

My Beloved Citizens of Tripura

Namaskar, Khulumkha

On the auspicious occasion of 72nd anniversary of our Republic Day, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all the citizens of Tripura, and everyone who are gathered here to witness the celebration. I also take the opportunity to greet the members of our valiant armed forces of the State and Central Government who guard our land borders, air space and seas, thereby securing the security of our country.

It is a special occasion for our Nation, as on this day in 1950, the Constitution of India, adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949, came into effect and made India Sovereign, Democratic and Republic committed to ensure Justice, Liberty Equality and Fraternity for all citizens. Subsequently we made ourselves into a Secular and Socialist Republic through 42nd Amendment of the Constitution.

In spite of various constraints my Government has taken number of initiatives on various fronts which will help to build Tripura, prosperous, self-reliant and a Model State. The State Government is working hard to make all round development of the State. Many initiatives have been taken by the Government for overall welfare of the citizens of Tripura through Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Government Schemes. I would like to elucidate some of the major achievements and initiatives:

1. The Per Capita Income is a pointer for standard of living and the well-being of people. The Per Capita Income of the State was Rs. 1,00,444/- in 2017-18, which rose to Rs. 1,23,630/- in 2019-20 i.e. by 23%.
2. More than 70% of the populations of Tripura are directly or indirectly involved in agricultural activities. More remunerative crops like hybrid maize and black gram have been taken up for increasing farmers' income as farmers will get return of Rs.1.88 in case of black gram and Rs.2.19 in case of maize with a investment of Rs.1.00 whereas in case of rice farmers get a return of Rs.1.45 with investment of Rs.1.00. 21,000 hectare area has been taken up under organic cultivation.
3. Agricultural growth in the State has risen from 6% in 2017-18 to 13.77% in two years, i.e. 2018-19 and 2019-20. 2.06 lakh Paddy farmers have been covered under '*Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)*'. Under "*Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)*", Rs. 271.02 crore have been transferred directly to the bank accounts of 2,25,997 farmers. Special drive has been given by the Government to bring all farmers under *Kisan Credit Card (KCC)* coverage. As of now 80,939 KCCs have been sanctioned amounting to Rs. 301.31 crore.

4. For the first time in the State, 50,000 landless bargadars (share croppers and tenant farmers) are availing special loans from NABARD under *Chief Minister Bargadar (landless) Yojana*. So far, loans have been disbursed to 8,000 landless bargadars.
5. The State Government has laid due emphasis on better value addition and further income generation from naturally available resources like bamboo, tea, rubber and horticultural products in line with the policy of the Government to double farmers' income by 2022. 65529 hectare of agricultural land has been targeted for irrigation coverage under *Chief Minister's Assured Irrigation Programme* by 2024-25.
6. The State Government has brought 299 hectare of land under exotic flower cultivation with a view to increase returns from Rs.6.20 crore at present to Rs.61.00 crore in next two years. Ten Mushroom Spawn Production Units are being established across the State with 100% financial assistance. Special initiatives have been taken to bring 25 hectare of land under Dragon Fruit cultivation and 97 hectare of land under black pepper in the State.
7. Tripura is the second largest rubber producing state in India as per area under cultivation and quantity of produce. Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA) shall be investing Rs.1100 crore for cultivation of rubber on 2 lakh hectare of land as interest subvention (subsidy @ Rs.50,000/- per hectare) during the initial seven years.
8. Fish is a major source of nutrition and protein for the population in Tripura. Many people are directly dependent on fisheries for their livelihood. Fish production has increased by 7000 MT during 2019-20 and it is expected to increase by another 23000 MT by the end of 2022-23 to reach a production level of 1,03,325 MT. 600 fishery units using Biofloc technology and 1500 units using cage culture have been taken up for enhanced fish production. Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) has been encouraged to have a choice of fish farming in water bodies under forest land.1000 hectare of such water area will be utilized for scientific fish farming involving JFMC in forest areas.
9. Scheme for introduction of sex sorted semen for Artificial Insemination for production of female calves (96% probability) has been taken up through "*Mukhyamantri Unnat Gudhan Prakalpa*". 76000 cows have been targeted for sex sorted artificial insemination in 2020-21 in 5 (five) districts of the State. Overall 3.2 lakh doses will be given over a period of 3 years. Slaughter Houses will be constructed at Pecharthal Block to pave the way for hygienic production, packing and export of pig meat (pork).
10. During last two & half year, total 13,845.33 hectare has been brought under plantation for maintaining ecological balance and afforestation. Total 1,006.30 KM has been brought under tree plantation for roadside beautification and 912.50 KM tree

plantation in river bank has also been covered. Bamboo plantation of total 645.00 hectare has been created. State Government has decided to provide Record of Rights for Forest Right Patta Land and its Demarcation.

