

## 2. SNAPSHOT OF THE NORTH-EASTERN STATES

North-Eastern India constitutes the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. Collectively these states are famous as ‘Seven Sisters of the North-East’. They are located in the extreme North-East of India and share international boundary with China, Tibet, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan.

The following figure shows the relative positions of the North-Eastern states of India.



Figure 1: Relative Location of North-Eastern states of India  
Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/northeast/sevensisters.htm>

Arunachal Pradesh is a paradise on Earth and on the North-Eastern tip of India. Once described as ‘Hidden Land’ it has now opened its doors to outsiders. The society in Arunachal Pradesh is patriarchal. The people of Arunachal Pradesh follow endogamy and clan exogamy is strictly followed. Polygamy is socially sanctioned and practiced by most of the people.

The state of Assam is a perfect example of contrast and excitement. Bihu songs and dances, Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary where the rare one-horned rhinos roam freely and state’s Tea finding way to millions of home across the world give Assam a unique place in the Union of India.

Nestled on a plateau, Manipur is famous as the Birthplace of ‘Polo’. The state is famous for its martial arts. The scenic beauty of the state’s landscape and the rich culture of the state are soothing as well as exciting.

Meghalaya is a hilly state and is called the ‘Scotland of the East’. It is famous for its expansive rivers, waterfalls, perennial rainfall and its beautiful landscape.

Mizoram is famous as the land of orchids. It is famous for its bamboo forests and bamboo products and folk dances.

Nagaland is famous as the land of folk fore. It is famous for its music. Folk songs eulogizing ancestors, warriors, traditional heroes, tragic love stories touch the hearts of the listeners deeply.

Tripura is the ‘Gomukh’ of the North-Eastern India. It is a hilly and landlocked state with vast green forests and proven gas reserves.

## **2.1 Demographics**

### **2.1.1 Population**

Population is defined as the total number of people living within the geographical limits of a territory. Mizoram has the least population across all states in the North-Eastern part of the country while Assam has the highest population in the same region.

The table below shows the population in different North-Eastern states of India.

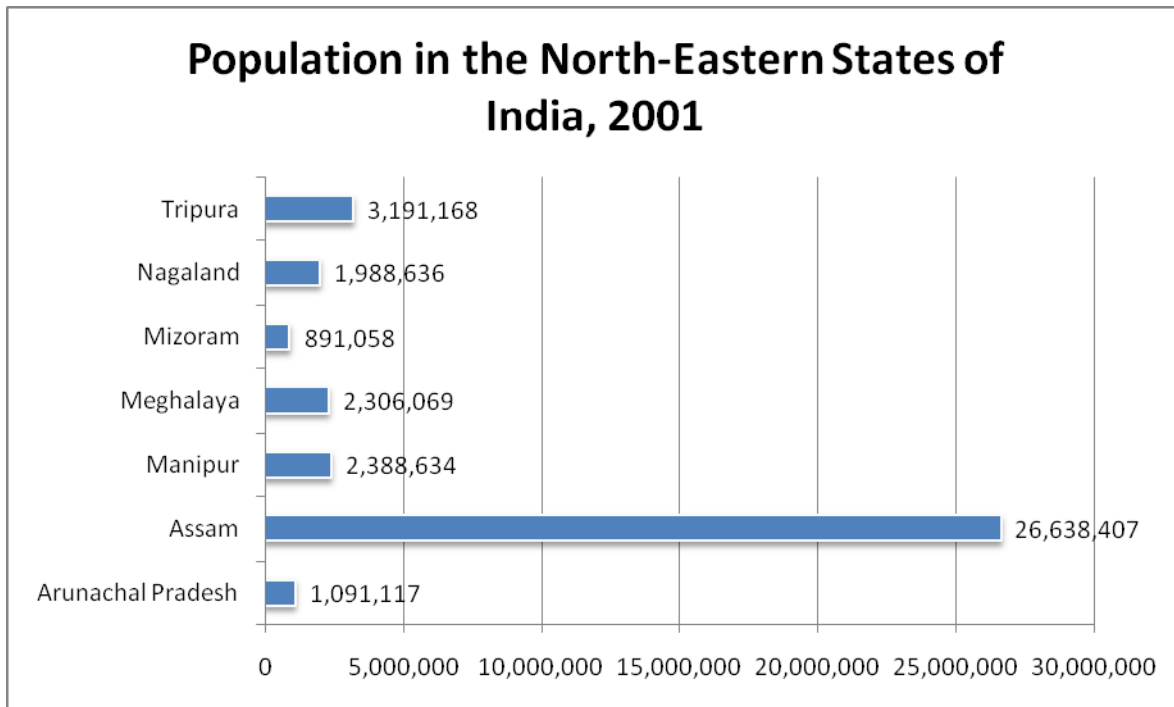
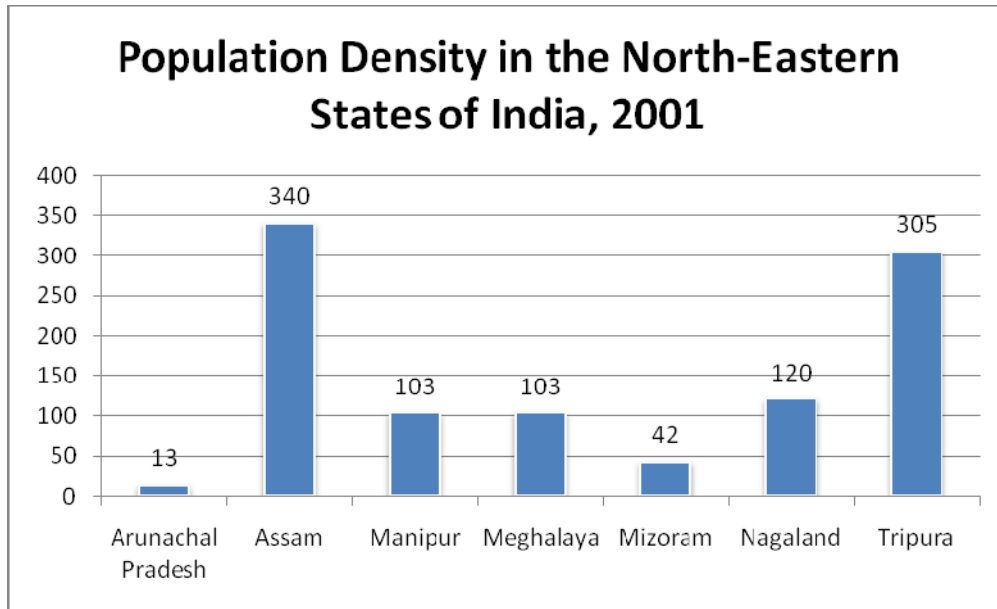


