

3rd EDITION OF NORTHEAST INDIA FESTIVAL REPORT



Date: 27th, 28th & 29th October, 2023

Venue: September 23rd Park, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

3rd Edition of North East India Festival, Connecting India's Northeast to Southeast Asia

The 3rd edition of North East India Festival, was organized on 27th, 28th & 29th of October, 2023 at September 23rd Park, District 1 and Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam. With the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Act East Policy, Connecting India's Northeast with Southeast Asia, the program was meant for building bridges and to promote bilateral trade, investment, tourism and people to people exchange between India and Vietnam.

The program attracted large attention in Vietnam. The event was attended by key stakeholders, top officials & political leaders of North East India and Vietnam and have opened up new vistas of opportunity in the field of Trade, Investment, tourism and people's connection. With support from Consul General of India, Ho Chi Minh City, MEA, Govt of India, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India, Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India & various North Eastern State Govts, North East India Festival was organized by well-known socio cultural trust, Trend MMS.



DAY 1- 27th October, 2023

The 3rd edition of the North East India Festival successfully kicked off in Ho Chi Minh City on October 27, 2023, signifying a momentous occasion that aimed to strengthen the bonds between India and Vietnam in the realms of trade, investment, business, and culture. The festival drew the participation of distinguished figures, including chief ministers, union ministers, and entrepreneurs from both nations, along with notable personalities and associations from various Vietnamese provinces, underscoring its significance.

The inauguration of NEIF was graced by Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State(External Affairs & Education), Govt of India, along with distinguished guests, including H.E. Mr. Bui Xuan Cuong, Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Long Bien, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ninh Thuan, Mr. T. Bagra, Hon'ble Minister(Industries, Textiles etc), Govt of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Harpreet Singh, Joint Secretary DoNER etc. The event also witnessed ministerial and senior official representations from various North Eastern States of India, highlighting the regional diversity and unity of India in the international context.

The opening day's program seamlessly blended culture and diplomacy. It commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp and featured a captivating Sattriya dance performance by Mridusmita Das Bora. Mr. Shyamkanu Mahanta, the brain behind the North East India Festival was the host of the occasion and he spoke about background of North East India Festival and its attempt to connect India's North East to South East Asia. Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sandeep Arya, India's Ambassador to Vietnam, delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for the festival. Special remarks were also shared by Dr. RK Ranjan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, and Mr. Tran Phuoc Anh, Director of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City.

The day included enlightening talks on various destinations, such as Assam, Arunachal, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, presented by government officials and experts, highlighting the unique attractions of these regions. The cultural segment of the festival concluded with a splendid Drum Ensemble performance featuring traditional music from the tribes of Meghalaya by troupes from Meghalaya, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo tribes.

Hon'ble Minister(Industries & textiles), Govt of Arunachal Mr. T. Bagra in his address spoke about his appreciation about Vietnam's progress since independence and opined that North East India can learn a lot from Vietnam. He invited everyone to visit North East India and be part of the developmental process. Mr. Harpreet Singh, Joint Secretary DoNER spoke about North East India and its centrality to South East Asia and Ministry of DoNER's initiative to promote the region. Mr. Fredrick R. Kharkongor, Commissioner & Secretary Deptt of Art & Culture, Textile etc gave a beautiful presentation about Meghalaya, its culture and resources specially its tourism and textile resources. Mr. Ramakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Govt of Nagaland spoke about Nagaland and its beautiful culture and resources. Dr. N.G Mahanta, Hon'ble Adviser, Govt of Assam spoke about Assam's focus on industrial progress and dynamic role of Hon'ble CM, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma about showcasing Assam as ideal destination with administrative reforms and making State ready as gateway of South East Asia.

