

# **CENSUS OF INDIA 1981**

**SERIES-21**

**TRIPURA**

**Paper I of 1981**

**PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS**

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## FIGURES AT A GLANCE

### Census of India 1981—Provisional Population Totals

A. POPULATION OF TRIPURA	..	..	Total	2,060,189
			Males	1,057,714
			Females	1,002,475
B. DECENNIAL POPULATION GROWTH				
1971-81				
(1) Absolute				503,847
(2) Percentage				32.37 per cent
C. DENSITY OF POPULATION	..	..	196 per Sq. Km.	
D. SEX RATIO	..	..	948 females per 1000 males	
E. LITERACY RATE	..	..	Total	41.58 per cent
			Males	51.05 per cent
			Females	31.60 per cent

**STATEMENT SHOWING A COMPARATIVE  
PICTURE OF THE POPULATION**

**1981 Census  
(Provisional Figures)**

State/ District	Total Population		Decennial Growth rates (Percentage)		Density of Population 1981 (Per Km <sup>2</sup> )
	Population in 1971 (and rank)	Population in 1981 (and rank)	1961-71	1971-81	
1	2	3	4	5	6
TRIPURA	1,556,342	2,060,189 <sup>1</sup>	38.28	32.37	196
1. West Tripura District	751,605 (1)	971,623 (1)	30.94	29.27	289
2. North Tripura District	405,009 (2)	540,552 (3)	38.06	33.47	153
3. South Tripura District	399,728 (3)	548,014 (2)	45.53	37.10	153

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE RANKING OF STATES/UNION TERRITORIES  
BY POPULATION SIZE**

**1981 Census—Provisional Figures**

India/State/UTs	Total Population 1981			Total Literates 1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>INDIA</b>	683,810,051	353,347,249	330,462,802	237,991,932	158,837,215	79,154,717
<b>States :</b>						
1. Uttar Pradesh	110,858,019	58,780,640	52,077,379	30,358,013	22,845,887	7,512,126
2. Bihar	69,823,154	35,865,467	33,957,687	18,163,410	13,551,736	4,611,674
3. Maharashtra	62,693,898	32,341,115	30,352,783	29,695,721	19,046,963	10,648,758
4. West Bengal	54,485,560	28,505,151	25,980,409	22,271,867	14,391,808	7,880,059
5. Andhra Pradesh	53,403,619	27,035,531	26,368,088	15,989,266	10,578,388	5,410,878
6. Madhya Pradesh	52,131,717	26,856,752	25,274,965	14,502,063	10,574,919	3,927,144
7. Tamil Nadu	48,297,456	24,420,228	23,877,228	22,111,593	13,965,132	8,146,461
8. Karnataka	37,043,451	18,869,494	18,173,957	14,228,947	9,171,677	5,057,270
9. Rajasthan	34,102,912	17,749,282	16,353,630	8,201,615	6,350,945	1,850,670
10. Gujarat	33,960,905	17,484,540	16,476,365	14,858,075	9,534,470	5,323,605
11. Orissa	26,272,054	13,253,523	13,018,531	8,964,625	6,216,037	2,748,588
12. Kerala	25,403,217	12,487,961	12,915,256	17,571,819	9,244,609	8,327,210
13. Assam *	19,902,826	10,472,712	9,430,114	—	—	—
14. Punjab	16,669,755	8,840,234	7,829,521	6,791,547	4,118,415	2,673,132
15. Haryana	12,850,902	6,846,153	6,004,749	4,605,649	3,271,047	1,334,602
16. Jammu & Kashmir *	5,981,600	3,062,200	2,919,400	—	—	—
17. Himachal Pradesh	4,237,569	2,131,312	2,106,257	1,777,201	1,115,973	661,228
18. Tripura	2,060,189	1,057,714	1,002,475	856,688	539,932	316,756
19. Manipur	1,433,691	727,108	706,583	601,943	385,123	216,820
20. Meghalaya	1,327,874	678,883	648,991	441,077	251,056	190,021
21. Nagaland	773,281	414,231	359,050	324,700	203,643	121,057
22. Sikkim	315,682	171,959	143,723	106,780	75,066	31,714
<b>Union Territories :</b>						
1. Delhi	6,196,414	3,422,550	2,773,864	3,783,611	2,325,804	1,457,807
2. Goa, Daman & Diu	1,082,117	546,260	535,857	604,489	353,832	250,657
3. Arunachal Pradesh	628,050	335,941	292,109	126,185	94,002	32,183
4. Pondicherry	604,136	304,342	299,794	327,600	194,792	132,808
5. Mizoram	487,774	251,988	235,786	290,241	166,296	123,945
6. Chandigarh	450,061	254,208	195,853	291,091	174,953	116,138
7. A & N Islands	188,254	106,889	81,365	96,520	62,470	34,050
8. D & N Haveli	103,677	52,514	51,163	27,578	19,007	8,571
9. Lakshadweep	40,237	20,367	19,870	22,018	13,233	8,785

\* Projected figures.



