

# Industrialization in Tripura

Tripura is one of the seven states in the North-east. Tripura acts as a gateway between Northeast India and Bangladesh. The state shares an 856-km international border with Bangladesh. This offers enormous potential for international trade. Tripura is endowed with rich and diverse bamboo resources and is the largest bamboo producing hub in India.

Tripura has several potential, yet relatively unexplored sectors such as organic spices, bio-fuel and eco-tourism. It is rich in natural resources such as natural gas, rubber, tea and medicinal plants. The state is also known for its vibrant food processing, bamboo and sericulture industries. The state is second largest natural rubber producer in the country, after Kerala.

Tripura had a total installed power generation capacity of 727.33 MW and the state also initiated India's first solar power plant at Monarchak.

Some of the major initiatives taken by the government to promote Tripura as an investment destination are:

- Agartala Airport has been upgraded by extension of the airstrip and provision of night landing facilities.
- Telecom infrastructure is being upgraded in the state by laying an optical fibre cable (OFC) network, and connecting all towns by strengthening the internet backbone, among others.
- A modern food park has been set up near Agartala to boost the food processing sector. The Sikaria Mega Food Park Private Limited is a fully integrated facility that would enable reduction in wastage, better prices for farmers and an effective supply chain system.
- The state government is focusing on adopting IT for extending e-government facilities to the state citizens. The Mission Mode Project for computerization of Commercial Taxes (MMPCT) is being implemented in the state to improve efficiency, transparency in the system and making income tax collection dealers friendly.
- Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), nine projects have been sanctioned, out of which three have been completed.
- Capital city Agartala has been selected under the central government's flagship Smart Cities project.
- The handloom industry has received funds under the schemes such as Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS) and Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS).
- The 'Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme' has been a catalyst in attracting investment, offering subsidies and incentives to industries. As per the report, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has seen a positive trend, with industries contributing a substantial share.
- The agro-based food processing sector, supported by the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana', has witnessed an increase in production and sales, indicating a boost in the local economy and employment opportunities. The state's focus on the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is evident from the growth figures, which show an uptick in the number of registered MSMEs, contributing to the state's industrial output and providing job opportunities to the local populace.
- The 'Make in Tripura' initiative mirrors the central government's 'Make in India' program, aiming to transform Tripura into a manufacturing hub. This initiative has been pivotal in promoting traditional industries like handloom and handicrafts, which have seen an increase in both domestic and international demand. The handloom sector, in particular, has benefited from financial assistance, leading to an enhancement in the quality and variety of products.
- The state's industrial policy has also been geared towards sustainable development, with a focus on eco-friendly industries. The rubber industry, a significant contributor to Tripura's economy, has been modernized to increase production while ensuring environmental sustainability. The tea

industry, another major sector, has adopted innovative practices to improve quality and expand its market reach.

- In terms of infrastructure development, the state government has invested in improving connectivity and utilities, which are crucial for industrial growth. The establishment of industrial estates and growth centers has provided the necessary infrastructure for industries to flourish. The improvement in road and transport facilities has facilitated easier movement of goods, thereby reducing the cost of transportation and making Tripura's industries more competitive.
- The state's strategic location, bordering Bangladesh, has been leveraged to promote cross-border trade, which has further boosted the industrial sector. The government's efforts in streamlining procedures and regulations for setting up businesses have resulted in a more conducive environment for industrial growth.

In conclusion, Tripura's journey towards industrialization has been marked by a balanced approach, focusing on traditional sectors while embracing modernization and sustainability. The latest facts and figures reflect a promising trajectory of industrial growth, contributing to the overall economic development of the state. With continued support and investment, Tripura's industrial sector is poised for greater achievements in the years to come.