The festival garnered substantial participation from a wide spectrum of dignitaries, entrepreneurs, academic institutions, and artists hailing from both India and Vietnam. To facilitate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the North East Indian culture and economy, NEIF featured seminars and exhibitions showcasing a variety of products, including exquisite handicrafts from the region. The inaugural day wrapped up with remarks by Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in HCMC. The entire program was deeply rooted in the Act East Policy, with a focus on trade, investment, tourism, educational & cultural exchange. What originally started as a platform for the North East has evolved into one of India's most significant forums, promoting not only cultural exchange but also advancing trade, tourism, investment, education, and more. This marked the first time Vietnam hosted an event of such magnitude and scale.

NEIF's overarching objective was to promote stronger collaboration between India and Vietnam while raising awareness about India's North Eastern region, which plays a pivotal role in India's 'Act East Policy.' Through this vibrant and culturally enriching event, NEIF succeeded in furthering the goals of cultural diplomacy and economic cooperation between the two nations.



Photographs from the Inaugural Session:





DAY 2- 28th October, 2023

a) B2B Meet on Tourism:

The second day of the North East India Festival in Ho Chi Minh City witnessed a significant milestone in cultural diplomacy and bilateral trade and tourism collaboration between Vietnam and North East India. The day began with the Tourism Meet, which brought together 52 tour operators from Vietnam and 20 tour operators from North East India.

Mr. Shyamkanu Mahanta, Chief Organiser spoke about Tourism as key focus of the Festival and described the region as the most attract tourism destinations of India. Mr. Mahanta focused on both inward and outward tourism for the tourism stakeholders joining the programme. Mr. Harpreet Singh, Joint Secretary, DoNER delivered speeches on tourism potential in North Eastern Region and highlighted about various tourism propositions including home stay provision in the NER. Ms. Ava Shereen Sangma of Meghalaya made a beautiful presentation about various aspects of Meghalaya as tourism destination. Mr Hage Tari, Secretary Industries, Govt of Arunachal presented the beautiful State of Arunachal Pradesh and its tremendous tourism potential. Mr. Toka Edward Tuccumi, Director Tourism, Nagaland presented a beautiful video of Nagaland highlighting its various tourism propositions, people, resources, Hornbill festival etc. Vice president of Ho Chi Minh Tourism Association speaks about tourism inflow and outflow to Vietnam and possibility of exploring more tourists to Vietnam from India. Vice Chairman of Ninh Thuan Province speaks about the different places of tourism interest in Vietnam. Harsh Sharma, Mayfair group of Hotels and Resorts talks about the growth of the hospitality industry in North Eastern Region with special focus on Assam as Tourism destination.

Mr. Anil Oraw, the Regional Director of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India handled the later part of discussion including interaction with Vietnamese tour operators. He emphasized the potential for bilateral tourism stating, "Our goal is to introduce Vietnamese tour operators to the marvels of India. This exchange will not only enhance cultural understanding but also stimulate tourism and trade." Tour operators of Vietnam opined that this is part time India is coming to Vietnam to promote tourism and it will help to make a strong beginning for longer time relationship. Suggestion came from different tour operators of Vietnam suggesting North East India should be promoted alongwith Bangladesh to facilitate tourists movements. Mr. Anil Oraw gave detailed preview of Indo Vietnam tourist flow and suggested way to improve bigger flow from Vietnam to India specially to the North East India.

Photographs from the Tourism B2B Meet Session:







b) Investment & Trade Session:

The Investment and Trade Session held on the second half of 2nd day of the North East India Festival in Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City, The Meet aimed to explore broad spectrum of trade and investment opportunities between two countries in various sectors, such as agriculture, handloom, handicrafts, and more. Around 100 Vietnamese companies/entrepreneurs participated in a very meaningful dialogue with stakeholders from India.

Mr. Harpreet Singh, Joint Secretary, DoNER delivered speeches on Trade and Investment opportunities in NE Region. Mr. Singh invited Vietnamese delegation to visit North East Business Summit being organized in Delhi by DoNER.

