

Agartala, 15th December, 2021

1st preparatory meeting for 40th Agartala Book Fair

Initiatives have been taken to also organise sub-division level book fair: ICA Minister

Prior to conducting State-Level Agartala Book Fair, initiative has been taken to organise sub-division level book Fair. Information & Cultural Affairs department has taken initiative to organise book fair in 10-12 sub-division in the state, if not 23 sub-divisions. The fair will be jointly organised by DM, SDM, Municipal Council and Panchayat Samitis. A meeting will be held soon regarding this, stated ICA Minister Sushanta Chowdhury in the 1st preparatory meeting for 40th Agartala Book Fair. He said that the discussed matters will be discussed with Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister in next few days and decide the location for book fair and other related issues after consulting with the Book Fair Committee.

The ICA Minister also said, considering the Covid-19 situation the state government has decided to offer special discount to book sellers this year. Apart from that, assistances will be provided including exemption of stall charges. This government stands by the publishers and book sellers. Keeping women empowerment in mind, initiative has been taken to felicitate women with two special awards in the upcoming fair for their special contribution to the state and the society. He said, the public has a kind of emotion connected with the book fair.

TIDC Chairman Tinku Roy suggested for conducting the book fair at International Mela Campus, Hapania and also suggested ideas for public gathering at the location. First Secretary of Bangladesh High Commission S.M Asadujjaman in the meeting said, Bangladesh put up two stalls in the previous book fair. If everything goes well, Bangladesh publishers will be taking part in the upcoming book fair as well. Former Vice Chancellor of Tripura University and Chairman of State Higher Education Council Dr. Arunudoy Saha and President of Agartala Press Club and senior journalist Subal Kumar De spoke about the objective of the book fair.

Vice Chairman of State Level Advisory Committee Subhash Deb also suggested for conducting the book fair at International Mela Campus, Hapania. He also suggested to organise sub-division level book fair. On the other hand, social activist Subrata Chakraborty suggested a few ideas and also suggested for conducting the book fair at International Mela Campus, Hapania. He even suggested theme of the upcoming book fair 'My Tripura, My Pride'.

ICA Director Ratan Biswas delivered welcome speech and briefed about the upcoming book fair and its committee. This year also it was suggested to form organising committee, steering committee and sub-committees, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma being the patron & chairman of the organising committee, Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Pratima Bhowmik being the Advisor. High ranking officials and persons related to literature, culture and media are included as well.

On behalf of Publisher's Guild, Book Sellers and Publisher's Association Subhabrata Deb, Rakhil Majumder and others spoke in the meeting. Other dignitaries present in the preparatory meeting were MLA Mimi Majumder, AMC Mayor Dilip Amjumder, Deputy Mayor Monika Das Dutta, Secretary of ICA department Dr. P.K Goyal, Vice Chancellor of Tripura University Dr. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Vice Chancellor Dr. Satyadeo Poddar and officials from different departments.