# Autonomous District Council

**Why in news?**

*The elections to the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council are scheduled for February 21.*

- **The Autonomous District Council** – Have real ***power to make laws***, possibility on the various legislative subjects, receiving grants-in-aid from the *Consolidated Fund of India*.
- The mandate towards devolution, de-concentration and divestment determines the protection of their customs, better economic development and most importantly ethnic security.
- **Sixth schedule** – Of the Constitution includes ***10 autonomous district councils in 4 states***. These are:
  - **Assam** – Bodoland Territorial Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council.
  - **Meghalaya** – Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council and Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council.
  - **Tripura** – Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.
  - **Mizoram** – Chakma Autonomous District Council, Lai Autonomous District Council, Mara Autonomous District Council.
- **Major Issues** – Granting special provisions to certain minority tribal groups have led to further demands by other groups for such provisions under the $6^{th}$ schedule.
  - This has created disparity among the people and resulted in the rise of conflict between various groups.
- In terms of financial autonomy, the members across the ADCs in North Eastern states share the same view that the ADCs are at the mercy of the state governments.
- There exists a huge gap between the approved budget and the funds received from the State Government which has had a direct impact on the development of these tribal communities.
- They are also dependent upon state governments for decisions regarding undertaking of developmental activities in their region.

**Reference**

The Hindu - Autonomous District Council