Chapter-I
INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

Democracy is an elastic concept over the centuries, it has gradually attained wide currency throughout the world. Democracy, not only a form of government but a form of society, a way of life, has become very popular throughout the world. The democratic way of working at grass root level has drawn the attention of every civilised person. The concept of grass root democracy is the crux of local self-government which is possible through the process of democratic decentralisation.

The roots of local self-government lie in decentralisation by taking ‘power to the people’. Effective democracy at the grass root level can exist only when there is effective delegation of responsibilities to local governments, along with building up of local capacities in order to help them discharge these responsibilities to the satisfaction and betterment of the citizens. Therefore, effective governance by urban local bodies implies those cities as well as small and medium towns having a well defined functional domain, generate adequate resources to carry out their responsibilities and impart a fair degree of transparency and accountability in performing their functions. Though urban local-self government is an old phenomenon in India, in the recent past, there has been a conscious effort to strengthen and revitalize urban local self-government in India through the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. The landmark legislation aimed at greater clarity between states and local governments in terms of adequate powers and resources to enable local bodies to function as vibrant units of local self-government. The Act provides for the constitution of three types of local self-governing institutions in urban areas. It provides for Municipal Corporations for major cities; Municipal Councils for medium-sized cities and Nagar Panchayats for smaller towns-transitional areas. This Amendment has bestowed upon the urban local self-governing institutions in urban areas the responsibilities to prepare and implement a number of development plans based upon the needs of local people. However, the current scene in Indian states along with in Tripura shows that devolution has made little progress with multiplicity of issues plaguing decentralized urban governance. These include bureaucratic red-tapism, lack of clarity between state and local functional domains leading to overlapping of functions,
political encroachment in local functional domain, limited autonomy at the local level due to state control over local revenues, poor generation of revenue, inefficiency of staff, ineffective devolution of welfare and planning functions, lack of effective implementation of the developmental plans and programmes, lack of awareness and weak role of elected bodies in municipal management etc. It is with this background, the present study has intended to take stock of the extent of devolution of funds, functions and functionaries of urban local bodies of Tripura in the light of the implementation of the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992.

Conceptual Framework of the Study

Since the present study deals with the ‘Democratic Decentralization and Implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in Tripura’, an attempt has been made here to explain the concepts, namely- ‘Democratic Decentralization’, ‘Local self-government’, ‘74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992’, and ‘Tripura Municipal Act, 1994’.

Democratic Decentralization

‘Democracy’ and ‘decentralization’ are two sides of a same coin. In common parlance, decentralisation denotes diffuson of powers from a single concentrated authority to a certain number of units around. In other words, decentralization means dispersal of authority among the lower levels and its essence is vesting of decision-making power in the lower units of the political system of country. It means transferring of authority, responsibility and accountability from central to local authorities and promotion of mutual understanding and relationships between central and local governments and local governments and citizens dwelling within its jurisdictions. Its aim is to ensure accountability, efficiency, accessibility and transparency within the political system of the country. The lives and success of democracy rest upon the proper implementation of the process of decentralisation. It is decentralisation that bases democracy on its solid foundation along with its long lasting, successful and radiant future. In fact, the most important hallmark of a country having representative democratic polity like India is the decentralization of power. Decentralization stimulates the level of political awareness and political participation on the part of the people and increases
responsiveness as well as accountability on the government institutions and also in the part of the development. In our modern times, the notion of decentralization has been viewed as an active means of local government for promoting the level of development in the fields like education, health, agriculture and infrastructure and so on. Democratic Decentralisation helps to identify the needs and preferences of people through their direct participation in plan formulation and implementation.\textsuperscript{3}

Local self-government

The concept of local self-government is based on the assumption that there are certain basic human needs having direct bearing on the lives of the individuals and the community as a whole. Such needs can be better fulfilled by a government to which the individuals and the local community have direct and easy access. So the local self-government is the closest, most accessible and most amenable to individual. It offers opportunity to the people to bring local knowledge, interest and enthusiasm to bear on the solution of their problems. The level of governments which is much closer to the people living in towns and villages is called local government. The local self-governing bodies may provide training for good citizenship, cultivate the sense of civic duties into the minds of citizens and meet local needs with limited local resources. These bodies are looked upon as an integrated system for ensuring social justice and socio-economic development. The concepts of self-governing institutions at the local level are supposed to be essential for national growth and for effective peoples’ participation and these institutions are the integral and indispensable parts of the democratic process. Because the more a political system is decentralized down to the local level, the greater are the chances of grass-root democracy flourishing. A local self government is expected to be good as it awakens and involves the local people and gives them the experience of administration at their doorsteps. According to B.K.Gokhale, “Local self-government is the government of a specified locality by the local people through the representatives elected by them.”\textsuperscript{4}