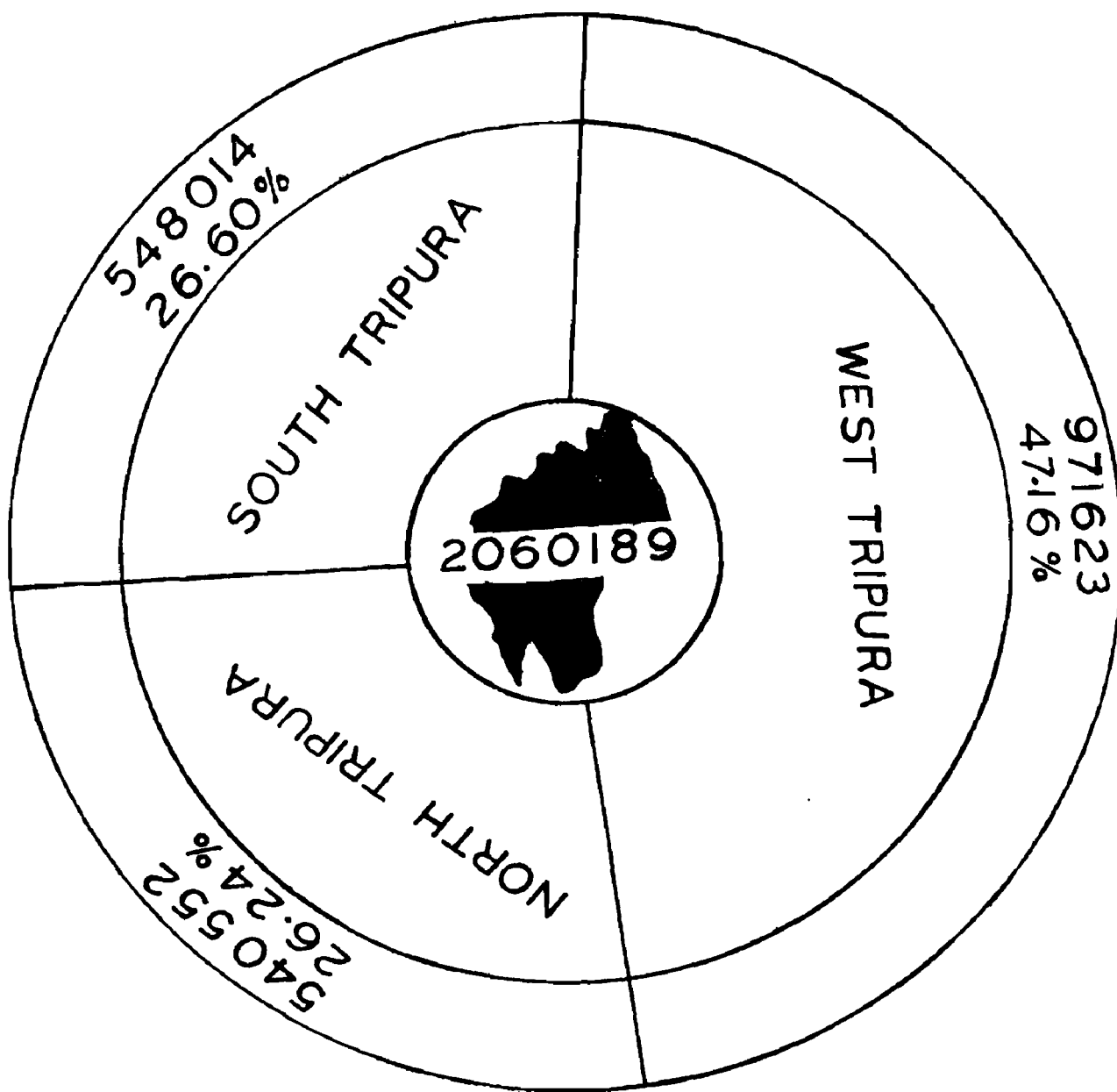


**M A P S**  
**&**  
**C H A R T S**

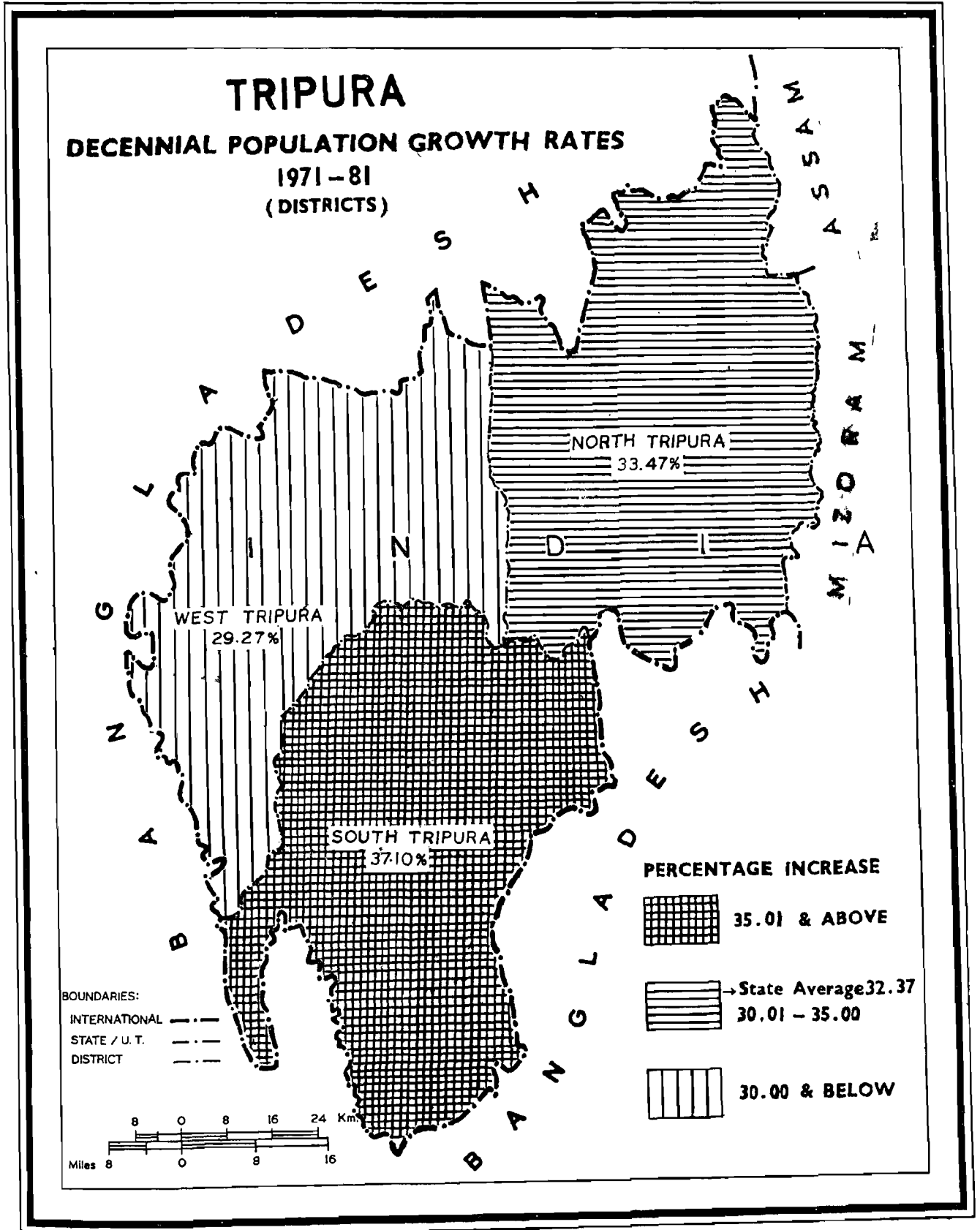


CENSUS OF INDIA 1981  
( Provisional Results )

CHART SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE  
POPULATION SIZE OF THE DISTRICTS  
1981





