

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget for the year 2019-20.

2. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, under the able leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, our BJP-IPFT Government has been serving the State since last eleven months with the blessings and enthusiasm of its people. We are on the path of developing Tripura as a Model State in the country. In line with vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are following the philosophy of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas" for development and welfare of every citizen of the State and also making sincere efforts to develop Tripura as a logistic hub through infrastructure development following the "HIRA" Model, namely, Highways, I-ways, Railways and Airways.

3. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, our Government inherited very difficult financial position from the previous Government. During 2017-18, the State recorded Revenue Deficit of Rs.289 crores and also recorded Fiscal Deficit of Rs.2,072 crores, which was about 5% of the GSDP, much higher than permissible limit of 3% of GSDP. The total outstanding debt exceeded Rs.12,900 crores and there was huge outstanding liability in respect numerous incomplete projects. Despite that, our Government has been able to continue the development process through prudent financial management. Not only that, we also released the much-awaited 7th CPC benefits to our employees and pensioners. This will have additional financial implication of about Rs.1,000 crores during 2019-20. I express our Government's sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, for providing additional financial support to the State Government since the new Government took over in March, 2018. Thus, the Government of the State aligning with the Central Government in terms of its approach towards development and governance, has benefitted the State.

4. The IMF has predicted 3.7 per cent global growth for 2018 and 3.5% growth for 2019. Contrary to that, Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.2

per cent in 2018-19, higher than 6.7 per cent in the previous fiscal. Despite the global headwinds, under the esteemed leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, Indian economy has emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world. We expect the growth rate of Tripura to be higher than the national average due to all-round efforts being made by the State Government with strong support from Government of India, coupled with the active participation of our people in the development process.

Agriculture and allied Activities; Farmers' Welfare

5. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the economy of the State is primarily agrarian, with about 50% of the population dependent on agriculture. In line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, for "Doubling the Farmers Income by 2022", the State Government has taken numerous initiatives in agriculture and allied sectors. The cropping intensity now stands at 191%, which is highest in the North East. Concerted efforts are being made for increasing rice production by increasing area under "System of Rice Intensification" (SRI) and Hybrid Paddy.

6. To ensure optimum use of fertilizers, Soil Health Card Scheme has proved to be immensely beneficial and 46,619 Soil Health Cards have already been distributed to the farmers till December, 2018. In order to increase the coverage under "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana" (PMFBY), the Government has decided to meet the premium burden of the farmers of High-risk Zone under the Scheme. For dissemination of technical Knowledge at farmers' door-steps, the Government has already opened 13 Krishak Bandhu Kendras (KBKs) and more KBKs are being opened in a phased manner.

7. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am glad to mention before this august House that for the first time in the State, our Government has started procurement of paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs.17.50 per kg. in collaboration with Food Corporation of India (FCI) to save the farmers from distress sale of their

produce. In a historic move, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, inaugurated the procurement process at Kamalpur on 15.12.2018. In order to operationalise this procurement through FCI, the State Government committed to reimburse to FCI, from State Budget, the additional rice milling costs in the State over and above the national norms. The value to paddy procured from farmers was promptly transferred to their bank accounts through DBT. The paddy procurement at MSP has triggered increase in price of paddy in local markets, enabling the farmers to get higher incomes. All this has brought smiles on the faces of lakhs of farmers in Tripura, with each farmer getting upto Rs.5.50 to Rs.7.50 per kg. more on their paddy produce. During 2018-19, about 10,400 MT of paddy has been procured. It is proposed to take up paddy procurement during next year on a larger scale.

8. Here, I would also like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Government of India for introducing PM-KISAN Yojana for providing income support of Rs.6,000 per year to farmers with landholding upto 2 hectares (i.e. about 12.35 kani). I am glad to mention that this benefit has now been extended to Forest Patta holders also, as a result of our proactive persuasion with the Government of India. PM-KISAN Scheme will play a key role in achieving the goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022. In fact, at least 4 lakh families of farmers are expected to benefit from this Scheme in Tripura and annually, about Rs.300 crores will get transferred to their bank accounts.

9. Horticulture plays an important role in increasing farmers' incomes in the State. 'Queen Pineapple' has been declared State Fruit of Tripura. During current year, about 5.15 MT of Pineapple was also exported to Gulf countries, due to which pineapple growers could get good prices for their produce. The efforts for processing and marketing the horticultural products shall be further intensified in coming year. I am glad to inform this August House that our Government proposes to take up a massive programme of plantation of fruit and flower plants along the roads. Such roadside plantation will initially be taken up along all the carpeted/ black-topped roads. Plantations will be

undertaken through MGNREGA and other Schemes. The families residing alongside these roads shall be assigned the responsibility of maintaining these plants. They will also be entitled to reap all the benefits accruing from these plants. In addition, the families will be given financial assistance of Rs.200 per family per month for maintenance of these plants, which will be transferred to their bank accounts through DBT. It is estimated that this will benefit about 2 lakh families, besides making Tripura a beautiful State and an attractive destination for the tourists.

