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TPSC EXAMINATION

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TRIPURA CULTURE



Culture of Tripura

Tribes of Tripura

Tripura has **19 recognized tribes**, which can be divided into Aboriginal and Immigrant groups.

Total Tribes:

1. Tripuri
2. Reang
3. Jamatia
4. Noatia
5. Uchai
6. Kuki
7. Lusai
8. Halam
9. Garo
10. Chaimal
11. Mog
12. Chakma
13. Khasia
14. Bhutiya
15. Orang
16. Lepcha
17. Santal
18. Bhil
19. Munda

Tribal Population

- **ST Population:** 11,66,813 (31.75%)
- **SC Population:** 6,54,918 (17.8%)

Tribal Group Classification

- **Bodo–Garo Groups:** Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Noatia, Uchai, Halam, Garo, Lusai, Mog, Chakma
 - **Kuki–Chin Groups:** Kuki, Lusai, Halam
 - **Arakan Groups:** Mog, Chakma
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Aboriginal & Immigrant Tribes

Aboriginal Tribes: Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Noatia, Uchai, Halam, Kuki, Garo, Lusai, Mog, Chakma

Immigrant Tribes: Santal, Orang, Munda, Bhil, Chaimal, Khasia, Lepcha, Bhutiya

Major Tribes

1. Tripuri

- **Population:** 5,92,255 (50.75%)
- **Title:** Debbarma (Tripura)
- **Settlements:** A group of 5–10 families live together, called *Para* or *Feni*.
- Each family is called a *Khana*.

Occupation: Jhum cultivation

Food:

- Mui Borok (traditional Tripuri food)
- Maisha, Mami, Guriya (rice varieties)
- Berma (dried fish)

Dishes: Awandru, Bwtu, Chakhwi, Chatang, Deng, Mosodeng, Peng, Hang, Napek, Rabra, Muitru, Hontali, Muhn, Ser, Sok, Yokh, Yaksapik

Dress:

- *Rignai, Rikutu, Pachhra*

Jewellery: Chhuraong, Sheri, Wakhum, Taiya, Sanga, Rangbala, Khiembatlang, Yasitan, Nakba

Marriage & Customs:

- Matchmaker: Raibai
- Marriage Ceremony: Kailaimani, Takchaimai, Rimuya, Lamfra Owatlop
- Newly married couple: *Tidumg*
- Types: Hiknamani, Kaijakmani
- Divorce: Kapseng, Kaklaimani

Funeral Rites: *Sraddh & Maikhalai Rimuya* on 13th day

Religion:

- Family Goddesses: Laxmi, Matai Katar, Matai Katauma, Akhatra, Bikhi-tra
- Other Deities:
 - Lamfra (Sky & Sea)

- Tuima (Water)
- Mailorma (Paddy)
- Khulema (Cotton Plant)
- Buracha (Disease)
- Nachumatai (Farmhouse)
- Kalia, Garia (Success)
- Saklamatai (Health)

Professions:

- Bachal – Carriers of royal insignia
- Suk – Hunters
- Koatia – Bearers of betel leaves
- Datiya Singh – Armed forces
- Apiyas – Fish buyers
- Hyguria – Musicians

Chief Priest: Uchai

Games: Achugwi, Phan Sohlaimeung, Bumanikotor, Bukhwi Sotanmung, Kaldong, Longoi, Chokmiung, Sohlaimeuni, Musta Seklaio, Muphuk Sagwamary

Basketry Items: Langa/Nokhai, Chamoi/Khenep, Teseng, Dol, Takhuk, Wasung, Khan-krang, Khutunuk, Tapong, Japa, Banai, Kaisleng, Waiyen, Chokru

2. Reang (Brus)

- **Population:** 1,88,220 (16.13%)
- **Dialect:** Kau-Bru
- **Settlements:** Kailasahar, Kanchanpur, Amarpur, Shantirbazar
- **History:** Reached Tripura during reign of Maharaja Mahendra Manikya; prominent under Shanya & Gobinda Manikya.

Groups:

- Maska – 7 Dophas (subgroups)
- Molsoi – 6 subgroups
- 13 Subgroups with 26 *Bonnoads* (clans) – e.g., Kotor Dopha

Administration:

- Rai, Chapia Khan, Chapia
- Priest: Darkalim

Dress:

- Men: Baki, Kutai, Pandri, Kamchai
- Women: Ria, Rignai

Ornaments:

- Men: Lokaik, Mathia Chikan, Oakhum Chela
- Women: Ramkala, Benki, Bethna, Sangai

Marriage:

- Types: Italaksa, Italaksam
- By service: Champaroi Kami
- By payment: Saba
- Matchmaker: Garuwinda Andra

Headmen: Ray, Sandan, Chowdhury

Religion:

- Supreme God: Matai Kotor
- King of Deities: Thumairo

Post-funeral rites: Borok Sakh, Lukhlaimong, Kothainamung

Food: Liquor called *Aroya* or *Chow-Aroya*

3. Jamatia

- **Population:** 83,347 (7.14%)
- **Origin:** Derived from *Jamayet*
- **Privileges:** Granted *Ghar Chukti* (house tax exemption)

Administration (3-tier):

- Luku – Council at village level
- Moyal – Council at regional level
- Hoda – Council at community level

Religion: Hinduism

- Deities: Matai Kotor, Garia, Lamfra, Khulwngma
- Worship earthen pots (*Rondhak*) as deities

Priest: Ojhai

Notable Rituals:

- Kathew – ensures safe birth
- Twysikal/Tamwng – deity of water

Ornaments: Khasiamala, Parbamala, Rangbwtrang, Brindaful, Boliya, Sanggeyuh

Marriage:

- Types: Chawmniow, Tisy, Kaimung (by service)
- Nahomani/Hanjwk-Tisy-Kaimung – marriage at bridegroom's house
- Gifts to couple: Hiyali (monetary gifts)

4. Chakma

- **Population:** 79,813 (6.84%)
- **Origin:** Migrated from Southeast Asia (18th–19th century)
- **Major Groups:** Anokhia, Tandugia, Mangla
- **Sub-Groups:** Milima, Tahja, Barua, Koda, Wuangsa, Buma, Kurschya, Kadua

Settlements: Longtarai, Pecharthal, Kanchanpur, Kailasahar, Kumarghat, Amarpur, Sabroom

Meaning: ‘Chakma’ derived from *Tsamka* (Chittagong tracts); means a person expert in trapping elephants.

Administration:

- Village – Chakma Panchayat
- Regional – Solani
- Leader – Dewan
- Community leaders – Khijaya, Talukdar, Karbaris

5. Halams

- **Population:** 57,210 (4.90%)
- **Other Name:** Mila Kukis (called *Ranglong* by Kukis)
- **Clans:** Divided into 17 clans (Dafas) – e.g., Kolo, Hrangkhawl, Rupini, Molsom, Kaipang
- **Migration:** From Khuripuilabhum (hilly region of Manipur)
- **Dialects:** Muring, Tripuri

Religion & Deities:

- Sundarnai, Bakunai
- Serikalnai, Kolorai
- Kholongma
- Kallaki
- Nachensing
- Khutalsin
- Longthoria
- Darlengma
- Thukrai

Worship: Hachhnung (worship ritual), Baraiya puja to Surma river

Marriage: Janai Utha **Divorce:** Rotbi

Dress: Dubra, Takbarak, Punjel, Puntha, Lukun, Kamchili **Necklace:** Sankesri

6. Mogs

- **Religion:** Buddhism
- **Migration:** From Arakan Hills
- **Self-identity:** Call themselves *Mormas*
- **Chief:** Bomarang/Choudhury
- **Clans:** Palamsa, Choto Palamsa

Deities & Beliefs:

- Main God: Buddhophora (Buddha)
- Local Deity: Chunni Chichi

Priest: Samphru **Buddhist Temples:** Kheyang

Dialects: Nerefren, Sagrafun

Festivals:

- Boat Festival
 - Water Festival (Holi)
 - Mahamuni Mela
 - Kathin Chibar Dan
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7. The Noatias

- **Surname:** Tripuri
- **Major Clans:** 11, including Naitong, Khaklo, Zelida, Aitazarn, Anokia
- **Dialect:** Tipra/Muring
- **Headman:** Roaza/Choudhury

Deities:

- Mutai Kotorma
- Sangronma
- Mailuma
- Thwima
- Khuluma
- Lamfra
- Tuima
- Burasa
- Haichukma
- Garia
- Naksumaia

Divorce: Kaklaimani

Ornaments:

- Sheri, Taiya, Wakhum, Yasitin

- Kanthi, Haski, Rangbak
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8. Kukis

- **Self-name:** Hmar-ems
- **Clans:** 26, including Amrai, Baibek, Rangte, Sowalai, Phun
- **Chief:** Raja, Sandan, Lal, Saingalthong

Disputes Settled by: Lujur

Deities: Pathien, Laithiern Pu

Dresses:

- Male: Mosol Remi, Pong Seng, Pom Pu
- Female: Ponjel, Pon Bil, Misi, Rathoi

Social Class: Nobles

Musical Instrument: Ghong

Common Drink: Zu

9. Garo

- **Migration:** From Bangladesh (Mymensingh & Sylhet)
- **Garos of Tripura:** Dabeng
- **Head:** Sangkanma
- **Priest:** Kama/Kamal

