



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
WOMEN'S STUDIES CENTRE, TRIPURA UNIVERSITY
2025-2026

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

SL NO.	DATE	NAME OF THE PROGRAMME
1.	21–25 July 2025	One Week Lecture Series on Vikshit Bharat and the Social Inclusion of Women
2.	26 August 2025	Extempore Essay Writing Competition to commemorate the Women Freedom Fighters of the Country
3.	10 September 2025	Awareness Programme on Suicide Prevention
4.	28 November 2025	One Day Lecture Series on Women, Violence and Resistance
5.	28–29 January 2026	Two-Day Gender Sensitisation Workshop
6.	11 February 2026	Capacity Building Workshop on GST Reforms and its Impact on Consumption Pattern of the Middle and Neo-Middle Classes with a Gender Perspective
7.	12 February 2026	National Seminar on Reimagining Development: Gender, Power and Sustainability
8.	11–20 March 2026	10-Day Skill Development Training Programme on Candle Making for Women
9.	18 March 2026	Bone Health Check-up Programme for Women Sweeping and Security Staff
10.	2025-2026	Short-term Minor Research on Practices and Challenges in Women's Health and Hygiene: A Study of Tribal Communities in ADC Villages of Tripura

HIGHLIGHTS OF CORE ACTIVITIES:

The Women's Studies Centre of Tripura University, was recognized by the UGC in 2011 and receiving UGC funding from the Twelfth Plan period. Even before that, since its inception in 2006, as a cell, it is engaged in generating awareness about women's issues, in conducting research on these issues, in organizing extension activities, seminars and workshops. From 2011, under the UGC scheme of Development of Women's Studies in Indian Universities and Colleges the Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University started working on independent Research, Legal Advocacy, Documentation, Teaching, Training and Extension programme. Throughout its activities, the Centre has been trying to generate awareness about the role of women in society, by conducting various Seminars, Workshops and Interaction Programmes. The Centre has been instrumental in promoting visibility of women's issues and opened the avenues for a dialogue in multi-disciplinary collaboration in research and teaching even during the pandemic period. The first ever Gender Audit Report (2015-2020) was prepared by the Centre. The detailed list of activities of Women's Studies Centre during 2025-26 is given below:

1. One Week Lecture Series on Vikshit Bharat and the Social Inclusion of Women

The Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University, in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies (CSSEIP) and the Department of Sociology, Tripura University, successfully organized a One-Week Lecture Series on the theme "*Vikshit Bharat and the Social Inclusion of Women*" from 21 - 25 July, 2025 in blended mode. The lecture series aimed to create a multidisciplinary academic platform to deliberate on strategies for inclusive development of women in alignment with the vision of Vikshit Bharat. The programme witnessed active participation from approximately 100 attendees, including students, research scholars, faculty members, and non-teaching staff. The event comprised five lectures, of which three were conducted online and two were held offline at the Smart Classroom, Department of Sociology, Tripura University. The series brought together eminent academicians and experts who shared their valuable insights on various dimensions of gender inclusion and development. The invited speakers included Dr. Surojit Sengupta, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, MBB College, Agartala; Professor Maitrayee Chaudhuri, President, Indian Sociological Society, New Delhi; Professor N. Manimekalai, Director, Centre for Women's

Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi; Dr. Tanusree Paul, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Visva-Bharati, West Bengal; and Dr. Sudakhina Mitra, Assistant Professor, SIPARD, Tripura. Each lecture enriched the participants' understanding of gender-sensitive policies, social inclusion, and the challenges and opportunities in achieving equitable development. The interactive sessions encouraged meaningful discussions and critical engagement with the theme. The lecture series concluded successfully with positive feedback from participants, reaffirming the importance of such academic initiatives in fostering awareness, dialogue, and knowledge on women's inclusion in the broader framework of national development.



