

# Tripura

State (pop., 2008 est.: 3,510,000), northeastern India.

Tripura is one of the seven states in the north eastern part of India located between 22 degree and 56 minutes and 24 degree and 32 minutes north latitude and between 90 degree and 09 minutes and 92 degree and 20 minutes east latitude. It is bounded on the north, west, south and south-east by Bangladesh whereas in the east it has a common boundary with Assam and Mizoram.

There is a common belief that the name of the State has originated from "**Tripura Sundari**" - the presiding deity of the land which is famous as one of the 51 pethos of Hindu Pilgrims. Apart from this traditional view it is believed that originally the land was known as "**Tuipra**" meaning a land adjoining the water. It is fact that in days of yore the boundaries of Tripura was extended up to the Bay of Bengal when its rulers held sway from Garo hills to Arakan.

The history of Tripura as a administrative unit dates back to the days of Maharajas when the territory was a native State. It is significant to note that all though Tripura was conquered by force of arms in 1761, no Political agents was appointed in the State till 1871 - a gap of 110 years.

The former princely state of Tripura was ruled by Maharajas of Manikya dynasty. It was an independent administrative unit under the Maharaja even during the British rule in India though this independence was qualified, being subject to the recognition of the British, as the paramount power, of each successive ruler. After independence of India, an agreement of merger of Tripura with the Indian Union was signed by the Regent Maharani on September 9, 1947 and the administration of the state was actually taken over by the Govt. of India on October 15, 1949. Tripura became a Union Territory without legislature with effect from November 1, 1956 and a popular ministry was installed in Tripura on July 1, 1963. On January 21, 1972 Tripura attained statehood. It has excellent opportunity for Tourism. It has many places of interest. Folk Dances of Tripura speak its rich cultural heritage.

**Location** : Remotest in the NorthEast,

**Land** : Total area 10.492 Sq.Km., 84% international Border with Bangladesh(839 Km.), 60% Hilly Terrain, 60% Forest, 52.76% Forest cover, 39% Reserve Forest, 25% Net Shown Area, 30% Operational Holding, Average Holding 1.02 Hect., Irrigation 13% of Cropped area.

**Climate** : Temperature varies between 10 to 35 Degree Celsius, Average Annual Rain Fall 2100mm, Highest Rain Fall 2855 mm(Kamalpur), Lowest Rain Fall 1811 mm (Sonamura).

**Population** :Total Population 27,57,205 as per 1991 Census, Rural Population 23,35,484, Urban Population 4,21,721, Male 14,17,931 and Female 13,39,275. Population Density 262 per sq.Km., 16% Schedule Caste, 31% Schedule Tribe(19 tribes), 46% Other backward Communities(35 in Central list).

**Literacy** :60.44% (S.T. 40.37%).

**Major Language** :Bengali and Kakborak.

### **The Economy**

The economy is primarily agrarian. The primary sector ( Agricultural) contributes about 64% of total employment in the state and about 48% of the State Domestic Product(SDP).

A variety of Horticultural/ Plantation Crops are produced in Tripura like Pineapple, Oranges, Cashewnut, Jackfruit, Coconut, Tea, Rubber, Forest , Plantations etc. There is ample scope for increasing the area under such plantations as well as the productivity.

As regards Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, the present level of production is not adequate to meet the demand of the state and there is need and scope for considerable development.

The Industry Sector has also remained to undeveloped so far, despite the vast potential. The secondary sector contributes only about 5% of total employment and about 7% of the total income (SDP) of the state at present.

Tourism has been declared as an Industry in the state since 1987.

Handicraft is emerging as a potential industry in Tripura. The Handloom Industry also plays an important role in rural Industry of Tripura.

### **Administration**

Administratively it is divided into **4 Districts, 15 Subdivisions, 38 Rural Development Blocks, 31 Revenue Circles, 183 Teshils, 874 Revenue Moujas, 962 Gram Panchayets, 3 Jilla Parishads, 18 Notified Areas, 1 Municipal Council.**

It is bordered to the north, west, and south by Bangladesh and to the east by Mizoram and Assam states; it has an area of 4,049 sq mi (10,486 sq km), and its capital is Agartala. It was an independent Hindu kingdom before it became part of the Mughal Empire in the 17th century. After 1808 it was under the influence of the British. Tripura became a union territory in 1956

and acquired full status as a state in 1972. The main economic activity is agriculture, with rice and jute the major crops.