10. With a view to attain sustainable growth and self-sufficiency in animal origin food, a number of initiatives are being taken. These include distribution of milch cattle to farmers, backyard duck farming at Rudijala area and introduction of goat & pig multiplication unit at farmers' field. A programme has been initiated for providing 10,000 cows (2 cows per family) to women members of 5,000 families, with necessary forward and backward linkages, to give major boost to milk production in the State. This is being done through loans under Mini Dairy Scheme (with subsidy component) of NABARD, for which the State Government shall provide 100% interest subvention.

11. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, fish and fish products are major constituent of the diet for 95% populace of the State. The State is currently importing over 20,000 MT of fish every year, valued at about Rs.400 crores, from other States and Bangladesh. A number of initiatives have been taken to make the State self-sufficient in fish production, thereby preventing outflow of a huge amount from the State. A high-value fish 'Pengba' has been introduced. During the coming year, the Government will focus on production of high-yielding indigenous species like Pabda, Chital, Tengra, etc., promotion of culture of GIFT Tilapia, Pangus, etc. in addition to carps, developing Dumbur reservoir and increasing its productivity with the help of modern tools, development of infrastructure facilities like pisciculture knowledge centers, hatcheries, etc. Pond Health Cards will be provided to fish farmers.

Forest Conservation and Livelihoods

12. The Government is committed to conservation of forests as also to harness their potential, in sustainable manner, for providing livelihood support to the people, with active people's participation. Initiatives have been taken to promote plantations of bamboo and various agro-forestry plantations in forest areas to create new livelihood opportunities for the people. During 2018-19, 1,400 hectares of bamboo plantations were undertaken. It is targeted to cover much larger area in 2019-20. Implementation of Tripura JICA project Phase-II has been taken up with total outlay of about Rs. 1,000 crore and the Indo-German Development Cooperation (IGDC) Project Phase-II is also being taken up with estimated outlay of about Rs. 275 crores. Under these two projects, 1,867 Check Dams will be constructed, which will create enormous opportunities for pisciculture, drinking water supply, irrigation, etc. Under these Projects, total 18,200 hectares of bamboo plantation will be taken up, 2,110 SHGs will be formed and livelihood opportunities will be created for 52,030 families.

13. The Government has also taken initiative for development of infrastructure for tourism in the vicinity of wildlife sanctuaries, eco-parks and other forest areas under Swadesh Darshan Scheme with an aim to make Tripura as one of the favourite tourist destinations in the country. Special attention is being given to activities like Elephant Conservation, Vulture Conservation, Butterfly Park and Bird Watching, Gibbon conservation, etc. in the State. These activities will also create employment opportunities for the people of the State.

Rural Development

14. Effective implementation of the Rural Development Schemes is special area of focus for the Government. Under MGNREGA, 2.19 crore Person-days (PDs) have already been generated during current year so far as against total

1.76 crore PDs generated last year. Due to this encouraging performance, the Government of India has increased our Labour Budget for current year from 2.00 crore PDs to 3.00 crore PDs. The State has proposed a Labour Budget of about 6.00 crore PDs for 2019-20.

15. Under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), the progress in formation of SHGs is very encouraging. It is noteworthy that one of our SHGs, namely, Maayer Ashirwaad SHG of Jolaibari, has got a National Award for outstanding performance. We also received the National Award on Financial Inclusion for best performing State among NE and Himalayan States. Under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, 4,698 rural youths have been trained till December, 2018, out of which 1534 have got placement in organised sector.

Welfare of ST, SC, OBC and Minorities

16. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the socio-economic, educational and cultural development of Scheduled Tribes has been top most priority of the State Government. Various initiatives for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes including Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarships, Boarding House Stipend, Merit Awards, assistance for free text books, free coaching classes for higher courses, sponsoring for nursing, para-medical and B.Ed./ D.El.Ed. courses, assistance for income-generating activities, etc. In fact, during current year, 286 students have been sponsored for nursing, para-medical, B.Ed. and other courses as against only 57 students sponsored last year. During 2019-20, it is targeted to sponsor about 340 students. As the august House is aware, the Boarding House Stipend has been increased this year from Rs.55 to Rs.65 per student per day for STs as well as for other weaker sections.