74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992

The 74\textsuperscript{th} Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 has marked a new era in the history of urban local-self government in India. In September 1991 P.V.Narsimha Rao’s
government has introduced a modified Municipalities Bill in the Lok Sabha and it has been passed unanimously both by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in December 1992. Afterwards, it has been approved by the required number of state legislatures and finally assented to by the President of India in April 1993. Thus, the Bill has emerged as the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 and it has opened a new avenue by conferring the constitutional status on urban local self-governing institutions in India. The Act has come into force on 1 June 1993. The Act has added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India and it is entitled as ‘The Municipalities’ consisting of provisions from Articles 243(P) to 243(ZG). Besides, the Act has also added a new 12th Schedule to the Constitution containing 18 functional items of municipalities. It has provided provisions for the constitution and composition of municipalities, functions of municipalities, constitution of wards committee, reservation of seats, regular elections of municipalities, setting up of district planning committee, setting up state finance commission etc.  

**Tripura Municipal Act, 1994**

The Tripura Municipal Act, 1994 has been enacted in conformity with purpose, substance and directions of the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. The Act has received the assent of the Governor on the 26th October, 1994 and thereupon it has come into force. The Act has been enacted by the Tripura Legislative Assembly in the 45th year of the Republic of India. The Act has XX Chapters containing 280 Sections. Later on, the Act has been amended six times through which in a few Sections of the Act necessary changes and modifications have been brought about. In fact, the Act has marked a significant landmark in the history of local self-government for urban area in Tripura. In other words, the State Government under the constitutional obligation has adopted the new system of municipalities in accordance with the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. The Act aims at revitalizing and strengthening the institutions of urban governments so that they may function effectively as units of local self-government in order to meet the needs and expectations of citizens dwelling within the jurisdiction of urban local bodies.
Chapter I

Introduction

Review of Related Literature

As the present study deals with the process of democratic decentralization and the implementation of the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 at the urban level, the following books and articles have been reviewed:

- *Local Government in India* (S.R. Maheshwari, 1970)\(^7\) discusses both the rural and urban institutions of local self-governments in India. After tracing the history of local government, it attempts to discuss the structure, personnel, finance and functioning of rural as well as urban local government. This book suggests the ways and means of improving the system of local government in India. In doing so, the book has focused on local government as an entity operating within the larger system of government in the country. Finally, the book reveals that local government can ultimately succeed only if the citizens are endowed with integrity and with what John Stuart Mill called other-regarding feelings and attitudes. Besides, the book emphasizes on education as an essential pre-requisite for the success of local self-government in India.

- *Local Government in India* (V.V. Rao and Niru Hazarika, 1986)\(^8\) reveals that local government and local bodies are not independent so far as their domestic procedure, personnel administration and financial administration are concerned. Local government can be more democratic when the nature of popular participation, the character of the representatives of the local authorities, the basis of franchise and the periodicity of election are taken into account. The book comments that local government is the most effective training ground of democracy and the person trained in local government are likely to be successful legislators. By highlighting the various problems and limitations of local self-government, the book suggests that local self-governments and local authorities must develop effective public relations.

- *Urban Development and Urban Research in India* (Amitabh Kunda, 1996)\(^9\) examines the pattern of urban growth since independence and identifies its determinants. It discusses the distortions in urban hierarchy, spatial distribution of

\(^7\)\(^8\)\(^9\)
urban centres and their growth rates in different regions. It focuses that absence of weakness in rural urban interdependencies and the need and possibility of public intervention for strengthening the relationship have been examined. The organizational structure and functioning of the public agencies, engaged in the production of basic amenities, namely-housing, drinking water, sewage and sanitation, have been analysed in an attempt to assess their sensitivity towards the needs and paying capacity of urban poor. At length, a survey of socio-economic research on urban development has been attempted for identifying the dominant thinking, changes in the focus and perspectives of research etc and the biases therein.