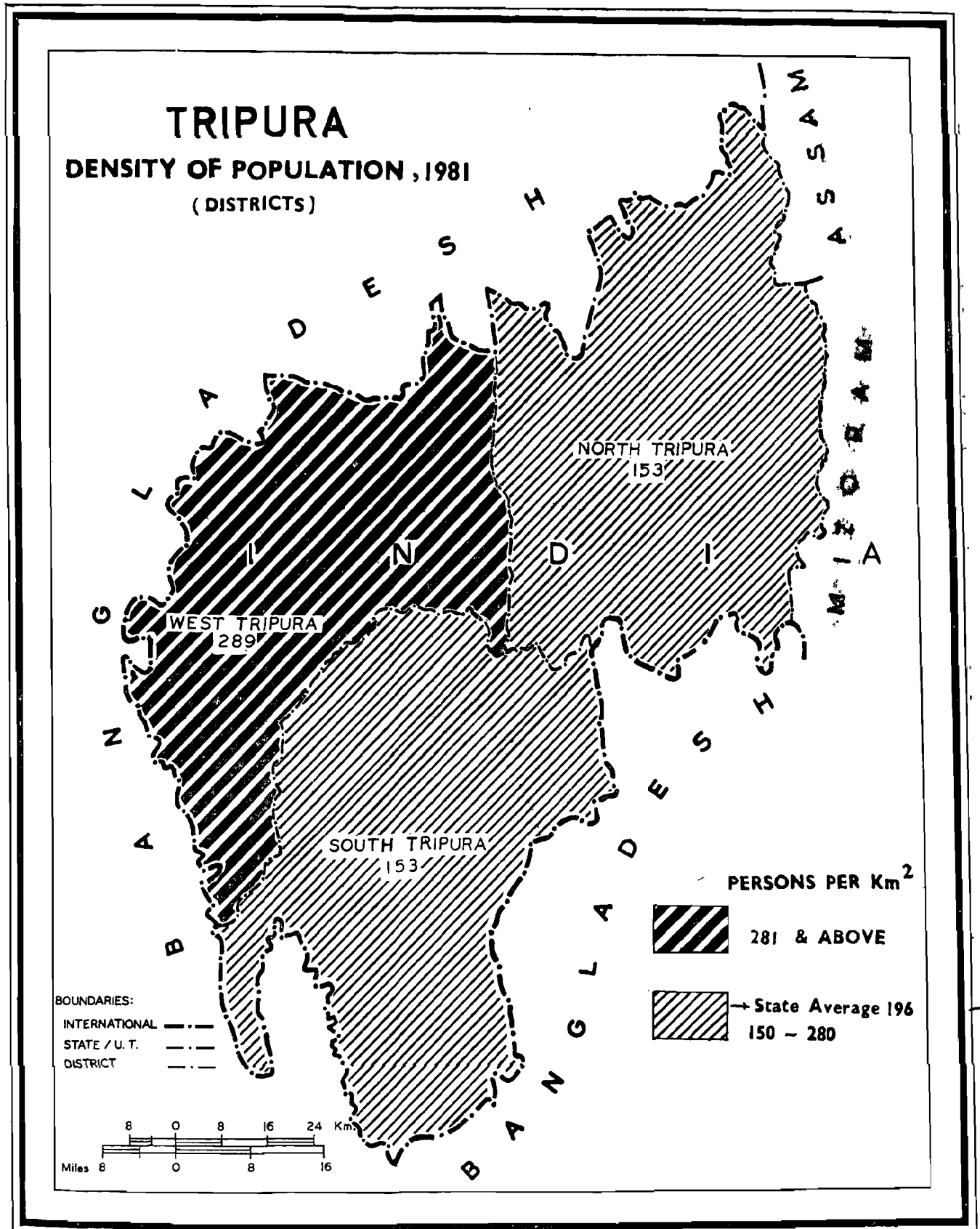




CENSUS OF INDIA 1981

( Provisional Results )

MAP 2



Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India.

