

India Bangladesh Bilateral Trade: A Perspective of North Eastern State with Special Reference to Tripura

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Abstract: North East States of India has a long international border of 1879 KM with Bangladesh. Those states are backward and communication and transportation system is poor and economically is not enough sound. Though these states are land locked but strategically important for India. Bangladesh shares geographical and cultural proximity with NE States. The geographical position of the region paves the scope to establish bilateral trade between Bangladesh and NE States. Both the NE States and Bangladesh are abundant with natural as well capital resources. If these resources can be properly utilized, both India and Bangladesh would earn foreign currencies. Therefore, the only panacea is bilateral trade. The long international border can gear up international trade and provide employment opportunities, eliminate poverty, and generate income for the people of India and Bangladesh.

Keywords: *International Border, Land Locked, Geographical Proximity, Foreign Currencies, Bilateral Trade.*

I. INTRODUCTION

India and Bangladesh have historical relations, including common traditions and cultures, religion, brotherhood, and close political ties. India helped Bangladesh India battle in 1971 to free their motherland from East Pakistan. During this battle, Mukti Yudha (freedom fighter) took training in Tripura. The people of Tripura helped Bangladeshi freedom fighters provide shelter and monetary assistance. Moreover, the people of Bangladesh and Tripura speak the Bengali language. The bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh have altered over time under the tenure of different governments. Sometimes bilateral ties between two countries have been viewed as positive and sometimes doubtful.

A particular regional country can become a dominant factor in trade if the region is strategically relevant. The North-Eastern Regions are the most remote region of India, and the province shares its international boundaries with China, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. Because of their geographical proximity with Bangladesh, the area demands essential attention in the trade policy implementation of India.

The NE is India's most underdeveloped and backward region because of successive governments' continuous negligence in formulating comprehensive policy for the area. However, the advantage of the geographic location of these parts with Bangladesh, if utilized correctly, the region would transform into an international trade hub.

India's North-East comprises the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim, and they share an international border of 1,879 kilometers with Bangladesh.

Among them, Tripura shares a long border with Bangladesh.

Table-1 NE States and International Border with Bangladesh

Assam	262 km
Meghalaya	443 km
Mizoram	318 km
Tripura	856 km
Total	1879 km

Table-2 Road Construction Between Indo-Bangladesh Border

State	Sanctioned	Completed
Assam	288 km	261 km
Meghalaya	539 km	422 km
Mizoram	637km	358 km
Tripura	1190 km	946 km

The Government of India has undertaken an initiative to construct roads on the Indo Bangladesh border in two phases for accelerate trade between two neighbouring countries. In Phase 1, 2866 km sanctioned,92% completed remaining non-feasible and in Phase 2, 1559 km sanctioned, 62% completed. As a result, the total length of the road of the North East region is 2656.11 km, and 1988.63 km (75%) road has already been constructed.

Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in the South Asian region, and the two nations' governments are cooperating diplomatically to expand trade and commerce for mutual gain.

II.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In any economy, imports depend on domestic economic activity and relative prices of imports to domestic prices. While domestic economic activity influences demand goods, close price influences substitution between import goods and household goods (Verma,1978). Trade intensity