- **Agartala Municipality-Historical Documents 125 Years-1871 to 1996-1997** (Manik Deb, Maharajkumar Sahadev Bikramkishore Devvarman and Jagadis Gan Chaudhuri, 1997)\(^{10}\) is a collection and compilation of some historical documents of Agartala Municipality. This book has highlighted that AMC has passed through several vicissitudes of history and a large number of Acts, Reports and Administrative Orders have been enacted and issued throughout this long period. This book has also included the Tripura Municipality Act,1994 along with a schedule which enlists the functions of the Municipality.

- **Democracy and Decentralisation in South Asia and West Africa: Participation, Accountability and Performance** (Richard C. Crook and James Manos, 1998)\(^{11}\) is an in-depth empirical study of four Asian and African attempts to create democratic, decentralised local governments in the late 1980s and 1990s. The case studies of Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Karnataka (India) and Bangladesh focus upon the enhancement of participation, accountability between people, politicians and bureaucrats and most importantly, on whether governmental performance actually improved in comparison with previous forms of administration. The book is systematically comparative and based upon extensive popular surveys and local fieldwork. It makes an important contribution to current debates in the development literature on whether 'good governance' and decentralisation can provide more responsive and effective services for the mass of the population - the poor and disadvantaged people.
• **Women Reservation in Urban Local Bodies: A Perspective from Chennai Municipal Election, 2001** (Archana Ghosh, 2002)\(^{12}\) has taken a keen interest in examining the political background of the emerging women leaders in the CMC along with their pattern of nomination, issues in campaining, their opinions as to the rotation system in the urban local bodies etc. She has shown that though women’s issues are still being looked down upon in urban governance, yet political parties hardly put any emphasis on the women’s issues.

• **Sthaniya Sayatta Sasan-O-Unnayan** (In Bengali) (Prabat Dutta, 2002)\(^{13}\) examines the problems of sustainable development in the background of decentralized urban and rural local bodies with a special emphasis on the role of the emerging local leadership. The book has highlighted how the phase of power relation has been taking a new shape in Indian countrysides in the wake of the emergence of new local leadership. It has also observed the negative impact globalization on urban development.

• **Empowerment through Participation: How Effective is this Approach?** (Pradeep Narayan, 2003)\(^{14}\) observes that empowerment and participation are means and ends to each other and promoting women’s participation requires the abolition of the existing power relations. But increasing participation will help to create alternative discourses and power structures. If participation still perpetuates dependency relationship, it cannot be regarded as real participation.

• **Dalit and Tribal Leadership in Panchayats** (S.N. Chaudhury, 2004)\(^{15}\) tracing the history of panchayati raj, analyses the status of schedule caste and schedule tribe leadership in panchayats in the light of the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992. Taking a close look at the interface between panchayat and the schedule caste and schedule tribe leadership, it evaluates its socio-economic and political implications. It also provides socio-economic profile of dalit leaders in panchayat, level of their awareness, their achievements and expectations. This book has also suggested various futuristic steps for strengthening the dalit and schedule caste and schedule tribe leadership in the panchayati raj system.
• Decentralization and Democratic Governance in Latin America (Joseph S. Tulchin and Andrew Selee, 2004) \(^{16}\) focused that in the last decade, in every part of the world, there has been an unprecedented swing to democratic forms of government. In Latin America, this shift has been accompanied by macroeconomic reforms that have given priority to market forces. The book explores one of the crucial intersections of political and economic change: how the reform of the central state in the form of policies of decentralization has affected democratic governance in different countries and at different levels of society. More specifically, the book examines the impact of decentralization on civil society and how civil society and the state interact in decentralized democratic governance. The book has suggested that the success or failure of the relationship between civil society and the state at sub-national levels will be central to the construction of democratic governance in the coming decades.

• Agartala Municipal Council-A Socio-Economic Study (Unpublished Ph. D. Thesis) (Dhananjay Ganchoudhuri, 2005) \(^{17}\) reveals the role and evolution of the Agartala Municipal Council. He highlights the finance and problems of Agartala Municipal Council. He has also thrown light on the administrative responses to these problems of Agartala Municipal Council. Besides, he mentions few provisions of the 74th constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 in one of the chapters of his work.

