

1. Autonomous District Council- Polity

Governor's Rule in Mizoram tribal council extended for 6 months. Governor's Rule in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (Mizoram) has been extended for six months due to persistent political instability and the removal of the Chief Executive Member. The CADC is a Sixth Schedule body established in 1972 to safeguard the rights of the Buddhist Chakma community.

1. Governor's Rule in Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC)

Current Status

Extension- The Governor's Rule in the CADC, Mizoram, has been extended for six additional months.

Initial Imposition- The Governor originally assumed the functions and powers of the CADC on July 7, 2025.

Duration- The initial period was for six months; the recent extension prolongs this administration.

Reasons for Imposition & Extension

Political Instability- The primary driver is persistent political uncertainty within the council.

Administrative Breakdown- The region faces significant administrative challenges that hinder normal governance.

Leadership Crisis- The situation escalated particularly following the removal of the Chief Executive Member (CEM), leading to a vacuum in stable leadership.

Constitutional Basis for Governor's Rule

Article 244- This article applies the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Paragraph 16 (often cited as Para 16 or 12A depending on context/amendments)- Specifically, the Sixth Schedule empowers the Governor to

- a. Assume all or any functions/powers of the District or Regional Council.
- b. Take over administration in the event of a breakdown of constitutional machinery or failure to act in accordance with the Schedule.

2. About the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC)

Establishment & Purpose

Formation- Constituted in 1972 under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Objective- Created to protect the distinct political and cultural interests of the Chakma people residing in Mizoram.

Location- Located in the south-western part of Mizoram.

3. Profile of the Chakma People

Demography & Identity

Population Rank- They are the second-largest Scheduled Tribe in Mizoram, following the Mizo community.

Language- They speak Chakma (also known as *Changma Bhajchare*).

Religion- The community is predominantly Buddhist, distinct from the majority Christian population of Mizoram.

Livelihood & Culture

Agriculture- Traditionally, they practice Jhum cultivation (shifting cultivation), a slash-and-burn agricultural method common in the Northeast.

Cultural Attire- They have distinct traditional attire and customs that differentiate them from other tribes in the region.

Geographical Settlement

The Chakma people are spread across borders

- a. International- Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh).
- b. India (Northeast)- Primarily found in Mizoram, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh.

4. The Sixth Schedule- Framework for Autonomy

Overview

Definition- The Sixth Schedule creates Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), which are self-governing tribal administrative bodies.

Constitutional Mandate- It deals with the administration of tribal areas in four specific northeastern states- Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram (as per Article 244).

Goal- To provide a special governance framework that protects tribal rights, land, and culture while enabling self-administration.

Key Provisions regarding Autonomy

Governor's Powers

- The Governor is the head of the state for these areas.
- They have the power to organize and re-organize the autonomous districts (modify boundaries, change names, etc.).

Applicability of Laws

- Acts of Parliament or the State Legislature do not apply automatically to these districts.
- They apply only with specified modifications and exceptions to ensure they do not infringe upon tribal interests.

Structure of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)

Feature	Details
Composition	Up to 30 members.
Selection	26 members are elected through adult franchise. 4 members are nominated by the Governor.
Tenure	The term of the council is five years.

5. Powers and Functions of ADCs

The ADCs enjoy a wide range of powers under the Sixth Schedule, making them "states within a state" to a certain extent.

A. Legislative Powers - ADCs have the authority to make laws on specific subjects relevant to tribal life-

- Land Management- Allotment, occupation, or use of land.
- Forests- Management of forests (excluding State Reserved Forests).
- Water Resources- Usage of water for agriculture.
- Agriculture- Methods of cultivation (e.g., Jhum).
- Social Sphere- Public health, sanitation, village & town administration.
- Customary Laws- Inheritance of property, marriage, divorce, and social customs.

B. Executive Powers

- Local Administration- Responsible for administering village councils and traditional chiefs.
- Law Enforcement- Management of local law enforcement within the tribal context.
- Public Facilities- Establishing and managing primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, and roads.

C. Judicial Powers

- Tribal Courts- ADCs can establish Village Councils or Courts to try suits and cases.
- Jurisdiction- They hear disputes where both parties are Scheduled Tribes.
- Sentencing- Their power is generally limited to cases where the sentence is under five years (varies by specific council rules/state concurrence).

6. List of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) by State

State	Autonomous District Councils
Assam	1. Bodoland Territorial Council 2. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council 3. Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council
Meghalaya	1. Garo Hills Autonomous District Council 2. Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council 3. Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council

Tripura	1. Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council
Mizoram	1. Chakma Autonomous District Council 2. Lai Autonomous District Council 3. Mara Autonomous District Council

Source- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mizoram/governors-rule-in-mizoram-tribal-council-extended-for-6-months/article70505571.ece>