It is located in the northeastern part of the subcontinent. It is bordered to the north, west, and south by Bangladesh to the east by the state of Mizoram, and to the northeast by the state of Assam. It is among the smallest of India's states and is located in an isolated hilly region of the country, with various indigenous peoples—or tribes—accounting for a significant portion of the population. The capital is Agartala, near the Bangladesh border in the northwestern part of the state. Area 4,049 square miles (10,486 square km). Pop. (2008 est.) 3,510,000.

### **Land**

Central and northern Tripura is a hilly region crossed by four major valleys—from east to west, the Dharmanagar, the Kailashahar, the Kamalpur, and the Khowai, all carved by northward-flowing rivers (the Juri, Manu and Deo, Dhalai, and Khowai, respectively). North-south-trending ranges separate the valleys. East of the Dharmanagar valley, the Jampai Tlang range rises to elevations between 2,000 and 3,000 feet (600 and 900 metres). Elevation decreases westward through the successive ranges—the Sakhan Tlang, the Langtarai Range, and the Athara Mura Range—with the westernmost hills, the Deotamura, attaining heights of only 800 feet (240 metres).

The lower valleys in the west and south tend to be open and marshy, although in the south the terrain is heavily dissected and densely forested. West of the Deotamura Range is the Agartala Plain, an extension of the lowlands of the Ganges (Ganga) and Brahmaputra river basins, with an elevation of less than 200 feet (60 metres). It is drained by numerous rivers, the largest of which, the Gumti, emerges from the eastern hills in a steep-sided valley near Radhakishorepur.

### **Climate**

The warmest months in Tripura are April and May, when maximum daily temperatures in the lowlands average in the low 90s F (about 33 °C), and minimum temperatures average in the mid-70s F (about 23 °C). The coolest month is January, with temperatures typically rising from the low 50s F (about 10 °C) into the upper 70s F (about 25 °C) daily. Throughout the year, it is cooler in the hill regions.

Annually, the state registers about 80 inches (2,000 mm) of rainfall, most of which is brought by the monsoon, which generally blows from June to September. North-central Tripura usually receives the most rainfall; the southwestern region typically receives the least.

### **Plant and animal life**

About half of Tripura's land area is under forest cover. One of the most notable types of trees of the state's forests is sal, a valuable tropical hardwood. There also are large tracts of bamboo, some species of which are believed to be endemic to the state.

Animal life includes tigers, leopards, elephants, jackals, wild dogs, wild boars, serows (goatlike mammals), and various species of wild cattle, including gayals and other types of gaurs. Several

species of primates, including langurs and gibbons, also inhabit Tripura's woodlands. The state's lowlands are visited by many types of migratory birds, such as teals, ibises, and storks. Tripura's flora and fauna are protected in a number of wildlife sanctuaries.

### **Population composition**

More than two-fifths of the state's population belongs officially to Scheduled Castes (a term designating those classes that have traditionally occupied a low position in the Indian caste system) and Scheduled Tribes (a term generally applied to indigenous peoples who fall outside the traditional Indian social hierarchy). The Tripuri constitute more than half the tribal community. Other prominent tribal groups include the Reang, the Chakma the Halam (a subgroup of the Kuki), the Garo, the Lusai (Mizo), and the Marma (Mogh); most originally moved to Tripura from various hill regions in neighbouring states.

Bengali (Bangla), an Indo-Aryan language, is spoken by more than half the population; it and Kokborok (Tripuri), a Tibeto-Burman language, are the state's official languages. Manipuri, another Tibeto-Burman language, also is widely spoken.

Hinduism is the religion of the great majority of Tripura's people. Muslims constitute the largest minority but account for less than one-tenth of the population. There also are small minorities of Christians, particularly among the tribal peoples. Most of the Chakma and Mogh are Buddhist.

### **Settlement patterns**

Tripura is predominantly rural. The highest densities of rural population are found in the state's most fertile agricultural lands, located in the western plain and the Gumti, Dharmanagar, and Khowai valleys. Towns are concentrated on the western plain. The state capital of Agartala is the largest city; major towns include Badharghat, Jogendranagar, and Dharmanagar.