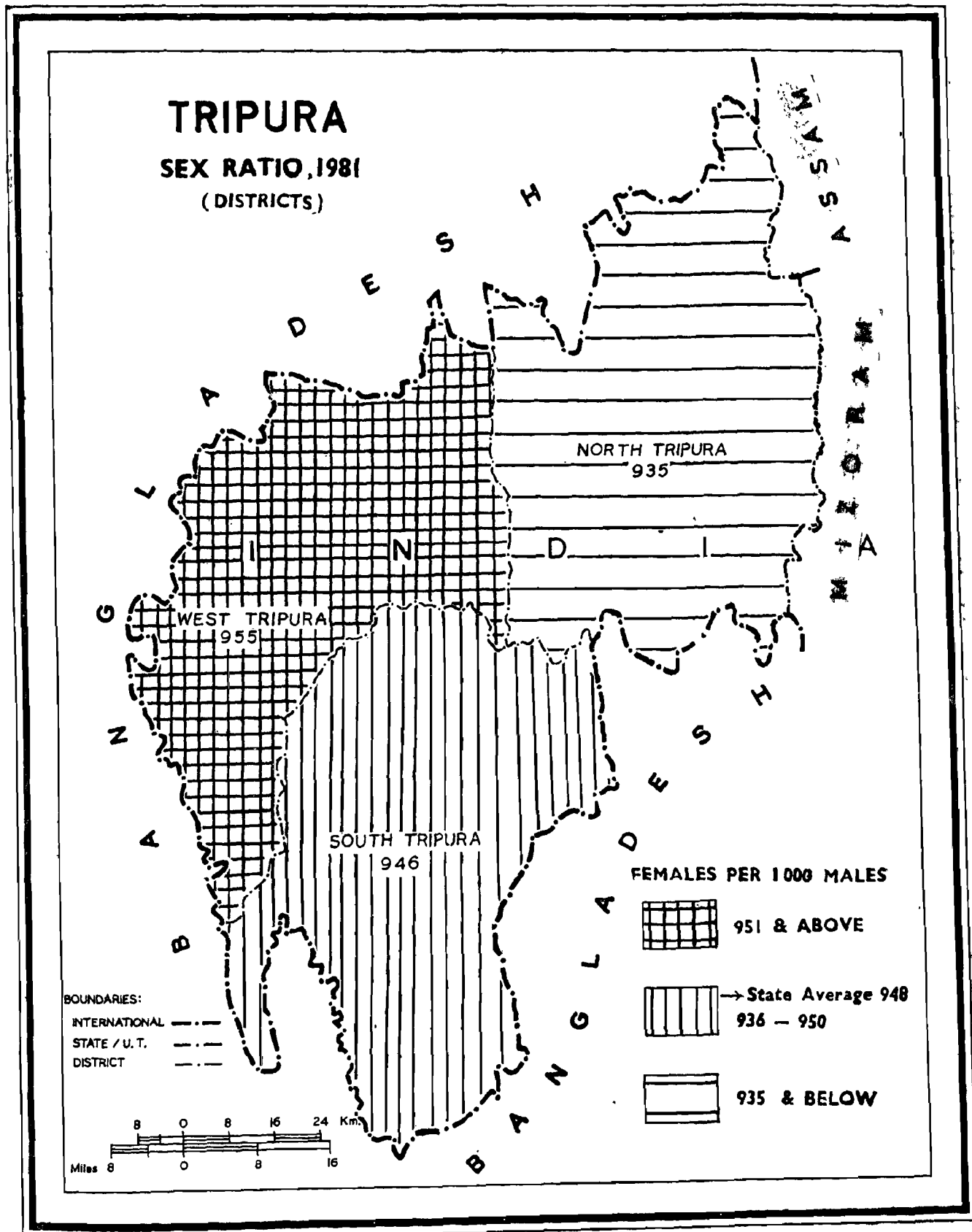




CENSUS OF INDIA 1981

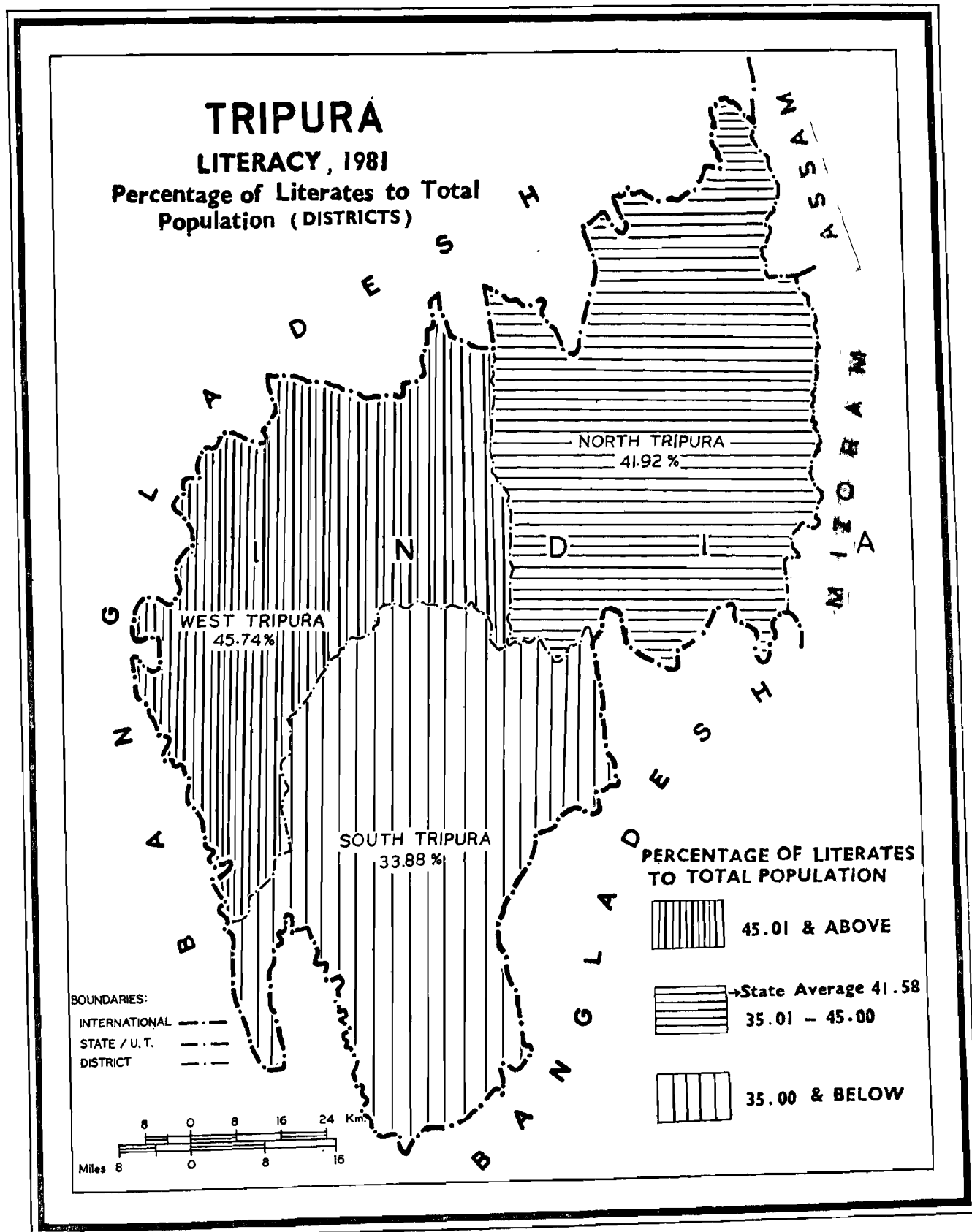
( Provisional Results )

MAP 3



Based upon Survey of India map with the permission of the Surveyor General of India.





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**CENSUS 1981**

**BACKGROUND NOTE**



## BACKGROUND NOTE

There are two main phases of Census taking namely, (i) Housenumbering and Houselisting operation and (ii) enumeration.

At the time of Housenumbering and Houselisting operation the State was divided into 3040 enumerator's blocks and 610 Supervisor's Circles. The first phase was scheduled to be completed between 21st of May to 21st of June, 1980. In view of widespread disturbances that took place in June, 1980 the whole of South Tripura District and West Tripura District had been declared as disturbed areas for a period of six months. While the actual occurrences were confined to four sub-divisions, viz., Sadar, Khowai, Udaipur and Amarapur out of ten sub-divisions in the State and to this extent localised, there had been widespread panic and mistrust due to the communal nature of the clashes (between tribals and non-tribals) and in the result a large number of people both tribals and non-tribals from the villages came away as refugees to the safer areas. About three lakhs of persons were kept in relief camps. North Tripura District had not been affected. This was a holocaust and had unsettled all other activities. The Housenumbering and Houselisting operation under the census programme which was to be completed by 21st June, 1980 was in a state of uncertainty. Finally the Houselisting was completed by the 1st week of December, 1980.

For the second phase, i.e., enumeration the enumerator's blocks were re-carved on the basis of the Houselisting operation. The entire State was again divided into 3702 enumerator's blocks and 707 supervisor's circles. During the enumeration period the enumerators in some places found it difficult to locate the census houses as these census houses had not been found in the Abridged Houselist and in some cases they found large number of new census houses in their blocks. In fact due to the disturbance of June, 1980 the entire settlement pattern of population in the affected areas changed. The existing relief camps had to be treated as separate enumerator's blocks.

In Tripura the notional villages were taken as a smallest unit till 1971 Census. These villages did not have any identifiable boundary and their names

were also changeable from census to census. During the 1981 Census the cadastrally surveyed villages, i.e., the revenue villages were adopted as a smallest unit. The 1981 Census would thus be the benchmark in the census history of Tripura, so far as Village statistics are concerned.