Figure 2: Population of the North-Eastern States of India in 2001

Source: Census of India, 2001

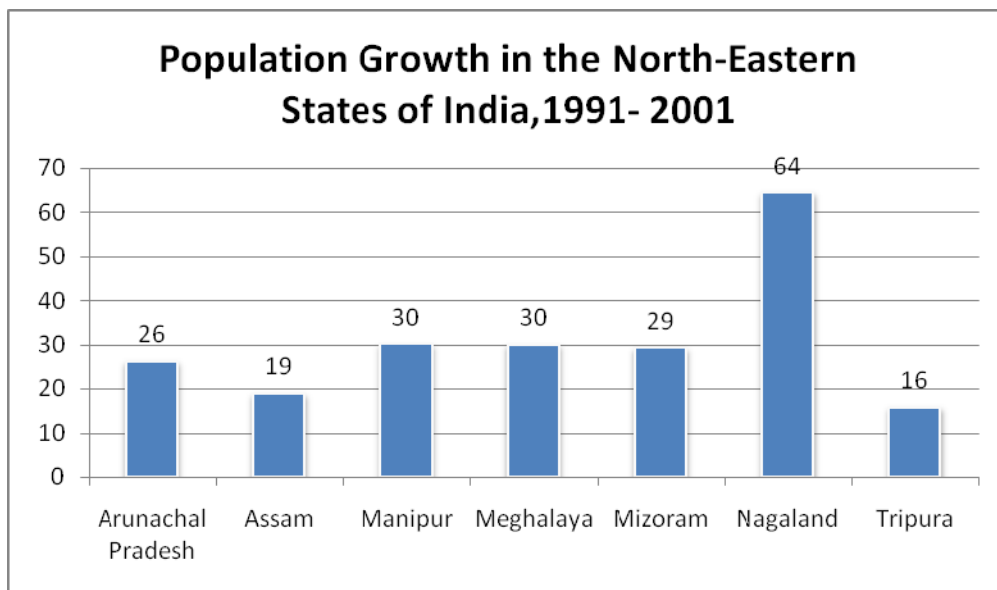
Population density is defined as the total number of people residing within the geographical limits of a state divided by the total geographical area of the state. Higher the population density more is the people living per square unit of area of the state. Normally it is measured in persons/sq. Km.

The figure below shows the population density of North-Eastern states across India.



**Figure 3: Population Density across North-Eastern states in India**  
Source: Census of India, 2001

The figure below shows the population growth rate in the North-Eastern states of India during 1991-2001. Population growth is defined as the change in population over a time period divided by the population at the start of the time period. It is usually calculated in percentage.



**Figure 4: Population Growth Rate in the North-Eastern states of India**  
Source: <http://www.indiastat.com/>

The figure below shows the sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) for the North-Eastern states. Arunachal Pradesh has the minimum sex ratio of 901 while Manipur has the maximum sex-ratio of 978.

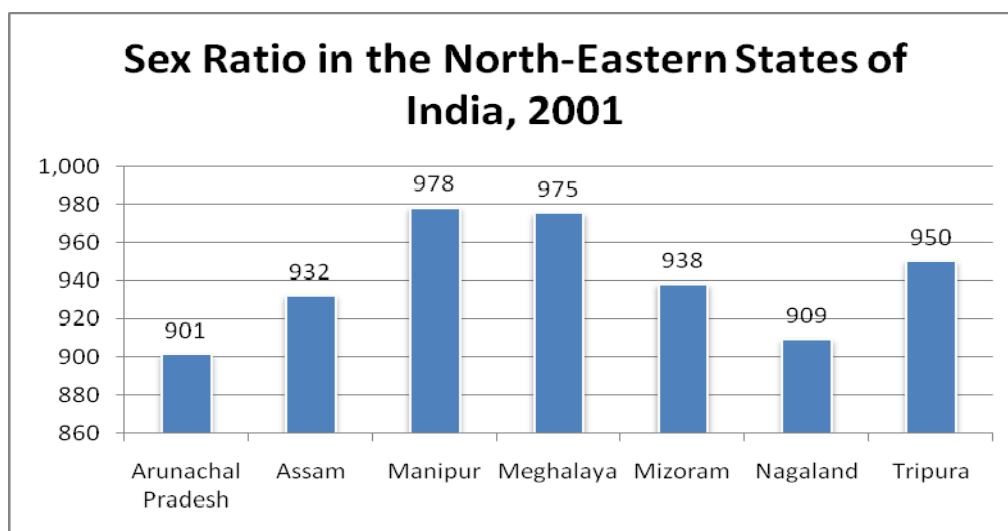


Figure 5: Sex Ratio in North-Eastern States of India

Source: Census of India, 2001

### 2.1.2 Per-Capita Income

The table below compares the Per Capita Income (PCI) of the north-eastern states at constant prices. The base year for the Per Capita Income at constant prices is the prices in the year 1993-94.

Year	Per Capita Income (PCI) at Constant Prices (in Rs.)						
	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Tripura
1993-94	8733	5715			8318	9129	
1996-97	8590	5737			8134	9880	
1997-98	8634	5760			9466	10287	6828
1998-99	8712	5793	6401	7935	10552	9118	7396
1999-2000	8890	5796	7097	8333	8763		7968
2000-01	9153	5664	6851	8460			9397
2001-02	9399	5785	7445	8827			9664
2002-03	9760	5943	7446				9969
2003-04	10253	6066	7532				
2004-05	10266	6221	8015				

Table 5: Year – wise Per Capita Income in Arunachal Pradesh at Constant Prices

Source: NER Databank, NEDFi & National Accounts Statistics, 2004

### 2.1.3 Literacy

Literacy in the present scenario is assuming more and more significance as India is moving towards a knowledge process based economy. In India the literacy levels vary from a staggering 90.9% in Kerela to a meager 47% in Bihar. The national average is 64.8% with the literacy rate among men being 75.3% and among females being 53.7%.