Mr. A. Temjen Jamir, Director(Industries), Government of Nagaland presented the prospects of investment opportunities in the state of Nagaland. Mr. Hage Tari, Secretary, Industry Department, Arunachal Pradesh presented on the investment prospects in different sectors specially in agriculture, bamboo and hydro power sector. He also mentioned the various incentives and policies of the state to attract investment. Mr. Fredrick R Kharkonger, Commissioner, Govt. of Meghalaya also presented the Meghalaya's ample opportunities of trade and investment in various sector focusing mainly on handloom, handicrafts and agri sectors. Ms. Kime Bune, Invest India, North East Desk gave a presentation showing the investible projects in NE Region. In her presentation she highlighted various attractive investment opportunities in North East India.

Brig Rajib Singh, Managing Director, NEHHDCL in his presentation highlighted the North East handloom and handicrafts products and talked about trade opportunities between two countries in handloom and handicraft sector. Top officials of Tien Giang Province of Vietnam and President of VIENC, Vietnam delivered speeches on bilateral trade prospects between the countries. Bamboo Industrialist from Vietnam delivered a speech on development of bamboo industry in Vietnam and potentials of bilateral trade. ANI, Dinh Vinh Cuong, the president of Vietnam International Entrepreneur Networking Club, highlighted the positive developments in the trade relationship between the two countries. He stated that in 2022, the export turnover between Vietnam and India reached USD 15 billion, marking a significant increase of 13.9 percent compared to 2021. Cuong also expressed optimism for the future, anticipating increased investments from major players like Adani in Vietnam and significant investments by Vietnamese companies in India, such as Vinfast's plans to establish a car manufacturing factory in India. These developments reflect the promising trajectory of economic collaboration between Vietnam and India.

The meet witnessed participation of 100 Vietnamese companies like Greatlink Maihouse Investment Company, Standard Chartered Bank and others (list included) and 30 companies representing North East India. The discussions were instrumental in promoting business collaborations and investment opportunities, ultimately fostering stronger economic ties between the two nations.

A B2B meet on trade was held after the presentation made by different top officials of both the countries. More than 80 Vietnamese companies made one to one interaction with the Indian Companies to explore business opportunities, form partnership and discuss business related matters. Many Vietnamese companies placed order to North Eastern Companies worth many crores. Some food processing companies agreed to sell processed food products from North Eastern Companies in Vietnamese mall.

The primary goal of the session was to strengthen ties between India and Vietnam in the domains of trade and investment. Both countries have been actively working on enhancing their bilateral relationship and increasing trade and investment over recent years.

The North East India Festival Investment and Trade Session served as a platform to boost economic cooperation, foster stronger ties, and open doors for future trade and investment opportunities between these two comprehensive partners. He also said that he believes this year, they will get a lot of investors like Adani who will come to Vietnam with big investments and also big companies from Vietnam will invest in India like Vinfast. Vinfast will establish a car manufacturing factory in India. He thinks this is a good signal from two countries.

Photographs of Trade & Investment Session:







c) People-to-People Exchange Meet

The People-to-People Exchange Meet offered insightful discussions on the historical connections between North East India and Vietnam, shedding light on academic exchange opportunities. Esteemed representatives from educational institutions in both nations, shared their perspectives, emphasizing the importance of cross-cultural learning. These conversations illuminated the academic exchange opportunities that exist between the two regions. Distinguished representatives from educational institutions in both countries actively participated and shared their insights, underscoring the significance and the potential for academic collaboration. This segment of the event contributed to the broader goal of boosting cultural and educational ties between North East India and Vietnam.

Mr. NG Mahanta, Director South East Asian Studies, Gauhati University gave an illuminating speech about history of North East India and geographical and historical relationship with Vietnam. He urged Vietnamese University to send students to Gauhati University and spoke that National Education Policy of India is encouraging student exchange programme extensively. Prof Prabha Shankar Shukla, Vice Chancellor of North East Hill University detailed about India's great history in academics and research and invited students to study in NEHU and other Universities of NER. From Vietnamse side representatives from Hong bang University, University of Technology and Education in Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho University spoke about their programmes and showed interest for Academic exchange programmes with India. Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, CG, Indian Consulate expressed his desire to facilitate academic exchange programme between both the countries.