The District Magistrates & Collectors were appointed as District Census Officers, the Sub-divisional Officers were appointed as Sub-divisional Census Officers, mostly the Block Development Officers were appointed as Charge Officers for the rural Charges. In the urban Charges either the Deputy Collectors or the Headmasters were appointed as Town Charge Officers. Majority of 707 Supervisors and 3702 Enumerators were teachers and the rest were drawn from the different departments of the State Government.

In the strictly Military/Para-Military units the Military/Para-Military Officers were appointed as Census Officers. There are altogether 17 rural charges, 10 urban charges and 18 special charges in Tripura.

In Tripura there were 6 towns during 1971 Census. The remaining four sub-divisional headquarters were declared as notified areas after 1971 Census and therefore all the ten sub-divisional headquarters were treated as town for 1981 Census.

The definition of an urban unit in the 1981 Census is as follows :

- a) All the places with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town areas committee
- b) All other places which satisfied the following criteria :
  - i) A minimum population of 5,000
  - ii) At least 75 per cent of male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits ; and
  - iii) A density of population of at least 400 per Sq. Km. (1,000 per Sq. mile)

On the basis of the definition no other place was qualified to be treated as urban unit.

The enumeration was inaugurated by enumerating the Hon'ble Chief Minister and his household on 9th February, 1981. By 23th February, 1981 the enumeration was completed throughout the State. Special arrangements were made to enumerate the houseless population on the night of 23th February, 1981 for Agartala Town and other identifiable places. Between 1st March to 5th March, 1981 the enumerators visited every households in his/her block to check up new births or deaths which had occurred between the date of enumeration and the sunrise of 1st March, 1981 in order to bring the population as on the sunrise of 1st of March, 1981. The decennial census of Tripura was completed according to All India calendar.

It was a question mark whether census would at all be conducted in Tripura. It was a feeling from some quarters that it was an impossible task due to the disturbances which caused a setback in the operation of Houselisting phase. Impossible has been made possible due to the dedication of the census functionaries at all levels and co-operation of the public from all walks of life. Both preventive and curative measures were taken. Preventive measures were taken on the one hand by enlisting co-operation of the public and on the other hand by deployment of all resources at different strategic points in the interiors so as to avoid any kind of situation which might affect the morale of the census functionaries. Different musics were there and we had to attune ourselves to the music even though it was a trial of patience at some stages. Curative measures were taken by providing the census func-

tionaries with check lists during training classes in order to ensure accuracy as far as practicable particularly when there was no post-enumeration check in Tripura. During enumeration period information reached from some quarters which were duly taken care of at the right moment. But this information in time helped us in total coverage as far as practicable which was a matter of concern to us. This could be possible as the public co-operation was quite encouraging when the point was driven home that census was in the larger interests of all. That the people of Tripura became census oriented would be evident from the fact that even a tribal boy of interior areas was conscious of the fact that census was going on. In some wild animal infested areas the wild elephants though outnumbering the population of the area could not stand in the way of complete coverage even though some enumerators had to play hide and seek game with wild elephants.

The provisional population totals were received from the District Census Officers by the 10th of March, 1981. These district-wise figures after scrutiny and compilation were communicated to the Registrar General, India by wireless message on the night of 10th March, 1981.

I will be failing in my duties if I do not convey my deep sense of gratitude to Shri S. R. Sankaran, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Tripura and Shri P. Padmanabha, I.A.S., Registrar General & Ex-officio Census Commissioner, India for constant guidance for conducting census operations successfully in Tripura.



## APPENDIX 1

### LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE DIRECTORATE

Name of the officer 1	Designation 2
1. Shri S. R. CHAKRABORTY	Director of Census Operations, Tripura.
2. „ S. K. GANGULY	Deputy Director of Census Operations, Tripura.
3. „ D. K. CHOUDHURI	Assistant Director of Census Operations, Tripura.
4. „ A. K. MUKHERJEE	Officer on Special Duty.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **OFFICIALS WHO WORKED IN THE "PROVISIONAL POPULATION TOTALS—1981 CENSUS—PROJECT"**

#### **COMPILATION**

1. Shri D. K. CHOUDHURI, Assistant Director

Assisted by

2. Shri T. D. SARKAR, Statistical Assistant

#### **MAPPING**

Shri K. R. CHAKRABORTY, Artist

#### **PRINTING**

Shri T. D. SARKAR, Statistical Assistant

**ANALYSIS  
OF  
RESULTS**



## ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

### Introduction :

The booklet presents provisional total population along with two main characteristics, namely,

1. The sex, which is biologically determined and
2. the literacy, which is an acquired trait.

Figures presented are as recorded in the 1981 census and as at sunrise of 1st March, 1981.

In a bid to make the results of the census available to the Government and the people as quickly as possible, we have compiled these figures on population from the working sheets and abstracts of thousands of enumerators. The figures so compiled and finalised in less than a week's time after completion of the operation, are bound to have their own limitations, and may be treated as provisional.

### 2. Population and rate of growth :

According to the provisional data, the population of Tripura is 2,060,189 of which 1,057,714 are males and 1,002,475 are females.