There are various institutions of higher education which are set up in the North-Eastern states such as Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong. The figure below shows the literacy levels in the NE states.

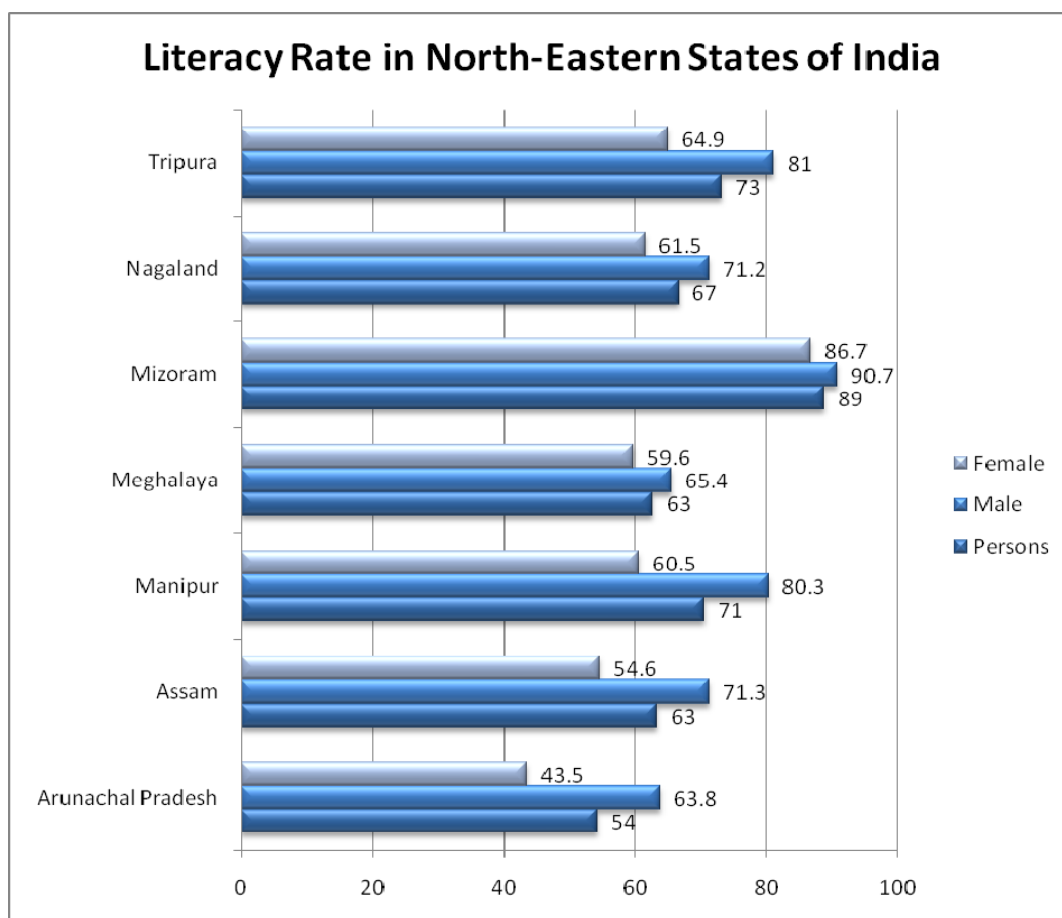


Figure 6: Literacy rates for persons, males and females across North-Eastern states in India  
Source: Census of India, 2001

As we can see from the above figure, Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest while Mizoram has the highest literacy rate among the North-Eastern states. The difference between the percentage of

literate males and females is the least in Mizoram and highest in Arunachal Pradesh which shows overall literacy levels of the society.

## **2.2 Languages Spoken**

There is a vast diversity across the seven states, as far as languages are concerned. Even within some of the states also, there is a different language prevalent across different tribal areas.

Arunachal Pradesh is home to people from various ethnic groups. Henceforth in Arunachal Pradesh many languages are spoken. Major languages spoken are Monpa, Miji, Aka, Sherdukpen, Nyishi, Apatani, Tagin, Hill Miri, Adi, Digaru-Mismi, Idu-Mishmi, Khamti, Miju-Mishmi, Nocte, Tangsa and Wancho.

Assam has only one major language, Assamese, which is spoken across the state. Bodo is also spoken various areas. Bengali holds official status in particular districts in Barak Valley. Manipur also has only one language, Manipuri, spoken predominantly across the state. Meghalaya has different languages spoken across the state viz. Khasi, Garo and English. There are two languages viz. Mizo and English are spoken widely across Mizoram.

Like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland is home to different languages which are spoken in different parts of the state. Major languages spoken are Angami, Ao, Chang, Konyak, Lotha, Sangtam, Sema and Chakhesang. Tripura has two languages spoken widely across the state viz. Bengali and Kokborak.

## 2.3 Geography and Topography

The following graph shows the geographical area of North-Eastern states.

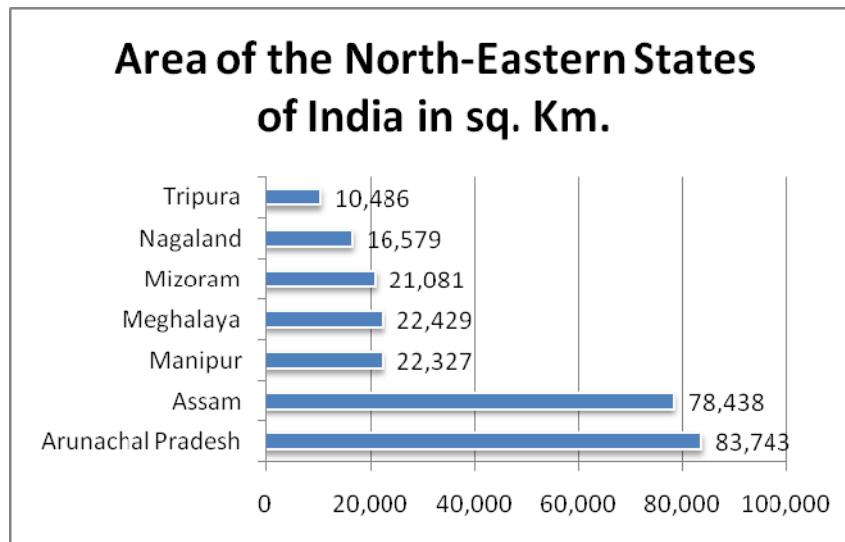


Figure 7: Total Geographical area of the North-Eastern states of India in sq. Km.