• Local Self-Government in India (Ram Prasad Sharma, 2006) \(^{18}\) reveals that no Urban Local self-government is functioning in the notified towns/cities of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. So the urbanites of these states have no participation in the decision-making and implementing processes, though the urbanization in these states is at a faster rate creating urban human problems of complicated nature and the state Governments have not yet implemented the provisions of the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 for the set-up of the Municipalities which are not in keeping with the national goal—democratic decentralized governance and planning processes. The concept of democratic decentralized governance hardly operates in these states. The book suggests to implements the 74th Constitutional Amendment act, 1992
for a set-up of the urban Governance in the notified towns, to enable the urbanites to participate in decision-making and implementing processes of complicated urban problems affecting directly their daily lives. The book emphasizes people’s empowerment, democratic, decentralized and participative civic governance which the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act envisages. The book also suggested that the functions of State Government and urban Local Self-Governments as partners in a common endeavour to improve the living conditions of the urbanites should be emphasized.

- **Challenges for Urban Local Governments in India** (Rumi Aijaz, 2007)\(^{19}\) has identified the major issues of governance at the municipal and local level. The study reveals that Urban Local Governments in India are plagued by numerous problems, which affect their performance in the efficient discharge of their duties. The problems are related to the extent of participation and rule of law in the municipal decision-making process, transparency in the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects and level of efficiency in various municipal management and financial practices. He highlights that fresh thinking is necessary to resolve the problems confronting urban local governments in India.

- **Decentralised Governance: Looking Back and Forth** (Nazrul Islam, 2007)\(^{20}\) focuses on that decentralised governance is a model of development, an instrument for people’s participation, a process for innovation, a means for nation-building, national integration, political stability and global co-operation. The book postulates that decentralised institution is an ideological principle associated with objectives of self-reliance, democratic decision-making, popular participation in government and accountability of public officials to citizens. It is suggested that decentralised governance with its merger features of politics and administration should accelerate development strategies of modern pluralistic states by way of fostering, nurturing and institutionalising people’s participation through efficient and effective decentralised process.

- **Democratic Decentralization of Urban Governance** (Aradhana Srivastava, 2008)\(^{21}\) reveals the problems of decentralization in Indian states, namely lack of clarity
regarding local functional domain, limited fiscal domains and autonomy at local level, lack of orientation towards developmental works, ineffective devolution of welfare and planning functions, weak role of municipal elected bodies, and lack of people’s participation in overall planning exercise. Besides identifying the problems of decentralization of Indian states, the study also suggested the ways and means for eradicating the problems essential for development of urban governments in India.

• *Role of Women Councillors in Urban Bodies: A Case Study of Kolkata and Howrah Municipal Corporation* (Anjana Ghosh, 2010)\(^{22}\) is a comparative study of women political representatives in the municipal bodies of twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah. It is an empirical research that tries to look into the role of women as political representative vis-à-vis their role in the family, society and political party. This book reveals that higher caste women are being elected as political representatives in these two important cities. In a progressive state like West Bengal due to lack of education and awareness among the lower caste women needs serious introspection by policy makers. The study also reveals that there is a still lack of consensus on women’s political role. Even though family has emerged as the basic support base for the women councillors, it is also the source of intervention of male family members as main political patrons. Political party’s influence on women councillors especially while making decisions is still an important reality.

• *Urban Local Self-Government: Administration and Management in the 21st Century* (S.L. Goel, 2011)\(^{23}\) observes that local government is essential to establish democracy at local level as it is very near to the people who can participate in governance. In addition Local Government if entrusted with functions as mentioned in 74th Constitutional Amendment Act can discharge their functions efficiently and lighten the burden of state and Union Government and make the governance efficient and economy and transparent. The book highlights that Indian urban local government has vast potential to improve quality of life of citizens in urban areas provided these urban local governments are empowered in practice and entrusted with authority and responsibility.
Chapter-I

Introduction

- Role of Information System in Urban Local Self-Government (Sanjeev Ranjan, 2012) reveals that information system directly links people with the local government and helps the public to know the plan and policies of the local government and their methods of working. The significance of IT in Local Bodies is hardly ignored. The lack of physical, procedural and personnel capacity to provide these services is the main reason among the various reasons for not using IT in Local Bodies. Local Bodies has neither done much to develop its capacity to install it nor has much interest in this regard. Thus it is suggested in the paper that local bodies must develop its capacity to fulfill the expectations of the citizen’s when they avail services.