Distinguished invitees and speakers in the one week lecture series

2. Extempore Essay Writing Competition to commemorate the Women Freedom Fighters of the Country

The Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University organised an event to celebrate the 78th Independence Day, 2025 and to commemorate the women freedom fighters of the country. In this connection, an Extempore Essay Writing Competition in different languages for the students was organised in collaboration with the Departments of Bengali, English, Kokborok, and Hindi, Tripura University. An Extempore Essay Writing Competition on "Women in India's Freedom Movement" was held on 26th August, 2025 in the Department of Bengali, Tripura University.

More than 100 students participated in the competition. The best four essay writers from each language were awarded cash prizes.

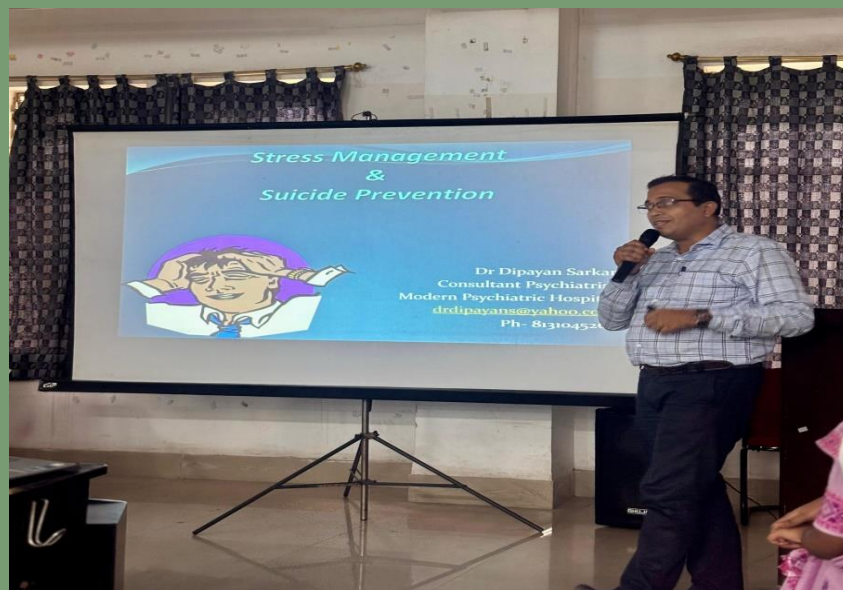


A glimpse of the Extempore Essay Writing Competition

3. Awareness Programme on Suicide Prevention

The Women's Studies Centre, in collaboration with the Counseling Centre and the Centre for Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Tripura University, organized an Awareness Programme on Suicide Prevention on the occasion of World Suicide Prevention Day on 10th September 2025 at the Tripura University premises. The programme aimed to raise awareness about mental health issues and promote preventive strategies against suicide. It featured two expert lectures followed by an interactive question-answer session. Around 120 participants, including students, research scholars, staff, and faculty members, attended the event. The resource persons for the programme were Dr. Santanu Ghosh, MBBS, M.D. (Psychiatry), Department of Psychiatry, TMC College & Dr. BRAM Teaching Hospital, Agartala, and Dr. Dipayan Sarkar, Psychiatrist, Modern Psychiatric Hospital, Agartala. The speakers delivered insightful lectures on overall mental health, various forms of anxiety, depression, and related disorders, along with their symptoms. The experts also conducted interactive sessions, addressing common myths surrounding mental

health, highlighting the importance of self-care, and emphasizing the need for timely professional help. The programme was highly informative and created a supportive environment for open discussion on mental health issues.



Distinguished speaker taking his session in the Awareness Programme

4. One Day Lecture Series on Women, Violence and Resistance

The Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University, in collaboration with the Department of Bengali, Tripura University, organized a lecture series on *Women, Violence, and Resistance* on 28th November 2025. The programme was held to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The event brought together distinguished speakers, including the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University, Prof. Shyamal Das, Ms. Tafani Kalai, Deputy Director, Directorate of Social Welfare and Social Education, Government of Tripura, Prof. Sharmistha Bhattacharya (Halder), Director, Women's Studies Centre, and Dr. Paramasree Dasgupta from the Department of Bengali, Tripura University. The speakers addressed various dimensions of violence against women, highlighting its social, cultural, and structural roots, and emphasized the importance of resistance, awareness, and collective action. They also discussed the role of education, policy interventions, and community engagement in preventing violence and empowering women. The lecture series provided an important platform

for meaningful dialogue and reflection, encouraging participants to critically engage with issues related to gender-based violence and to promote a more inclusive and equitable society.