indicators suggest that bilateral trade between these two nations was not as high as it should be. So, there is a chance for reciprocal commerce expansion. Trade complementarities between Bangladesh and India can be fostered via vertical specialization through production-sharing arrangements. It would allow both nations to expand their economic links and to reap economies of scale by concentrating on a single industrial step in the value-addition chain (Rahman,2005). India and Bangladesh are both natural markets for each other's exports. Food grains, cotton yarn and fabrics, made-ups, machinery, instruments, glass and glassware, ceramics, and coal are major exports from India. Imports from Bangladesh, on the other hand, mostly consist of raw jute, jamdani sarees, inorganic chemicals, leather, and so on. Because of their geographical proximity, common language, and a heritage of common physical infrastructures, they benefit from lower transaction costs and faster delivery in their mutual trade (Sikdar,2006). The trade disparity between two neighbouring countries significantly impacts their political-economic relations. If the trade pattern stays one-sided, the deficit countries may feel deprived of access to the trading partner's market. As a result, regional collaboration may be hindered. It only succeeds when both parties benefit from the increased trade in the region (Basu and Datta,2007). Bangladesh and India have made significant progress in trade and economic matters in the last three years. Historically, trade between Bangladesh and India has favoured India, and the trade imbalance remained significant more than US\$4 billion against Bangladesh in 2010-11. Indian leaders have stated their intention to reduce inequality, and New Delhi has already taken positive steps (Chakma,2012). Better market access, increased physical connectivity and transportation, and energy trade between India and Bangladesh is significant for unleashing bilateral trade potential. Greater participation in these regions would also boost employment and other economic and social activities, which in turn would assist in alleviating poverty (especially in the border areas), enhance foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, and offer new business possibilities for the private sector. Bilateral trade and investment provide excellent prospects for boosting growth and eliminating poverty. India might become a center for supporting the expansion of intra-industry trade and enhancing FDI entry to Bangladesh (De, Raihan, and Kathuria, 2013). People remain divided over national identity and priorities despite shared cultural roots, and the resulting lack of confidence strains bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India. India-Bangladesh relations have seen everything, from pressures and threats to concessions and soft persuasion provoking opposition and counter-pressure. While both stand to benefit from broad economic contacts, security concerns and threat perception continue to dominate bilateral relations (Majumder,2014). Compared to other bordering countries, Bangladesh is the

leading trading partner for the NE states. Borsora, Sutarkandi, and Agartala have retained key official trading routes with Bangladesh (Guha and Mahapatra,2016). Policymakers in the landlocked states of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya must decide whether to go east or west for long-term growth. Improved economic and cultural ties with Bangladesh and West Bengal are anticipated to provide them with enhanced opportunities to break out of their geophysical bind and access a vast global market via the sea. To fully exploit NER's enormous economic potential, a cordial relationship with Bangladesh is required, as connecting with mainland India via Bangladesh, using historical trade routes, will open up a massive market for all stakeholders (Dey,2021).

III.OBJECTIVES

- 1.To assess the bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.
- 2.To analyse the initiatives of India and Bangladesh for border trade in NE Region.
- 3.To know the impact of bilateral trade on Tripura.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The instant paper is descriptive and theoretical in nature. Quantitative research methodology is used as the core concept of this research paper. The study is prepared on the basis of available secondary data from the various websites, articles, journals, newspapers, books, published and unpublished dissertations.

V. BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH.

The trade relationship between India and Bangladesh has always been challenging and has a crucial effect on bilateral relations. China has occupied the lion's share of its trade with Bangladesh. It is expected that within the coming year, India will also become a significant trading partner of Bangladesh due to the geographical proximity of India to Bangladesh. The main reason for the trade gap between India and Bangladesh is tariff barriers imposed by India on different products of Bangladesh. Moreover, illegal or informal trade between two countries by people of nearby international border areas is also responsible. Political restlessness in Bangladesh is also resulting slow growth rate of trade. Both countries have agreed to remove trade barriers on goods to accelerate trade.

Bangladesh is India's largest commercial partner in South Asia, with a total trade volume of USD 10 billion, while India is Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner after China. Over the last decade, Bangladesh's exports to India have increased, demonstrating a rapidly escalating trading relation.

Bangladesh has surpassed Hong Kong to become India's fourth biggest export destination in the first three months of

the current calendar year, and climbed four notches to fare in the country's top five export destinations in 2020-21 because of New Delhi's diplomatic efforts, logistical ease and a robust demand for Indian farm produce¹.

According to disaggregated data available till October, during the first seven months of FY22, exports to Bangladesh grew 81 per cent over the same period in the preceding year to \$7.7 billion. This makes it India's fourth largest export market behind the US, UAE and China².

India's exports to Bangladesh account for more than 85 percent of the total bilateral trade. Some of the major commodities exported to Bangladesh include cotton, electrical machinery, vehicles, iron and steel, plastic and related articles etc. While major imports to India include apparels and clothing, textile fabrics, paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn, animal and vegetable fats and oils, fish etc.³.