From the above, it has been revealed that a trend of research on local self-governing institutions is not a new phenomenon. Many a research work has been carried out over the topic. But so far no systematic study has been done on the implementation of the 74th Amendment Act in Tripura. Thus, the present study has thrown the sufficient light in this connection.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the proposed research work is to assess the extent of democratic decentralization through the implementation of 74th Amendment Act, 1992 in Tripura and its success and failure as well. This study has fixed the following broad objectives:

1. To trace the origin, evolution and growth of municipal government in India.
2. To trace the growth of municipal government in Tripura.
3. To analyze the socio-economic profile and level of political awareness of the respondents.
4. To trace the sources of income of urban local-self governing institutions.
5. To map overall success and failures of urban local-self governing institutions in post 74th Amendment Act situation and identify potential measures for improvement in local-self governing institutions in Tripura.
Chapter-I

Research Questions

The following questions pertinent to the present study have been formulated:

1. Do the socio-economic factors of the respondents determine their level of political awareness?
2. How do local resources stand in comparison with the government grants?
3. Have the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 been implemented in Tripura?
4. What are the problems in the implementation of the provisions of the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 in the urban areas of Tripura?

Methodology of the Study

The research work has been conducted with the help of historical and empirical methods. The study is based on data collected from both primary and secondary sources. For the study, 80 respondents have been selected and all of them have been interviewed with the interview schedules by the researcher himself. All the elected representative of the AMC, Udaipur NP, Ambassa NP and Kailasahar NP have been selected for the study.

Primary data has been collected through interview schedule containing both fixed alternative and open ended questions. For collecting primary data, three interview schedules have been formulated and used. Schedule-I has been used to collect data pertinent to the socio-economic background of the respondents. Schedule-II has been used to collect information as to the level of political awareness of the respondents. Schedule-III has been used to collect information from the respondents as to the problems in the implementation of the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992 in the urban areas of Tripura. Primary data have also been collected from the records available at the offices of ULBs at Agartala, Udaipur, Ambassa and Kailasahar.
Secondary data has been collected from books, journals, newspapers and reports and publications available at the offices of the Municipalities; Urban Development Department, Government of Tripura; Statistical Department, Government of Tripura; and other departments associated with the ULBs. To gain deep insight, discussion has been held with the concerned officials and administrators of the Urban Local bodies. For the purpose of the collection of data from secondary sources Central Library of Tripura University; Library of ICSSR-NERC, Shillong; Central Library of North East Hill University, Shillong; Bir Chandra State Central Library, Agartala have been also been consulted. Extensive use of Internet materials has also been made for the study. The analysis of the data has been made according to the nature of data.

Significance of the study

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 has marked a new era in the history of urban local self-government in India. The Act has aimed at ensuring the goals of social justice and economic development for the people living in urban areas. The present study has been confined to four Municipalities / ULBs in the state of Tripura. Of these, the number of Municipal Council is one and the rests are Nagar Panchayats, and to this end, four urban local bodies from the four districts of Tripura such as, ULBs located at the district headquarters of West, South, North and Dhalai Tripura Districts have been selected. A careful study of the Urban Local Bodies has provided a basis of knowledge through which socio-economic and political functions of the urban local self institutions for ensuring social justice and economic development can easily be understood. This study has been helpful to examine the success and failures of the 74th Amendment Act and has also set sufficient light on the problems existed in urban areas even after the implementation of the Act. Lastly, an in-depth analysis of the issues related to the study has been very important to identify the base for effective solution of the issues and problems. The findings and conclusions of this study may come to the use of the administrators in making the urban self-governing bodies effective, active and efficient.

Rationale of the Study

The rationale of this study lies in finding a political-economic relationship in the working of a few urban self-governing bodies. The present study has been focused on the working system of the four Municipalities of four districts of Tripura. The selection has...
been made to conceptualise the fact of the functioning system of the Municipalities situated at the district headquarters in the light of the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992. Thus, the present study “Democratic Decentralisation and the Implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in Tripura” has been taken up to provide a deep insight into the fund, functions and functionaries of other Municipalities throughout the state of Tripura. Because, democratic decentralization without efficiency and economy is self-contradictory, a national wastage.