Distinguished speakers addressing the participants during the lecture series

5. Two-Day Gender Sensitisation Workshop

The Women's Studies Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Tripura University, successfully organised a Two-Day Gender Sensitisation Workshop on 28–29 January 2026 for the students of the University. The workshop aimed to create awareness on gender equality, inclusivity, legal rights, and the importance of a respectful campus culture. It also sought to strengthen students' understanding of gender justice, prevention of gender-based discrimination and violence, and the role of youth in fostering an inclusive society. The programme was graced by eminent speakers including Prof. Shymal Das, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), Tripura University, who highlighted the significance of gender sensitivity in higher education institutions. Smt. Supriti Chakraborty, State Team Leader, Directorate of Skill Development, Tripura, spoke on skill-building and empowerment from a gender perspective. Dr. Ankur Sarkar, Assistant Professor, Tripura Government Law College, elaborated on legal rights and protections related to gender issues. Prof. Paramita Saha, Chairperson of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), Tripura University, discussed institutional mechanisms for addressing grievances and ensuring a safe campus environment. Dr. Surojit Sengupta, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, MBB College, provided valuable insights into sociological perspectives on gender

and society. The workshop witnessed active participation from students, encouraging meaningful discussions and interactive sessions. Overall, the programme was highly informative and contributed significantly to promoting gender awareness and sensitivity among the students.



Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, TU addressing the participants during the Workshop

6. Capacity Building Workshop on GST Reforms and its Impact on Consumption Pattern of the Middle and Neo-Middle Classes with a Gender Perspective

The Capacity Building Workshop on “GST Reforms and their Impact on Consumption Patterns of the Middle and Neo-Middle Classes with a Gender Perspective” was organised by the Women’s Studies Centre, Department of Economics, and CWDS, with financial support from ICSSR, at Tripura University on 11 February 2026. Over 100 participants including students, scholars, faculty members, policymakers, and entrepreneurs attended the workshop. In her inaugural address, Prof. N. Manimekalai highlighted GST’s unified digital framework, on-going rate rationalisation, and gender dimensions, while Vice Chancellor Prof. Shyamal Das spoke on knowledge and institutional openness. Technical sessions led by Prof. Aarti Srivastava and Prof. Ritu Dewan covered GST’s constitutional basis, compliance challenges, Input Tax Credit mechanism, benefits of formalisation, and mixed gender impacts relief on essential goods versus higher burdens on select items, along with digital barriers for women entrepreneurs. A panel with experts including State GST Nodal Officer Mr. Ashin Barman discussed GST 2.0 simplifications, MSME challenges, and opportunities in Tripura. The event concluded with calls

for interdisciplinary dialogue, evidence-based policy, digital literacy, cooperative federalism, and gender-sensitive fiscal research for inclusive growth.



Hon'ble Director of CWDS, addressing the gathering in the Capacity Building Workshop on GST Reforms

7. National Seminar on Reimagining Development: Gender, Power and Sustainability

The Women's Studies Centre in collaboration with Department of Economics organised a National Seminar on Reimagining Development: Gender, Power and Sustainability on 12th February 2026. The seminar commenced with a welcome address by Professor Partha Sarathi Gupta, followed by an introductory speech by Prof. Sharmistha Bhattacharya Halder, who emphasized rethinking development beyond economic indicators toward a more human-centered and sustainable approach. The first technical session, led by Prof. Chandrika Basu Majumder, highlighted persistent gender inequalities and the importance of gender economics in policymaking. Professor Ritu Dewan critically examined India's development trajectory, distinguishing between growth and development, and highlighting deep inequalities in wealth distribution, health, education, and employment. She underscored declining female representation and the need for inclusive policy frameworks. Prof. Aarti Srivastava further explored the multilayered relationship between gender and development, focusing on issues like unpaid care work, double burden, and the limitations of tokenistic gender schemes. The second session, chaired by Prof. Paramita Saha, included Ms. Ashmita Sharma's discussion on the

invisibility of unpaid care work and its exclusion from economic valuation. Prof. N. Manimekalai presented micro-level evidence of gender disparities in labour and development. The seminar concluded by emphasizing that development must prioritize equity, dignity, and inclusion, advocating for gender-sensitive and structurally transformative policy approaches beyond mere economic growth.