2.1. The 1981 Census of the State has shown an increase of 503,847 people over the previous record of 15,56,342 persons at sunrise of 1st April, 1971. The increase is 32.37 per cent in a period slightly less than 10 years. Approximate annual growth rate is 3.24 per cent. If we correct it for the change in reference date, the annual growth rate comes out as 3.26 per cent. This is slightly lower than the approximate annual growth rate of 3.63 per cent of the previous decade. 1971 Census was conducted after a gap of 1 month more than 10 years and the reference date was changed to 1st April, 1971. So the annual growth rate of the previous decade may be more accurately estimated as 3.60 after suitable deflation for the growth in a time span slightly more than 10 years.

It is seen that the corrected annual growth rate of the 1971-81 decade is less than the corresponding rate of the previous decade. Of course, the difference is slightly diminished, as expected. Details of the data on the population and its growth is given in Table-1.

2.2. Table 2 shows percentage decadal variation in population since 1901. It will be seen that the growth rate was high throughout the period and though it has shown a decline during the 1971-81 decade, the decrease is only marginal. Below is given a picture of change in number of persons since the beginning of this century :-

Census Year	Population	Decadal variation in population	
1	2	3	
1901	173,325		
1911	229,613	+	56,288
1921	304,437	+	74,824
1931	382,450	+	78,013
1941	513,010	+	130,560
1951	639,029	+	126,019
1961	1,142,005	+	502,976
1971	1,556,342	+	414,337
1981	2,060,189	+	503,847

It is obvious that a very high birth rate or an element of migration along with very low death rate, or the three, together can contribute to this. The whole phenomenon may be comprehended only after a very thorough analysis of the data collected in individual slips and other records.

2.3. When we look at the differential by districts, it is seen that repeating history of previous two decades, the South Tripura district has registered the highest growth rate in this decade also. Decennial growth rate for the district is 37.10 per cent when the same for the North and the West districts are respectively 33.47 per cent and 29.27 per cent.

In terms of absolute numbers, we can say that the South Tripura district registered an increase of 148,286 persons while the same record for North District is of 135,543 persons. This census has recorded an increase of 220,018 persons in the West Tripura district from sunrise of 1st April, 1971 to sunrise of 1st March, 1981.

The high increase for South Tripura district has helped it to move up from the status of a least populous district. Till 1971, it was having 3rd rank among three districts, while the 1981 census data

reveals that it has surpassed the North Tripura district to take the second position and to relegate that district to the third position. The West Tripura district is maintaining its first position, though its rate of increase is the lowest among the three. The growth rate of west Tripura district was lowest in the previous decade also.

2.4. Agartala, the capital town within the West Tripura district, has shown very high growth rate. Its population was 59,625 in 1971 and the same is 131,513 as on 1st march, 1981. This means an absolute increase of 71,888 persons and a growth of 120.56 per cent. One of the causes of this high increase is the expansion of area of the municipality after the 1971 Census. Contribution of this factor and of other forces of urbanisation, is yet to be analysed. Population of Agartala Urban Agglomeration was 100,264 in 1971. Data on the population of Agartala and its composition are shown in Table-4.

### 3. Density of population :

In a fixed area of a State density of population is related to absolute increase only, and it is obvious that the same will go up with increase in population over the years. The population density is now 196 per Sq. Km. at the reference time of reference date of 1981 Census. It was 149 in 1971 and 109 in 1961.

3.1. Unlike some other States, in Tripura there is no district with very high density or with very low density. The density is highest in West Tripura and it is 289 per Sq. Km. in 1981. The figure for both the other districts, namely, the South Tripura District and the North Tripura District is 153 per Sq. Km. Till 1971, South Tripura district was the most sparsely populated one within the State, but consistently higher growth rate since 1951 has brought its population density at par with that of the North Tripura District.

3.2. The density of population gives an idea of the pressure on land and other natural resources. For a State with very high population density, even moderate growth rate of population may tell upon the rate of economic development if absorption of the bulk of the new entrants in working age groups in non-agricultural production processes is not ensured. Perhaps it can not be said that Tripura's population density has surpassed the optimum level and any further increase will retard economic development under the existing circumstances of availability of resources and know how. Of course, it is always true that if the growth rate can be

lowered appreciably, the development of human resources and consequent economic development becomes easier and can be accelerated.

### 4. Sex-composition :

Percentages of males and females in the population of Tripura are respectively 51.34 and 48.66. The same were respectively 51.47% and 48.53% in 1971.

Out of the total increase of 503,847 persons during the decade 256,588 are males and 247,259 are females. In terms of percentage these are respectively 50.92% and 49.08% of the total increase.

4.1. The present sex ratio, expressed in terms of number of females per thousand males is 948 and this is higher than the 1971 Census figure of 943. The figure is higher than the same of many other States of India and the picture is brighter than the same for the whole of India as revealed in 1971 Census.

The sex ratios of the West, the South and the North Tripura districts are respectively 956.946 and 935. The same for Agartala Town is 977.

The sex-ratio for none of the three districts has shown any decline during the decade. This is indeed an important demographic feature having many socio-economic implications. Actually it may be considered as a happy situation when considered against the background of ever decreasing sex ratio of Indian population. The Corresponding figures of Tripura and India for different censuses are :—

Year	Sex-ratio ( Females per 1000 males )	
	Tripura	India
1	2	3
1901	874	972
1911	885	964
1921	885	955
1931	885	950
1941	886	945
1951	904	946
1961	932	941
1971	943	930
1981	948	—

Further analysis of the determinants of this scenario also is possible only after we get more detailed data on sex differential in contributing

actors of growth, viz., birth, death and migration.