Photographs of People-to-People Exchange Meet





Cultural Festival, Exhibitions. Venue: September 23rd Park- Dated 28th &29th October 2023

The major attraction of North East India Festival was the cultural Festival and Exhibition organized in very popular September 23rd Park, Dist One Ho Chi Minh City during 28th and 29th October, 2023. The event showcased a mesmerizing array of North Eastern dance forms, including Bagrumba (Boro), Bhortaal (Assam), Drum Ensemble & Flute (Meghalaya), Tiwa Dance (Assam), Mwsaglangnai (Boro), Bihu Dance (Assam), MiDaosri Delai (Boro), Drum Beating (Meghalaya), and Jarapagla (Boro) and many others. Vietnamese artists added their unique flavor with enchanting folk performances. Major attractions from Vietnamese side were Chai Dam Drum, The sound of the pestle on the bamboo squirrel and very special Lotus dance of Vietnam

The cultural evening was formally inaugurated by Mr. T. Bagra, Hon'ble Minister (Industries, Textiles etc), Govt of Assam in presence of Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, CG, Indian Consulate, Mr. Harpreet Singh, Joint Secretary, DoNER and host of other dignitaries. India's Ambassador to Vietnam Mr Sandip Arya and Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (External Affairs), Govt of India also visited various stalls and encouraged the entrepreneurs and participants.

Both the evenings Musical showcase by talented bands of North East and Vietnam has rocked the Ho Chi Minh City. Top end rock bands of NER such as Summersalt, Trance Effect, The Fantastic Company, KL Pamei, Baba, Bright Lights, and Bollywood DJ Cyco performed along with Vietnamese bands and musicians such as Rapper Huynh Cong Hieu, The Kod Crew, Baba, Summersalt India, Saigon LH,.

A spectacular fashion show, featuring the top-notch designers of North East India, dazzled the audience with exquisite designs and rich fabrics from the region. Celebrity showstoppers and glamorous models from Vietnam graced the runway, presenting creations by Bidyut & Rakesh, Daisy G Momin under the label "Daisy's," Manjushree Saikia under the label "Ura Maku," and Bambi Kevichusa under the label "Bambi.", Yana Ngoba of Arunachal, Sanghamitra Phukon coming from Milan presented unique collection of Eri and Muga, Ms Hasina Kharbih of Impulse Networks, Iba Malai presented quality designs from Meghalaya. The audience were stunned by amazing array of designs presented from India's NER.

One of the main feature of North East India Fashion Show was presence of Vietnamese models presenting designs from India. It has helped in connecting both the countries.

Exhibitions:

In the main festival area large exhibition showcased various products by Incredible India, which offered a captivating glimpse into the diverse destinations of India. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a dedicated textile zone, state-specific exhibition zones representing various northeastern states, a separate stall for NEHHDCL displaying handloom products of NER and themes related to the Act East Policy, tea, industry, and tourism. Culinary enthusiasts delighted in the authentic delicacies from the North Eastern states.

Many Vietnamese were surprised to see the similarity between both the regions and yet the unique nature of products of North East India.

Incredible India Exhibition:

The festival also featured the Incredible India Exhibition, which offered a captivating glimpse into the diverse destinations of India. The September 23rd Park is very famous with American and European tourists. North East India Festival on both days attracted large no of tourists, they got to feel India in the Exhibition and got interested with amazing array of tourism attractions India offers.

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Food Exhibition:

One of the major attractions of North East India Festival was food exhibition presenting various delicacies of North East apart from Vietnamese Foods. Sikkimese Food, Assamese Foods, Naga foods, Manipuri foods were the main attractions of the Exhibition. Plenty of tourists came and we organized free tasting of North Eastern cuisines. People were amazed by the food and its culinary variety of the region.

