



Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport: Tripura

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building of **Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport** and launched key initiatives like Mukhyamantri Tripura Gram Samridhi Yojana and Project Mission 100 of Vidyajyoti Schools.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The inauguration of the new terminal is seen as a first step to **make the airport operational as an international airport** owing to the State's proximity to Bangladesh and accessibility to southeast Asian countries. [//](#)



- Local **tribal stone sculptures of the Unakoti Hills and local bamboo handicrafts** have been extensively used in the interiors.
- The Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport was **originally built by the US Air Force during the Second World War (1939-45) in collaboration with King Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Debbarman** of the erstwhile princely State.

- It was **formerly known as the Agartala Airport** and was renamed in 2018.

▪ Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman:

- Maharaja Colonel Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya Debbarman Bahadur (1908-1947) of the Manikya dynasty is widely regarded as **Tripura's pioneer King**.
- He succeeded his father, Birendra Kishore Manikya Debbarman in August 1923. He

was succeeded by his own son, Maharaja Kirit Bikram Kishore, **who was king for two years till the state's accession to India in 1949**, but who did not rule, as he was a minor.

- He was the king of Tripura State till 1947.
- He played an **important role in the development** of Tripura. He is known as Father of modern architecture in Tripura: During his rule the entire planning of present-day Tripura was initiated.
- He was a pioneer in land reforms. In 1939, **he reserved land for the local Tripura tribals**. Later, this step was instrumental in the creation of the Tripura autonomous district council.
- He built the **first airport in Tripura (Agartala airport)**.

▪ **Mukhyamantri Tripura Gram Samridhi Yojana:**

- The scheme will promote tap water for every household, housing, Ayushman coverage, insurance cover, KCC (Kisan Credit Card) and roads leading to enhanced confidence in the rural population.

▪ **Project Mission 100 of Vidyajyoti Schools:**

- It is aimed to improve the quality of education in the state by converting 100 existing High / Higher secondary schools to Vidyajyoti Schools with state of art facilities and quality education.
- The project will cover about 1.2 lakh students from Nursery to class XII and will cost around Rs. 500 crores in the next three years.

Source: PIB

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