17. Currently, Tripura has only 4 running Ekalavya Model Residential (EMR) Schools and 2 new EMR Schools are being set up at East Daluma,

Amarpur under Gomati District and Nalicherra, Ambassa under Dhalai District. However, due to proactive persuasion by our Government, the Government of India has agreed for setting up of additional 18 EMR schools, each school of 480 seats capacity, in Tripura, taking the total number to 24. Out of these 18 new EMR Schools, 10 Schools have already been sanctioned and the remaining 8 Schools are expected to be sanctioned in the next year. For each EMR School, the State will receive Rs.24 crores for Capital Cost (i.e.Rs.432 crores for 18 schools) and about Rs.5 crores per School per year for Recurring Costs. Besides the above, on our initiative, the Government of India has approved the project for construction of a 100-seated ST Boy's Hostel at Shillong.

18. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, our Government also attaches highest priority for welfare and development of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Religious Minorities in the State. The Schemes being implemented include Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarships, Boarding House Stipend, sponsoring for nursing, para-medical and B.Ed./ D.El.Ed. courses, assistance for income-generating activities, etc. Haj Bhavan at Agartala was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 25.07.2018. 150 Haj Pilgrims visited Mecca and Medina for Holy Haj during 2018-19 as against only 127 Pilgrims during 2017-18.

Public Distribution System

19. Maintenance of an efficient Public Distribution System is an integral part of good governance initiatives of the Government. As promised in the last Budget Speech, the Government provided additional rice @ 20 Kg. per family per month, free of cost, to around 60,000 families in 10 distress RD Blocks of the State during the months of July and August, 2018. The Government has also started distribution of pulses at highly discounted price (about half of the market price) under PDS, MDM & ICDS.

20. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as this august House is aware, currently Sugar is supplied through PDS only for AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) households at rates subsidized by Government of India. Our Government proposes to supply Sugar at subsidized rates to households in other categories as well from the next year. The details are being worked out.

Development of 10 less-developed RD Blocks as Model Blocks

21. The Government propose to develop the 10 less-developed RD Blocks, where additional rice was distributed, free-of-cost, this year, as Model Blocks. These Blocks are Chawmanu, Dumburnagar, Raisyabari, Damcherra, Dasda, Karbook, Silachari, Mungiakami, Rupaichari and Tulashikhar. These Blocks are in TTAADC area and inhabited mostly by tribals. The work will be undertaken on the pattern of aspirational District, Dhalai. The DMs will be asked to prepare Action Plans for all-round development of each of these Blocks. Convergence of ongoing programmes will be ensured. Additional funds will be made available through DMs after identifying the resource gaps. The details are being worked out. The Programme will be initiated during 2019-20.

Healthcare for All

22. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, State Government is committed to provide quality, accessible and affordable healthcare for all sections of the population in the State. Steps are being taken to augment the physical infrastructure and the manpower for the health sector. Efforts are being made for completion of ongoing infrastructure projects. PG seats in Agartala Government Medical College have been increased from 25 to 63 this year, due to proactive persuasion of our Government. The State Government has recruited 110 additional Medical Officers. The Government has also decided to engage two neuro-surgeons. It is now planned to commission the Neuro-surgical unit of the Trauma Centre, AGMC and GBP Hospital, in first week of March, 2019.

23. District Hospitals are being strengthened so that the patients get all health services in Districts and do not have to rush to State Hospitals. Free Dialysis services are being provided to all patients. ICU of GPB Hospital has been made free for all patients (except private cabin patients). For IPD patients, medicines are free. Steps are on to operationalise Ambulance services (on calling 102). Efforts are being made for commissioning of Cancer Hospital (including LINAC Block) and the New Teaching Hospital of AGMC very shortly. The matter has been taken up with Government of India for setting up an AIIMS-like institution at Agartala. Efforts are also on to invite private players to run Health Institutions in PPP mode in Tripura. This will make Tripura a Health Hub in the North East and will also attract Bangladesh patients currently going to South India. This has potential to generate annual revenue upto Rs.400 crores for the State.

24. A path-breaking initiative in healthcare sector has been the introduction of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Scheme by the Government of India. The Scheme was launched in Sept. 2018. It covers 4.98 lakh families in the State, providing free health coverage upto Rs.5 lakhs per family per year. 63 Hospitals have been empaneled so far. Total 2.03 lakh E-Cards have been issued and already 2,825 patients have been treated under the Scheme. Efforts are being made to issue E-cards to all remaining eligible beneficiaries within next couple of months.

Education: Access and Quality

25. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, our Government is taking all possible steps to ensure universal access to education as also for improving the quality of education in the State. It has already been decided to introduce NCERT curriculum in Schools from the 2019-20 Academic Session. This will integrate the Tripura education system with the national mainstream. Secondly, in order to improve the availability of trained teachers in the State, Chief Minister's B.Ed. Anuprerna Scheme has been introduced, as promised in the last Budget

Speech. Under the Scheme, meritorious youth can avail bank loans for undergoing B.Ed. courses in accredited colleges, with the State Government providing the interest subvention. Initially, the State Government intends to cover 5,000 eligible youth under the Scheme.