Chapterisation

The study has been divided into the following six chapters:

Chapter-I: Introduction

This chapter provides a detailed outline of the research plan under the following heads:

- The Statement of the problem;
- Conceptual framework of the study;
- Review of related literature;
- Aims and objectives of the study;
- Research questions;
- Methodology of the study;
- Significance of the study;
- Rationale of the study; and
- Chapterisation.

Chapter-II: Evolution of Municipal Government in India

This chapter has been divided into four Sections, namely:

- Municipal Government in Ancient and Medieval India;
- Municipal Government in British India;
- Municipal Government in Post-Independence India; and
- Municipal Government in Tripura
Chapter-III: Socio-Economic Profile and Level of Political Awareness of the Respondents.

This chapter has two Sections, namely:

- Socio-Economic Profile of the Respondents; and
- Level of Political Awareness of the Respondents.

Chapter-IV: Finance of the Urban Local Bodies

This chapter is divided in two Sections, namely:

- Grants to the Urban Local Self-Governing Institutions in Tripura; and
- Revenue Income of the Urban Local Self-Governing Institutions in Tripura.

Chapter-V: Implementation of the 74th Amendment Act in Urban Areas in Tripura

This chapter has been divided into the following Sections, namely:

- Constitution of Municipalities;
- Composition of Municipalities;
- Constitution of Wards Committees;
- Mandate Periodic Elections;
- Reservation of Seats;
- Duration of Municipalities;
- Functional Responsibilities of Urban Local Bodies;
- Setting up of State Finance Commission; and
- Constitution of District Planning Committee.

Chapter-VI: Concluding Observations and Findings

This chapter has summarised the concluding observations and findings of the study. In this chapter, an attempt has also been made to suggest some remedial measures in order to ensure well and truly implementation of the provisions of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in Tripura.
Profile of the Sample Area

Tripura stands to the east of Bangladesh and to the south-west of Assam. Tripura—a tiny state of India—is located within about one and a half degree of latitudinal extent from 22°56’ to 24°32’ north and longitudinal spread of only a little more than a degree from 91°10’ to 92°21’ east. The State covers an area of only 10,491 sq. kms. It is surrounded by Bangladesh on the North, South and West and even a large portion of the eastern side is bounded by the Chittagong Hill tracts of Bangladesh. The State has a tenuous land connection with the main land of India through a corridor of Cachar in Assam. The State of Tripura has both types of local self-governing institution such as, rural local self-governing institutions and urban local self-governing institutions. Out of the total urban local self-governing bodies in Tripura, only four bodies have been selected for the research work. Their names are: Agartala Municipal Council, Udaipur Nagar Panchayat, Kailasahar Nagar Panchayat and Ambassa Nagar Panchayat.

Population

As per the Census of India of 2011, Agartala Municipal Council has a total population of 3,98,338. Out of the total population, 2,06,801 which constitute 51.92 per cent are male and 1,91,537 constituting 48.08 per cent are female. The number of male population is more than that of their female counterparts within the purview of Agartala Municipal Council. As for Kailasahar Nagar Panchayat, total population is 24,049; out of which 11,958 (49.72 per cent) are male and female are 12,091 (50.28 per cent). Udaipur Nagar Panchayat has a total population of 33,708 comprising of 17,404 (51.63 per cent) male and 16,304 (48.37 per cent) female. The total population of Ambassa Nagar Panchayat is 16,978 comprising of 8,391 (49.42 per cent) male and 8,587 (50.58 per cent) female. The composition of the Urban Local Bodies reveals that there is uniformity between male and female population.
# Chapter-I

## Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>ULBs</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Male (% of Total)</th>
<th>Female (% of Total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>3,98,338</td>
<td>2,06,801(51.92%)</td>
<td>1,91,537(48.08%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kailasahar NP</td>
<td>24,049</td>
<td>11,958(49.72%)</td>
<td>12,091(50.28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Udaipur NP</td>
<td>33,708</td>
<td>17,404(51.63%)</td>
<td>16,304(48.37%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ambassa NP</td>
<td>16,978</td>
<td>8,391(49.42%)</td>
<td>8,587(50.58%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** The Census Report of India, 2011