Invited Speakers and Participants in the National Seminar

8. 10-Day Skill Development Training Programme on Candle Making for Women

The Women's Studies Centre, Tripura University, in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies (CSSEIP), organized a 10-Day Skill Development Training Programme on Candle Making for Women from 11th to 20th March 2026. The programme aimed to promote economic empowerment and skill development among women, particularly from marginalized communities. A total of 36 women participants from eight adopted and nearby villages of Tripura University took part in the training. The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University, who highlighted the importance of such initiatives in fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurship among women. The training focused on equipping participants with practical skills in candle making, enabling them to explore income-generating opportunities. The programme was closely linked with the broader goals of economic empowerment, skill development, and the vision of *Vikshit Bharat* by encouraging sustainable livelihoods and inclusive growth. Overall, the initiative served as a

significant step towards enhancing the socio-economic status of women and promoting community development.



Trainees are making candles during the Training Programme

9. Bone Health Check-up Programme for Women Sweeping and Security Staff

Bone Health Check-up of Women Sweepers and Security Staffs of Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, West Tripura: An Extension Program to Celebrate International Women’s Day 2026” was organized by the Women’s Studies Centre, Tripura University in collaboration with the Department of Human Physiology, Tripura University on 18th March 2026. The program aimed to provide medical support and raise awareness about bone health among women sweepers and security staff, most of who belong to rural communities. A total of 62 women participated in the camp. The event was inaugurated by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor (I/C), Registrar (I/C), Dr. Sukomal Sarkar (M.S. Ortho), AGMC, along with the Director of the Women’s Studies Centre and the Head of the Department of Human Physiology. Dr. Sarkar provided medical consultations, supported by nurses who conducted blood collection for biochemical analyses, while a technician assessed Bone Mineral Density using an ultrasound bone densitometer. Anthropometric measurements, random blood glucose tests, and blood pressure assessments were also carried out. Biochemical tests, including calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and lipid profile, were conducted in the laboratory. Free medicines, including calcium and vitamin D supplements, multivitamins, and pain relievers, were distributed as per

prescriptions. Participants' dietary habits and lifestyles were recorded to identify risk factors related to osteopenia and osteoporosis. The camp significantly benefited the participants through free health screening, medical consultation, and diagnostic reports, while also encouraging them to adopt affordable, nutrient-rich diets and healthier lifestyles for better bone health.



Respected dignitaries on the dias during the Inaugural session

10. Short-term Minor Research on - Practices and Challenges in Women's Health and Hygiene: A Study of Tribal Communities in ADC Villages of Tripura

This study conducted by the Women's Studies Centre in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Tripura University, surveyed 211 tribal women from the Hrangkhawl, Debbarma, Kaipeng, and Koloï communities in ADC villages of Sardukarkari, Teliamura R.D. Block, Khowai District, Tripura, to examine women's health and hygiene practices, challenges, and awareness of government schemes. Using a feminist, mixed-method approach with a survey, focus group discussions, and case studies, the study found several positive indicators notably a high sanitary pad usage rate of 91%, institutional delivery at approximately 89%, and toilet access in around 90% of households alongside critical gaps: over half the respondents (107 of 211) reported zero antenatal care visits during pregnancy, 37% consumed untreated water despite having access to filtration devices, roughly 15% still faced menstrual-related household restrictions such as being barred from cooking, and 14 respondents reported that their children received no vaccinations. The average respondent was 28.8 years old with secondary-level

education and a low-to-mid income, reflecting a community that has benefited from some government outreach but remains constrained by economic vulnerability, cultural norms, and gaps in health behaviour that infrastructure provision alone has not been able to bridge.



Our research team during the FGD with the Tribal Women