26. Besides the above, the Chief Minister's Annual State Award has been introduced to motivate the school students for academic excellence. Steps have been taken to provide free bicycles to all girl students reading in class-IX, numbering about 30,000, irrespective of income bar, in the spirit of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas". This will also help in women's empowerment. Tripura Board of Secondary Education has been notified for inclusion of Vocational Education in the curriculum from the academic year 2019-20 in class-IX in 24 Government schools of the State. Steps have been initiated for effective implementation of e-Classroom Project. During the current year, IIIT, Agartala started functioning from NIT, Agartala campus.

Social Pensions for vulnerable sections of Society

27. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, our Government is implementing various programmes for welfare, development and security of children, women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens. For ensuring social security, social pensions (Bhatta) is being provided to vulnerable sections of the Society like old-aged persons, widows, persons with disability, certain specified sections of unorganised sector workers, persons suffering from certain specified diseases of grave nature, etc. In addition, incentive to girl children is also provided. Generally, the social pensions are given @Rs.700 per month, barring few categories. During current year, over 4.00 lakh beneficiaries have received pensions.

28. Our Government is deeply concerned about the well-being of these vulnerable sections of the Society and it has been the vision of our Government that the Social Pensions (Bhatta) should be increased to Rs.2,000 per month in

a phased manner. The State is passing through difficult financial situation. However, attaching highest priority to this matter, it is proposed to increase the Social Pensions to Rs.1,000 per month in the first phase. Certain categories of beneficiaries which were receiving higher pensions earlier, like old-aged persons above 80 years, 100% blind persons, etc. will continue to receive higher pensions as before. Incentive to Girl children will continue as before. Further increase in rates of Social Pensions will be considered in future, in a phased manner, after taking into account the financial position of the State.

Sports and Youth Development

29. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Tripura has got excellent track record in sports and youth activities. The sports persons from Tripura have been winning medals in various national and international events in increasing numbers. The State successfully organized the 64th National School Games in the disciplines of Football (under-17 Girls) and Gymnastics (under 14, 17 & 19 years). The State also organized 6th North East Youth Festival-2018, for the first time, at Agartala, in which about 1,000 youth participated. The Government has also offered a Job to Shri Swapan Debbarma, who saved thousands of lives by helping in avoiding a train accident.

30. Steps are being taken to strengthen the sports infrastructure in the State. The State Government has taken up the matter with the Government of India for sanction of projects for laying synthetic tracks and for other such projects at various locations in the State. Out of these, approval for Rs.12 crores for a synthetic track and a swimming pool at Panisagar is expected shortly. Besides this, the Gymnastics infrastructure is being upgraded so that the accomplished Tripura Gymnast, Dipa Karmakar (as also other budding gymnasts), can get all necessary facilities within the State. In fact, the matter has been taken up for declaring the Gymnastic facilities at NSRCC, Agartala as National Gymnastics Academy.

Infrastructure Development: HIRA Model

31. In the beginning of my Speech, I mentioned about the vision of our Government to develop Tripura as a logistic hub through infrastructure development following the "HIRA" Model, namely, Highways, I-ways, Railways and Airways. The Government is working towards connecting all habitations through all-weather roads through PMGSY and other Schemes. Regarding the National Highways, the Government of India has sanctioned numerous projects for upgradation and maintenance, due to proactive follow-up by the State Government. In fact, National Highway projects costing about Rs.894.12 crores are presently under implementation and tenders have been called/ are being called for projects costing about Rs.1,320.85 crores. The State Government has also introduced a "Road Maintenance Policy" for effective maintenance of the road infrastructure.

32. The work of Agartala-Sabroom Railway line is also progressing at fast pace. The passenger train service upto Belonia has been started the same will be extended upto Sabroom very soon. In addition to this, the survey for alternative railway track alignment from Dharmanagar, through Kailashahar, Kamalpur and Khowai to Agartala has been completed and the matter is under consideration in Ministry of Railways. The Agartala Airport Modernisation project is also progressing well. As this august House is aware, the Agartala airport has been renamed as Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport, in the memory of the last princely ruler of Tripura. Hon'ble Prime Minister recently unveiled the statue of Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur at MBB Airport. The Government is also aggressively pursuing the projects for connectivity with and through Bangladesh, with the ultimate objective of making Tripura as the gateway to the North East. The work of Bridge over Feni River is in advanced stage. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link work is progressing and the matter regarding waterways connectively with Bangladesh is also being pursued. The waterways connectivity will bring down the transportation costs drastically, making this the

main route for movement of goods between mainland India and the North East, thereby making Tripura a gateway to the North East.