Unless both countries eliminate the tariff and non-tariff barriers, trade potential cannot be realised. In accordance with the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), India allows duty-free access to Bangladeshi imports for all products except tobacco and alcohol, although Bangladesh continues to retain an extensive list of sensitive imports. Agartala, Srimantapur, and Sutarkandi are only a few of the land ports along the Bangladesh-India border where only a limited number of Indian goods can be imported. In truth, Bangladesh has a list of approved imports at these land ports. In spite of the removal of tariffs, non-tariff barriers continue to hamper the free flow of commodities between the two countries.

Table-3

India Bangladesh Exports and Imports (Figures in US \$ million)

FY	Bangladesh Export to India	Bangladesh Import from India	Total Trade
2014-2015	527.16	5816.9	6344.06
2015-2016	689.62	5452.9	6142.52
2016-2017	672.4	6130.7	6803.1
2017-2018	873.27	8621.4	9494.67
2018-2019	1248.05	7647.5	8895.55
2019-2020	1096.38	5793.6	6889.98
2020-2021	1279.67	8593.5	9873.17

Source: High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Table-3 shows that during the financial year 2019-2020 total trade between India and Bangladesh was US \$ 6889.98 million whereas in the same year India's imports from Bangladesh US \$ 1096.38 million and export to Bangladesh US \$ 5793.6 million. In the year 2020-2021

total trade between two countries stood US \$ 9873.17 million. India exports to Bangladesh US \$ 1279.67 million and imports from Bangladesh US \$ 8593.5 million.

Table-4 shows that in 2020-2021 India's total export to Bangladesh was US \$ 291,808.48 million and total import from Bangladesh was US \$ 394,435.88 million and a sharp decrease in growth exports of -6.88% and import decrease at -16.91%. In the same year, total trade was US \$ 10,783.22 million, and the trade balance was US \$ -102,627.40 million. In the year 2021-2022 total export is US \$ 340,272.80 million. There is an increase in export growth from -6.88% to 16.61%. India's total import from Bangladesh is US \$ 494,342.35 million during the year. The growth rate of imports is also increased from -16.91% to 25.33%. As a result, the trade balance is accounted for US \$ -154,069.55 in 2021-2022.

VI. TRADE BETWEEN NORTH EASTERN REGION AND BANGLADESH

India's North East Region (NER) is located in an ideal location for international trade because it shares borders with nations such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, and Nepal. Natural resources and biodiversity abound in the area. However, the NER continues to face a variety of issues, including armed insurgency, cross-border migration, aspirations for independent federal states and autonomous regions, and ethnic conflicts. The central government has launched a number of efforts aimed at re-aligning the NER with the country's overall political and economic objectives. The Act East Policy (AEP) is the most noteworthy of these.

Northeastern states are economically significant for two reasons: first, their strategic location as a gateway to the robust Southeast Asian markets; and second, the presence of solid input market catalysts such as social capital (diversity, cultural richness), physical capital (potential energy supply hubs), human capital (affordable, skilled labour) and natural resource (minerals, forests).

Bilateral trade between India's NER state and Bangladesh is primarily conducted via land, with 32 Land Customs Stations (LCSs) and one Integrated Check Post (ICP) located along the border. 18 of the 32 LCSs are operational and 14 are nonoperational at the moment. The LCSs provides transit, customs and immigration, and cargo handling services for goods and visitors along the India-Bangladesh border. At Agartala (Tripura), the LCSs were developed as ICPs to facilitate cargo transit across the border.

¹ <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/bangladesh-is-now-among-india-s-top-5-export-destinations-101623868511464.html>

² https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/bangladesh-may-become-india-s-fourth-largest-export-destination-in-fy22-121122800026_1.html

³ <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/current-affairs-trends/world-tuberculosis-day-2022-mandela-amitabh-bachchan-and-other-famous-people-who-battled-the-disease-8268341.html>

Table-4 Export-Import, Trade Balance of India and Bangladesh ((Figures in US \$ million)