11. For the first time in the State, Muli Bamboo Cookies were launched in September, 2020 as a packaged product. The Bamboo & Cane Development Institute (BCDI), Agartala is organizing training programme for entrepreneurs in this area. State Government has developed two innovative products namely Bamboo brooms and Bamboo bottles during the financial year 2020-21 which is being marketed by Bamboo and Cane Development Institute (BCDI) under the assistance of *Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram (PMVDVK)*. 1000 Bamboo artisans are trained in production of these items. This has been appreciated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in his "Mann Ki Baat" programme during July, 2020. Agar (*Aquilaria Malaccensis*) is the State Tree of Tripura which produces the valuable substance Agar. State Government has made an elaborate plan for marketing this product harvested from estimated 51 lakh Agar Trees of the State which is expected to generate income of Rs.2000 crore in next 2-3 years.
12. For overall development of Agarbatti sector, the scheme namely, "Mukhyamantri Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission" has been formulated. One Agarbatti manufacturing cluster has been set up at Kumarghat Industrial Estate and 6 mechanized Agarbatti stick making units have also started functioning in the State
13. The State Government has prioritized value addition in food processing sector utilizing the locally available natural resources like pineapple, jackfruit, cashew nut etc., by creating required infrastructure of Food Park, Cold Storage, Food Testing Lab, etc. and also with provision of additional financial subsidy to the entrepreneurs.
14. To improve livelihood and induce self sufficiency among the rural people through income generation, a new scheme, namely Mukhyamantri Swanirbhar Parivar Yojana will be started in the rural areas mainly under primary sector activities by distributing inputs in the areas like agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry. Every eligible family will be assisted to take up cultivation of fruits, vegetable, poultry, fish culture, animal rearing, flower growing, etc.
15. In a historic and landmark event, an agreement has been signed between Government of India, Government of Tripura and Mizoram and Bru community on 16th January 2020 to put an end to 23 years old Bru refugee crisis. As per the agreement around 34,000 Bru refugees will be settled in Tripura with Centre providing a package of around 600 crore for their settlement and all-round development.
16. State Government had launched a new scheme called Atal Jaldhara Mission in December, 2018 under which Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) with free water connection charge shall be provided to all households in the State by 15th August

2022. Till 2017-18, coverage of FHTC was only 1% of the State's population which has now remarkably increased to 22% in 2019-20.

17. Transformation of Aspirational Blocks Programme aims at expeditiously transforming the 12 (twelve) identified blocks in the State. The core thrust of the programme is convergence of Central & State Government Schemes, Collaboration between State Level & District Level Officers and encouraging competition among the blocks. Specific areas of focus have been identified and given weightage for this purpose.
18. The endeavor of the State Government is to convert Tripura into a preferred destination for industrial and trade activities. The trade volume has increased from Rs.390.68 crore in 2017-18 to Rs.675 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. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is being set up at Sabroom for boosting export and import. The Foundation Stone of SEZ was laid on 1st September 2020. The bridge over River Feni (Maitri Setu) is nearing completion to support port connectivity with Chittagong. An Integrated Check Post (ICP) is proposed to be set up at Sabroom after completion of the Feni Bridge. Agartala – Akhaura Rail Link is under construction which is expected to be completed by March, 2021 with a Rail Yard at Nischintapur on this Rail Link where an Integrated Check Post (ICP) is proposed. Establishment of rail connectivity between Feni (Bangladesh) and Belonia (India) has been taken up with Ministry of External Affairs and the Railway Ministry.
19. A contemporary New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) with modern state of art facilities at M. B. B. Airport is on the verge of completion. With the inauguration of floating jetty on 5th September, 2020, Srimantapur Terminal near Sonamura has been included in the map of Inland Water Transport (IWT).
20. The Hon'ble Union Minister, Road Transport & Highways etc., Government of India inaugurated 9 National Highway projects for construction of 262.00 km roads and 2 bridges in Tripura having cost of Rs. 3190.00 crore. He further declared in October, 2020 that 4 big projects would be taken up in the State of Tripura with an unprecedented investment of Rs.7530.00 crore.
21. Tripura has tremendous tourism potential as the State is rich in natural beauty and has several significant religious tourist spots. With a view to promote tourism in the State, Tripura Tourism Policy 2020-25 was introduced in February 2020. The policy provides a suitable system for promoting Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in Tripura. As a step in this direction, Sagar Mahal Tourist lodge has been leased out to Hotel Polo Towers. The State Government has sent a proposal to Asian Development Bank for an amount of Rs.500 crore to develop the tourism infrastructure in the State. In spite of many

