

## World Bamboo Day celebrated at Pragna Bhawan



World Bamboo Day 2024, celebrated at Pragna Bhawan in Agartala on 18th September 2024 wherein dignitaries, artisans, bamboo growers, and stakeholders committed to the growth of the bamboo sector in Tripura remain present. The event is graced by the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Commerce, Smt. Santana Chakma, and senior State Government Officials like Principal Secretary (Forest)/PCCF & HoFF, Sri R.K. Samal, Secretary of Industries & Commerce, Sri Kiran Gitte, PCCF, CEO & PD of JICA (SCATFORM) Sri Pravin Agarwal, and CEO of IGDC Sri Wangdup Bhutia, S. Prabhu, Mission Director, TBM. Officials of Tripura Bamboo Mission, representative from Tripura State Cooperative Bank, State Bank of India, Tripura Gramin Bank, NABARD, NTFP Centre of Excellence, TFDPC Ltd. along with bamboo craftsmen, growers, agarbatti and mechanized stick manufacturers remained present. Highlighting the day's events, 18 emerging entrepreneurs and artisans were felicitated for their outstanding contributions to the bamboo industry, bamboo handicrafts, bamboo growers, nursery professionals. Each was honoured with a traditional Risha and memento as a token of appreciation for their dedication and innovation in the bamboo sector. This gesture not only acknowledged their efforts but also encouraged further engagement and development within the community.

The Mission Director, Tripura Bamboo Mission S. Prabhu highlighted significance of celebration of World Bamboo Day and importance of Bamboo in the socio-economic development of Tripura. Hon'ble Minister Smt. Santana Chakma in her address emphasized the importance of bamboo as a versatile material and sustainable resource. She acknowledged the efforts of bamboo growers and craftsmen in contributing to the state's economy and repeated the government's commitment for promoting bamboo-related industries. To augment handicraft production and supporting the bamboo artisans, toolkits for bamboo bottle making were distributed to the TULM-sponsored artisans under National Bamboo Mission scheme. This initiative, aimed equipping the artisans with the necessary tools to enhance their craftsmanship and productivity. The distribution of these toolkits represents a step toward empowering local artisans and promoting bamboo-based products on a larger scale.

Sri R.K. Samal, Principal Secretary (Forest)/PCCF & HoFF, spoke about the environmental benefits of bamboo and its role in promoting a green economy. Secretary I&C, Sri Kiran Gitte, discussed the various initiatives undertaken by the government to support bamboo cultivation and the development of bamboo-based products. He has highlighted about launching of a ADB-NBM supported project on "Value Chain Development of Bamboo in North Eastern States" under which an Integrated Bamboo Park with all required infrastructure proposed along with primary processing centers with approximate expenditure of Rs. 210 Cr. The CEO, IGDC, Sri Wandup Bhutia, also shared insights about the ongoing projects and the potential for bamboo in generating employment and fostering sustainable livelihoods. Interactive sessions were organized for bamboo artisans and growers, providing them with a platform to exchange knowledge and explore new opportunities in the bamboo sector in presence of Sri Arun Kumar, Director, Directorate of Handloom Handicraft& sericulture, Sri S. Prabhu, Mission Director, Tripura bamboo Mission & Dr. Abhinab Kant, In charge, BCDI and Sri Prasad Rao, Director, NCE.

World Bamboo Day serves as a reminder of the potential of bamboo as a key resource for sustainable development. The celebration at Pragna Bhawan was a testament to Tripura's dedication for attaching this resource for economic growth, environmental conservation, and community empowerment. The Tripura Bamboo Mission extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the participants, stakeholders, and guests for making this event a grand success. In a press release, the Additional Mission Director, Tripura Bamboo Mission has informed this.

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