Photographs of Exhibition





Photographs of Stalls





Photographs of the Crowd





Photographs of Food Stalls





Photographs of Fashion Show

a) SANGHAMITRA by Sanghamitra Phukan-



b) KINIHO by Iba Mallai



c) Impulse Empower by Hasina Kharbhih



d) YANA IN STYLE by Yana Ngoba Chakpu



e) Bidyut & Rakesh:



f) Christine Daisy by Daisy G Momin:



g) URA MAKU by Manjushree Saikia



h) Bambi by Bambi Kevichusa



CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

Summersalt India



b) The Fantastic Company



c) KL Pamei



d) Bright Lights



e) KOD Crew



f) Baba



f) Vietnamese Band Saigon LH



g) Vietnamese Rapper Huynh Cong Hieu



Mélange of Folk Dance forms





Vietnamese Folk Dance Forms



Major Outcomes:

- a) North East India Festival has become a brand recognized globally.
- b) With strong presence of MEA, Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Tourism, Invest India and various State Govts, strong Vietnamese participation, North East India Festival has become India's major initiative ever in Vietnam. It is Act East Policy on ground.
- c) The Governments of both the Country have appreciated North East India Festival and the concept is here to stay for strengthening relationship between both the countries.
- d) The Festival got large presence from Vietnam side. Around 15 province leaders attended the inaugural session, around 52 tour operators attended Tourism B2B Meet and around 100 companies/entrepreneurs of Vietnam participated in Trade and investment meet. The main festival was having good crowds of local Vietnamese and tourists.
- e) Strong presence of various NER States has helped in strengthening the bond and it will help in continuity of the initiative.
- f) The event got extensive focus in media.
- g) Substantial business lead is generated. Many textiles' designers got orders from Vietnamese companies worth many millions. 22 member Vietnamese delegation is expected to come and explore business in the NER very soon.
- h) Airlines companies showed interest to run airline operation with Guwahati from Vietnam. Very soon we are expecting flight operation.
- i) Many Vietnamese malls agrees to sell processed food products from North East Entrepreneurs.
- j) We got substantial tourism leads, many tour operators are in touch and tourist flow is expected in near future. Wildlife, hills, tai tourism circuits will be major attraction.
- k) A group of tour operators of Vietnam is expected to visit NER soon.
- l) Entrepreneurs have shown interest to set up restaurants in the NER. Cultural exchange troupes of Vietnam are expected to come this December.
- m) People to people exchange established, Educational exchange programs will be carried out.
- n) Designers got good linkage; artiste got platform to showcase their talents. Many performers got invitation to perform in Vietnam.
- o) A unity of NER showcased in right earnest, a historical occasion has helped in building bridges and promote trade, tourism.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Investment, air Connectivity and trade talks soar at NE Festival in Vietnam

OUR CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI: The second day of the 3rd North East India Festival, a three-day extravaganza, kicked off on Friday in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and featured enriching discussions and captivating cultural performances.

The second day kicked off with the Tourism Meet, which welcomed 52 tour operators from Vietnam and 20 tour operators from the Northeast.

The event showcased presentations highlighting the tourism potential of the Northeast, featuring insights from notable speakers. Discussions on deluxe



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hotels further highlighted the hospitality industry's growth in the area.

Anil Oraw, Regional Director, Ministry of Tourism, emphasised the potential for bilateral tourism and trade, stating, "We aim to introduce Vietnamese tour operators to the wonders of India. This mutual exchange will not only enrich cultural understanding but also stimulate tourism and trade business."

Adding further, Dinh Vinh Cuong, Director, Vietnam International Entrepreneurs Networking Club said: "We are initiating direct flight routes between Vietnam and Northeast India. I've had productive...Pg5

3rd NE India Festival gets underway in Ho Chi Minh City

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

GUWAHATI: The Northeast India Festival got underway in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Friday marking the beginning of a momentous event that aims to strengthen the ties between India and Vietnam in the world of academics, trade, business, and culture.

The festival opened its doors to a distinguished assembly of critical stakeholders, including chief ministers, Union ministers, and entrepreneurs, hailing from both nations.



