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TRIPURA STATEHOOD DAY

Tripura on Road to Self-Reliance

(Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region)

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> *"When India completes 100 years of its independence, then Tripura will also be completing 75 years of its statehood. This is a very good time for new resolutions and opportunities. We have to move ahead while fulfilling our duties. Let us all maintain the pace of development together."*
>
> -Prime Minister Narendra Modi[1]

Tripura, an erstwhile princely State, merged with the Indian Union after independence on 15th October 1949 and became a Union Territory without a legislature with effect from November 1, 1956 and a popular ministry was installed in Tripura on July 1, 1963. Tripura became a full-fledged State on 21st January[2], 1972 and is the third smallest state in the country, located in the North Eastern Region.

The State is surrounded by the neighbouring country Bangladesh on its south, west and north. The length of its international border with Bangladesh is about 856 km (i.e. about 84 percent of its total border), while it has 53 km border with Assam and 109 km border with Mizoram. Forest area is over 60 per cent of its land and the net area cropped in the State is only 2.55 lakh ha. (24 per cent of geographical area). A large part of the land is up-land / tilla land and hilly, with altitudes varying from 15 to 940 meters above sea level, though majority of the population lives in the plains.

Tripura is connected with the rest of the Country by National Highway-8, which runs through the hilly terrains to Cachar District in Assam followed by zigzag roads of hilly regions of Meghalaya and then to Guwahati, Assam.

Demographic Profile:

Tripura is the second most populous state in North-Eastern Region after Assam. The estimated population of the State in 2020 is 40,51,000, out of which male population is 20,61,000 and female population is 19,90,000. As per Census 2011, population was 36,73,917, out of which 18,74,376 males and 17,99,541 females. The data of Census-2011

[1] Press Information Bureau (pib.gov.in)
[2] https://tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/ECONOMIC-REVIEW-2019-20.pdf

shows that Tripura ranks 18th in terms of density of population at all India level. The population density of Tripura in 2011 was 350 persons per sq. km. There is a positive improvement in sex ratio in the State, rising from 945 (per 1000 males) in 1991 to 948 (per 1000 males) in 2001 and further to 960 in 2011.

Art and Culture

Tripura, nestled in a tip of the Northeast, flourishes on the bounties of nature but the beauty of the state is heightened by its human resources on the one hand and rich cultural tradition on the other.



Folk culture[3] of the indigenous and non-indigenous people of the state forms the backbone of Tripura's cultural tradition. This is reflected as much in the delicately rhythmic physical movement of the '*Hozagiri*' dance of the Reang tribesmen as in the collective musical recitation of '*Manasa Mangal*' or '*Kirtan*' (devotional songs in chorus) of the Hindu Bengalis. The '*Garia*' dance of the tribals, organized on the occasion of New Year festivities and worship of '*Garia*', and '*Dhamail*' dance of the Sylhetis, organized on familial occasions like wedding ceremony in rural areas as well as musical duels (*Kabigaan*) between two rival rhyme-makers on public platforms form the staple of Tripura's folk culture. The folk culture has been enriched by myths and legends of tribal society over the past half a millennium.

Arts and Crafts of Tripura

Handlooms and handicrafts of Tripura[4] reflect the inborn art of workmanship, and uniqueness of the people. Tripura has a large indigenous population, thus has a tradition of different kinds of crafts. Handloom is the prime craft of Tripura. Intricately designed handlooms and silk, cane and bamboo works are the main form of art and craft industries. The obvious feature of Tripura handloom is vertical and horizontal stripes with distributed embroidery in multiple colours. Furniture, toys, objects of daily utility such as lamp shades, baskets, calendars, ivory work and Tripura tribal jewellery are other elements of Tripura's treasure trove of crafts.



Ethnic groups in Tripura make wide variety of handicraft products using bamboo and cane. Some of the well-known craft produced from the state include table mats, floor mats, room dividers, decorated wall panels, attractive furniture of cane and various gift

[3] https://www.tripura.gov.in/artnculture
[4] https://tripuratourism.gov.in/art-crafts

items.