setbacks, the number of tourist in Tripura has increased by 11.06% from 5, 29,815 in 2018-19 to 5, 86,135 in 2019-20.

22. The State Government has introduced many new schemes and made reforms in the education sector to improve the quality of education. Some of them are:

- A new scholarship scheme 'Lakshya' has been introduced for young aspirants of IAS examination in the State.
- Centralized online admission system for all 22 General Degree Colleges have been started.
- "Bachhar Bachao Examination", under which students who fail upto two subjects can sit for examination again within two months time has been introduced.
- Recruitment Rules of Teachers have been amended in the light of NCTE guidelines.
- ACR system for all DEO's/Inspector of Schools, HMs, TICs/Teachers has been introduced..
- Pre-school education in selected 67 schools in Tripura has been started.
- 62 Bengali Medium Schools have been converted into English Medium.
- 20 Government and Government aided Schools have switched over to CBSE from TBSE.
- Spoken English classes for 120 hours per child for better fluency in Spoken English have been started.
- For the 1st time Vocational Education subject has been introduced in 80 Government Schools of the State.
- 54536 Bi-Cycles have been distributed to all girls students reading in Class-IX irrespective of income bar during the last two years unlike the same benefit given to girl students belonging to BPL and Antodaya families till 2017.
- To encourage students to appear in National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), a talent search examination in Science and Mathematics for students of class IX has been introduced from 2020.
- A new scheme namely 'Super 30' has been launched which provides coaching facilities to the Top 30 (thirty) Madhyamik passed out students of TBSE for appearing in JEE/NEET Entrance Examination.
- Chief Ministers' Annual State Award for Academic Excellence to meritorious students of Madhyamik & H.S. (+ 2 stage) Examinations conducted by Tripura Board of Secondary Education(TBSE) has been introduced.

- After introduction of “Nutan Disha”, the learning outcomes have increased class appropriate students to 84.43% as per the Post Base Line survey.

23. The State Government had battled the COVID-19 Pandemic admirably due to which the positivity rate is a mere 0.32% and the recovery rate is 99% at present. As a result of the lessons learnt from the Pandemic, the people of the State have become much more conscious about cleanliness and sensitive to the welfare of elderly people. This has not only reduced the COVID-19 death rate but also the normal death rate of the State. The State Government is in the process of procuring a Sequencing Machine to identify the new UK variant of COVID. COVID Vaccination has also started in the State with 56,000 vaccines received in the first slot. I would like to thank the people of the State for their role in containing the Pandemic following the broad guidelines given by the Hon’ble Prime Minister.

24. Proposals have been submitted to Government of India under Fifteenth Finance Commission for sanction of fund for establishment of one AIIMS like Institute in Tripura, setting up of one Medical College in TTAADC area, Ayush Hospital in every District and one Cancer Hospital in Dhalai District. Government of Tripura is successfully implementing the scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) due to which 14,61,108 beneficiaries from 4,90,913 families have availed e-Card.

