

Government of Tripura
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Earthen tea cups distributed among tea sellers free of cost

More usage of earthen tea cups will help potters earn more: Chief Minister



On the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of Swachha Bharat, government is working with the goal of building a healthy and serene Tripura. A special initiative has been taken to lessen the use of plastics and find alternate way of using eco-friendly products, said Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb in the free earthen tea cups distribution programme organised by Khadi and Village Industries Board with the financial assistance of Agartala Municipal Corporation at Sukanta Academy yesterday. Chief Minister said, utensils made of clay are more environment-friendly than that of plastics. Although earthen wares were once used to large extent, with the changing time usage of other kinds of materials or plastics has increased naturally. 1 lakh earthen tea cups will be distributed among 300 street vendors who sell tea in Agartala Municipal areas or adjacent areas. More usage of earthen tea cups with Vocal for Local mentality will help state potters in their earnings, and will also boost economic prosperity. Besides, nature will be free from the negative effects of plastics. Chief Minister emphasized on decentralizing potters' work according to the demand of earthen tea cups to ensure their income. Chief Minister handed over earthen tea cups to the tea sellers in the programme.

Chief Minister said, Tripura stands out among other economically developing states. Government is working for overall welfare of the citizens of the state with righteousness, ethics and right intention. Initiatives have been taken for rural economic development through development in primary sectors through proper management. Farmers are getting benefits from different schemes launched by the central and state government for their economic development. As a result, per capita income of farmers has increased. Success has been achieved in bringing development in almost all sectors. Chief Minister also said, earlier

due to lack of proper planning, publicity and expansion, the fine products and talents of the state's artisans were never acknowledged properly. But present government has made attempt to take their creations to national and international platforms. Artisans are being highly praised for their perfection in their creation.

Chief Minister asked for everyone's cooperation in buying their products and encouraging their talents and their artistic side. He also said, mentality to become self-dependent can be seen in most people in the state. Bamboo bottles are getting recognition in Dubai markets. State-grown jackfruits are becoming source of self-reliance. Jackfruit seeds have nutritional properties as well they are used as ingredient in many food processing activities. Even the Prime Minister mentioned about a state's young entrepreneur in his 'Man Ki Baat' programme.

Khadi and Village Industries Board Chairman Rajib Bhattacharjee in the programme said, prime Minister's call for plastic-free India is also being implemented in the state. The Board has taken initiatives to encourage state's potters by giving them different kinds of assistance and instruments. Primarily, initiative has been taken to distribute free earthen tea cups to vendors who sell tea in different crowded places in the state and at the rail stations. He hoped that with more usage of such tea cups, potters of the state will be able to become self-reliant. Besides, the board is also working for generating income through training in different things like bee keeping, *khadi* clothes etc. on priority basis to help them become self-reliant.

Secretary of Industry and Commerce P.K Goyal in the programmes said, using earthen wares is the state's tradition. As a result of this program, the state's tradition will get more limelight. West Tripura District Magistrate and Agartala Municipal Corporation CEO Debapriya Bardhan in the programme said, initiatives have been taken by the corporation to curb plastic usage through awareness programs, wall paintings, street plays, giving training to NGOs to produce eco-friendly bags and other materials. Others present in the event with Chief Minister paid homage to Gandhiji's picture with flowers. Industry and Commerce Director T.K Chakma was also present in the programme.
