

**CM lays foundation stone for Tourism and
Cultural Promotion Hub at Agartala**

The much awaited project “Tourism and Cultural Promotion Hub” at Agartala officially made the first step forward today with the laying of foundation stone by the chief minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha. At a special programme organized at the premises of the directorate of information and cultural affairs wherein the project will be implemented the chief minister unveiled the plaque in presence of dignitaries including secretary, ICA department, as the special guest, Subrata Chakraborty, vice-chairman of State Level Cultural Advisory Committee, CEO of State Housing and Construction Board Shyamal Chakraborty, and ICA director Bimbisar Bhattacharya.

Addressing the gathering the chief minister said, Tripura has a very rich culture and tradition preservation of which is necessary and our duty. He thanked ICA department for taking this initiative towards preservation and promotion of culture. He said, the Northeast region is developing under the concept of Ashtalaxmi and Act East Policy of the Prime Minister and through this upcoming Hub culture of the region will develop further. Not only that this will also boost tourism as the state has a favourable law and order situation. In the recent past footfall of tourists in the state has also increased. Now we need to develop infrastructure and strive for socio-economic development of the state. As the preservation of old culture is important so we need to promote the culture of the time. He said, the ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’ policy of development of the Prime Minister is being reflected in the state and invited innovative ideas to tap the inherent talents of the state. Our state is also developing in terms of connectivity keeping in line with the HIRA model put forward by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The chief minister believes, we are in feel good condition and which motivates to work further. Lastly he was of the opinion that this Tourism and Cultural Promotion Hub is a need of the hour so that a healthy cultural environment develops to take the state forward and the government is working towards this direction.

Tourism and Cultural Promotion Hub, the multi-storey complex is coming up over an area of 1.61 acre with a built-up area of 1730 sqm. in phase-1. An amount of Rs. 34.55 crore has been sanctioned from DoNER under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme for this project. Some salient features of the Hub include Open Theatre (with 300 sqm. built-up area), auditorium of 250 seat capacity, two display galleries, statues of icons of the Northeastern states, proper parking area, entrance gate etc. The Hub may have vertical extension in future as part of Phase-2 if required. A short documentary on the project was also shown in the programme.

Welcome address was delivered by the director of ICA Bimbisar Bhattacharya. The secretary of ICA Department P.K. Chakraborty also spoke on the upcoming project on this occasion.