### **Agriculture**

The agriculture sector engages roughly two-thirds of Tripura's workforce and accounts for nearly half the state's gross product. The major crop is rice, which is grown throughout the state. Cash crops include jute (used in the manufacture of sacking, burlap, and twine), cotton, tea, sugarcane, and various fruits, such as jackfruit, pineapples, oranges, and mangoes. Coconuts and potatoes are also important. Livestock plays only a subsidiary role in the state's agriculture. Forestry-based industries produce timber, firewood, rubber, and charcoal.

### **Manufacturing**

Cottage and small-scale industries account for most of Tripura's manufacturing sector. Weaving, carpentry, basketry, and pottery are among the state's most significant cottage industries. Notable products of small-scale industries include processed foods (especially tea, sugar, fruit, nuts, and spices), rubber products, and bricks. Yarn, jute, and steel milling, as well as wood and chemical processing, are among Tripura's larger-scale manufacturing activities.

## **Resources and power**

Tripura has extensive resources of natural gas that in the early 21st century remained largely untapped. The bulk of the state's energy is provided by several gas- and diesel-powered thermal plants. There is also a small hydroelectric station on the Gumti River.

## **Transportation**

Tripura's hilly topography has continued to impair transportation and communication within the state. Moreover, with Bangladesh bordering the state on three sides, Tripura is virtually isolated from India. There is, however, a national highway that passes through the state, linking the capital city of Agartala in the west with the state of Mizoram in the northeast and Bangladesh in the southeast. Larger towns of Tripura are connected through a network of major roads. The North-East Frontier Railway of India's national rail network serves several cities in Tripura. Most rivers carry boat traffic, but this is generally for local transport. Agartala is linked by air to several cities in India, including Kolkata (Calcutta) in West Bengal, Guwahati in Assam, and the national capital of New Delhi.

## **Constitutional framework**

The structure of the government of Tripura, like that of most other states of India is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The governor is the constitutional head of state and is appointed by the president of India. The actual administration, however, is conducted by the Council of Ministers, headed by a chief minister responsible to the elected unicameral Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha). The jurisdiction of the Guwahati High Court (in Assam extends over Tripura.

Tripura is divided into a handful of administrative districts, each of which is headed by a district magistrate, who also serves as the district collector. For administrative purposes, each district contains a few subdivisions, which are divided into smaller units called tehsils, which in turn embrace a number of villages and sometimes also a few towns.

## **Health**

Among the major health concerns in Tripura are diarrheal diseases, respiratory diseases, hepatitis, and malaria and other vector-borne illnesses. Medical treatment is offered through an array of public health facilities, including district hospitals, subdivisional hospitals, community health centres, public health centres, and dispensaries. In addition, there are family-planning centres, as well as specialized clinics for the treatment of leprosy, sexually transmitted diseases, and diseases of the eye, chest, and teeth. The state supports not only institutions offering allopathic (Western) medicine but also those specializing in Ayurvedic (traditional Indian) and homeopathic treatments.

## **Education**

Education in Tripura is compulsory and free for children between the ages of 6 and 14 through thousands of public primary and secondary schools. The Umakanta Academy, established in

Agartala in the 19th century, is one of the oldest educational institutions in India's northeastern region. Higher educational facilities include Tripura University (1987) in Suryamaninagar (near Agartala) and numerous general degree colleges, teachers colleges, and professional and technical institutions, including nursing and engineering schools.

### **Cultural life**

Most of the population, adhering to Hinduism and speaking Bengali, shares in the broader cultural traditions of India, while the Muslim minority is closer in culture to Bangladesh. Traditions of the tribal peoples also are important elements of Tripura's cultural life, with each community possessing its own festivals, folklore, music, and dance.

Two of Tripura's largest festivals are the Kharchi Puja and the Garia. The Kharchi Puja—also known as the Festival of the 14 Gods—has its origins in tribal tradition but is now a major temple festival celebrated within a predominantly Hindu framework by both tribal and nontribal peoples; it takes place in Agartala every July and honours the deities and the Earth. The Garia celebration is a prominent festival of the indigenous population and is associated particularly with the Tripuri people. Garia is held each April following the planting of the fields to pray for a successful agricultural year.