25. The State Police has achieved commendable success in the last two years with the support and cooperation from the people of the State. CCTV coverage in the State is now 8.8 CCTV cameras per lakh population at present. The law and order situation has improved notably and is well under control. The gist is as below:

Crime	2019	2020	Remarks
Murder	144	114	Reduced by 20.8%
Rape	195	165	Reduced by 15.4%
Motor Accidents	655	466	Reduced by 28.8%
Total Grave Crimes	5988	4653	Reduced by 22.0%

26. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “One Nation One Ration Card”, National Portability (inter State) facility has been implemented in the State. Under *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)*, total 2, 66,015 deposit free LPG connections have been provided to the female members of the most vulnerable section of the society. The State

Government had provided several relief packages (free rice and pulses) to distressed people during the COVID-19 lockdown period under schemes like *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)*, *Atma Nirbhar Bharat*, *Chief Minister's Relief Fund*, etc.

27. As part of Government's efforts made for comprehensive welfare of the farmers of the State, the State Government started procurement of Paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the first time in the State during 2018-19 and since then a total of 48,716 MT Paddy has been procured cumulatively so far from 27,735 farmers of the State who got benefitted with payment of total Rs. 86.65 crores directly to their accounts.
28. In line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's '*Vocal for Local Campaign*', the State Government is paying emphasis on the production and marketing of indigenous handloom and handicrafts products Steps have been taken for branding the traditional "RISHA" under India Handloom Brand (IHB) and providing uniform to Anganwadi and Asha Workers.
29. Various measures have been taken to preserve and promote the indigenous people of the State. The Tribal Welfare Department has been renamed as 'Janjati Kalyan Department'. Recently the State Cabinet had also decided in favour of renaming the TTAADC as 'The Tipra Territorial Council' and submitted a proposal to the Central Government in this regard.
30. Tripura has successfully implemented *Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)* social security scheme of unorganized workers and National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed. The State is holding the 1st position in both the schemes in the North East.
31. For the first time in the State, funding of Rs. 4594.58 crore has been secured from World Bank, ADB and other agencies for infrastructure development in the Power Sector to ensure reliable and quality power supply to all consumers in the State
32. The State of Tripura has been acclaimed as 1st best performing state in the category of North-Eastern States in India and second best performing state in overall country under *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)*. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction that all ULBs of Tripura have already been declared and certified Open Defecation Free (ODF). Tripura is one of the six states in the Country and only State in the North East to have been awarded the Light House project which entails building of 1000 economical, sustainable, durable and high quality flats in multi-storied buildings for economically weaker sections/Low income group. Township Projects for ownership flats under TUDA and Tripura Housing & Construction Board (THCB) have been taken up at several locations in Agartala covering 1500 flats.

33. The State Government is emphasizing the policy of "Sports for all". Sports Kits were distributed among 1134 registered Clubs (Primary Sports Body) for development of Sports. 3 synthetic Tennis Court have been set up at Dasarath Deb State Sports Complex, Agartala. Multi-disciplined Sports Building has been inaugurated in Netaji Subash Regional Coaching Centre in 2020. In the 65th National School Games (Football under-17 years Boys) held in the State during 2020, the Tripura team won the championship. Miss. Priyanka Das Gupta, Gymnast achieved 3 Gold Medal in National level Gymnastics Competition - 2020 and 4 Gold Medal in 3rd edition Khelo India Youth Games -2020 held at Gauwhati and Miss. Asmita De also achieved 1 Silver Medal in Judo. Miss. Arshiya Das participated in Asian School Chess Championship-2019 held at Uzbekistan during June, 2019 and won 1 Gold & 1 Bronze Medal.
34. On this special occasion let us pledge to rededicate ourselves to work harder, selflessly and with utmost sincerity and integrity, with true spirit of work ethic and work culture to make Tripura an ideal and prosperous and best State in the country. Let us preserve and strengthen the unity and integrity of this country and promote peace and brotherhood amongst all section of people of the society.
35. I would take this opportunity to personally thank the State Government led by the young and dynamic Chief Minister for having taken enormous steps in the overall development of the State. The efforts of the Government are bearing fruit which has changed the '*Chal, Charitra and Chehra*' of the State as a whole. I feel proud that there is a paradigm shift and transformation in the Government with transparency in the administration, improvement in work culture, timely completion of work, quality of work, job avenues created, rise in self employment and inducing swanirbharta among the youth. Once again, I convey my best wishes to the people who have gathered here today and to all the people of the State and conclude my speech.

JAI HIND