



# About The Neermahal And Ujjayanta Palace in Tripura

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## **Abstract**

In 1972, the small hill state of Tripura in northeastern India, a state of the United States of India, was granted the status of a sovereign state by the Government of India on 21 January. Neermahal was known as a tourist spot within Tripura state. Neermahal has houses and other halls for the residence of kings and queens. Another notable place in Tripura state is Ujjayanta Palace. The architecture, sculpture and coinage of these palaces are available as a result of this kingdom shedding light on the Neermahal and Ujjayanta palaces in one paper.

**Keywords:** Tripura, Neermahal, Ujjayanta Palace, attractive, the museum,

## **1.1 Introduction**

There are two important places to visit in Tripura state. One is Neermahal and the other is Ujjayanta Prasad. Neermahal was Melaghar under Sepahijala district about 50 km from Agartala. It is again known as Rudrasagara. The Neermahal was built during the reign of Maharaja of Tripura, Veer Vikram Kishore Manik Bahadur and the other is Ujjayanta Prasad. This Prasad Hall was located in Agartala, the capital of the Indian state of Tripura. It was built by Tripura king Radha Kishore Manikya Devavarman. Ujjayanta Palace was again known as Jadukar.

## **1.2 Neermahal**

Neermahal is one of the best places to visit in Tripura, the seventh largest country in the world. It is named Neermahal as the Mahal is situated in the middle of Neer ie water. Niramhal is located in Melaghar, a small area of Tripura. Its distance from capital Agartala is 53 km. Neermahal was built during the reign of Maharaja Bir Vikram Kishore Manik Bahadur. Note that there is a similar palace in Udaipur in Rajasthan, another state of India. The Martin & Burn Company of England began work on it in 1930 and the building was inaugurated in 1938. There is a huge reservoir called Rudrasagar next to Neermahal Bazar. Its area is about five and three square kilometers. Right in the middle of the Rudrasagara, this palace was built for the summer and monsoon vacation of the King of Tripura. As the building attests to the king's love of beauty, it also testifies to the idea that he wanted to create something spectacular by blending Hindu and Mughal cultures



**NEERMAHAL**

### **1.3 Name the Two parts of Neermahal**

Two parts of the palace. The main part is on the west side and on the east side is the fort for the security forces. The main part can again be divided into two parts – the outer room and the inner hall. The outer rooms include the rest room, pantry and dance room. There are five such rooms. There is also a separate room for playing chess. There are six huge rooms in the inner palace for the queen and others. In addition, there are kitchens, king's meeting rooms, meeting rooms, etc. Currently there is also a museum inside the mahal.

The inner palace was arranged in such a way that the king and queen could directly enter the stairs of the inner palace after taking a boat ride. There is also a large garden inside the palace. There were always motorized boats at the ghats for the outings of kings and queens.

There are two ghats on the outside. The employees bathed there and the ghats were also used for their transportation.

But Maharaja spent a lot of money to build this palace but he could not enjoy it for long. He used this palace for only seven years. Because he died at the age of 39.

Neermahal was abandoned for many days after the death of the Maharaja. At this time, it gradually loses its brightness. Finally in 1978 the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Tripura took charge and tried to save the building. Major renovations were done in the building during the financial year 1995-96. Today it has been developed as an attractive tourist spot. Apart from attracting tourists through light and laser shows every winter, the history and heritage of this palace is highlighted. Besides, boating competition is organized in Rudrasagar Lake every year in September.

### **1.4 Stay-eat-go arrangement in Neermahal**

There are various ways to reach Neermahal from different cities in India but here is how to get there from Agartala. It is better to reach Agartala first to go from very far away like from other states of India or Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan.

Melaghar can be reached directly by bus from Agartala, the capital of Tripura. Besides, you can go there by renting jeeps and other vehicles. Bus fare is 40 taka. It takes two hours. Take a rickshaw to Sagarmahal Tourist Lodge at Melaghar bus stand. Rent is 10 rupees.

Sagarmahal Tourist Lodge is under the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Tripura. It has total 44 seats with modern facilities. The rooms have both AC and non-AC facilities.

#### 1.4.1 Ujjayanta Palace

Ujjayanta Palace is a museum and former palace of the state of Tripura in Agartala, the capital of the Indian state of Tripura. The palace was built between 1899 and 1901 by Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya Deva Varman and is situated on the banks of two lakes surrounded by gardens inspired by the European style. It was the home of the ruling Manikya dynasty until the merger of Tripura with India in October 1949. In 1972–73, the Tripura government bought the palace from the royal family for Rs 25 lakh and until July 2011 housed the state assembly. The Ujjayanta Palace is now a State Museum and exhibits the lifestyle, arts, culture, traditions and useful crafts of the communities that originally inhabited North-East India, along with numerous stone sculptures, coins of the Manikya dynasty and some other artifacts.

Tripura is claimed to be one of the oldest royal states of ancient India. The royal dynasty of Tripura began during the reign of Maharaja Maha Manikya, who was crowned in 1400 AD and was the first ruler with the royal title of Manikya. Ujjayanta Palace was built by King Ishan Chandra Manikya (1849–1862) in 1862 10 km (6 mi) from Agartala. It was destroyed in the Assam earthquake of 12 June 1897. Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya rebuilt the palace in the heart of Agartala in 1899–1901 at a cost of then 10 lakh rupees. It is modeled after Tintin's Pharaoh's Cigar Palace by Martin.

#### 1.4.2 As the state assembly building

After the merger of Tripura state with India in 1949, the royal estate was nationalized. The main building along with the palace grounds was purchased from the royal family by the Tripura government in 1972–73.[2] It housed the Tripura Legislative Assembly until July 2011, when the Assembly was shifted to a new location 6 km (3.7 mi) north of Agartala.



UJJAYANTA PALACE

### 1.4.3 As the State Museum

The museum was given seismic retrofitting to prevent possible earthquake damage,[4][5] the museum was inaugurated on 25 September 2013 by the Vice President of India, Mohammad Hamid Ansari.

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### 1.4.4. Design of Ujjayanta Palace

The Ujjayanta Palace premises cover an area of about 1 km (250 acres) and include public rooms such as the throne room, durbar hall, library and reception hall.[10] Its buildings and grounds cover 800 acres (3.2 km<sup>2</sup>) in the heart of Agartala. The neoclassical palace was designed by Sir Alexander Martin of the firm Martin & Burn. The two-storied palace has three large domes, the tallest of which is 86 ft (26 m) high, surmounted by a four-storied central tower. Its architecture shows a mixture of Mughal, Roman and British influences. The garden is flanked by two large artificial ponds decorated with pools and fountains.

A number of Hindu temples occupy the adjacent sites of Ujjayanta Palace dedicated to Lakshmi Narayana, Uma-Maheswari, Durga and Jagannath.

### 1.4.5 Conclusion

From the above discussion I can infer that these two places were of special importance within Tripura state. Because not only the people of Tripura see these sights and outside Tripura people from different parts of India come to Tripura state to enjoy the sights. That is why these two places have become heritage places in India and the world.

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