

# NLFT & ATTF Declared Unlawful By Centre : UAPA Act

## Why In News

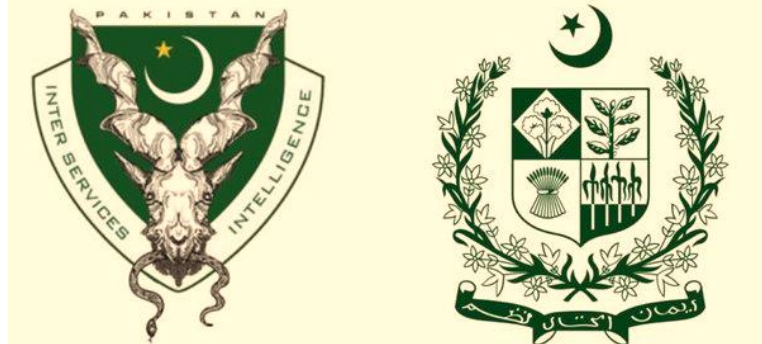
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs banned Tripura-based insurgent groups the **National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)** and the **All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)** along with their associates for **five years** for threatening the country's sovereignty and integrity.
- The declaration, made under the **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act** & will remain valid for a duration of five years, encompassing all factions, wings, and front organisations affiliated with these outfits.



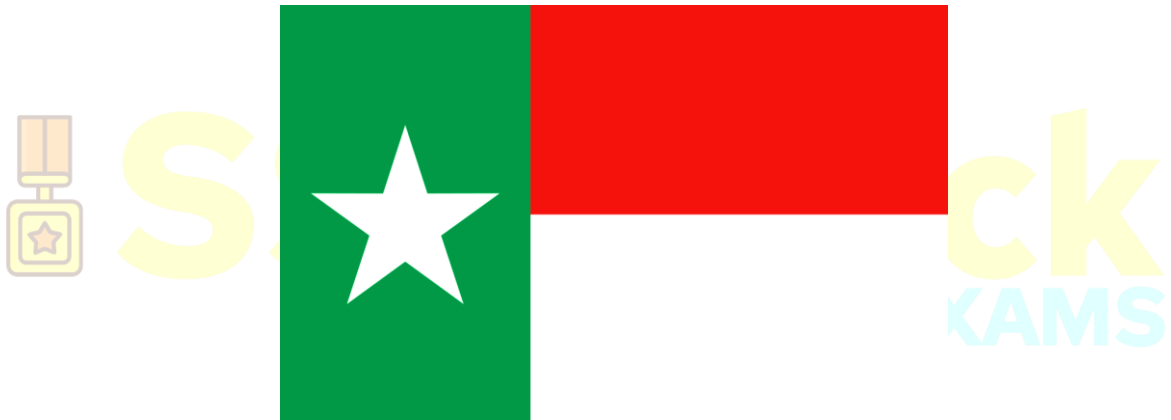
## National Liberation Front of Tripura

- NLFT Started By **Dhananjoy Reang** March 1989.
- The National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) was formed with the objective to **liberate Tripura from the India**, and to deport all those who entered Tripura after 1956. The outfit has reportedly developed trans-border links in Myanmar and Bhutan.

## ISI: Inter Services Intelligence

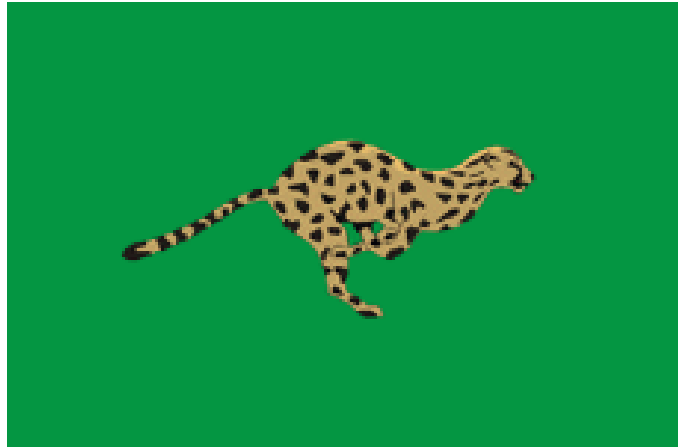


- The **NLFT has links** with the Inter Services Intelligence Agency (ISI) in Pakistan and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) in Bangladesh, according to the reports.
- On August 14, 2019, nearly 88 cadres of NLFT had surrendered with arms.



## All Tripura Tiger Force

- It was founded in **July 1990**. The group is said to have been formed as the **armed wing of NLFT**, however, it broke apart into its own organisation.
- It reportedly has links with several banned organisations.
- According to reports, the ATTF has carried out 7 claimed attacks and 7 suspected attacks.
- The outfits, formed in 1990 with the objective of "expulsion of all foreigners who entered the state after 1956", were **first banned in 1997** following large-scale ethnic riots involving tribals and non-tribals in Khowai subdivision in Tripura, in which both outfits intervened on behalf of the tribals. Tripura shares an 856-km boundary with Bangladesh.



## Unlawful Activities Prevention Act

- UAPA was passed in **1967**, is an Indian law aimed at prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Its main objective was to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.



## Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act **UAPA**

- The Act assigns **absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
- Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by **sub-section (1) of section 3** of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), (hereinafter referred to as the said Act).
- The Central Government hereby declares the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) along with all its factions, wings and front organisations and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) along with all its factions, wings and front organisations as unlawful associations”.

## Reasons

- The Centre also outlined its reasons for declaring the NLFT and ATTF as unlawful.
- The Union Home Ministry said that the professed aim of the NLFT and the ATTF is the **establishment of an independent nation by the secession of Tripura** from India through an armed struggle in alliance with other armed secessionist organisations of the northeastern state and to incite the indigenous people of Tripura for such secession.
- Engaging in **subversive and violent activities**.
- Maintaining **close nexus with other unlawful associations** of North East with the aim of mobilising their support.
- In pursuance of their aims and objectives in recent past, engaging in violent and unlawful activities which are prejudicial to the **sovereignty and integrity of India**.



- **Killing civilians** and personnel belonging to the police and security forces
- Engaged in **extortion of funds** from the public including businessmen and traders in Tripura
- Establishing and maintaining camps in neighbouring countries for the purpose of safe sanctuary, training, procurement of arms and ammunitions.
- According to the statement, the Centre is also of the opinion that the aforesaid activities of the NLFT and the ATTF are "detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India".



## Why Ban Is Needed

- The Centre, further emphasised the urgent need for stringent measures to curb and control the NLFT and ATTF's actions, citing several alarming factors.
- Mobilise their cadres to escalate their secessionist, subversive, and violent activities.
- **Propagate anti-national activities** in collusion with forces inimical to India's sovereignty and national integrity.
- Procure and induct illegal arms and ammunitions from across the international border.
- **Extort and collect huge funds** from the public for their unlawful activities.

