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**Chief Minister Discusses Tourism Development in the
Second Meeting of DoNER Ministry's Task Force
A strategic roadmap is essential to identify potential
sectors and projects that can attract investments**

Chief Minister Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha brought attention to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) during a meeting aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of the state's tourist centres. He advocated for collaboration in developing tourism and launching seaplane services at Narikelkunja in Dumbur. This discussion took place during the second meeting of the high-level Task Force formed by the Central DoNER Ministry to promote tourism in the North Eastern region, which was chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma. The virtual meeting was attended by Union DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and other Task Force members.

Along with the Chief Minister, those present from the Secretariat included Dr. P.K. Chakraborty, Secretary to the Chief Minister; L.T. Darlong, Secretary of the Planning Department; and U.K. Chakma, Secretary of the Tourism Department.

During the discussion, Chief Minister Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha emphasized the importance of creating a strategic roadmap to identify High-potential sectors and projects within the North Eastern states to attract investments from both national and international organizations. He also emphasised the need to evaluate current investment procedures in these states while reviewing tourism policies, investment incentive schemes, and regulatory frameworks. The Chief Minister shared the initiatives and measures taken by the state government based on the earlier discussions from the first High-Level Task Force meeting focused on promoting tourism in the North East. In this context, the Chief Minister mentioned that the state government has introduced new Homestay Guidelines to foster the tourism industry. So far, 48 homestays have been launched across various parts of the state, contributing significantly to the growth of the tourism sector, generating local employment, and boosting the economy.

He further disclosed that former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as Tripura Tourism's Brand Ambassador. The Tourism Department has also organized promotional festivals in the state. To enhance connectivity in the region, a delegation led by the Regional Executive Director of the North Eastern Region and the Director of MBB Airport recently visited Kailashahar Airport for its proposed reopening.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister noted that under the Tripura Tourism Development Corporation, there are 29 registered tour operators. Additionally, a lease agreement has been signed between the state's Tourism Department and the Indian Hotels Company Limited for establishing the Taj Pushpabanta Palace Hotel in Tripura. The Tourism Department regularly participates in various roadshows and North East Investment Summits to attract investment in tourism. Efforts have also been made to upgrade existing tourist lodges. Moreover, to promote Tripura's tourism on a global stage, the Tourism and Information & Cultural Affairs Departments are jointly preparing a tourism event and festival calendar for the state, which the Chief Minister referenced in the meeting. The virtual meeting also included participation of Arunachal Pradesh Tourism Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona, Sikkim Tourism Minister Shering T. Bhutia, and others who contributed to the discussions.