

## **Tourism prospects of Northeast India reviewed**

At least 52 international buyers from 18 countries and 25 domestic buyers came attend the 7<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart at Agartala. Large numbers of sellers (tour-operators) from the Northeast region have also come down to the venue to have business-to-business interaction. When the foreign delegates go back to their respective countries they will take home positive stories, this is how Rashmi Verma, secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India presented the ongoing Tourism Mart at Agartala today while addressing the press at Pragna Bhavan. Also these foreign delegates will take up visits to the Northeastern states and ultimately facilitate promotion of innovative and unique tourist products the Northeastern states have to offer.

She informed, due to a number of innovative measures taken under the schemes like Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD in 2017 foreign tourist arrival in India grew at 14 per cent against the global rate of 7 per cent. The growth of receipt of foreign exchange also grew at a rate of 20 per cent, placing India at 25<sup>th</sup> position in the World Competitive Index shown by the World Tourism Organisation. Lots of measures have also been taken in the marketing front. Incredible India Campaign 2.0 launched in 2017 is a more market-specific and

thematic strategy with more focus on social media and digital campaign. US, Europe as well as Russia, China and Japan have been identified as key markets.

These apart, a number of events hosted in New Delhi offered an opportunity to the sellers from the Northeast to promote their products. Due to better connectivity number of tourist arrival in the Northeast has also increased remarkably. Last year it attracted the largest number of foreign tourists in the region, whereas in terms of domestic tourists it ranked fourth in the region. She also said that Northeast region offers huge potential of adventure and eco-tourism which are organic in nature. And the shift from sight-seeing to experiential tourism is attracting more and more foreign tourists to the region. Its comfortable climate also makes it a year-round destination. As the Government of India is targeting to double the tourist arrival in next three years, Northeast with its potential would definitely help achieve this target, she concluded in a positive note. The press conference was also attended by the Director General of Tourism (MR) P.C. Cyriac, special chief secretary G.S.G. Ayyangar and managing director of Tripura Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) Vishwasree B.

### **National Sample Survey running in West Tripura district**

Along with the entire state, work of National Sample Survey (NSS) under 76th phase is running in West Tripura district from July 1, 2018. This will continue till December 31. Mentioning this Statistics Officer of West Tripura district informed that keeping ahead a target to conduct survey in 192 villages comprising 96 villages under Central Sector and 96 villages under State Sector this work has been started. Meanwhile, work has been completed in 114 villages comprising 66 villages under Central Sector and 58 villages under State Sector. It is to be mentioned that under this survey information about villages having person with disabilities, drinking water supply, toilet, sanitation system and location of houses will be collected. Statistical Officer also informed that seventh economic census of the state will start from January 1, 2019.

### **Toilet constructions in West Tripura district**

Construction of toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission scheme is in progress in West Tripura district. Out of 172 identified villages under 9 blocks of this district, 116 villages have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages. Among the villages 19 villages under Jiarania block, 15 villages under Belbari block, 18 villages under Old Agartala block, 12 villages under

Mandai block, 16 villages under Dukli block, 21 villages under Hezamara block, 9 villages under Mohanpur block, 3 villages under Lefunga block and 3 villages under Bamutia block have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages. Divulging this information the Project Officer of Swachh Bharat Mission of West Tripura district has informed that construction work of toilets in rest of the 56 gram panchayats is in progress. After completion of these toilets West Tripura district will attain the status of Open Defecation Free (ODF) district.

### **Administrative camp held in Batisa Colony**

An administrative cum health camp was organised in the premises of Batisa Colony Panchayat office premises under Rajnagar block. SDM Guncha Sanobar interacted with the local people regarding development work of the concerned locality. Along with BDO Debjani Deb officers of various departments were present in that interactive meeting. Free of cost LPG connections were distributed among ten people under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Income certificates to 17 persons were issued by the subdivisional administration. Moreover, more than two hundred applications for PRTC, ST, SC and OBC certificates were received. Photographs of 71 persons were taken in that camp for AADHAAR Card. Health

department provided treatment and necessary medicines to 52 patients free of cost in that camp. Mosquito nets among 30 persons were provided. ARD department provided free of cost medicines among the farmers for 201 cattle and birds.

### **Administrative camp at Amar Jyoti SB School on 27 November**

Under the aegis of Jirania Subdivisional administration an administrative cum health camp will be held at Amar Jyoti SB School of Mandai block on November 27. Besides providing various administrative facilities, interactive meeting of officers of various departments will be held with the local people on various development programmes. The SDM office of Jirania made an appeal to all to avail the facilities from the camp.

### **Tripura awarded three prestigious awards from India Today**

The Government of Tripura has been awarded three prizes at the prestigious India Today State of the States Conclave-2018 held in New Delhi on 22 November. Tripura has been awarded in three categories as most improved small state- in Inclusive Development, Infrastructure and Overall most improved small state. On behalf of the State Government the Special Resident Commissioner of Tripura Bhavan at New Delhi Somya Gupta received the

trophies from Vice-President Venkiah Naidu.

### **Meeting of Education & Health related Standing Committee of Sepahijala held**

A review meeting of Education and Health related Standing Committee of Sepahijala was held recently. Sabhadhipati of Sepahijala Zilla Parishad Fakaruddin Ahmed presided over the meeting. Members of Sepahijala Zilla Parishad along with officials of various departments were present in that meeting. Representative of the education department informed in the meeting, merit award to a total of 3039 BPL students of class nine and ten were given in this current financial year. An amount of Rs.6 lakh 82 thousand has been spent for this purpose. Dress grant has been given to 6278 minority students from class six to class twelve. An amount of Rs.38 Lakh 66 thousand has been spent for this purpose. Representative of Science, Technology and Environment department informed in the meeting, Amatali ADC village under Charilam block has been identified as Organic Village. Bio-tech kit to 35 persons and electronic apparatus to 35 persons of this village will be provided. Assistance will be provided to 35 beneficiaries for goatery, 15 beneficiaries for Mushroom cultivation and 12 beneficiaries for bee-rearing. Moreover, financial assistance to 4 beneficiaries will also be provided to 4 beneficiaries of that village.