Source: indiastat.com

The following graph shows the rural area as percentage of the total geographical area. The rest constitutes the urban area.

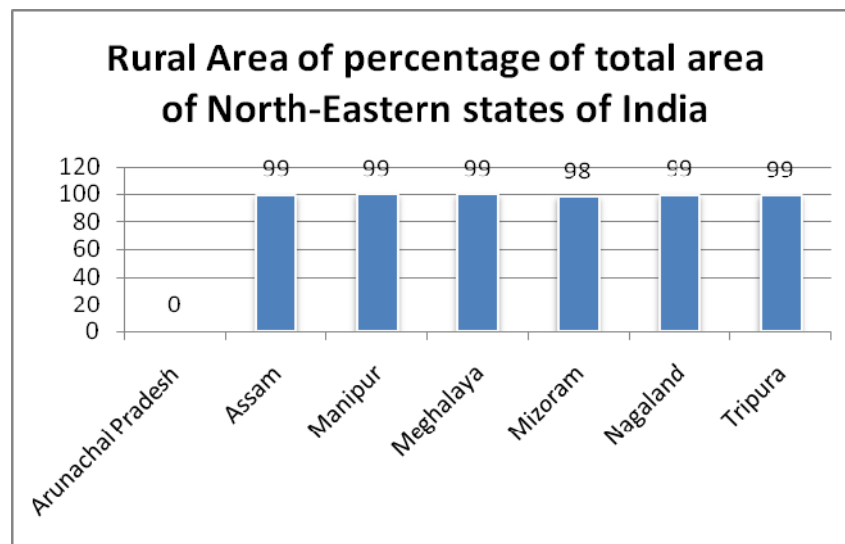
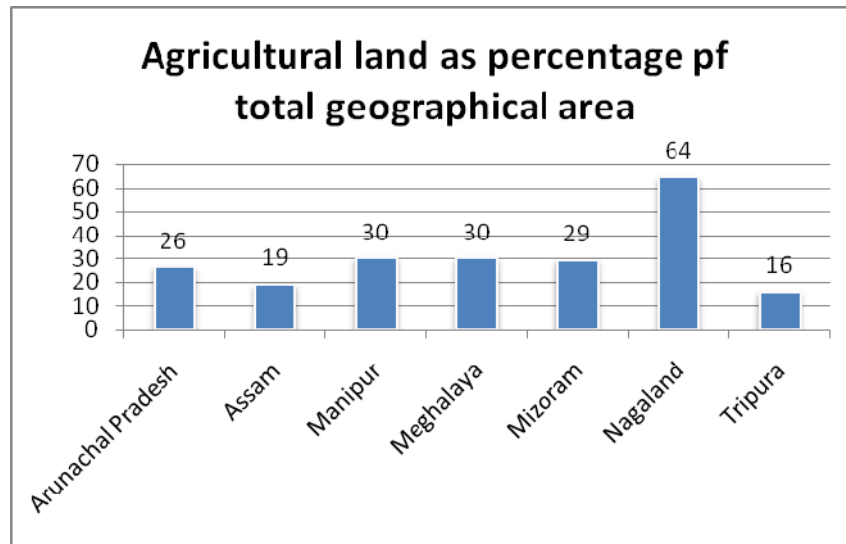


Figure 8: Rural Area as a percentage of the total area of the North-Eastern states of India

Source: indiastat.com

The following graph shows the percentage of the total geographical area fit for cultivation.





**Figure 9: Agricultural land as percentage of the total geographical area of North-Eastern states of India**  
 Source: <http://www.indiastat.com/india/ShowData.asp?secid=18128&ptid=173&level=3>

Arunachal Pradesh is situated to the extreme north-east of India. It is the largest state among the North-Eastern states. It has a long international border with Bhutan to its west, Tibet to its north, China to its north-east and Myanmar to its east. The agricultural/cultivable land in the state is 3.5% of the total geographical area. The major problems related to land degradation in the state are water erosion, water logging and soil acidity which are around 53.8% of the total geographical area of the state. The terrain mainly consists of submontane and mountain ranges sloping down to the plains of Assam in the south. The state is divided into five valleys by the river Kameng, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit and Tirap. Brahmaputra, which is one of the major rivers of India, enters the state from Tibet and flows down into Assam before entering Bangladesh and finally entering Bay of Bengal. Amidst the highly rugged mountainous terrain in Arunachal Pradesh, there are green forests and plateaus. High snow-capped mountains and dense forests make interaction among the tribes difficult.

Assam is nestled in the heart of North-Eastern India and spreads along the Himalayan foothills. It shares international boundary with Bangladesh in south-west and Bhutan in north. The state is located centrally in North-East India and has shares inter-state boundary with the other six North-Eastern states. Approximately 28.21% of the total geographical area of the state is degraded. The major causes of land degradation are water erosion, water logging, soil acidity and

complex problem. Assam is a land of fertile valleys, dense forests and mighty rivers. The state is divided in three regions – Brahmaputra river valley (or Assam Valley) in the north, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills in the central and Barak river valley in the south. Assam Valley is built mostly by the gradational work of Brahmaputra and its tributaries. The valley is fairly wide in the upper Assam, with an average width of 80-100 Km., but is narrow with an average width of 55 Km. in the middle part where the river encounters with granite gneissic projection of Mikir hills and beyond this it widens. Cachar district, which constitutes the upper portion of Surma valley, is a level plain crossed by a number of perennial water channels. The north portion of this district is totally under hills. Hence Assam has a thick fertile soil. The state of Assam also has a Wetland by the name Deepar Beel. The following figure shows the geographical features of Assam.