S.No.	Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
1.	EXPORT	8,614.35	9,210.06	8,200.75	9,691.56	12,960.40
2.	%Growth		6.92	-10.96	18.18	33.73
3.	India's Total Export	303,526.16	330,078.09	313,361.04	291,808.48	340,272.80
4.	%Growth		8.75	-5.06	-6.88	16.61
5.	%Share	2.84	2.79	2.62	3.32	3.81
6.	IMPORT	685.65	1,044.80	1,264.74	1,091.66	1,631.80
7.	%Growth		52.38	21.05	-13.69	49.48
8.	India's Total Import	465,580.99	514,078.42	474,709.28	394,435.88	494,342.35
9.	%Growth		10.42	-7.66	-16.91	25.33
10.	%Share	0.15	0.20	0.27	0.28	0.33
11.	TOTAL TRADE	9,299.99	10,254.86	9,465.49	10,783.22	14,592.19
12.	%Growth		10.27	-7.70	13.92	35.32
13.	India's Total Trade	769,107.15	844,156.51	788,070.32	686,244.36	834,615.16
14.	%Growth		9.76	-6.64	-12.92	21.62
15.	%Share	1.21	1.21	1.20	1.57	1.75
16.	TRADE BALANCE	7,928.70	8,165.26	6,936.00	8,599.90	11,328.60
17.	India's Trade Balance	-162,054.83	-184,000.33	-161,348.24	-102,627.40	-154,069.55

Source: Dept. of Commerce, Govt. of India.

Table-5 Land Custom Stations in North Eastern Region

Sl. No.	State	Operational	Non-operational	Total
1	Assam	03	10	13
2	Meghalaya	08	02	10
3	Mizoram	00	01	01
4	Tripura	07	01	08
Total		18	14	32

Source: industries.assam.gov.in

Table-7 Trade Between Land Custom Stations of Meghalaya-Bangladesh (Rs.in Lakhs)

Meghalaya-Export								
LCS/Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-14	2015-16	2016-17
Mahendraganj	298.85	316.89	408.36	342.48	502.57	1523.94	806.16	363.27
Bhollaganj	2177.22	2346.83	3130.76	5405.17	3959.93	4755.38	3133.87	5578.00
Borsorah	14591.62	11760.69	22683.27	33951.85	34261.38	7663.05	28752.91	27460.31
Dalu	911.75	1833.30	922.09	1378.95	2272.64	384.94	359.31	822.78
Dawki	7053.77	2940.30	2814.59	8774.28	13095.34	6330.07	4537.25	4850.31
Total	25033.21	19198.01	29959.07	49852.73	54091.86	20657.38	37589.50	39074.67
Meghalaya-Import								
LCS/Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-14	2015-16	2016-17
Mahendraganj	907.90	433.02	537.43	456.53	570.63	605.58	595.95	565.53
Bhollaganj								
Borsorah								
Dalu					224.93	528.12	591.84	134.69
Dawki	69.89	7.82	6.33	234.59	387.13	396.72		
Total	977.79	440.84	543.76	691.12	1182.70	1530.42	1187.79	700.22

Source: Compiled Data from

Table-6 Trade Between Land Custom Stations of Assam-Bangladesh (Rs.in Lakhs)

Assam-Export								
LCS/Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-14	2015-16	2016-17
Sutarkandi	2903.93	1642.80	1382.30	4516.95	6270.47	5248.36	4363.60	4638.25
Karinganj Steamer Ghat	515.66	923.84	1184.62	510.11	608.91	810.23	1053.86	1572.36
Mankachar		11.52	7.03	58.00	70.04	411.30	232.20	107.28
Total	3419.59	2578.16	2573.95	5085.06	6949.42	6469.89	5649.66	6317.89
Assam-Import								
LCS/Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-14	2015-16	2016-17
Sutarkandi	8268.41	2172.03	3492.40	4343.48	6701.90	9133.39	7839.29	8977.84
Karinganj Steamer Ghat	374.74	64.42	6.16	1.95	11.35			3.48
Mankachar					8.95	29.43	61.87	98.32
Total	8643.15	2236.45	3498.56	4345.43	6722.20	9162.81	7901.15	9079.64

Source: Compiled Data from “Harnessing the potential for Cross-border

Trade Between North East India and its Neighbouring Countries.”

Table-6 Shows bilateral trade between Assam and Bangladesh thorough LCSs. In the year 2009-10 Assam total export to Bangladesh was Rs.3419.59 lakhs, where as in the same year Bangladesh total export was Rs.8643.15 lakhs. In the year 2016-17 Assam’s total export was Rs.6317.89 lakhs and Bangladesh total export was Rs.9079.64 lakhs.

“Harnessing the potential for Cross-border Trade Between North East India and its Neighbouring Countries.”

Table-7 depicts that Meghalaya is the exporter rather importer. In the year 2009-10 Meghalaya’s total export was Rs.25033.21 lakhs. In the year 2013-14 Meghalaya export a large volume of products and earn Rs.54091.86 lakhs. During the year 2016-17 Bangladesh imports from Meghalaya was Rs. 39074.67 lakhs. On the other hand, in the year 2016-17 Bangladesh total export was Rs.700.22lakhs.

Table-8 Trade Between Land Custom Stations of Tripura-Bangladesh (Rs.in Lakhs)

Tripura-Export								
LCS/Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-14	2015-16	2016-17
Agartala	11.32	108.17	1162.31	5.13	30.02	51.68	25.60	
Manu	1.36	0.88		1.05	0.37	6.89	8.49	137.85
Old Ragna Bazar	4.38	5.38	8.69	20.14	0.85	24.10	105.88	
Total	17.06	114.43	1171.00	26.32	31.24	82.67	139.97	137.85
Tripura-Import								
LCS/Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-14	2015-16	2016-17
Agartala	26639.94	20115.09	25046.19	22247.78	14871.57	26453.41	23144.36	14022.76
Khowaighat		40.93001	51.30302	166.7607	90.48737	234.8969	147.2033	
Lcs Mahurighat	1008.588	1678.3	2583.627	4181.481	3246.322	3273.182	3848.037	2812.276
Lcs Manu	655.4256	575.7333	157.6414	1006.417	412.1642	953.2227	1077.118	926.4367
Old Raghna Bazar	78.25404	67.37063	148.9548	240.4962	235.5307	34.15353	16.28379	36.4431
Total	28382.21	22477.42	27987.72	27842.93	18856.07	30948.87	28233.00	17797.92

Source: Compiled Data from “Harnessing the potential for Cross-border

Trade Between North East India and its Neighbouring Countries.”

Table-8 shows total export and import of goods between Tripura and Bangladesh. During the year 2009-10 total export of Tripura from Bangladesh was Rs. 17.06 lakhs. Tripura scored highest export from Bangladesh in the year 2015-16 and the total amount was Rs. 139.97 lakhs. In the year 2016-17 total amount of export from Bangladesh was Rs. 137.85 lakhs. It is also clear from the table that Bangladesh is the key exporter to Tripura. In the year 2009-10 Tripura’s import from Bangladesh was Rs. 28382.21 lakhs. During the year 2016-17 total import was Rs. 17797.92.

The 'Border Haats,' which are placed on the zero line of the boundary between Bangladesh and India, have also played an important role in improving connectivity and, more importantly, the bilateral tie between the two countries. The Border Haats, meaning the border markets, were envisaged by the governments of India and Bangladesh as an instrument primarily to generate livelihood for people at the border areas of the two countries that are marred with limited access to development. The Haats are also expected to channelise a part of the informal trade that thrives along the two countries' borders. If Border Haats are operationalized fully, there is a possibility that bilateral trade between Bangladesh and North East State will grow up US \$ 20 million per year. The first Border Haats were set up in July,2011 in Baliamari, Kurigram District, Bangladesh-Kalaicher, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India. The other three Border Haats were set up at Lauwaghar (Dalora), Sunamganj District, Bangladesh-Balat, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, India in 2012; and in Srinagar (India)-Chhagalnaiya (Bangladesh), and Kamalagar (India)-Kasba (Bangladesh) in 2015. Recently Six Border Haats four in Meghalaya and two in Tripura have been approved by the Indian and Bangladesh government to encourage local trade between two countries. As of date, Bangladesh-India has four Border Haats that operate once a week. Total Bangladesh India trade reached US\$6.8bn (Rs.44.294 crore or Rs 442.9 billion) in 2015-16. The total trade at each Haat is estimated by the state governments to be around US\$600,000 (Rs.4 crore or Rs.40 million) a year⁴.

