

A NOTE ON THE RESEARCH COMPLEX FOR NORTH EASTERN REGION OF THE R. R. I. I. IN TRIPURA

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Tripura, one of the seven states in the North Eastern region, was known as 'hill tipperas' in British political parlance. The origin of the name Tripura is still disputed. The traditional belief is that the name has originated from King Tripur, the successor of King Daitya a descendent of the mythical ruler Yayati. However, the most popular version is that it has come from two tripuri words Tui (water) and Pra, means land adjoining water. (In the days of yore the boundaries of Tripura extended upto Bay of Bengal).

Tripura was a princely state and it enjoyed a special status among the princely states even during the British regime since there was no treaty obligations with British government. The state formally acceded to the Indian union and the instrument of accession was signed by the regent Maharani on 14th August, 1947. However, the actual administration of the state was taken over by the government of India on 15th October, 1949. Following the reorganisation of the states, Tripura was a part C state without legislation and became a union territory with effect from 1st November, 1956. It was accorded the status of a full fledged state in January, 1972.

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

As the name hill tipperas suggests the terrain is highly undulating with about six large hill ranges comprising of hills and valleys. The mountains are the extension from the eastern Himalayas between Brahmaputra and the chindwain - Irayati river systems. The mountain ranges from north west to south east separated by beautiful valleys. The state is surrounded by Bangladesh with an international boundary of 839 kms. The geographical area of the state is 10,491 sq.km. Tripura has no mountain proper but some of the peaks in the eastern ranges of hills reach a height of more than 2000 ft. The highest peak in Tripura is the Betlangshiv which is 3200 ft. high. The valleys consists of flat lands mostly to the west and south which constitute 40% of the area of the territory.

Administratively Tripura is divided into the three districts with 10 sub-divisions. The total population of the state as per latest figures is 25 lakhs and density of population being more than 200/sq.km. About 90% of the total population lives in villages. As a result of the partition and the wars the state had to absorb an exodus of refugees from the erstwhile east Pakistan creating an imbalance in the demographic situation. The

present figures say that the original inhabitants, i.e. tribals is 30% of the total population only. The influx of migrants from east Pakistan begun almost in 1942 following a communal riot resulting in an alarming increase in population during the partition of the country. There were 19 scheduled tribes in Tripura, the predominant of which are Tripuris, Reang, Jamathia, and Chakma.

Forest form a predominant part of Tripura. The bulk of forest in the hills is dense bamboos, thatch grass, sal and gurgun forests and mixed evergreen forests and the evergreen Savana. The principal rivers in the state are Gomathy, Howra, Kowai, Manu Deo, Dolai and Feni., all draining in to Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh.

The state lies within latitude of 20° 60" and 24° 32" north and longitude of 90° 10" and 92° 20" east. The geographic area is 10,491 sq.km. which has a area under cultivation of 2,46,000 ha.

Tripura enjoys sub-tropical weather. The mean daily maximum temperature is 25°C and the mean daily minimum is 10.4°C during the coldest month. The cold spell starts from November and January is the coldest month. From the beginning of March, temperature