The opening day's programme was a harmonious blend of culture and diplomacy

The inaugural programme witnessed the participation of several notable personalities and associations from various provinces in Vietnam, under-

scoring the significance of the event.

Key dignitaries present included Tran Phuoc Anh, Director General of the Department of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam, and Nguyen Long Bien, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of NinhThuan Province, among others. This grand assembly, from both India and Vietnam, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the festival.

The opening day's programme was a... Pg 5

'PM's vision to link NE with SE Asia through Act East Policy'

HO CHI MINH CITY, Oct 27: Union Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is to link all the states of North East India with South East Asia and the Act East Policy is the main point of the bilateral relationship with these key countries.

India's foreign policy under Prime Minister Modi is focused on bringing the whole world under one family, Singh said at the inaugural session of the three-day North East India Festival (NEIF) here in Vietnam.

"The G20 motto has been one earth-one family and one future which is the philosophy and wisdom of India as a nation. Based on this our foreign policy we try to improve the relationships with countries all over the globe, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and South East Asia", he said.

Singh said the prime minister was committed to improving, creating and strengthening more multilateral and bilateral relations.

"The Act East policy is the main point of our relationship with the South East Asian countries and it is the Prime Minister's vision to link all the states of North East India

with this region," he said.

There are more than 250 communities in the North East and most of them have similarities with Southeast Asian communities in terms of culture, music, and folklore among other commonalities.

"Taking advantage of these commonalities and the historic links of Buddhism and Hinduism, under the leadership of the Prime Minister we have used and revitalised all these foundations for the Northeastern states," Singh said.

He said the North East India Festival, which is the third in the series, will ex-

pose the region to South East Asia and create a platform for taking the potential of the region to South East Asia and vice versa.

South East Asia is composed of 11 countries: Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Indian embassy in Vietnam has focussed on tourism, trade promotion and the relationship between people.

"The Prime Minister has focussed on North East India and promoted it as the growth engine of the coun-

try and as the Gateway to South East Asia and as such through these initiatives, infrastructure development has been speeded up which will help in improving the connectivity between the two regions," the minister said.

Singh said another area of commonality between India and Vietnam is that Modi has promoted one district-one product while Vietnam also has a similar one province-one product and in this festival, North East India can showcase their products, particularly handloom, crafts, bamboo products, art and culture for the promotion of ties be-

tween the two nations.

The inaugural programme was also attended by Vietnam's Director General of the Department of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tran Phuoc Anh and Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ninh Thuan Province Nguyen Long Bien along with representatives of 15 provinces.

Indian ambassador in Vietnam Sandeep Arya and Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City Mohit Chand Sethi were also present on the occasion.

The festival's programme includes an investment and trade session, a tourism B2B meet, and a people-to-people exchange meet, with the aim of nurturing academic exchange, promoting educational programmes, and enhancing cultural understanding between India and Vietnam, festival's chief organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta said.

The investment and trade session will facilitate interactions between the DoN Ministry, Invest India, the investor community Vietnam, paving the way long-term business relationships, he added. (PTI)



NE Festival paves way for cultural exchange between India and Vietnam

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: The North East India Festival officially commenced today in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, marking the beginning of a momentous event that aims to strengthen the ties between India and Vietnam in the world of academics, trade, business, and culture. The festival opened its doors to a distinguished assembly of critical stakeholders, including chief ministers, union ministers, and entrepreneurs hailing from both nations.

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ble personalities and associations from various provinces in Vietnam, under-

scoring the significance of the event. Key dignitaries present included Mr. Tran

Phuoc Anh, Director General of the Department of External Relations in Ho

Chi Minh City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam, and Mr. Nguyen Long Bien, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ninh Thuan Province, among others. This grand assembly, from both India and Vietnam, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the festival.

The opening day's programme was a harmonious blend of culture and diplomacy. It commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by a mesmerizing Xatriya dance performance by Midusmita Das Bora. Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sandeep

Arya, India's Ambassador to Vietnam, delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for the festival. Special remarks were also shared by MOS (RRS) