Location and Geographical Extent 1
Physical Features of Tripura 4
Climate of Tripura 6
Rivers and Drainage System 9
Soil Types in Tripura 10
Vegetation and Forest Cover 13
Wildlife and Biodiversity in Tripura 14
Protected Areas (Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks) 18
Geology and Rock Formations 19
Mineral Resources of Tripura 23
Land Use and Land Cover Patterns 24
Agriculture and Major Crops 27
Plantation Crops in Tripura 29
Water Resources and Irrigation 33
Demographic Features of Tripura 34
Urbanization and Settlement Patterns 38
Rural-Urban Divide 39
Transportation and Connectivity 42
Environmental Issues in Tripura 44
Natural Disasters and Hazard Management 49
Sustainable Development in Tripura 51
Role of Geography in Tripura's Economy 54
Eco-tourism in Tripura 55
Wetlands and Lakes of Tripura 57
Impact of Climate Change in Tripura 59

Location and Geographical Extent

Tripura, one of the seven northeastern states of India, is a landlocked territory that holds strategic and geographical significance due to its proximity to Bangladesh and its unique physiography. This article delves deep into the location, geographical extent, and physical attributes of Tripura, providing a comprehensive understanding of its spatial characteristics.

Geographical Location

- **Latitude and Longitude**: Tripura lies between **22°56'N to 24°32'N latitude** and **91°09'E to 92°20'E longitude**. Its geographical position places it in the southernmost part of the northeastern region of India.
- **Boundaries**:
  - **North, South, and West**: Tripura shares a substantial portion of its boundary with Bangladesh (about **856 km**, roughly 84% of its total boundary).
  - **East and Northeast**: It is bordered by the Indian states of Mizoram and Assam.
- **Distance from National Capital**: The state's capital, Agartala, is approximately **2,650 km** from New Delhi.

Geographical Extent

- **Area**: Tripura covers an area of **10,491.69 sq. km**, making it the third smallest state in India after Goa and Sikkim.
- **Shape and Dimensions**: The state has an elongated oval shape with a north-south orientation. Its average length is about **184 km**, and the width varies between **113 km** and **37 km**.

Physiography

Tripura's landscape is characterized by a mix of hill ranges, valleys, and plains, giving it a diverse topographical profile:

1. **Hill Ranges**:
   - The state is traversed by five main hill ranges running from north to south:
     - **Jampui Hills**
     - **Sakhan Hills**
     - **Longtharai Hills**
     - **Atharamura Hills**
     - **Boromura Hills**
   - These ranges are separated by fertile valleys and are densely forested.
2. **Plains**: The western part of the state features plains and low-lying areas, which are extensively used for agriculture and settlement.
3. **Valleys**: Between the hill ranges, fertile valleys provide favorable conditions for rice cultivation and other agricultural activities.

Climate

Tripura experiences a humid subtropical climate with distinct seasons:

1. **Summer**: March to May, with average temperatures ranging from 24°C to 36°C.

2. **Monsoon**: June to September, characterized by heavy rainfall brought by the southwest monsoon. The state receives an average annual rainfall of **2,000-2,500 mm**.
3. **Winter**: December to February, with temperatures ranging between 10°C and 25°C, making it the most pleasant season.

Drainage

The state has a well-distributed river system:

1. **Major Rivers**:
    - **Gumti**: The largest and most important river, which originates in the Boromura Hills and flows into Bangladesh.
    - **Howrah (Haora)**: Flows westward through Agartala and into Bangladesh.
    - **Khowai**: Originates in the Longtharai Hills and flows into Bangladesh.
    - **Manu**, **Juri**, **Feni**, and **Muhuri** are other significant rivers.
2. **River Characteristics**: These rivers are rain-fed and exhibit a seasonal flow, swelling during the monsoons and reducing significantly in the dry season.

Soil and Vegetation

- **Soil Types**: The state's soils are primarily alluvial, sandy, and loamy, supporting rich agricultural practices. In the hilly regions, red laterite soil dominates.
- **Natural Vegetation**: The forest cover in Tripura accounts for over **60%** of its area. The vegetation includes:
    - **Evergreen and Semi-evergreen Forests**
    - **Moist Deciduous Forests**
    - **Bamboo Groves**

Geopolitical Significance

- **Proximity to Bangladesh**: Tripura's location makes it a critical point for trade and connectivity with Bangladesh. The opening of the Indo-Bangla Maitri Bridge and integrated check posts enhances its strategic importance.
- **Connectivity**: Being a landlocked state, Tripura relies heavily on road and rail links with Assam and the rest of India. The state's location close to the Chittagong Port in Bangladesh is seen as a major boost for trade.

Biodiversity

Tripura's unique geographical location and diverse topography have endowed it with rich biodiversity:

1. **Flora**: Includes species like sal, teak, bamboo, and cane.
2. **Fauna**: The state is home to wildlife such as elephants, leopards, and primates, including the endangered Phayre's langur.

Economic Importance of Geography

1. **Agriculture**: The fertile valleys and plains support crops like rice, jute, tea, and rubber.
2. **Forestry**: Dense forest resources provide timber, bamboo, and medicinal plants.
3. **Trade Potential**: Tripura's location near Bangladesh facilitates cross-border trade opportunities.

Challenges Due to Geographical Location

1. **Natural Hazards**: The state is prone to floods during monsoons and occasional landslides in the hilly regions.
2. **Connectivity**: Its landlocked position poses challenges for transportation and logistics.

Physical Features of Tripura

Tripura, a small yet geographically diverse state nestled in the northeastern corner of India, is a captivating blend of verdant hills, fertile valleys, and meandering rivers. Its physical features play a crucial role in shaping its climate, biodiversity, and human settlements. Let's delve into the remarkable topography of this enchanting state.

1. Hill Ranges:

Tripura is characterized by a series of north-south trending hill ranges that dominate its landscape. These hills are extensions of the Arakan Yoma mountain range, which originates in Myanmar. The five main hill ranges are:

- **Jampui Hills:** The highest range, with the peak of Betlingshib reaching around 3200 ft. Known for its scenic beauty and orange orchards.
- **Longtharai Hills:** Forms a significant portion of the state's central region.
- **Atharamura Hills:** Home to dense forests and diverse wildlife.
- **Sakhan Hills:** Located in the southwestern part of the state.
- **Baramura Hills:** The westernmost range, known for its rich biodiversity.

These hill ranges are interspersed with narrow valleys, creating a unique and picturesque terrain.

2. Plains and Valleys:

The plains of Tripura are primarily located in the western and southwestern parts of the state. These fertile alluvial plains are formed by the deposition of sediments from the major rivers. The Agartala plain, where the capital city is situated, is one of the most prominent plains in the state.

The valleys, nestled between the hill ranges, are also fertile and support agriculture. Some of the important valleys include:

- **Dharmanagar Valley:** Located in the north, known for its fertile land.
- **Kailashahar Valley:** Lies in the central part of the state.
- **Kamalpur Valley:** Known for its scenic beauty and pineapple cultivation.
- **Khowai Valley:** Home to diverse flora and fauna.

3. Rivers:

Tripura is blessed with a network of rivers that not only provide water for irrigation and domestic use but also add to the scenic beauty of the state. Most of the rivers originate in the hill ranges and flow northwards into Bangladesh. Some of the major rivers include:

- **Gumti River:** The longest river in Tripura, flowing through the western part of the state.
- **Howrah River:** A tributary of the Gumti, known for its scenic beauty.
- **Manu River:** Flows through the northern part of the state.
- **Dhalai River:** Forms a part of the border between Tripura and Mizoram.
- **Khowai River:** Passes through the Khowai valley and is known for its rich aquatic biodiversity.

4. Forests:

Forests cover a significant portion of Tripura's land area. These forests are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including many endangered species. The different types of forests found in Tripura include:

- **Tropical evergreen forests:** Found in the higher altitudes of the hill ranges.
- **Tropical moist deciduous forests:** The most common type of forest in the state.
- **Bamboo and cane forests:** Found in abundance throughout the state.

5. Climate:

Tripura has a tropical savanna climate with a monsoon season. The hill ranges influence the local climate, creating variations in temperature and rainfall patterns. The state experiences hot and humid summers, with temperatures reaching up to 35°C. The monsoon season brings heavy rainfall, which is crucial for agriculture. Winters are mild and pleasant.

Impact of Physical Features:

The physical features of Tripura have a profound impact on various aspects of life in the state: