

Inauguration of 18th Regional Saras Mela
**Planning to make Lakhpati Didi through formation of
self-help groups in state: Chief Minister**

The present state government is working to improve the socio-economic status of women. Making women of the country self-reliant is one of the visions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The state government has also taken initiatives to implement Prime Minister's vision. Yesterday, Chief Minister Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha inaugurated the 18th Regional Saras Mela at Hapania International Fair Ground. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that to implement Prime Minister's vision, a plan has already been taken to make Lakhpati Didis by forming self-help groups among the women of the state. Already 51 thousand 364 self-help groups have been formed in the state. A total of 4 lakh 66 thousand 566 women have joined these self-help groups. The theme of this year's Saras Mela is 'Lakhpati Didi Tripura's Progress'. On this occasion, the Chief Minister along with other guests unveiled the second edition book of 'Lakhpati Didi'. A total of 377 stalls have been opened in this year's fair organized by Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission. Out of which 346 self-help groups from different districts of the state are marketing their products. Also 6 stalls were opened by self-help groups from other states of the country and the remaining stalls were opened by various banks and offices. The 18th Regional Saras Mela will continue till January 8.

The Chief Minister also said that the state government is also determined to fulfill the steps being taken for the empowerment of women in the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lakhpati Didi and Drone Didi programmes. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Speaker of Tripura Legislative Assembly Ram Prasad Pal gave detail briefing regarding the steps taken by the government in mission mode for the development of women in the state.

In his welcome address at the program, Chief Executive Officer of Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission B Kaur said that till now there are more than 82 thousand Lakhpati Didis in the state. The department is working on the target of making more than 1 lakh Lakhpati Didis by 2025. After the inaugural program, the guests visited a few stalls in the fair premises. Mayor of Agartala Municipal Corporation Deepak Majumder, In-charge Sabhadhipati of West Tripura Zilla Parishad Haridulal Acharya, MLA Mina Rani Sarkar, District Magistrate of West Tripura District Dr. Vishal Kumar were present among others on the occasion.