

Action-packed winter awaits North East



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pbaruah 20 August 2007 11988 views

GUWAHATI

Come winter. It will be a promising one like never before. The north eastern region is all set to pick up the first buck from the 'action-packed' season.

The region finetunes three grand events to boost its business in home and abroad. Firstly comes up the North East Investment Week in October and that too in Bangkok. It will be followed by International Tea Convention in upper Assam downtown Jorhat. The 'eventful' winter will end with the NE NRI Summit in December.

According to what minister of state for commerce and industry Pradyut Bordoloi says the region's first ever grand business event will help NE industry captains rub shoulders with their counterparts in Thailand and other South East Asian countries.

He hopes besides giving a fillip to the Look East Policy, the event will open up a new chapter in the business era of the entire south east Asian region.

The business delegation will hold direct sectorial discussions to hammer out a set of concrete proposals to boost trade in this region and as a

result, the North East will be able to enjoy the first fruit.

“We do hope some development will emerge in the form of tie-ups and collaborations in the key sectors including construction, IT and telecom, bamboo, rubber, infrastructure, power, tourism, health care, inland water transport, horticulture, handloom and handicrafts,” says Mr Bordoloi.

He informs that the North East delegation consists of members chosen by the different trade and industry chambers including NESSIA, NECCI, FINER.

The decision of the NE Investment Week was finalised during the visit of the Thailand Commerce Minister KK Jiripat to the region, says the minister adding that the Centre, the DoNER Ministry in particular, considered a set of suggestions from Jiripat.

The hopefully successful event will be followed by the International Tea Convention in Guwahati and Jorhat slated for November 22 to 25.

Mr Bordoloi says the tea business event will give the region’s small tea growers the exposures which is necessary at a time when the tea trade is sagging for a few reasons.

The event will help the growers interact with traders, buyers and sellers from different countries. Thus, they will be able to understand the present international tea market scenario and also of the tea quality product, says the minister.

He says Assam tea has been in the need of a geographical indication (GI) as an international brand. The convention will further help make the demand more popular.

The promising winter will conclude with the North East NRI Summit in Guwahati on December 21 and 22.

According to the minister, NRIs from the region have been evincing keen interest to serve their motherland in the form of their expertise and knowledge on key sectors like power, rural technology, agro-based industries, health care, urban development and planning, infrastructure, IT, education. It is high time for us to avail of this opportunity.

Bardoloi said that the new industrial policy of the North-East had been received with tremendous enthusiasm by the trade and industry circles. “We received 540 inquiries at the Delhi Summit recently,” he said.

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