**Figure 10: Assam Valley**

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam#Physical\\_geography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam#Physical_geography)

Manipur state is situated in the eastern frontier of India. It shares international boundary with Myanmar in the east. It shares the inter-state boundary with Nagaland. Approximately 42.63% of the total geographical land is degraded. The major causes of land degradation are water erosion, water logging, soil acidity and complex problem. Geographically the state is divided into two tracts viz. the hills and the plains. Barak and its tributaries constitute the plains of the state. The valley is at the centre and is surrounded by hills on all sides. Apart from Barak there are several

rivers such as Manipur, Iril, Jiri, Makru, Irang etc. flowing across the state. The hills cover approximately 90% of the total geographical area of the state. The hill ranges are higher on the northern side of the state and gradually diminish in height they reach the southern part of the state. The valley also slopes downwards towards south. Nearly 60% of the total geographical area of the state is covered with forests.

Meghalaya state is yet another state in the so called seven sisters of the east. Meghalaya shares international border with Bangladesh in the south and west and inter-state boundary with Assam in north and east. The total agricultural area in the state stands at healthy 47.2% of the total geographical area. Approximately 53% of the total geographical area if the state is rendered as degraded land. The chief causes of land degradation are water erosion, soil acidity and complex problem. The Khasi hills, encompassing central Meghalaya, and the Jaintia hills, spanning through eastern part of the state, form a predominant part of Meghalaya. Together they form an imposing plateau with rolling grasslands, hills and river valleys. The southern part of the plateau is marked by deep gorges and abrupt slopes.

Mizoram state with its natural beauty and an endless variety of landscape is located in the North-Eastern India. Mizoram shares international border with Bangladesh to its west and Myanmar to its east. It shares inter-state border with Tripura to its west and Manipur and Assam to its north. Approximately staggering 89.23% of the total geographical land is degraded because of various reasons such as water erosion, soil acidity and complex problem. The hills in Mizoram run from north to south with a tendency to be higher in the north to tapering towards south. There are many rivers flowing across the state such as Tlwan, Tuirail, Tuiwal and Koladyne. The majority of the geographical area of the state has been covered with forests. Mizoram has an abundance of trees, bushes, plants, shrubs and grasses.

Nagaland state is situated in the extreme north-east India. Nagaland shares international border with Myanmar in the east. It shares inter-state border with Arunachal Pradesh in the north and Assam in the west. The degraded land area in the state is estimated at 60% of the total geographical area. The major causes of land erosion are soil acidity and complex problem. Nagaland is tight-packed with north-south aligned ranges defined by narrow and parallel valleys. Japavo is the highest peak in the state. The major rivers flowing in the state are Dhansiri,

Doyang, Dikhu, Milak, Zungki and Tizu. Forests cover a relatively lesser percentage of the total geographical area as compared with the other North-Eastern states. The forest cover is 21% of the total geographical area.

Tripura state is the smallest state in the seven sisters of north-east India. The state has vast swathes of trees and forests. The state has a rich landscape with various rare vegetations. Tripura shares international border with Bangladesh of 839 Km. and is bound by Bangladesh on three sides. It shares inter-state boundary with Assam and Mizoram in the north-east. The degraded land area stands at approximately 59.86% of the total geographical area. The major reasons of land degradation are water erosion, water logging, soil acidity and complex problem. Tripura has hills and sub-mountains in the central and eastern regions. The main rivers in the state are Gumti, Manu, Dhalai and Khowai. Around 60% of the state has hilly terrain. Forests cover approximately 55% of the total geographical area with 39% of the total area categorized as Reserved Forest Area.

## **2.4 Political and Administrative Situation**

India has a federal structure of governance i.e. there is a 'state assembly' within each state in addition to representatives of each state in the Union Government. The 'Constitution of India' delineates the subjects that fall in the purview of the state and the subjects that fall in the purview of the Central Government. There is also a common list of subjects on which both Central and State Governments make laws.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 when India became independent, North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) became a part of India. It was administered by the Ministry of External Affairs and with the Governor of Assam acting as an agent to the President of India. In 1972, NEFA became a Union Territory and was renamed as Arunachal Pradesh. Finally in 1987 it Statehood was conferred and Arunachal Pradesh became the 25<sup>th</sup> state of the Union of India. It shares international border with China which is known by the name McMohan Line. China claims that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of China thereby giving rise to border dispute. The capital of the Arunachal Pradesh is Itanagar. The state is divided into 16 districts as shown in the table below.

Districts	Districts	Districts
Tawang	Upper Subansiri	Lower Dibang Valley
West Kameng	East Siang	Lohit
East Kameng	West Siang	Changlang
Papumpare	Upper Siang	Tirap
Lower Subansiri	Dibang Valley	Kurung Kumey
Anjaw		

**Table 6: Districts in Arunachal Pradesh**

Source: <http://www.arunachalpradesh.nic.in/glance.htm>

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh is Mr. Kattikal Shankaranarayanan. He was sworn in as the Governor of the state by the Honorable Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2007. The Chief Minister of the State is Mr. Dorjee Khandu. He was sworn in as the Chief Minister on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 when he was elected as the leader of the Arunachal Pradesh Congress Legislature Party. His tenure in the office is till 2009. There are 2 member in Lok Sabha from Arunachal Pradesh. The major political parties in the state are Arunachal Congress and People's Party of Arunachal.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, Assam became an integral part of the Union of India. It constituted of the present day states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. But due to diverse cultures and ethnicities new states were carved out of Assam. Nagaland was created in 1963, Meghalaya and Mizoram in 1971 and Arunachal Pradesh in 1972. Assam Movement of the 1980s also poses a threat to the state. It has been engendered by large scale infiltration and immigration across the border from Bangladesh. The state has also been rocked by terrorist activities by some extremist groups. The capital city of Assam is Dispur. The state is divided into 23 districts which are given in the table below:

Districts	Districts	Districts
Kamrup	Bongaigaon	North Cachar
Nalbari	Kokrajhar	Tinsukia
Barpeta	Mangoldoi	Sonitpur
Goalpara	Hailakandi	Sibsagar
Dhubri	Cachar	Nagaon
Morigaon	Lakhimpur	Karimganj
Karbi Anglong	Jorhat	Golaghat
Dibrugarh	Dhemaji	

**Table 7: Districts in Assam**

Source: <http://india.gov.in/outerwin.htm?id=http://www.assamgovt.nic.in/>

The local governance is organized under ‘*zila-parishad*’. The town committees are for small towns, municipal towns for medium towns and Municipal Corporation for cities with urban bodies. The Governor of Assam is Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Ajai Singh. The Chief Minister of the State is Mr. Tarun Gogoi. He was elected as the Chief Minister of Assam on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2001 for the first time. He was re-elected for the post of Chief Minister 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. He represents Congress National Party. Assam has a unicameral legislature. There are 14 members in the Lok Sabha from Assam.

Manipur became an integral part of the Union of India on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1949 as part ‘C’ state. This was replaced by a Territorial Council of 30 elected and 2 nominated members. In 1963, a Legislative Assembly of 30 elected and 3 nominated members was established under the Union Territories Act, 1962. Statehood was conferred on Manipur on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1972. Imphal is the capital city of Manipur. The state is divided into 9 states which are given in the table below:

Districts	Districts	Districts
Bishnupur	Imphal-East	Tamenglong
Chandel	Imphal-West	Thoubal
Churachandpur	Senapati	Ukhrul

**Table 8: Districts of Manipur**

Source: <http://manipur.nic.in/DistrictsinManipur.htm>

The Governor of Manipur is Mr. Shivinder Singh Sidhu. The Chief Minister of Manipur is Mr. Okram Ibobi Singh. He was sworn as Chief Minister for the first time on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2002. He was re-elected as the Chief Minister in 2007 for his second term consecutively. There are 60 elected members in the Legislative Assembly of Manipur. There are two members from the state in the Lok Sabha.

Till 1972 Meghalaya was a part of Assam. But because of various cultures and ethnicities various states were carved out of Assam. On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1970 Meghalaya was created as an autonomous state within the state of Assam. It became a full-fledged state only on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1972 by carving out two districts from Assam viz. United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills.

Shillong is the capital city of Meghalaya. The state has been divided into seven districts as shown below.

Districts	Districts	Districts
East Garo Hills	Ri-Bhoi	West Garo Hills
East Khasi Hills	South Garo Hills	West Khasi Hills
Jaintia Hills		

**Table 9: Districts of Meghalaya**

Source: <http://india.gov.in/outerwin.htm?id=http://meghalaya.nic.in/>

At the time of formation of Meghalaya it was decided that the Panchayati Raj Institutions may come in conflict with tribal communities as each tribal community has their separate political and administrative system. As a result Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) were set up in

certain rural areas of the state. At present there are three ADCs are there viz. Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council and Garo Hills Autonomous District Council. The Governor of Meghalaya is Mr. S.S. Sidhu. He is appointed as the Acting Governor of the state and was sworn in on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2007. The Chief Minister of Meghalaya is Mr. D.D. Lapang. He was sworn in on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 for his consecutive second term. He became the Chief Minister of the state for the first time during 1992-1996 and was re-elected for second time on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2002. Mr. D.D. Lapang represents Indian National Congress. Meghalaya has unicameral legislature. The Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya constitutes 60 members. There are two Members of Parliament (MPs) from the state. Meghalaya does not have a high court of its own and Guwahati High Court has jurisdiction in Meghalaya.

Mizoram was a part of erstwhile Assam. It was one of the districts of Assam 1972 when it became a Union Territory with the implementation of the North-east Reorganization Act in 1972. Then through a sequel of the signing of the historic memorandum of settlement between the Government of India and Mizo National Front, Statehood was granted on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1987. The state has been divided into 8 districts as shown in the table below.

Districts	Districts	Districts
Aizwal	Mamit	Champhai
Lunglei	Sercchip	Lawngtlai
Kolasib	Saiha	

**Table 10: Districts of Mizoram**

Source: <http://india.gov.in/outerwin.htm?id=http://mizoram.nic.in/>

The traditional chieftainship has been abolished. Various District and Regional councils have been created giving a special measure of control. Presently, Lais, Maras and Chakmas have separate Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). The Governor of Mizoram is Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M.M. Lakhera. He was sworn in as the Governor of Mizoram on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2006. The Chief Minister of Mizoram is PU Zoramthanga. He has been the Chief Minister of the state since 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1998. Mizoram has unicameral legislature. The legislature has 40 seats. There is only one member in the Lok Sabha as the Member of Parliament from Mizoram.



After independence the territory was made a centrally administered area in 1957 administered by the Governor of Assam. It was known as Naga Hills Tuensang Area. But it failed to meet the aspirations of people and the unrest began. Consequently Statehood was conferred to the state in 1961. The state has been constantly rocked by violence in various parts by various rebel factions.

Kohima is the state capital. The state has been divided into 11 districts as shown in the table below.

District	District	District
Dimapur	Longleng	Peren
Kiphire	Mokokchung	Phek
Kohima	Mon	Tuensang
Wokha	Zunheboto	

**Table 11: Districts of Nagaland**

Source: <http://india.gov.in/outerwin.htm?id=http://nagaland.nic.in/>

Nagaland has been given a great degree of state autonomy as well as special powers and autonomy for Naga tribes to conduct their own affairs. Each tribe has its own hierarchy of councils at village, range and tribal levels to deal with the local disputes. The Governor of Nagaland is Mr. Kateekal Sankaranarayanan who is also the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. The pictures below show the entrance of the Raj Bhawan (Governor House) and a shell at Raj Bhawan. The Governor House was a witness and control pf power during the famous battle at Kohima in 1944 between the British and the Japanese forces.