Handloom is the oldest industry in the state and the indigenous people produce their own clothes with elegant designs, unique colour combinations and lasting texture. The traditional items produced include *Risa* and *Riha*. The indigenous women of Tripura religiously devoted to weaving.

Major Developmentsin Tripura

In the last four years, the Tripura government, along with the Central Government, has taken several Steps for the development of the State to boost the infrastructure for the people of Tripura in sectors like Urban Development, Transport, Health, Education and others.



According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the India of the 21st century will move forward by taking everyone along with the spirit of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Prayas*. Unbalanced development where some states lag behind and people deprived of even some basic facilities is not good. This is what the people of Tripura have seen for decades, he said. PM Modi recalled the times of relentless corruption and governments with no vision or intention of development of the state.After such a scenario, the Prime Minister said that the current regime came up with the Mantra of HIRA[5]- H to Highway, I to Internet way, R to Railways and A to Airways for improving the connectivity in Tripura. He added that today Tripura is strengthening and expanding its connectivity on the basis of the HIRA model.

Urban Development

- Tripura has attained 1st position among the North-eastern states[6]and second position at the national level in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). A total of 80,544 houses had been sanctioned, out of which, construction of more than 39,500 houses have been completed.

- Rs. 10,000 loan is being given to street vendors for their Self-reliance under the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Aatmanirbhar Nidhi scheme. Working Capital Loan @ Rs.10,000/- have been disbursed to 1,425 street vendors across the state

- Twenty urban local bodies were declared Open Defecation Free in 2019. Under Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) scheme 19,773 toilets have been constructed in the areas under 20 urban local bodies.

[5]https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1787443
[6]https://ica.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf

- During 2020-21[7] under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), 320 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed for income generation which is a step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Under the scheme, 100 individual beneficiaries have availed loan for various businesses like E-Rickshaw, stationery shops, garments business, dairy farming, agriculture etc.

- The Tripura Urban Planning and Development Authority (TUDA) has decided to develop an IT park and township project.

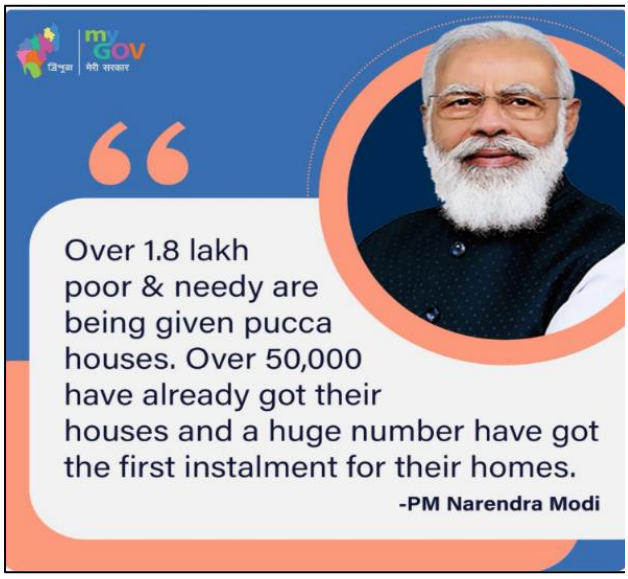
- Rate of daily wage has been increased under Tripura Urban Employment Programme (TIJEP).

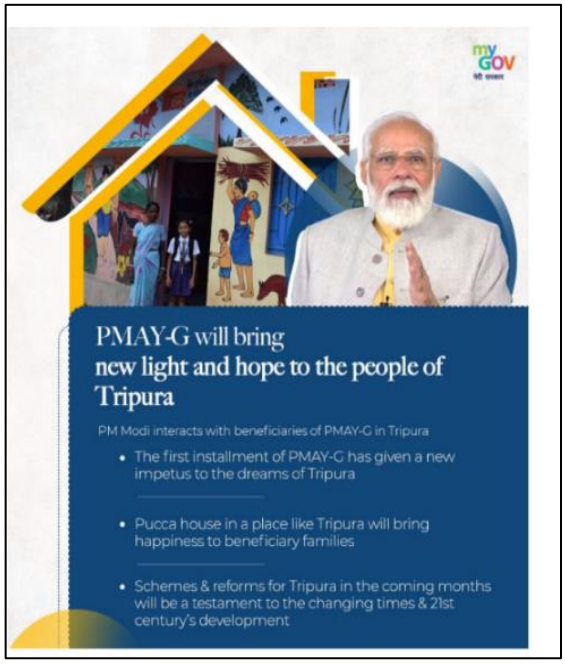
- Construction of 1000 multi-storey flats is going on at Akhaura for the lower Income group people under Light House project.

- The Mukhyamantri Swanirbhar Yojana (MSY**)** was launched on 10.07.2020 to help the urban shopkeepers. More than 8000 Shopkeepers have been brought under this scheme so far with the objective to recover the occupational status of street vendors affected due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Rural Development

Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G), more than 1l.80 lakh poor families of Tripura became entitled to Pucca houses. So far, more than 50000 poor families of Tripura have received Pucca houses.

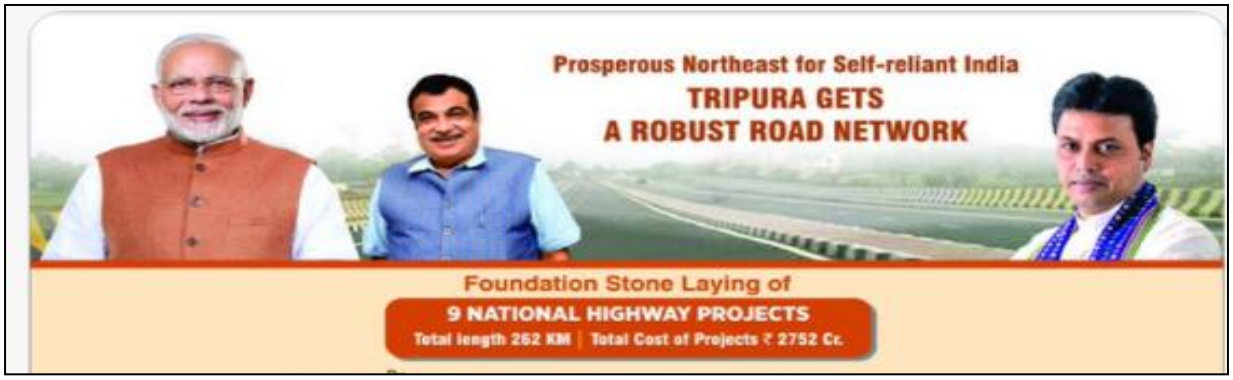




[7] https://finance.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Finance%20Minister%27s%20Speech%20in%20English%20on%20Budget%202021-22.pdf

Infrastructure Development

- In October 2020[8], the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones of nine National Highway (NH) projects with a total length of nearly 262 kms worth over Rs 2752 crores in Tripura.



- Nearly 300 kms of NH length has been added in Tripura in the last six years. There are over 850 kms of NHs in the State. He informed that roads worth Rs 8000 crore are being constructed in Tripura, and as much as Rs 365 crore have been disbursed towards land acquisition cost in the State between 2015 and 2020.

- Road projects covering a length of 5200 km are being constructed in the region to enhance connectivity. The Bharatmala project too is giving special attention to the Northeast.[9]As part of these programmes, 500 km of roads are being constructed in Tripura.

- The Union Minister for Road Transport, through 'e-Foundation laying ceremony'[10] has announced four new big projects for Tripura. Estimated expenditure for these projects has been calculated at Rs.7530.00crore.

- During the last three years, 39 RCC bridges and41 box culverts have been constructed.About400km of road length has been renovated.

- Construction of three 100-bedded and one 50-bedded hostel for the boys and girls respectively under the tribal welfare department has been done. Haj Bhavan at Melarmath under the minority's welfare department, three school buildings in Sonamura and one school in Belonia has been completed.

- Under the higher education department, construction of Birchandra State Central Library, polytechnic workshop building, model Degree College, administrative building, general degree college totaling 12 buildings has been completed.

- Under the health department, construction of 53 buildings including primary health centres, quarters, community health centres, district warehouse, CMO office and quarters, cancer hospital, nurses training institute, administrative building of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital etc. has been completed.

[8] https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1667820
[9] https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1534840
[10] https://ica.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf

Transport



- Tripura is all set to have its first and only international airport at Agartala, known as Maharaja Bir BikramAirport that is the second busiest airport in north east India. The airport is administered by the Airports Authority of India & is located 12 km southeast of Agartala city. The new Integrated Terminal building with state-of-the-art infrastructure built at a cost of Rs 450 Crore and spread over 30,000 square metres having modern facilities will be a landmark building for the state of Tripura and will have a handling capacity of3 million passengers per annum[11]. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up a project in collaboration with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for erection of Solar Power Plant of 2.0 MW capacity.

- Under the Krishi UDAN 2.0 scheme of the Central Government, 4500 kg of agricultural products have been exported in the month of November 2021, which includes pineapple and jackfruit of Tripura.

- To facilitate rail transportation of goods, rail yards are being constructed at Nischintapur on the Agartala-Akhaura rail line[12]and at Sabroom in South Tripura district.

- Srimantapur terminal in Sonamura has made a place for itself in India's internal and inter-country water transport network.

- To test and monitor level of pollution by vehicles, 51 Pollution Under Control (PUC)centres are operational in the state and detailed report of the same is being uploaded on VAHAN portal.

- At present, 23 online services are available through Vahan and Sarathi portal. In this system value can also be made available along with the application.

Tourism

- Tripura has witnessed steady increase in number of tourists as a result of initiatives taken under Tripura Tourism Policy 2020-25.[13]In 2018-19, 4,16,860 domestic tourists and 1,12,955 Foreign Tourists visited Tripura. In 2019-20, 4,31,142 domestic and 1,54,993 foreign tourists visited Tripura. Demand for locally produced goods like handicrafts, handloom, ethnic food etc. is in increasing trend. Therefore, it can contribute substantially to the economic development of the state. It has been decided

[11]https://www.aai.aero/en/airports/agartala
[12]https://ica.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf
[13]https://finance.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Finance%20Minister%27s%20Speech%20in%20English%20on%20Budget%202021-22.pdf

that the assets of Tourism Department shall be managed in Public Private Partnership mode in order to provide better facilities to tourists.

- For the first time in the state, a five-day long Tripura Adventure Tourism Festival-2021 was successfully held at Agartala from 9th to 13th January, 2021 for promotion of Adventure Tourism.





- Paryatan SahayakPrakalp, an interest subvention scheme to promote entrepreneurship in tourism sector has been introduced in the State. Applicants can avail a loan up to Rs.5.00 lakh for any tourism related projects from banks. The interest on the loan up to 8% will be borne by the State Government. So far 101 applications have been recommended under the scheme.

Health Sector[14]

- Due to improved health services in the state, the infection and death rate from tuberculosis and malaria, child mortality, death rate in delivery has come down and total fertility rate has improved remarkably.

- E-Hospital service including registration of patients through mobile is fully functional in 21hospitalsofthestate.

- Due to improved health services, the number of referred cases to other states has gradually reduced. During the 2018-19 financial year 2,438 patients were referred outside, in 2019-20 financial year it came down to 2,289 and till January 31 of the year 2020-21, only 792 patients were referred outside.

- Under the Tripura Health Assurance Scheme for Poor (THASP), Rs.9,82,31,682 has been disbursed to 1,714 beneficiaries during the period from April 2018 to January,2021.

- Total of 297[15]patients have benefited during the period from January, 2021 to October, 2021 under the Tripura Health Assurance Scheme for the Poor (THAPS), and the financial involvement is Rs.1,44,84,523/-.

[14]https://ica.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf
[15]https://health.tripura.gov.in/?q=dhs

- 54 number of Post Graduate seats have been increased from 25 PG seats to 79 PG seats at Agartala Government Medical College, Agartala.

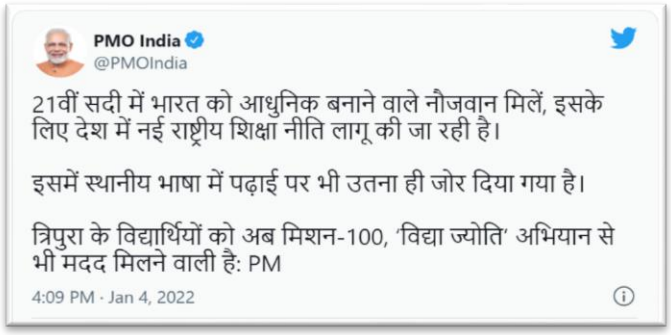
- Tripura was the first to set the record for 100 per cent vaccination[16]of people above 45 years of age.

Education

- During 2019-20 and 2020-21[17]academic years, 28 and 35 Bengali medium schools respectively have been converted to English medium schools. Twenty schools under Tripura Board of Secondary Education have been brought under Central Board of Secondary Education.

- During the lockdown period all the text books of first to twelfth standard have been digitized and uploaded on the State Council for Educational Research and Training website.

- *BachharBachao:* Those who have been unsuccessful in a maximum of two subjects in Madhyamik and Higher Secondary examinations can appear for re-examination within two months. Taking advantage of this facility, 3277 students have cleared Madhyamik and 1194 students have cleared Higher Secondary examination.



- *Super 30:* The state government has launched a new scheme called Super-30 to arrange coaching for the top 30 students of Madhyamik to prepare them for Engineering and Medical entrance examinations.

- The first Indian Institute of Information Technology in Tripura has started functioning from the campus of National Institute of Technology, Agartala.

- *NatunDisha:* This scheme was launched for quality up gradation of learning in elementary level. In 2018-19 the percentage of class-appropriate students was 43.2. Due to this scheme thispercentage has improved to 84.43.

- During the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years, bicycles were given to 54,536 girl students of class IX irrespective of their family income.

- Vidyajyoti Schools[18]are aimed at improving the quality of education in the state by converting 100 existing High / Higher secondary schools to Vidyajyoti Schools with state-of-the-art facilities and quality education. The project will cover about 1.2 lakh students from Nursery to class XII.

[16]https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1771660
[17]https://ica.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf
[18]https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1787443

Labour Welfare[19]

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Pension scheme has been launched for the welfare unorganisedlabourers. 28,626 unorganised labourers have registered their names under this programme.

- Rashtriya Pension Yojana is a central pension scheme for the traders and self-employed persons. So far, 1222 traders and self-employed persons have been covered under the scheme.

Power Sector[20]

- Extension of electrical line is in progress under Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Jyoti Yojana with involvement of Rs. 74.12 crore (phase 1) and Rs. 358.64 (phase 2).

- In order to repair and develop the power transmission system, Integrated Power Development Scheme is being implemented in 20 cities of the state by spending Rs. 203.02 crores central fund. By installation of LED bulb and tube light under UJALA Yojana 27 MW electricity could be saved which is equivalent to about 10% reduction in peak hour demand.

- To ensure 100% power connectivity in rural houses with involvement of Rs. 417.53 crore, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana has been implemented. The state has already achieved 100% coverage.

Agriculture Sector[21]

- PM Kisan Samman Nidhi: Details of a total of 2,51,230 farmers have been uploaded in the portal and out of these 2,32,393 farmers have been registered under this scheme. An amount of Rs. 271.2 crore has been directly transferred into the account of 2,27,335 farmers.

- Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana: During the years 2018-19 to 2020-21, 3,01,118 farmers have been covered under the scheme.

Law and Order[22]

- The Centre and Government of Tripura have done a notable job by signing an accord with National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) in 2019, ending an atmosphere of unrest.