### **History**

The history of Tripura includes two distinct periods—the largely legendary period described in the Rajamala, a chronicle of the supposed early maharajas (kings) of Tripura, and the period since the reign of the great king Dharma Manikya (reigned c. 1431–62). The Rajamala, written in Bengali verse, was compiled by the Brahmans in the court of Dharma Manikya. During his reign and that of his successor, Dhanya Manikya (reigned c. 1463–1515), Tripura suzerainty was extended over much of Bengal, Assam, and Myanmar (Burma) in a series of remarkable military conquests. It was not until the beginning of the 17th century that the Mughal empire extended its sovereignty over much of Tripura.

When the British East India Company obtained the diwani, or financial administration, of Bengal in 1765, the part of Tripura that had been under Mughal rule came under British control. From 1808 each successive ruler had to receive investiture from the British government. In 1905 Tripura was attached to the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam and was known as Hill Tippera.

The last ruling maharaja of Tripura, Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya, ascended the throne in 1923, and before his death in 1947, he settled Tripura's accession to the newly independent country of India. Tripura officially became part of India on Oct. 15, 1949; it was made a union territory on Sept. 1, 1956, and it became a state on Jan. 21, 1972.

In the 1980s there was considerable ethnic violence in Tripura, fueled largely by local demands for an independent tribal homeland. In 1988 tribal dissidents ceased hostilities and dropped demands for autonomy in return for increased participation in state government.



His Excellency Padmashree Dr. D Y Patil, Governor of Tripura



Shri Manik Sarkar, The Chief Minister, Government of Tripura.

**Council of Ministers:**

| Sl. | Name of Minister                             | Name of Department (s) assigned  | Telephone No.   |                   |
|-----|--|--|---|-------------------|
|     |  |  | Office  | Residence         |
| 1.  | <b>Shri. Manik Sarkar<br/>Chief Minister</b> | 1. Election.<br>2. GA (excluding Printing & Stationery).<br>3. Home (excluding Jail & Fire service)<br>4. Law (excluding PA)<br>5. Planning<br>6. Other departments not allocated to any Minister. | (0381)241-4000/<br>4003/4318<br>Fax :<br>(0381)222-3201 | 232-4001/<br>4002 |
| 2.  | <b>Shri. Anil Sarkar<br/>Minister</b>        | 1. Higher Education,<br>2. ICAT<br>3. Welfare of SC  | (0381)241-4005/<br>4040                                 | 232-5180/<br>3364 |

|    |  |  |                         |          |
|----|--|--|-------------------------|----------|
| 3. | <b>Shri Agore Debbarma</b>               | 1. Agriculture.<br>2. Tribal Welfare ( Excl. TRP & PGP)<br>3. Animal Resource Development    | 241-4043                |          |
| 4. | <b>Shri. Badal Choudhury Minister</b>    | 1. Finance<br>2. Public Works.<br>3. Revenue   | (0381)241-4055/<br>4060 | 232-3908 |
| 5. | <b>Shri. Tapan Chakraborty Minister</b>  | 1. Education (School)<br>2. Health<br>3. Law (Parliamentary Affairs)<br>4. IT                | (0381)241-3276          | 232-4044 |
| 6. | <b>Shri. Manik Dey Minister</b>          | 1. Power<br>2. Transport<br>3. Panchayat<br>4. Urban Development.<br>5. Labour<br>6. Food    | (0381)241-3286          | 232-4435 |
| 7. | <b>Shri. Jitendra Choudhury Minister</b> | 1. Rural Development (Excl. Panchayet)<br>2. Industries and Commerce (Excl. IT)<br>3. Forest | (0381)241-4047          | 232-4346 |
| 8  | <b>Shri. Khagendra Jamatia Minister</b>  | 1. Co-operation<br>2. Fisheries  | (0381)241-3224          | 232-4004 |
| 9  | <b>Shri Joy Gobinda Debroy Minister</b>  | 1. Science ,Technology & Environment<br>2. Home (Fire Service)<br>3. GA ( Ptg & Sty)         | (0381)241-4007          | 232-4665 |
| 10 | <b>Manindra Reang Minister</b>           | 1. Home (Jail)<br>2. TRP & PGP   | (0381) 241-3388         |          |
| 11 | <b>Smt. Bijita Nath Minister</b>         | 1. Social welfare & Social Education.<br>2. Welfare of OBC                                   | (0381)241-4063          |          |

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