**Figure 11: The Entrance of the Raj Bhawan and Shell Memorial at Raj Bhawan respectively (from left to right)**

Source: <http://nagaland.nic.in/functionaries/rajbhavan/history.htm>

The assembly elections for the state of Nagaland happened recently where Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) got maximum number of seats followed by Congress party. Nagaland has unicameral legislature with 60 seats. One member from Nagaland is a Member of Parliament.

Tripura was ruled by king Maharaja Birchandra Kishore Manikya till 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1949 after which Tripura became an integral part of the Indian union. Initially it was included under the category of Category ‘C’ state. It became a centrally administered territory with the reorganization of states in 1956. It attained full-fledged state status in 1972.

The state has been divided into four districts as shown in the table below.

District	District	District
Dhalai	North Tripura	South Tripura
West Tripura		

**Table 12: Districts of Tripura**

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tripura>

The local affairs are dealt with by the panchayats for which the local body elections are held regularly. Tripura has an autonomous tribal council, Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District

Council with its headquarters at Khumulwng. The Governor of the state is Mr. Dinesh Nandan Sahaya. The Chief Minister of the state is Mr. Manik Sarkar. He represents Left Front. The major political parties in the state are Left Front and National Socialist Party of Tripura. The state has a unicameral legislature, Legislative Assembly, with 60 seats. Lok Sabha has 2 members and Rajya Sabha has 2 members from Tripura.

## 2.5 Climatic Conditions

The climatic conditions across the north-eastern states are quite unique from the rest of India. The table below shows the prominent features of climatic conditions across seven north-eastern states.

Parameter	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Tripura
<b>Latitude</b>	26° 30' N to 29° 30' N	24° 50' N to 28.00° N	23.83° N to 25.68° N	20° 1' N to 26° 5' N	21° 58' N to 24° 35' N	25°6' N to 27°4' N	22° 56' N & 24 ° 32' N
<b>Longitude</b>	91° 30' E to 97° 30' E	89° 25' N to 96.00° N	93.03° E to 94.78° E	85° 49' E to 92° 52' E	92° 15' E to 93 ° 29' E	93°20' E to 95°15' E.	91°9' E to 92° 20'E
<b>Temperature (Summers)</b>	25° - 35°		32° C	20° C	30° C	31°C	36.2°C
<b>Temperature (Winters)</b>	1° - 15°		0° C	18°C	21° C	24°C	27.1°C
<b>Annual Average Rainfall</b>	200cm to 400cm	226.29 cm	1467.5 cm	1200 cm per annum	250 per annum	200cm-250cm	234.4cm

**Table 13: Key Indicators of climatic conditions across seven north-eastern states**

Source: <http://www.bonitours-travels.com>

The climate of Arunachal is governed by the Himalayan system and the altitudinal differences. The climate here is highly hot and humid at the lower altitudes and in the valleys wrapped by marshy thick forest particularly in the eastern region, while it becomes too cold in the higher altitudes. The climate of Arunachal Pradesh varies from sub-tropical in the south to alpine in the north. Evergreen forests cover more than sixty percent of the total geographical area of the state.

Assam has pleasant sub-alpine climate prevailing in the hills of the state. However the plains experience tropical climate making them uncomfortably humid especially during the rainy

seasons. The rains are very frequent and keep the mercury down. The monsoons blow full blast during the month of June. Thunderstorms known as '*Bordoichilla*' are a frequent occurrence during the afternoons. Spring and autumn with moderate temperatures and modest rainfall are the best seasons to visit the state. Most of the tourists visit the state during this period. Assam is also an earthquake sensitive area. Though mild tremors are familiar to the region, high intensity earthquakes are rare.

Manipur is a paradise on the Earth. Its exotic beauty and salubrious climate attract tourists from all over the world. The mercury rises up to 32°C in summers and drops down to 0°C in winters. The state experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon. The monsoons are during the months of May to October.

The climate of Meghalaya is moderate but humid. With average annual rainfall as high as 1200 cm in some areas, Meghalaya is the wettest state of India. The western part of the plateau, comprising the Garo Hills Region with lower elevations, experiences high temperatures for most of the year. The Shillong area, with the highest elevations, experiences generally low temperatures. The maximum temperature in this region rarely goes beyond 28 degrees, whereas winters temperatures of sub-zero degrees are common. The town of Cherrapunji in the Khasi Hills south of capital Shillong once had the world record for most rain in a calendar month, while the village of Mawsynram, near town of Cherrapunji, holds the distinction of seeing the heaviest yearly rains. Best time to visit Meghalaya is during the months of March to July. Originally the British and Assam Tea Estate owners would shift here during the summer months to escape the heat of the Indian Plains

Mizoram has a mild climate: it is generally cool in summer and not very cold in winter. The entire area is under the regular influence of monsoons. It rains heavily from May to September and the average rainfall is 254 cm, per annum. Winter in Mizoram is normally rain-free. Mizoram is rich in flora and fauna and many kinds of tropical trees and plants thrive in the area.

Rains are heavy in Nagaland. The average rainfall is between 175cm and 250 cm. Most of the heavy rainfall is during the 4 months from June to September. The rains during April to May are

low. Strong winds blow from the north-west in February and March. The climate is pleasant throughout the year.

The climate of Tripura is generally hot and humid. The average maximum temperature is 35°C in May-June and the average minimum temperature is 10.5°C in December-January. The average rainfall is around 230cm/annum. The monsoon starts generally in April and continues up to September. Summer starts in March and continues up to May and is followed by rainy season extending over about three-four months (May-August). The pleasant season lasts only for about two months (September and October). It is followed by winter which continues till February.

## **2.6 Key Economic Indicators**

### **2.6.1 Net State Domestic Product (NSDP)**

Net Domestic Product is defined as the Gross Domestic Product minus the depreciation of the capital goods. This is the most complete measure of the production activity though the method employed to calculate depreciation has a bearing on the Net Domestic Product. Net State Domestic Product is defined as Net Domestic Product within the boundaries of a state.

Arunachal Pradesh is the largest state in the North-Eastern India. It has a very low land-man ratio. It is known for its forest resources. The state has an agrarian economy. Approximately 75% of the total workforce is dependent on agriculture (mainly shifting agriculture). The remaining workforce is concentrated in various tertiary sectors. The secondary sector employment is mainly on forest-located industries and also handloom and handicraft sector. Tertiary sector are majorly in government jobs.

