

July 29, 2004

Press Release No. 478/04

PROPOSAL TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN THE STATE

In a press conference held on July 28, 2004, at the Conference Hall of the Main Secretariat Building, the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D. D. Lapang informed that an all out attempt will be made to promote and develop tourism in the State. To achieve this purpose, a MoU has been signed between India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and the Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) to avail the expert services of the ITDC.

According to the Chief Minister, as per the first phase of the plan, besides beautifying the entrance to Meghalaya in Ri Bhoi District, other plans include setting up of a tourist information centre at Byrnihat, wayside amenities with restaurants, toilets, PCO/STD, Cyber Café, landscaping and parking areas for buses and cars in the same place.

Furthermore, a *Dhaba* will also be set up at Sumer offering 24 hours eating outlet, parking place for buses/trucks, clean toilets facilities etc. Plans are also underway to develop the Barapani area by constructing a health club, recreational complex, swimming pool and sports complex. Moreover, amusement parks, rope-ways, upgradation and extension of the Orchid Resort with 20 rooms and two presidential suites and a separate complex, use of ultra modern light and sound show, development of water sports, down town tax free shops and floating decks for musical concerts and functions are some of the facilities, the State Government is contemplating to introduce at Barapani.

With the aim of attracting more domestic and foreign tourist to Cherrapunji, the State Government will improve way side amenities at Mawjrong, construct a tourist resort with conference hall and include a theme park, toy train and children play area. Illumination of the seven falls after studying the technical feasibility is also being considered.

At Shillong, the innovations will include hotel with food court at Orchid Hotel, Polo, boat house and sit-outs at Wards Lake, beautification of Hydari Park, Bishop falls, setting up of Kiosks at Shillong Peak, lighting of Elephant Falls and construction of rope-way at Lowen.

In this regard the ITDC will submit a preliminary report on the master plan to develop tourism in the State within a few weeks and a detailed project report will be prepared later, which will be sent to the Centre for sanction.

This ambitious plan worth several crores of rupees was narrated by the Meghalaya Chief Minister in the presence of ITDC officials, Mr. Niraj Bachkheti, Vice President (Engg.) Meghalaya Tourism Minister, Mrs. Deborah C. Marak and other officials of the State Tourism Department.

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DRAFT ROLL AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

Shillong, July 29, 2004: The Magistrate Resubelpara Civil Sub-Division, East Garo Hills has informed that the list of amendments to the draft roll for all the 13 Wards under the Municipal Board, Resubelpara has been prepared with reference to January 1, 2004, as the qualifying date. The draft roll are available for inspection in the office of the Sub-Divisional Officer (Election), Resubelpara, the office of the Municipal Board, Resubelpara and the office of the Block Development Officer, Resubelpara.

DISTRICT LEVEL SCIENCE EXHIBITION BEGINS

Shillong, July 29, 2004 : The two day District Level Science Exhibition, 2004 for West and South Garo Hills, organized by the Inspectorate, Tura which begins today at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Tura was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills, Mr. S Jagannathan. The theme for this years exhibition is "Science and Technology in the changing world". Around 20 schools drawn from West and South Garo Hills District are participating in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. S. Jagannathan pointed out with concern the disparity in availability of infrastructure between urban and rural based schools thereby hampering the scientific growth in the rural areas. Stating that science is everywhere and that science is involved in our day to day activities, he call upon the students to develop an interest in the subject and also exhorted them to work hard and build up the talents while they are still young.

Prof. U.R. Dutta from Tura Government College, who chaired the inaugural function informed the gathering that this year has been declared as the "Year of Scientific Awareness" with a view to inculcate scientific temper among the masses with year long scientific activities. He also said that the District Organizing Committee has been formed for this purpose with the Deputy Commissioner as the Chairman. The Committee would try and address various important local issues during this scientific year.

Earlier, the welcome address was given by the Inspector of Schools, Tura, Mr. P Hajong, while the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Tura, Mr. Gautam Barman delivered the vote of thanks.

The two day exhibition which will conclude on Friday, also included Quiz, Debate, Extempore speech and other competitions.