VII. IMPACT OF BILATERAL TRADE ON TRIPURA-BANGLADESH

Tripura shares an 856 kilometer border with the Bangladesh, which accounts for 85% of the state's border. Bangladesh and Tripura have a long civilisational, historical, linguistic, and cultural link. Tripura and Bangladeshi peoples have always shared their Problems and

prosperity. Tripura has been getting a lot of attention since the Indian government announced the Northeastern Region Vision in 2008 in Agartala, the capital city of Tripura. This meant better infrastructure and better connections between the region and its neighbouring countries. The geo proximity location of Tripura can play a vital role to conduct international trade with Bangladesh. Tripura and Bangladesh started trade officially in the year 1994-95. They also have to deal with illegal trade, which is one of the main issues between these two countries.

The inauguration of Maitri Setu over the Feni River by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 March 2021 is a landmark event between these two countries. With the completion of the two connectivity projects-the Feni bridge connecting Sabroom, Tripura with Chittagong, Bangladesh and the Agartala-Akhaura rail line-Tripura would emerge as a well-connected state from a 'landlocked' one.

The Prime minister Narendra Modi said that, “The double engine government at the centre and state has granted Tripura access to the Chittagong sea port in Bangladesh”. This port will help Tripura and Bangladesh to boost up bilateral trade. The Agartala-Akhaura (Bangladesh) railway link, which is scheduled to open in September, 2022 will connect Gangasagar in Bangladesh to Nischintapur in India and then to Agartala railway station in India. India also intends to construct an integrated checkpoint and freight handling facility in Nischintapur, Tripura, near the intersection of the Agartala-Akhaura rail route. This will help both the country to enhance more trade.

However, a huge difference in trade between Tripura and Bangladesh is causing problems for the state's government revenue system. It has been seen that for the last 10 years, Tripura has been importing a lot of goods from Bangladesh, but the state has been exporting less to Bangladesh. In the last 15 years, products worth Rs 4,887.06 crore have been brought into Tripura from Bangladesh, and products worth Rs 82.57 crore have been exported from Tripura to Bangladesh. When it comes to trade, there is a huge difference of Rs 4,804.49 crore. However, exports increased in the last three years. Products valued 14.66 crore in 2018-19, 30.34 crore in 2019-20, and 16.39 crore in 2020-21.

Table-9 Volume of Trade- Imports and Exports (year –wise) (Rs. in Crores)

Year	Imports	Exports	Total
2006-07	48.69	0.87	49.56
2007-08	84.15	1.51	85.66
2008-09	125.94	0.26	126.2
2009-10	162.88	0.42	163.3
2010-11	255.88	1.71	257.59
2011-12	329.05	1.55	330.6
2012-13	342.65	0.41	343.06
2013-14	229.89	0.41	230.24
2014-15	357.65	1.02	358.67
2015-16	381.76	1.96	383.72
2016-17	300.23	4.6	304.83
2017-18	384.22	6.46	390.68
2018-19	522.42	14.66	537.08
2019-2020	644.78	30.34	675.12

Source:

<https://industries.tripura.gov.in/foreign-trade-overview>

⁴ <https://cuts-crc.org/pdf/Compendium-India-Bangladesh-Border-Haats-Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow.pdf>

Table-9 shows the overall trade volume of imports and exports between Tripura and Bangladesh. In 2006-07 total trade was Rs. 49.56 crores. Gradually trade volume between Bangladesh and Tripura growing rapidly. In the year 2017-18 import were Rs.522.42 crores and export were Rs. 6.46 crores. At the end of 2019-20 total trade between Tripura and Bangladesh were Rs.675.12 crores.

The existing amount of trade between Tripura and Bangladesh, in particular, formal trade, is minimal, and there is no apparent reason for this given the potential for mutually beneficial trade. Among the rural people living in the vicinity of the border between Tripura and Bangladesh, trade between the two countries has proven to be a successful and widely popular source of job and income generating.

As a result of growing trade between Tripura and Bangladesh, rural residents now have more employment options. In addition to this trade between Tripura and Bangladesh affects the livelihood and employment of rural people of as well as the availability of numerous services in these regions.

VIII. CONCLUSION

North Eastern Region is economically isolated, needs proper care for economic development. Bangladesh can play an important role in this aspect. India and Bangladesh have many issues, but they can come forward to enjoy the benefits of greater economic cooperation. A closer economic cooperation and physical connectivity with Bangladesh can help NERs to become economically sound. This will help to eliminate poverty, create new job opportunities and rapid industrilsation. Both nations should not adopt such policies that may affect bilateral trade relation.

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