
- **Attire:** Reang women wear **black Pachra** (a traditional garment) and **Rea** (a ring made of coins) covering their upper body. They also adorn themselves with **coin rings** in their ears and decorate with **fragrant flowers**.
- **Significance of Hojagiri:**
- The **Hojagiri** dance is not just a performance but a representation of the community's cultural identity, which is why the tribe has demanded that **Tripura declare a holiday on Hojagiri Day** to celebrate this important cultural tradition.

The Reang tribe's demands and the recognition of their cultural contributions highlight their rich heritage and the importance of preserving indigenous traditions in the face of modernization.