

ABOUT TRIPURA STATE

Tripura District Map

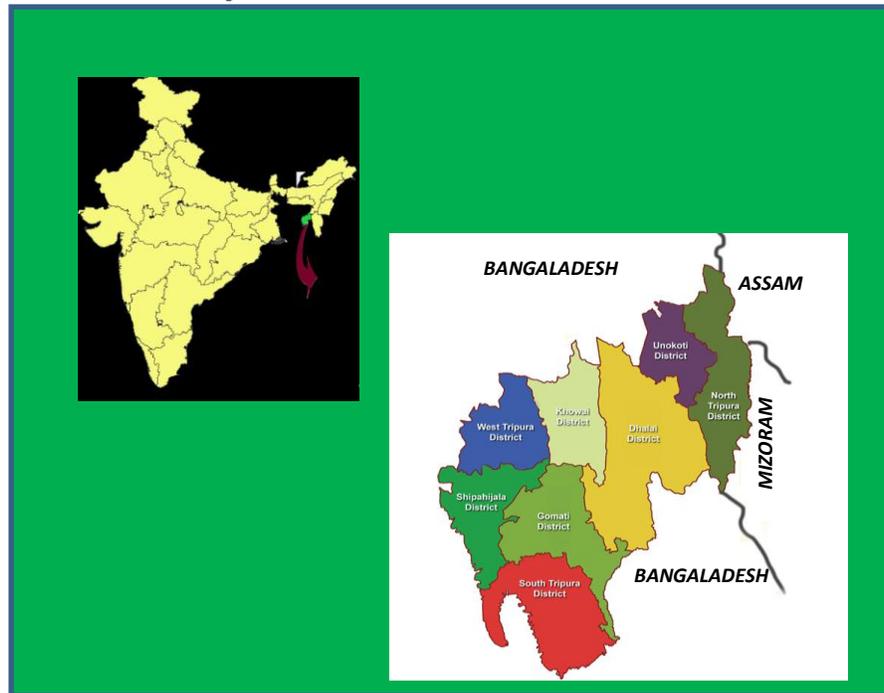


Fig: Tripura political Map

Physiography:

The state of Tripura is known as ‘Hill Tipperah’ due to its hilly nature of undulating surface made uneven by inter-pressed low hills. The altitude of the region differs from 750 m to 15 m from MSL. The physiography tends towards west. However, in some places the terrain is inaccessible and highly undulating. The ILinga (Longitudinal valleys) lands are juxtaposed in between the numerous tilla (hillocks) lands, that are fertile with agricultural lands.

The Tripura Hills, once heavily forested, now have patches of bare soil where the region’s sparse populations have practiced jhum (shifting cultivation). The Dhalai, Khowai, Longai, Juri, and Deo rivers originate in the Tripura Hills and flow across the valleys; smaller streams are dry

during the winter. Soils are generally coarse-textured sandy loams and are almost devoid of humus.

A series of hill ranges running North South divide the territory into broad parallel valleys, consisting of undulating tilla(hillocks) covered with jungle & meandering streams.

The state has six principal hill ranges in the state Baramura, Deotamura and Atharamura ranges partly fall within West Tripura.

Baramura Deotamura Range: The portion of the above ranges lying in West Tripura District is the Baramura range, which is almost 47 km wide. It has the highest peak of Saisum Sib (249m). The average height ranges between 200m to 500m.

Atharamura Range: This range starts from Amarapur Sub-Division of South Tripura District, then enters the Khowai Sub-Division of West Tripura and runs along the border of West Tripura and Dhalai District. The highest peak in the West Tripura district is Niungnawra (481m) Structurally, the State represents the western fringe of the typical 'ridge and valley' province of the late tertiary fold mountain belt, commonly known as the Indo-Burma Ranges (Purbachal Range) (Source: ZASI, TSPCB, Tripura)

The terrain of Tripura consists of parallel hills and ridges running in a north-west to south-east direction and with alternating narrow valleys. The range of hills rises from the plains of Sylhet in Bangladesh at the north and proceeds southwards until they join the hills of Chittagong hill tracts east. The eastern range of the Jampui is situated at an elevation of 914 m above MSL and the western range of the Baramura Deotamura with elevation of 244 m above msl is the lowest. Betlingsib in Phuldungsai with a height of 939 m is the highest point of the Jampui hill range of Tripura.

The Physiography map has been prepared based on the contours. The map is divided into three categories:

High Physiography Zone (Hills)

It is seen that almost the entire North and Dhalai Districts are having high physiography. High physiography areas i.e. the Baramura and Atharamura hill ranges are also observed in the West and South Districts. The Blocks of Chhmanu, Oasda, Jampui Hill, Manu, Ambassa, Salema, Tulashikhar and part of Padmabil, Mandai, Bagafa, Amarpur, Kila, Satchand, Hrishyamukh, Satchand, Rupaichara fall in the high physiography zone.

