

Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog in Delhi : CM Stresses on inland water transport, development of tourism, aviation sector and expedition of HIRA

Chief Minister of Tripura Sri Biplab Kumar Deb stated that Tripura is among the best five performing states in the country in respect of e-PDS and supply chain management. Today, addressing the fifth Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog chaired by the Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Drawing attention to the state's aviation the Chief Minister said, the State would be benefitted if the existing aviation guidelines are amended to facilitate the private operators to increase the frequency of flights in the state of Tripura. There is an urgent need to operate direct evening flights from Delhi to Agartala as well as from Agartala to Delhi to save time regular fliers.

The Chief Minister hoped that inland water Transport in Tripura project could make Tripura a gateway to North East. So, this project may be expedited and grounded at the earliest by declaration of river Gomati as Indo-Bangladesh protocol route etc. In order to boost tourism in the state, Ministry of Tourism may help the state to construct a ropeway connecting Matabari (Place of Tripurasundari Temple) and Chhabimura, the Chief Minister stated. The Chief Minister also sought that the public sector companies in India may be

permitted to spend 10% of their CSR funds in the NE States. This will pave way for early implementation of 'HIRA', the grand initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

In the context of the state finance the Chief Minister said, the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas may examine the issue of waiving of VAT by setting up a High level committee consisting of members from State Government, Petroleum Ministry and OTPC to suggest course of action as the Palatana Power project is completed and waiver of VAT is causing substantial loss to the State Government. State Government has introduced the NCERT Syllabus from class VI to XII w.e.f. 2019-20. Further, also steps are on to merge 2-3 schools into one, wherever the number of student is minimum, as this initiative could reduce the establishment cost.

The Chief Minister also said, unlike other parts of the country, Tripura faces more of floods rather than drought. In such a situation, regular and continuous support is needed from the Government of India. Therefore, the annual allocation of SDRF to Tripura may be enhanced, as it is limited to Rs. 38 crore including States share presently. Further, instead of handling the problem every year due to inundation of rivers, he requested for providing assistance to State Government to construct permanent cemented embankment in phased and gradual manner. To accomplish this, Government of India / NITI

Aayog may depute a high level team to study the above problem and recommend a special package for 5-7 years period.

He also mentioned about some state-specific achievements like Dhalai district has been bestowed with National Awards for its best performance in MGNREGA, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (GSA) and Poshan Abhiyan Schemes during last three years. Lastly the Chief Minister said, on the similar lines of Government of India, State Government has taken lead and given further fillip to the backward district by declaring 12 Tribal/ ADC blocks (4 in Dhalai district, 1 in South Tripura district, 3 in Gomati district, 2 in North Tripura district and 2 in Khowai district etc.) as distressed blocks. Accordingly State Government has provided free ration @ 20 kg per month per NFSA families numbering 62,000 for two months.

Preparation for observance of 5th International Yoga day on 21 June

Youth Affairs and Sports department has taken all preparation for observance of 5th International Yoga day from panchayat level to state level across the state on 21 June. On that day the State level programme will be held at Umakanta Mini Stadium in the morning. The Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb would inaugurate the state level programme. Involving the participants a colourful rally will start from Swami Vivekananda stadium on 21 June at 6 A.M. The rally will move around various roads of the city and will be gathered at Umakanta mini stadium. After inaugural

programme of Yoga Day, yoga will be performed there.

An organizing committee has been formed to organize this occasion in a befitting manner nominating the Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb as advisor, Youth Affairs & Sports Minister Manoj Kanti Deb as Chairman and Director of Youth Affairs and Sports department Saradindu Chowdhury as convener. Apart from this, 6 more sub-committees have been formed. Director of Youth Affairs and Sports department alongwith the officials and members of the sub-committees reviewed the preparation of the programme in his office chamber on 14 June.

Conclusion of Baishakhi Mela in Sabroom

Baishakhi Mela and exhibition of Sabroom jointly organized by ICA Department and Sabroom sub-divisional administration was concluded on 14 June evening. The ten-day long fair was held at Sabroom Melarmath from 5-14 June. MLA Sankar Roy was present in the concluding ceremony. Addressing on this occasion, he appealed to all for strengthening amity between all section of people for development and peace of the state. Cultural programme performed by the artists of Bangladesh enchanted the spectators. In the concluding ceremony, MLA Sankar Roy, prominent teacher Dulal Das and Secretary of Sabroom Press Club Manna Chowdhury felicitated the artists of Bangladesh. Exhibition stalls of 11 departments were opened in the mela.