Basic Amenities for the Citizens

33. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, provision of basic amenities for the people of the State is an area of high priority for the Government. Regarding Drinking Water Supply, all the 8,723 habitations have been provided with drinking water supply. The challenge now is to provide safe and adequate drinking water to all households on a sustainable basis. The vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, is to provide piped drinking water supply to each household at their door-steps. Towards this end, our Government has taken the historical step of launching "Atal Jaladhara" Scheme in the memory of our late beloved Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji. Under the Scheme, all the households in the State will be provided with piped drinking water supply over next 3 years, in a phased manner. The State Government will bear the capital cost of creating drinking water sources as well as the cost of providing water connection to the households. The user charges have also been waived for first 3 months. The total cost of the Project shall be about Rs.847.89 crores.

34. During current year, very proactive steps were taken to promote Sanitation in a big way under Swachh Bharat Mission. During current year, 1.38 lakhs new toilets were constructed as against only 0.33 lakh toilets constructed last year. All the new toilets required to be constructed as per Baseline Survey of 2012, have been constructed. Over 90% of the dysfunctional toilets have also been reconstructed. 1,119 out of 1,178 villages have been declared open defecation free. All the urban local bodies have also been declared open defecation free. The left-out work will also be completed and the entire State will be declared open defecation free very soon.

35. The Government also made very proactive efforts during current year to provide electric connections to households. Under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli

Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), during 2018-19, 1.25 lakh households have been provided electric connections, as against only 0.11 lakh households covered last year. In fact, all 1.36 lakh eligible target households have been provided connections before target date. This has also helped in eliminating power theft through hook lines. Under Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA), 10.18 lakh LED Lights have so far been distributed, resulting in estimated cost savings of about Rs.53 crores per year.

36. Needless to say, provision of pucca Houses is of key importance for the people of the State. Under PMAY-Gramin, against target of 24,989 houses, total 19,774 houses have been completed till January, 2019 and the remaining houses will be completed very soon. The matter has been strongly taken up with Government of India for covering the left-out deserving cases. Under PMAY-Urban, Tripura is expected to achieve 100% saturation for beneficiary-linked component much before the target year of 2022. Total 75,772 houses have been sanctioned. Till now, 17,730 houses have been completed, as against only 6,481 houses constructed last year. 35,000 houses are expected to be completed by 31st March, 2019.

37. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is an important flagship programme of the Government, which aims at safeguarding the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel. The implementation of the Programme for providing free LPG connections to poor households has been taken up in special campaign mode this year. As against only 0.46 lakh connections provided during 2017-18, this year total 1.62 lakh connections have already been provided. Proactive efforts are on to cover the remaining eligible households.

Law and Order

38. Maintenance of Law and Order is a pre-requisite for Development. The Government has set up Tripura Police Crime Branch to deal with drug-related

crimes, cyber-crimes and other serious and heinous crimes. Immediately after formation of our Government, a concerted and sustained Special Drive was launched to achieve the goal of a "Nasha-Mukt Tripura". Great success has been achieved in this respect. Tripura Police has seized 63,074.44 Kgs. Ganja, 3,065.56 Grams. of Heroin, 1,88,099 bottles of Cough Syrup, 2.80 lakh Tablets and has destroyed 174 lakh Ganja Seedlings/ Nursery so far. 433 NDPS cases have been registered and 649 persons have been arrested during the year. Crime against women has also declined. The general law and order situation is improving.

39. As a part of community policing, Tripura Police is effectively implementing Beat System of policing for controlling law & order, maintaining peace, prevention of crime against women & children, sale and use of narcotics substances, etc. For this purpose, total 261 new motorcycles are being purchased for deployment through police stations.

40. MHA has sanctioned raising of 2(two) new India Reserve Battalions in the State during the year 2018-19. Accordingly, the State Government has approved creation of 2,014 posts for raising of 2(two) new IR Battalions through Recruitment Board. The recruitment process will be started soon. Our Government has also taken an important decision to reserve 10% of the posts in the police for women, with a view to empower women.

Promoting Investments in the State

41. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, our Government is taking proactive steps for promoting Investment in the State, with a view to generate incomes and employment for the people of the State. The industrial infrastructure is being upgraded. In order to improve the "Ease of Doing Business", numerous steps are being taken. A Bill, namely, "The Tripura Industries (Facilitation) Act, 2018, for introduction of Single Window System, was passed by the Tripura Legislative Assembly in the Budget session of 2018 and was sent for

Presidential Assent. The same has been received back with advice for some amendments. Accordingly, the amendments are proposed to be moved in the current Session of the Assembly. The State Government is also offering various incentives to industrial units through "Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme, 2017", which is being further improved.

42. The infrastructure available at Land Customs Stations for trade with Bangladesh is also being upgraded. The Manughat and Muhurighat LC Stations are being upgraded into an Integrated Development Complexes. Proposals have been sent to Ministry of Commerce, Government of India in order to open seven new Border Haats on Tripura-Bangladesh Border. It is worth mentioning that due to constant persuasion by the State Government through the Central Government, the Government of Bangladesh has allowed import of 11 restricted items to Bangladesh through selected Land Custom Stations of Tripura.

43. Locally available resources like Rubber, Bamboo, Natural Gas, Agri & Horticulture products and Tea have been identified as "Thrust sectors" for investment. Emphasis has been laid on attracting investment in specific areas like Modern Rice Mills, Modern Smoke Houses and Group Processing Centres for rubber sector, etc. The "SAMVEG" Scheme of Govt. of India is being implemented in West Tripura and Sepahijala District to give impetus to the development of bamboo sector. The Tea sector is being promoted through the Small Tea Growers, Co-operative Societies and other related Agencies. A Logo for Tripura Tea has also been developed.

44. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and State's own programme called Swawalamban are being implemented to promote self-employment. The limit of subsidy under Swawalamban scheme has been enhanced to Rs. one lakh per beneficiary. During current year, 820 new units were registered in the Micro Small & Medium Enterprises sector, generating employment potential for around 4,000 people.

45. The overwhelming response to the 29th Tripura Industries & Commerce Fair, 2019 shows that the investor interest in the State is increasing. During current year, there were total 192 participants (including 25 participants from Bangladesh) as against only 95 participants last year. This year, total turnover has been Rs.3.16 crore as against turnover of Rs.1.86 crores last year.

Promotion of Tourism

46. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, our Government strongly believes that Tourism can play a key role in enhancing employment and incomes for our people. The Government has, therefore, taken major initiatives to promote tourism, especially spiritual tourism, heritage tourism, eco-tourism, etc. Tripura hosted the International Tourism Mart, 2018 at Agartala wherein 53 foreign delegates participated. Development of tourism infrastructure facilities in the North East Circuit has been started under Swadesh Darshan Project-I with an outlay of about Rs.100 crores.

47. Due to proactive steps taken by the State Government, the tourist destinations of Tripura are gaining popularity at national and international levels. The princess of Thailand, Maha Chakri Sirindhorn came to Tripura in November, 2018 only to visit Unakoti. Chhabimura is receiving large number of bookings. The same is the case with Neermahal and Sepahijala. The number of foreign tourists during April-December, 2018 was about 39% higher compared to same period last year. Neermahal received 20% more tourists during April-January this year compared to same period last year. The Tripura Tableaux, which showcased tourist destinations of the State as conceptualized by the Hon'ble Chief Minister himself, received the first prize during Republic Day Parade in Delhi this year. This year, for the first time, Tripura also hosted 40 youth from 8 countries for 10 days as part of Know India Programme.

Initiatives for Digital Tripura

48. Information Technology plays important role in the governance and also in overall development activities. Agartala has emerged as the third international internet gateway in the country, through Bangladesh, after Mumbai and Chennai. The Government is making serious efforts to develop Tripura as the IT Hub of the North East.

49. The State Government has successfully implemented e-Governance projects under Digital India programme of Government of India. This has improved "Ease of Living" in Tripura and has brought transparency. The MyGov Tripura portal was launched in August, 2018. Tripura became the first State in North East India to have 100% State and District Administration websites as per the S3WaaS (Secure, Scalable and Suganya Website as a Service) framework. TMS (Task Monitoring System) inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura on 27th August, 2018, for effective monitoring of various development activities, received award at the North East Technology Sabha Award, 2018 in November, 2018 at Guwahati.

50. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I am glad to inform this august House that on 1st February, 2019, Hon'ble Chief Minister, inaugurated a unique and path-breaking initiative, for the first time in the country, called 'Panchayat Monitoring System'. This is an online platform, on which any Panchayat Secretary can upload any issue concerning any Department under his Panchayat area. The issue instantly becomes visible to the officials of concerned Departments, who are expected to resolve the matter through corrective action and upload the Action Taken on the Portal for closing the issue. This will facilitate effective monitoring of Government projects, institutions and activities at field level. Besides this, on 27th August, 2018, Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Chief Minister/District Magistrate (CM/DM) Dashboard to review the progress of different schemes, plans, projects, etc. on a single Dashboard.

51. As promised in the vision document, the Government is committed to provide free Smart Phones to the students in a phased manner. In the first phase, Smart Phones will be provided to students completing their Graduation. The necessary procurement process going on.

