

**Government of Tripura**  
**Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs**

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Agartala, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2018

**Press Release**

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb attended the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the '**Delhi Dialogue**' programme organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India at New Delhi today. Hon'ble Chief Minister addressed the **Special Plenary Session of Chief Ministers of North East India** during the programme which was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister of State of External Affairs, General V.K. Singh. Chief Ministers/Ministers from North Eastern States, representatives from ASEAN Countries, diplomats and senior officers were present during the session.

In his remarks, Hon'ble Chief Minister lauded the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for visualising the North Eastern States as the '**Ashtalaxmi (the eight goddesses of beauty and prosperity) of India**'.

Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that the mantra of '**Reform, Perform & Transform**' has been adopted and reformative measures are being undertaken by State Government of Tripura to ensure that fruits of development reach all sections of people and every corner of the state of Tripura.

Highlighting the historical and cultural links of the North Eastern States with the ASEAN Countries, Hon'ble Chief Minister stressed that promoting greater cooperation and support with the ASEAN Countries would be beneficial not only to the North Eastern States but to the country as a whole. Terming **ASEAN as one of the best illustrations of cooperative regional multilateralism**, Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that the North Eastern states can learn from the ASEAN member countries and stated that in this context, ASEAN can also be referred to as Assuring Security and Equality for All Nations (ASEAN) due to the **prevailing spirit of unity and cooperation** among the member nations.

Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that Tripura is set to become the **gateway and hub** particularly for the North Eastern Region of the country once the Sabroom-Chittagong connectivity becomes operational and Chittagong Port is available for movement of goods through Sabroom in Tripura to various parts of North East India.

Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that with the rapid expansion of Railway network within the State as well as strengthening of the National Highway network, transportation of all types, goods would become a reality very shortly. He thanked Hon'ble **Union Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj** for giving an **opportunity** through this programme to **highlight the dreams and aspirations of the people of North-East India**. It is worth noting that within the short span of four months of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb becoming the Chief Minister of Tripura, this is the second occasion when the Hon'ble Chief Minister had been given a platform by the Union Ministry of External Affairs, along with the Chief Ministers of other North-Eastern states of India, to contribute and further strengthen the **Act East Policy** of Government of India.

Speaking on this occasion, Shri Ram Madhav, Chairman, India Foundation, also stressed upon the importance of Tripura in India's Act East Policy. He mentioned that with the availability of Chittagong-Sabroom link, Rail connectivity through Akhaura in Bangladesh, Tripura would shortly become not only the gateway but the hub for transportation and movement for the North Eastern Region as well as for various ASEAN countries like Myanmar and nations like Bhutan etc.

Shri Ram Madhav stated that the day was not far when the Agartala Sabroom Chittagong route would become a stiff competitor to Kolkata Port.

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