**Figure-1.1:** Pie Chart showing the position of Population within the territory of ULBs

- **AMC**
  - Total Population: 398338
  - Male: 206801 (51.9%)
  - Female: 191537 (48.08%)

- **Kailasahar NP**
  - Total Population: 24049
  - Male: 12091 (50.28%)
  - Female: 11958 (49.72%)

- **Udaipur NP**
  - Total Population: 33708
  - Male: 17404 (51.63%)
  - Female: 16304 (48.37%)

- **Ambassa NP**
  - Total Population: 16978
  - Male: 8391 (49.42%)
  - Female: 8587 (50.58%)
Chapter-I

Introduction

Literacy rate:

The literacy rate of Tripura 87.22 per cent. Out of which male literacy rate is 91.53 per cent and female literacy rate is 82.73 per cent. The literacy rate of AMC is 93.88 per cent, out of which male literacy rate is 95.75 per cent and female literacy rate is 92.02 per cent. In case of Kailasahar Nagar Panchayat, total literacy rate is 95.00 per cent, out of which male literacy rate is 95.00 per cent and female literacy rate is 93.00 per cent. As for Udaipur Nagar Panchayat, the total literacy rate is 100 per cent. Concerning Ambassa Nagar Panchayat, total literacy rate is 88.40 per cent wherein male literacy rate is 93.20 per cent and female literacy rate is 83.30 per cent.

Table: 1.2.

Showing the Literacy Rate of Urban Local Bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total literacy rate</th>
<th>Male literacy rate</th>
<th>Female literacy rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tripura</td>
<td>87.22 per cent</td>
<td>91.53 per cent</td>
<td>82.73 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>93.88 per cent</td>
<td>95.75 per cent</td>
<td>92.02 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kailasahar NP</td>
<td>94.00 per cent</td>
<td>95.00 per cent</td>
<td>93.00 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Udaipur NP</td>
<td>100 per cent</td>
<td>100 per cent</td>
<td>100 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ambassa NP</td>
<td>88.40 per cent</td>
<td>93.20 per cent</td>
<td>83.30 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure-1.2: Bar chart showing the Literacy Rate of the ULBs
Chapter-I

Introduction

Territory/Area

Geographically, the state of Tripura has an area of 10491.69 sq. km. Out the total urban area (177.93 sq. km., as of 2012) of the State of Tripura, Agartala Municipal Council has an area of 58.84 sq. km; Kailasahar Nagar Panchayat has an area of 6.19 sq. km; Udaipur Nagar Panchayat has an area of 6.10 sq.km. and Ambassa Nagar Panchayat has an area of 14.77 sq.km.

Table: 1.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>ULBs</th>
<th>Area in sq. km.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>58.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kailasahar NP</td>
<td>6.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Udaipur NP</td>
<td>6.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ambassa NP</td>
<td>14.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Urban Development Department, Agartala

Caste

The population dwelling within the jurisdiction of the municipalities are categorised into four groups on the basis of caste, namely-General, Other Backward Caste, Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe. The total population of Agartala Municipal Council is 3,98,338; out of which 1,80,387 (45.28 per cent) belong to General category; 1,06,007 (26.61 per cent) belong to OBCs; 88,786 (22.29 per cent) belong to Schedule Castes and the remaining 23,158 heads (5.81 per cent) belong to Schedule Tribes. The total population within the territorial area of Kailasahar Nagar Panchayat is 24,049; out of which 11,310 (47.03 per cent) are General; 6,247(25.98 per cent) are OBCs; 5,480 (22.78 per cent) are Schedule Castes and the total number of Schedule Tribes population is 1,012 (4.21 per cent). As for Udaipur Nagar Panchayat, the total population is 33,708. Of them; 22,972 (68.15 per cent) are General; 4,608 (13.67 per cent) are OBCs; 5,600 (16.61 per cent) are Schedule Castes and the remaining 528 (1.57 per cent) are Schedule Tribes. As far as Ambassa Nagar Panchayat is concerned, the total population is 16,978 and out of them, 5,510 (32.45 per cent) are belonging to General; 5,597(32.97 per cent) are OBCs;
3,772 (22.22 per cent) are belonging to Schedule Castes and the rest 2,099 (12.36 per cent) are Schedule Tribes.

