

Tripura

DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED TRIBES Census of India 2001

The total population of Tripura in 2001 Census has been 3,199,203. Of these 993,426 persons are Scheduled Tribes (STs) constituting 31.1 per cent of the total population. The state has registered 16.4 per cent decadal growth of ST population in 1991-2001. There are nineteen (19) notified STs in the state.

Population: Size & Distribution

2. Tripura, the main ST in the state from which the state has earned its name 'Tripura', alone accounts for more than half of the total ST population of the state (54.7 per cent). Riang (16.6 per cent), Jamatia (7.5 per cent), Chakma (6.5 per cent), Halam (4.8 per cent), Mag (3.1 per cent), Munda (1.2 per cent), Any Kuki Tribe (1.2 per cent), and Garoo (1.1 per cent) are the other major STs in terms of population. Along with Tripura they constitute about 97 per cent ST population of the state (Statement-1). The rest of the STs are small in population size.

**Statement-1: Population and Proportion of Major STs, 2001
Census**

SL. No.	Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Total population	Proportion to the total ST population
1	All Scheduled Tribes	993,426	100%
2	Tripura	543,848	54.7
3	Riang	165,103	16.6
4	Jamatia	74,949	7.5
5	Chakma	64,293	6.5
6	Halam	47,245	4.8
7	Mag	30,385	3.1
8	Munda	12,416	1.2
9	Any Kuki Tribe	11,674	1.2
10	Garoo	11,180	1.1

3. The STs in the state are predominantly rural (97.4 per cent). One third of the total ST population of the state is living in West Tripura district (39 per cent), followed by South Tripura (29.1 per cent), Dhalai (16.7 per cent), and North Tripura (15.1 per cent). Dhalai district, however, has recorded the highest proportion (54 per cent) of ST population.

Sex Ratio

4. As per 2001 Census, sex ratio of the ST population is 970, which is below the national average for STs (978). The Jamatia has recorded the highest sex ratio of 996

among the major STs. On the other hand comparatively low sex ratio has been recorded among Munda (950), Chakma (951), and Riang (962).

5.The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) for the STs in the state (981) is higher than the corresponding aggregated national average (973). It is important to note that while Jamatia has recorded a high overall sex ratio, the child sex ratio (958) among them is comparatively low. This situation is just the opposite among Chakma.

Literacy & Educational Level

6.Among all STs, 56.5 per cent of the population has been recorded as literate, which is higher than the national average for STs (47.1 per cent). The male literacy rate of 68 per cent and female of 44.6 per cent show high gender disparity in literacy.

7.Any Kuki Tribe with 73.1 per cent literacy rate is well ahead of other major STs. The Tripura has recorded literacy rate of 62.1 per cent with male and female literacy rate of 81.9 per cent and 63.8 per cent respectively. On the other hand more than half of the population among Munda, Riang, and Chakma are illiterate (Statement-2).

Statement-2: Literacy Rate among Major STs					
SL. No	Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Literate Rate (7 years and above)			
		Total	Male	Female	
1	All Scheduled Tribes	56.5	68.0	44.6	
2	Tripura	62.1	73.7	50.2	
3	Riang	39.8	51.8	27.3	
4	Jamatia	60.2	72.5	47.9	
5	Chakma	47.6	59.5	35.0	
6	Halam	56.1	67.5	44.5	
7	Mag	51.4	61.6	40.9	
8	Munda	33.6	43.8	22.8	
9	Any Kuki Tribe	73.1	81.9	63.8	
10	Garoo	66.8	75.3	58.3	

8.Among all STs, 62.7 per cent of the children in age group 5-14 years have been attending schools or any other educational institutions. Any Kuki Tribe have recorded the highest (77.6 per cent) and Munda the lowest (36.7 per cent) percentage attending schools or any other educational institutions.

9.As regards level of education, merely 9.5 per cent of total literates among STs are having educational level of Matric/Secondary and above. Among the major STs, Tripura have 10.5 per cent of their total literates as matriculates, while among Munda (4 per cent), Riang (5.7 per cent), and Mag (6.5 per cent) this percentage is low.

Work Participation Rate (WPR)

10. In 2001 Census, 42.7 per cent of the ST population has been recorded as workers, which is lower than the aggregated national average for STs (49.1 per cent). Of the total workers, 69.6 per cent have been recorded as main workers and 30.4 per cent as marginal workers. WPR of 37.5 per cent among females is slightly lower than that of males (47.6 per cent). Gender wise disparity, however, is paramount in case of main workers; 86.5 per cent among males and only 47.5 per cent among females have been recorded as main workers (Statement-3).

Statement-3: Distribution of Total, Main & Marginal Workers among STs

T/M/F	Percentage of Workers		
	Total Workers	Main Workers	Marginal Workers
Total	423,851 (42.7%)	294,980 (69.6%)	128,871 (30.4%)
Male	240,239 (47.6%)	207,708 (86.5%)	32,531 (13.5%)
Female	183,612 (37.5%)	87,272 (47.5%)	96,340 (52.5%)

11. Individual ST wise Jamatia have recorded the highest WPR (48.7 per cent). On the other hand it is the lowest among Riang (39.2 per cent).

Category of Workers

12. Agriculture is the mainstay of economic activities among the STs in Tripura. Among all STs, 45.9 per cent of the total main workers have been recorded as cultivators and 29.7 per cent agricultural labourers.

13. The Riang are predominantly involved in cultivation with the highest of 64.9 per cent of their total main workers as cultivators among the major STs. On the other hand it is the lowest among Munda (12 per cent).

Marital Status

14. The distribution of ST population by marital status shows that 54.3 per cent is never married, 41.9 per cent currently married, 3.3 per cent widowed, and 0.6 per cent divorced/separated.

15. The percentage of widowed population among Garoo (4.4 per cent) and Munda (4.1 per cent) is considerably high. As regards the divorced/ separated population, Mag have recorded the highest 1.1 per cent, while Chakma the lowest at 0.3 per cent among the major STs (Statement-4).

Statement-4: Percentage Distribution of Population by Marital Status among Major STs

SL. No	Name of the Scheduled Tribe	Never married	Currently married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated
1	All Scheduled Tribes	54.3	41.9	3.3	0.6
2	Tripura	54.0	42.1	3.4	0.5
3	Riang	55.0	41.3	2.9	0.8
4	Jamatia	51.8	44.5	3.1	0.6
5	Chakma	54.9	42.2	2.7	0.3
6	Halam	56.0	40.2	3.3	0.4
7	Mag	55.8	39.2	3.8	1.1
8	Munda	54.3	40.9	4.1	0.6
9	Any Kuki Tribe	55.2	40.9	3.3	0.7
10	Garoo	54.1	40.8	4.4	0.7

16. Among all STs, 1.4 per cent of the total females below 18 years – the minimum legal age for marriage – have been returned as ever married. The Munda have recorded the highest 1.9 per cent ever married females below the stipulated age for marriage.

17. The ever married males below 21 years – their minimum legal age for marriage – constitute 1.7 per cent of their total population. The Riang have recorded the highest 2.3 per cent ever married males in this category, closely followed by Jamatia (2 per cent). It is the lowest among Garoo (0.9 per cent).

Religion

18. Of the total ST population 80.1 per cent are Hindus, 10 per cent Christians, 9.6 per cent Buddhists, and only 0.2 per cent Muslims.