- Even in the Bru Agreement, Government of India has given a large package to solve the 30-year-old problem of about 37,000 people and Bru refugees are ready to join the mainstream and contribute to the development of India and Tripura.

[19] Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf (tripura.gov.in)
[20] ibid
[21] ibdi
[22] Press Information Bureau (pib.gov.in)

Key Sectors of Tripura

Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM):[23]

The State Govt. has launched Tripura Bamboo Mission in PPP mode, for integrated development of Bamboo sector in Tripura. The implementation of the Project started in August 2007. The Mission is focused on development of four sub-sectors, namely, Bamboo Plantations, Bamboo Handicrafts, Bamboo Incense Sticks and Bamboo Industrial Applications. The catalytic role played by TBM has resulted in increased turnover as well as livelihood generation. Value addition is taking place in Agarbatti sector, new handicraft products have been designed and launched, marketing of products has been organized. Some significant achievements of the Mission during are as follows:

- The turnover was Rs. 83.7 crore during the FY 2015-16 which has increased to over Rs. 96.53 cr. during 2016-17.
- The bamboo leaf tea produced in Tripura, having rich therapeutic qualities, has attracted merchants from different corners of the country.
- 60% of the requirement of the entire country for bamboo sticks for Agarbatti-making is met from the State.



- In order to increase production of agarbatti and agarbatti sticks in the state',Mukhyamantri Agarbatti Atmanirbhar Mission'[24] has been launched. Under the programme employment of 5000people willbe ensured with an investment of Rs. 75 crore.
- The catalytic role played by TBM has resulted in the turnover of Bamboo Sector in the State increasing five-fold in the last nine years.
- In the agarbatti sector, new handicraft products have been designed and launched, and marketing of products has been organized.
- Agartala Bamboo Park has been set up on the outskirts of capital city Agartala, to facilitate setting up of bamboo-based industries. This is India's only Bamboo Industrial Park.

[23] https://industries.tripura.gov.in/bamboo
[24] https://ica.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf

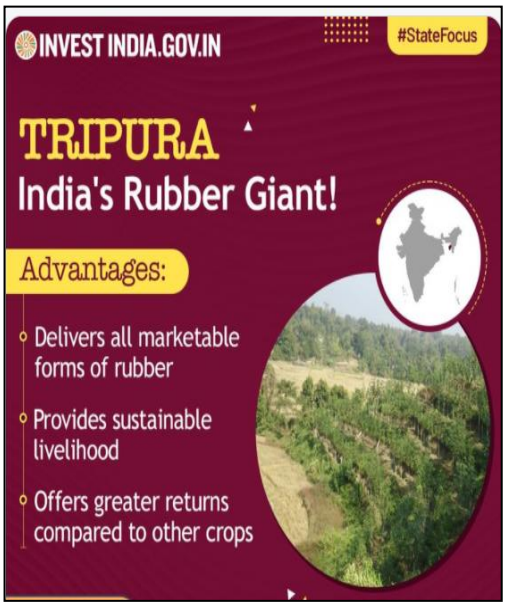
Rubber Sector

Natural rubber is the most important cash crop in Tripura. Since its introduction in 1963 by the State Forest Department, Tripura has become 2nd largest producer of natural rubber in the country[25], after Kerala, accounting for about 9% of the total production of India. Tripura also has the second largest rubber growing area in the country, after Kerala.

There are two PSUs of the State Government namely, Tripura Forest Development Plantation Corporation Ltd. (TFDPC) and Tripura Rehabilitation Plantation Corporation Ltd. (TRPC) working for growth of Rubber Plantation and Rubber Sector in Tripura.The State Government has identified rubber plantation as the priority area for livelihood generation and the Industries & Commerce Department. Government of Tripura has declared rubber-based industries as "Thrust Sector" for investment.

- Total rubber production: 83701.23 MT.[26]
- Total area under plantation: 85453.63 hectares





Tea Sector[27]

Tripura has a history of tea plantations dating back to 1916. In fact, Tripura is categorized as a traditional tea-growing State with about 54 Tea Estates, 21 Tea processing factories, and more than 2500 small tea growers, producing about 9 million kg of tea every year. This makes Tripura the fifth largest among the 16 tea producing States in India. There is considerable scope to increase the productivity and area under tea plantation.

Recent achievements:

- Tripura Tea Logo has been launched in the year 2018 to have a recognition of Tripura Tea in the National/Global Market.

[25] https://industries.tripura.gov.in/rubber-overview
[26] ibid
[27] https://industries.tripura.gov.in/tea

- Tripura Tea Development Corporation Ltd. has developed the brand of "Tripureswari Tea" for the tea made in their factory.

Industries & Commerce [28]

- The "Tripura Industries (Facilitation) Act 2018" has been enacted to provide legal backing to the endeavour of the State Government on reducing the compliance burden and thereby improving the Ease of Doing Business Index of the State.

- A single window portal for the State has already been developed and to facilitate the same, a "Single Window Approval by All Government Agencies in Tripura (SWAAGAT)" Cell has been set up in TIDC.

- The trade and commerce with Bangladesh have increased many folds in terms of trade volume with improved infrastructure at Akhaura Integrated Check Post and upgraded land custom station at Sonamura. The trade volume has increased from Rs.390.68 crore in 2017-18 to Rs.675.00 crore in 2019-20 and the export from Tripura has increased remarkably from Rs.6.46 crore in 2017-18 to Rs.30.34 crore in 2019-20. Integrated Check Post and Land Custom Station at Sabroom is going to be the busiest land port in North Eastern Region in future.

- The bridge over River Feni (MaitriSetu) has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th March, 2021,[29] which will connect Tripura with other countries through sea-route using Chittagong Port. The bridge will help to improve trade and commerce and thereby accelerate economic growth of the State.

- The State Government has amended the "Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme, 2017" with a view to make the scheme more attractive and also to include more service industries like hotel, tourism etc. under its ambit with provisions for more benefits and subsidies.

- On 11th September, 2020[30]foundation stone has been laid for Multi Sector-SEZ at Jalefa near Sabroom and implementation of the project is going in full swing.

- Total 3974 Micro, Small &Medium Enterprise units have been established under Swabalamban scheme. Consequently, employment has been generated for 11,375 beneficiaries.

- Employment for 19,816 people has been generated through establishment of 2,477 MSME units in the state.

[28] https://finance.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Finance%20Minister%27s%20Speech%20in%20English%20on%20Budget%202021-22.pdf
[29] https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1703042
[30] https://ica.tripura.gov.in/sites/default/files/Folder_3_Year_Achievements__English.pdf

Way Forward

- The Tripura government will complete the ambitious Light House Project by the end of December 2022 which aims at providing low-cost housing for the economically weaker sections.

- The State Government had announced a new mission called 'Atal Jaldhara Mission' on 28th November, 2018 under which Functional Household Tap Water Connection (FHTC) is being provided to all households in the State without any charge. The target for coverage of all households of the State is December, 2022.

- In line with the Digital India initiatives, the State Government through the Directorate of Information Technology has undertaken various steps for digital development of the State. Tripura State Data Centre (TSDC) is currently hosting 110 websites and 66 applications. Tripura State Data Centre will be upgraded to a new cloud-based data centre. An investment of about Rs.40.00 crore is proposed during next five years.

- Lakshya-2047, released by the union government, is a blueprint for the future of Tripura.It mainly identifies six areas – agriculture, social harmony, environment and climate change, industry and investment, administrative reforms, and telecommunications and logistics – and lays out a roadmap of Tripura progress in all these areas.This Lakshya-2047 document will go a long way towards making Tripura great, developed, secure and self-reliant.[31]

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- Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addresses Tripura's 50th Statehood Day: Press Information Bureau (pib.gov.in)
- PM's address while inaugurating new terminal building of MBB Airport: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1787443

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AG/HP/RC/PPD/MK

[31] Press Information Bureau (pib.gov.in)