### Table: 1.4

**Showing the Caste wise distribution of Population within the territory of Urban Local Bodies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>ULBs</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>OBC</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>ST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>3,98,338</td>
<td>1,80,387 (45.28%)</td>
<td>1,06,007 (26.61%)</td>
<td>88,786 (22.29%)</td>
<td>23,158 (5.81%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kailasahar NP</td>
<td>24,049</td>
<td>11,310 (47.03%)</td>
<td>6,247 (25.98%)</td>
<td>5,480 (22.78%)</td>
<td>1,012 (4.21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Udaipur NP</td>
<td>33,708</td>
<td>22,972 (68.15%)</td>
<td>4,608 (13.67%)</td>
<td>5,600 (16.61%)</td>
<td>528 (1.57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ambassa NP</td>
<td>16,978</td>
<td>5,510 (32.45%)</td>
<td>5,597 (32.97%)</td>
<td>3,772 (22.22%)</td>
<td>2,099 (12.36%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Offices of the Municipalities concerned

**Figure-1.3: Pie Charts showing the Caste wise population within the territory of Urban Local Bodies**

- **AMC**
  - Total Population: 398338
  - General: 180387 (45.28%)
  - OBC: 106007 (26.61%)
  - SC: 23158 (5.81%)
  - ST: 88786 (22.29%)

- **Kailasahar NP**
  - Total Population: 24049
  - General: 1012 (4.21%)
  - OBC: 5480 (22.78%)
  - SC: 6247 (23.98%)
  - ST: 11310 (47.03%)
Religion

The population living within the purview of the urban local bodies is basically dominated by one major religion, that is, Hinduism. Besides, people belonging to other religious faith namely-Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Christianity have been residing in the territorial area of the urban local bodies. According to the Census of India, 2011, within the purview of the Agartala Municipal Council the total population of Hindus are 3,75,838 (94.35 per cent), Muslims are 20,681(5.19 per cent), Jains are 655 (.16 per cent), Buddhists are 566 (.14 per cent), Christians are 578 (.15 per cent) and Sikhs are only 20 (.01 per cent). As to Kailasahar Nagar Panchayat, the total population of Hindus are 22,378 (93.05 per cent), Muslims are 1,584 (6.59 per cent), the Jains are 35 (0.15 per cent) and Buddhists are 52 (0.21per cent) respectively. Regarding Udaipur Nagar Panchayat, the total population of Hindus are 30,729 (91.16per cent) and Muslims are 2,979 (8.84per cent).Within the territorial area of Udaipur Nagar Panchayat, nobody belongs to Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Christianity. As for Ambassa Nagar Panchayat, the total population of Hindus are 16,294 (95.97 per cent) in number and Christians are 684 (4.03 per cent) only.
Table 1.5

Showing the Religion-wise distributions of Population of the ULBs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>ULBs</th>
<th>Hindu</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
<th>Jain</th>
<th>Buddhist</th>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>Sikh</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>375838</td>
<td>20681</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>398338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(94.35%)</td>
<td>(5.19%)</td>
<td>(.16%)</td>
<td>(.14%)</td>
<td>(.15%)</td>
<td>(.01%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kailasahar NP</td>
<td>22378</td>
<td>1584</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(93.05%)</td>
<td>(6.59%)</td>
<td>(.15%)</td>
<td>(0.21%)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Udaipur NP</td>
<td>30729</td>
<td>2979</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(91.16%)</td>
<td>(8.84%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ambassa NP</td>
<td>16294</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(95.97%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(4.03%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Figure 1.4: Doughnut chart showing the Religion-wise distributions of Population of the ULBs
Notes & References:


2. According to Alexis de Tocqueville, "Decentralization has, not only an administrative value, but also a civic dimension, since it increases the opportunities for citizens to take interest in public affairs; it makes them get accustomed to using freedom. And from the accumulation of these local, active, persnickety freedoms, is born the most efficient counter weight against the claims of the central government, even if it were supported by an impersonal, collective will." (Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in American, Saunders and Otley, London, 1835-1840). According to Louis A. Allen, “Decentralisation refers to the systematic effort to delegate to the lowest levels all authority except that which can only be exercised at central points.” (Louis A. Allen, Management and Organisation, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1958, p. 158.)