Assam is a state rich in natural resources like natural gas, coal, rubber, tea and some minerals like granite, limestone and kaolin. 74% of the population of Assam is engaged in agriculture and agriculture related activities. Assam is also for its Tea which is famous across the world and has found its way to millions of homes across the world. The annual compound growth rate of NSDP during 1993-94 to 1999-2000 has been worked out at 10.89% at current prices and 2.42% at

constant (1993-94) prices. Agriculture clocked a growth rate of 11.16% at current prices and 2% at constant prices over the same period. Similarly for manufacturing sector it was 13.47% at current prices and 3.60% at constant prices during the same period.

Like in the other states of the North-Eastern part of India, agriculture is the mainstay of Manipur's economy. Logging, cultivation of a few cash crops, handloom and handicrafts are the traditional sources of additional income. Weaving and pisciculture are other important and traditional means of livelihood in the valley. In 1997-98, the contribution of the tertiary sector to SDP was the highest. It comprised almost half of the SDP of Manipur. Over the years, there has been a shift in the sectoral contribution from the primary to the tertiary sector and the secondary sector indicates a fluctuating trend.

The annual compound growth rate of NSDP during the period 1980-81 to 1997-98 has been worked out at 13.63% at current prices and 4.78% at constant prices. It has been observed that between 1980-81 and 1997-98, agriculture exhibited an annual compound growth rate of 11.4% at current prices and 2.04% at constant prices. Similarly the manufacturing sector showed an annual growth rate of 11.25% at current prices and 3.5% at constant prices during the same period. The table below shows the sectoral contributions to the SDP of the state.

<b>NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST BY INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN</b>						
<b>AT CONSTANT PRICES As on 21-7-2006 (Rs.lacs)</b>						
	<b>Sector</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
a	<b>Primary</b>	52028	53627	52201	53554	55314
b	<b>Secondary</b>	26229	33768	40276	42686	48763
c.	<b>Tertiary</b>	77593	85620	84078	86044	93859

**Table 14: NSDP of Manipur**  
Source: <http://databank.nedfi.com>

Meghalaya is rich in minerals like coal, natural gas, uranium etc. It is the only state with surplus power expenditure. Agriculture is primary occupation of the people and is a major contributor to the state income. The state is has a lot of orchids and with its rich landscape and lush green forests and valleys it offers a huge scope for tourism in the future.

In 1999-2000, the contribution of the Tertiary Sector is the largest contributor to the State Domestic Product. It contributes more than 50% of the state's SDP (56.54%) and it has been observed that over the years there has been little fluctuation in sectoral contributions. The annual compound growth rate of NSDP during last seven years (from 1993-94 to 1999-2000) has been worked out at 11.55% at current prices and 5.35% at constant prices. So far as the sector wise contribution is concerned, it has been observed that during the same period, agriculture exhibited an annual compound growth rate of 10.46% at current prices and 4.18% at constant prices. Similarly the manufacturing sector showed an annual growth rate of 5.43% at current prices and it shows a negative growth rate of 1.65% at constant prices over the same period.

<b>NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST BY INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN</b>						
<b>AT CONSTANT PRICES As on 21-7-2006 (Rs.lacs)</b>						
	<b>Sector</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>Primary</b>	73522	79528	79703	83814	89978
<b>b</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	29254	30937	35129	38115	39438
<b>c.</b>	<b>Tertiary</b>	113376	121217	127967	136937	144534

**Table 15: NSDP of Meghalaya**  
Source: <http://databank.nedfi.com>

Similar to the other North-Eastern states, Mizoram is also an agrarian economy. Approximately 70 percent of the total population of the state is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. The improvement in agricultural yields and activities is below satisfaction. Handloom and handicrafts are other sources of income. In 1997-98, the contribution of the tertiary sector to the NSDP was the highest at 58.98%. Over the years the shares of primary, secondary and tertiary sectors in NSDP has been fluctuating and there is no obvious trend. The annual compounded growth rate of NSDP during 1993-94 to 1997-98 has been worked out at 13.4%. It has been observed that during 1993-94 to 1997-98, agriculture recorded an annual compound growth rate of 13.17% at current prices. Manufacturing clocked an annual growth rate of -0.6% at current prices during the same period.

Approximately three quarters of the total population of Nagaland is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Agriculture and allied activities contribute around 30% of the State Domestic Product. Thanks to its geo climatic conditions, the state has been identified as one with huge food processing potential. The state also has potential for the development for horticulture, floriculture due to its orchids, rubber plantations, sericulture, tea cultivation and processing, bamboo shot preservation, mushroom cultivation and processing, piggery, poultry etc.

The state is rich in numerous natural resources but due to a lack of transportation infrastructure, the lack of facilities for transportation of these resources is a bottleneck in the development of the region.

<b>NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST BY INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN</b>						
<b>AT CURRENT PRICES As on 21-7-2006 (Rs.lacs)</b>						
	<b>Sector</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>Primary</b>	46689	52778	75147	87497	98780
<b>b</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	23389	17904	31551	24441	28386
<b>c.</b>	<b>Tertiary</b>	90402	90720	116344	126595	136982

**Table 16: NSDP of Nagaland**  
Source: <http://databank.nedfi.com>

Tripura also has an agrarian economy and contributes around 34% of the State Domestic Product. Agriculture is shifting cultivation. Handloom is also a money earner. The major handicrafts are artistic, cane and bamboo etc. The state is still considered as an industrially backward state. The lack of skilled and semi-skilled man power, lack of infrastructure facilities etc. are the major reasons for the industrial backwardness of the state.



<b>NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST BY INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN</b>						
<b>AT CURRENT PRICES As on 21-7-2006 (Rs.lacs)</b>						
	<b>Sector</b>	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>Primary</b>	145240	141084	171672	166564	173798
<b>b</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	51196	93015	101383	116378	143826
<b>c.</b>	<b>Tertiary</b>	222913	252773	282840	321427	355166

**Table 17: NSDP of Tripura**  
Source: NER Databank, NEDFi