Leveraging Banking System for Development

52. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Banks play a crucial role in development of a State's economy. The State Government is consistently pursuing the matter with the Banks for effective implementation of various Schemes. In fact, our Hon'ble Chief Minister taken personal interest for ensuring that the Banks effectively implement all the Schemes for the benefit of the people. In Tripura, there are 35 Banks, with 525 Branches, 489 ATMs and 1,525 PoP (Points of Presence). During first half of the current year, the total credit disbursement by banks was Rs.3,108 crores, which was 58% of the target. The Credit-Deposit Ratio (CD Ratio) is currently at 49%, which is marginally higher than previous year.

53. Under various flagship programmes of the Government of India, the performance of the banks has improved this year, but much more needs to be done. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, about 8.55 lakh accounts have been opened in the State. Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana scheme, the banks/ micro-finance institutions have disbursed loans amounting to Rs.2,652 crore to about 6.21 lakh beneficiaries since inception.

54. The performance of banks has also improved under various Social Security Schemes. Under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the number of beneficiaries is 3.77 lakhs during 2018-19 as compared to 3.35 lakhs during the 2017-18. Under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, the number of beneficiaries is 1.34 lakhs during 2018-19 as compared to 1.13 lakhs during 2017-18. Under Atal Pension Yojana, 31,215 accounts have already been

opened during 2018-19, as against only 18,712 accounts opened during 2017-18.

Other Development Initiatives

55. The development of urban areas is a high priority area. The work of developing Agartala as Smart City is now gaining momentum. Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT), projects have been taken up for drinking water, sewerage lines, etc. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission is now being implemented in all 20 urban local bodies. The Government has enacted the "Tripura Urban Planning and Development Act, 2018" with the objective of building planned new urban townships with all basic amenities. It aims at more optimal and effective utilisation of scarce urban land. Under the Act, Tripura Urban Planning and Development Board and Tripura Urban Planning and Development Authority have been constituted.

56. Besides the above, the Tripura Building Rules have been amended recently to provide framework for residential/ commercial high-rise buildings without compromising on security aspects, so that scarce urban land can be optimally utilised. The norms regarding width of roads on which high-rise buildings will be permissible, norms for FAR and Ground Coverage, etc. have been liberalized. At the same time, provisions have been introduced for seismic retrofitting of old, load-bearing and vulnerable buildings.

57. The Government has taken various initiatives to augment the public transport system in the State. The Government has, for the first time in Tripura, framed "On Demand Transport Technology Aggregators Rules, 2018" and introduced App-based passenger transport service. Policy for E-Rickshaws/ E-Carts has also been framed. Pre-Paid Auto service from Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport has been introduced in the interest of the passengers and tourists. Volvo bus service has been introduced on Airport–Matabari route. In order to

promote road safety, required funds are being provided through Road Safety Fund, as promised in last Budget Speech. In order to take the administration closer to the people, Vahanonline, a new IT platform, was launched on 23.01.2019 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Through this portal, 18 transport-related services are being made available to the people on a single platform, which includes payment of taxes on vehicles, road tax, etc.

58. The State has achieved almost 100% success in Computerisation of Land Records in the State. e-Stamping process has been started in West Tripura and the same is targeted to be completed in rest of the State in next year.

59. Tripura has vibrant local bodies. The work of Panchayat bodies is being digitised. Tripura has been assessed as the top performing State in facilitating use of ICT tools for empowering the Panchayats and has been awarded the Second Prize in e-Panchayat Puraskar category - II(A) by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India. Tripura is performing extremely well under the new initiative of "Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas" for preparation Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) for the year 2019-20.

60. The Government is taking numerous initiatives for promotion of art and culture. Two new awards were introduced in the Agartala Book Fair 2018, namely, 'Kali Kinkar Debbarma Memorial Award' for outstanding performance in classical music and 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Integration Award' for outstanding contribution in Social Work. The Government has also recognised the great contribution made by Shri Thanga Darlong, musician, who has been awarded a "Padmasree". The Government has increased the pension for retired journalists from Rs.1000 to Rs.10000 per month.

61. The Government attaches high priority to effective justice delivery in the State. As promised in the last Budget Speech, 3 new District Courts, namely, at Sonamura, Khowai and Dhalai district have been set up, with a view to make justice accessible to the grassroot people. Legal aid is being provided to needy

persons and legal awareness camps are being held. This year, upto December, 2018, over 59,000 cases have been disposed off through Lok Adalats. Video-conferencing facilities are being installed in Courts and Jails, so that the court hearings can be held without moving the prison-inmates from jails to the courts.