Wedding: Chinapa Wedding **Burial Ground:** Glopsam

Ornaments: Athonga, Gando, Jaksam, Kadubaju, Nadirzong, Regichak

Food: Kharichi, Sua, Yamti, Gabba

Wine: Two kinds – Arakchu, Butchichu (Mandi)

- *Excitement agent:* Chavanchi
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10. Uchai

- **Migration:** From Arakan Hills
- **Clans:** 12 – e.g., Paikatmag, Takma, Kheyang, Jalai, Ukachy, Urang
- **Supreme Council:** Saprai

Weapons:

- Bow (*Pa*), Arrow (*Pansu*), Kubui, Toinga
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11. Orang

- **Migration:** From Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal
- **Language:** Kurukh (closely related to Birahuj/Malto)
- **Chief:** Sardar

Religion:

- Bishnu Bhagat (Vishnu devotees)
- Bachidan Bhagat (Vishnu devotees)
- Kammu Bhagat (Shiva devotees)

Deities: Sun (*Bitzi*), Moon (*Chando*) – representatives of Supreme God

Festival: Kanam **Instruments:** Mandas, Nagara, Kartal

12. Chaimal

- **Religion:** Hindu
 - **Settlement:** Mainly in Dhalai District
 - **Self-name:** Saimar
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13. Lushai

- **Religion:** Christian
 - **Settlement:** Kanchanpur
 - **Ethnic Group:** Mongoloid
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14. Khasis

- **Religion:** Christian
- **Settlement:** Kailasahar & Dharmanagar

Dresses:

- Male: Lymphong (sarong)
- Female: Jainsem, Thara

Dance: Famous *Pass Tea-a* dance

15. Mundas

- **Religion:** Hindu
- **Migration:** From Bihar, Chota Nagpur, Madhya Pradesh (1916)
- **Self-name:** Hodoko
- **Language:** Mundari

Dance: Sarhul, Lasure, Gena **Festival:** Sohrai

Belief: Supernatural spirit – *Singbonga*

Village Features:

- Sarana
- Akhra
- Sasan

Chief Priest: Pahan

16. Bhils

- **Migration:** From Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar
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17. Santhals

- **Religion:** Hindu
- **Language:** Austro-Asiatic family

Dance: Jhumur dance (during Holi) **Liquor:** Haria

Instruments: Tamak (drums), Tumda, Tiriao (flute)

Festival: Sohrai (begins with *Baha* or *Basant Utsav*)

Performance: Da-Bapla dance (marriage and Sohrai festival)

18. Lepchas

- **Religion:** Buddhist (Shamanistic traditions)
- **Migration:** From Meghalaya, Arunachal, Bhutan, Sikkim
- **Settlement:** Mainly in Dhalai District
- **Self-name:** Rong

19. Bhutiyas

- **Community:** Smallest tribal community in Tripura
- **Traditional Outfit:** *Bakhue* (for men), *Fonju* (for women)

- **Favourite Drink:** *Chyang*
- **Container for liquor:** *Tongba* (bamboo container)

Sub-tribe Links:

- Rupini (a sub-tribe of Halam)

Religious & Social Aspects:

- **Chief Priest:** Awochai
- **Marriage:** Date fixed by *Chakmun*
- **Deities:**
 - Lamfra
 - Sangramma
 - Thumnairog
 - Buracha
 - Nakri Rija
 - Naksu Malai

Dance: Dangi Dance **Folk Songs:** Janonyami, Bergoma, Phailera, Yakoung Kadima

Halam Sub-tribes

Kaipeng (Halam Sub-tribe)

- **Worship:** Arthamang (associated with Jhum cultivation)
- **Liquor:** Langi

Koloi (Halam Sub-tribe)

- **Water Deity:** Taibu Suyamani
- **Chief Priest:** Awochai
- **Headman:** Roy/Choudhury

Other Deities: Thumnairog, Baninog, Lamfra, Longtorai, Soril Jundu, Burasae, Dohari, Pahari, Balam

Molsom (Halam Community)

- **Settlements:** Udaipur, Amarpur, Karbok
- **Deities:**
 - Suprai – most powerful ancestor spirit (Sun)
 - Sangrak – harvest deity
 - Asengoi – deity of death

Dances of Halams: Haihak, Likhithak Lam, Congprzeng, Mluroi, Sazhil

Murasings (Noatia)

Main Deities:

- Burach
 - Baninog
 - Lairang
 - Kakubani
 - Mok
 - Toichakal
 - Chakfuma
 - Hakemi Burach
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Darlong (Kuki – Christian)

Dance:

- Cheraw (bamboo dance)
- Zetlang (connected with sub-dances: Riki-fa-chawi, Vathenindi, Seteinalal, Intlai)