Medium Physiography (Undulating land)

Medium categories are mainly observed in the North Tripura District in the Blocks of Damchera, Pecharthal, Kumarghat and in a part of Chamanu and Dasda Blocks. A northern part of Hezamura and Padmabil fall under medium physiography zone.

Low Physiography Zone (Plains)

The 'low' physiography area has been observed mainly in the West and South Districts. Dharmanagar and Kailashahar Sub-divisions of North Tripura District are also having low physiography areas.

The population consists of the Old Tripuri, Deshi Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Bodo, Kuki, and Noatia ethnic groups. Agriculture is the major occupation of the region; crops include paddy rice, jute, cotton, oilseeds, potatoes, sugarcane, and fruit. Industries produce hand-loomed textiles, cane and bamboo products, metalware, and seasoned timber; carpentry, blacksmithing, and embroidery are also important. Dharmanagar and Kailashahar are the important towns.

Soils

The soil types of Tripura can be classified under five major groups, of which Red loam and sandy loam soil occupies 43.07 percent of the total area followed by Reddish yellow brown sandy soils (33.06%), the other three groups occupy less than 10 percent each (Table-3 & Fig-3).

Table- : Soil of Tripura

S. No.	Soil Group	Area		Soil taxonomic unit
		Sq. km	Percent	
1.	Reddish yellow brown sandy soils	3,468	33.06	(a) Ultic Hapludalfs (b) Udic Ustochrepts (c) Typic Udorthents
2.	Red loam and sandy loam soils	4,514	43.07	(a) Ultic Haplustalfs (b) Typic/Ultic Hapludalfs (c) Typic Paleudalfs (d) Typic Ustochrepts (e) Typic Drystochrepts (f) Udic Ustochrepts (g) Typic U.stochrepts
3.	Older alluvial soils	1,019	9.71	(a) Typic Ochraquajfs (b) Typic Haplaquepts
4.	Younger alluvial soils	980	9.34	(a) Typic Udifluvents
5.	Lateritic soils	510	4.86	(a) Typic Palehumults (b) Typic Plinthustults (c) Typic Plinthudults (d) Typic Paleudults
		10,491	100.00	

[Source : Based on LANDSAT imagery data (1986) and the Atlas of Agricultural Resources of India (Das Gupta 1980).]

The occurrence of different soil groups can be correlated with topographical variations, land slope, climate, vegetation cover and present rock material. Dutta et.al. (1982) provided a detailed document of Soil of North Eastern Region including Tripura and showed the association of variable taxonomic units under each of the soil group.

Climate

Tripura being a hilly and mountainous region, due to change in topographical features of the region which causes change in climatic conditions in the state. The state records a low average temperature of 10 degree Celsius in the winter season which rises to maximum average of 35 degree Celsius in the summer. The state influences a monsoonal climate with the well demarcated sub-tropical and temperate zones.

The climate along with the other factors of the terrain and the soil are suitable conditions for horticulture in the state of Tripura. The horticultural sector is dependent on the seasonal rainfall that dominates the seasons of Tripura.

The state of Tripura influences four distinguishable seasons. The winter prevails from the month of December to February. The months of March and April witness the premonsoon season. The longest season of the state is the monsoon season that continues between the months of May to September. Tripura receives maximum rainfall in the month of June. The state records an average annual rainfall of 2100 mm. Kamalpur in Tripura receives the maximum amount of rainfall of 2855 mm while Sonamura receives the lowest average of 1811 mm.

Forest, Vegetation and Flora

The forest occupies an area of about 6292.681Km². Tripura state mainly consists of tropical evergreen, semi evergreen and moist deciduous. Reserve forest (RF) occupying an area of about 3588.183 Km², Proposed reserve forests (PRF) occupying an area of about 509.025 Km², Unclassified Govt. Forest (UGF) occupying an area of about 2195.473 Km².

General Forest type according to Champion and Seth (1968) are classified into following types

Types of forests	Code
(1) East Himalayan Lower Bhabar Sal	I/I/3/3C/CIb
(2) Cachar Tropical Evergreen Forests	I/I/IB/C3
(3) Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests	I/I/3/3C/C3
(4) Low Alluvial Savannah Woodland	I/I/3/3C/ISI
(5) Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests, Dry Bamboo Brakes	I/I/3C/2SI
(6) Secondary Moist Bamboo Brakes	I/I/2/2B/2SI