### 5. Literacy :

Literacy level is an indicator of quality of life and this along with data on educational attainment gives idea of availability of human resources. Pending tabulation of detailed data, we have presented some very basic data on literacy in Table-3.

As per census definition a person is considered as literate if he can read and write with understanding in any language. It is not necessary that one should have any formal education or pass any minimum educational level for being treated as literate.

In 1981 Census it has been found that out of a total of 2,060,189 persons, 856,688 number of people, i.e., 41.58 per cent are literates. The literacy rate was 30.98 per cent in 1971 and increase in the decade is more than 34% over the base line. The increase during the previous decade was from 20.25% to 30.86%, i.e., about 52%.

It may be mentioned here that this literacy rate is a very crude measure, as it is calculated as a percentage of total population, including children in the age group 0-4.

5.1. A look at the differential by sex reveals that the advancement in this field is relatively more for females. While the per cent of literate males has gone up from 40.20 to 51.05, the percentage of literate females has increased from 21.19 per cent to 31.60 per cent. Rates of increase in the literacy rate for males and females are respectively 27% and 49% in the decade.

5.2. The Census of 1971 revealed almost identical literacy status for the West Tripura and the North Tripura district, while the picture of South Tripura district was a bit more gloomy. In this Census the literacy picture for West Tripura

has become a bit more bright than the same for North Tripura district and the picture for South Tripura district has shown relatively less improvement.

5.3. For Agartala Town the crude literacy rate is 75.46% and the same for males is as high as 81.50%. Calculation of more refined and age specific rates is subject to availability of data on age composition, but if we assume that 0-4 age group males constitute about 14% of the total male population of the Town, then the literacy rate comes out as about 95% for population of the sex aged 5 and above. This may be considered a bright picture.

The crude literacy rate for the Agartala town urban agglomeration was 65.6% in 1971, when the same for males and females were respectively 73.7 per cent and 50.8 per cent.

5.4. Though the literacy rates have improved, the total number of illiterate persons in 1981 has also increased over that of 1971 and this is true for each sex separately. The figures of illiterate persons in 1971 and 1981 are given below :—

	Number of illiterates in		Decade variation (1971-81)
	1971	1981	
Males	479,109	517,782	+ 38,673
Females	595,151	685,719	+ 90,568
Total(Persons)	1,074,260	1,203,501	+ 129,241

The above data gives an indication of the magnitude of the task still to be achieved before illiteracy can be washed off.

Of course, sizable portions of these absolute numbers as well as of the increase belong to the 0-4 age group, and the real magnitude of the problem is to some extent less than what is apparent from the table above.





**PROVISIONAL  
POPULATION TABLES**



TABLE-1

*Distribution of Population, Sex Ratio, Growth Rate and  
Density of Population by Districts.*

1981—CENSUS  
(Provisional Figures)

State/District	Population 1981			Sex-ratio (females per 1000 males)		Density of population per Sq. Km.		Decennial Growth rate of population	
	Persons	Males	Females	1971	1981	1971	1981	1961-71	1971-81
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
T R I P U R A	2,060,189	1,057,714	1,002,475	943	948	149	196	36.28	32.37
West Tripura District	971,623	496,815	474,808	946	956	224	289	30.94	29.27
North Tripura District	540,552	279,321	261,231	935	935	114	153	38.06	33.47
South Tripura District	548,014	281,578	266,436	945	946	112	153	45.53	37.10

TABLE-2

*Decadal Variation in Population since 1901*

1981—CENSUS  
(Provisional Figures)

State/District	Percentage decadal variation in Population							
	1901-1911	1911-1921	1921-1931	1931-1941	1941-1951	1951-1961	1961-1971	1971-1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
T R I P U R A	32.48	32.59	25.63	34.14	24.56	78.71	36.28	32.37
West Tripura District	N.A.	25.57	21.79	35.68	36.61	77.42	30.94	29.27
North Tripura District	64.27	61.25	30.39	34.16	20.03	71.01	38.06	33.47
South Tripura District	N.A.	22.53	27.64	31.46	8.03	90.78	45.53	37.10

TABLE—3

*Literacy (including population in age group 0-4)*1981—CENSUS  
(Provisional Figures)

State/District	Total population 1981			Literate population 1981			Percentage of Literates to total Population					
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	1971			1981		
							Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
TRIPURA	2,060,189	1,057,714	1,002,475	856,688	539,932	316,756	30.98	40.20	21.19	41.58	51.05	31.60
West Tripura District	971,623	496,815	474,808	444,416	276,095	168,321	32.16	41.49	23.23	45.74	55.57	35.45
North Tripura District	540,552	279,321	261,231	226,618	141,503	85,115	32.17	41.32	22.38	41.92	50.66	32.58
South Tripura District	548,014	281,578	266,436	185,654	122,334	63,320	26.69	36.62	16.17	33.88	43.45	23.77

TABLE—4

*Cities with a population of 100,000 and above*1981—CENSUS  
(Provisional Figures)

Sl. No.	Name of City	Provisional population 1981			Sex Ratio	Total Literates			Literacy rates			Remarks
		Persons	Males	Females		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Agartala	131,513	66,526	64,987	977	99,239	54,218	45,021	75.46	81.50	69.28	