Promoting Merit in Governance; Good Governance

62. As this august House will appreciate, the quality of a Government depends of the quality of its employees. The Government has, therefore, decided that all recruitments in the Government shall be made through merit-based transparent process. Further, a new Scheme called "Chief Minister's Civil Services Awards" has been introduced to recognise and reward outstanding work done by Government officials in various fields.

63. I am glad to inform this august House that during the past one year, various prestigious awards at the national level have been conferred to the state which is a recognition of the efforts being made by the State Government for improving the quality of governance in the state. By receiving awards for reducing malnutrition to ensuring inclusive development and from strengthening the infrastructure to being one of the fastest growing small states in the country, these recognitions inspire us to relentlessly pursue developmental activities for the welfare of the 37 lakh citizens of Tripura.

Additional Resource Mobilisation

64. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Government needs resources for taking up programmes for welfare and development of the people. Our Government took a pragmatic stand in the last Budget to undertake some measures for additional resource mobilisation. The rates of VAT on petrol and diesel were slightly increased. 2% Road Development Cess was imposed on turnover on petrol, diesel and natural gas w.e.f. 1st August, 2018, so that resources could be raised

for investment in road infrastructure. During the course of the year, the Cess was revised to 3%. The rates of road tax on vehicles, which had been stagnant for years, were also revised during the years.

65. In addition to revision in rates of taxes and duties, the Government has also undertaken a number of reform measures during the year. In State Excise, first point taxation system has been introduced and system of ad valorem levy of excise duties is in pipeline. In case of Stamps and Registration, the system of e-Stamping is being introduced. e-payment for registration through e-GRAS is also being introduced. In case of Professions Tax, online system for tax payment is being rolled out.

66. All these measures had yield very encouraging results. The tax revenue collections during 2018-19 are estimated to be about Rs.1,790 crores as compared to about Rs.1,422 crores collected during 2017-18. Thus, the collections during current year are estimated to be higher by about 25.8% over the previous year.

67. However, in the Budget Estimates for 2019-20, no new tax measures are proposed. The increase in tax revenues in 2019-20 shall be achieved largely through better tax administration.

Budget Estimates for 2019-20

68. Now, I would like to highlight the Receipts and Expenditure projected in Budget Estimates of 2019-20. The collection of State's Own Tax Revenue is projected at Rs. 2048.95 crore in Budget Estimates of 2019-20 with a growth rate of 14.43% over the Revised Estimates of 2018-19. The collection of State's Non-Tax Revenue is projected at Rs. 285.21 crore in BE 2019-20. The Total Receipts from the Centre (including Share of Central Taxes and Deficit Grant) have been projected at Rs. 12764.30 crore in Budget Estimates as against Rs. 12506.18 crores in the Revised Estimates for 2018-19. The total gross borrowings for the year 2019-20 are estimated at about Rs. 2430.00 crores.

69. The overall Total Receipts in Budget Estimate 2019-20 are estimated to be about Rs. 17530.46 crores.

70. The Total Expenditure in the Budget Estimates for 2019-20 is projected at Rs. 17530.46 crore. This includes Revenue Expenditure of Rs. 14061.32 crores and Capital Expenditure of Rs. 3469.14 crores.

71. This Budget is different from the earlier practice of presentation and accounting system. We have adopted the Government of India system of Revenue and Capital Accounts. The classification of Plan and Non-Plan has been dispensed with for better classification of accounts and expenditure. The overall position is summarised below:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Items	Amount
(A)	Revenue Account	
1.	Receipts	15098.46
2.	Expenditure	14061.32
3.	Surplus (A1-A2)	1037.14
(B)	Capital Account	
1.	Receipts from loans & others (including Public Account)	2432.00
2.	Disbursements	3469.14
3.	Surplus (B1-B2)	-1037.14
(C)	Total Receipts (A1+B1)	17530.46
(D)	Total Expenditure (A2+B2)	17530.46
(E)	Deficit (C-D)	0.00

72. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Year 2022 is a very important year for both the State of Tripura and for the country. Year 2022 shall mark 50 years of the Statehood of Tripura and 75 years of independent India. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji has outlined his Vision for New India for 2022 and has been championing several initiatives to achieve his Vision. Our Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb's vision of Transforming Tripura aims towards building a Swarnim Tripura. Our Government is committed towards fulfilling his vision of Transforming Tripura and making it a Model State in the country.

73. The Hon'ble Members will appreciate the fact that despite inheriting serious financial condition, the new Government has tried to balance the aspirations of the people, employees and others with the challenges of development requirements by way of accessing additional financial resources from the Government of India, rationalizing various tax structures and minimizing wasteful expenditure.

74. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, with these words, I commend the Budget Proposals for 2019-20 for consideration and approval of this August House.
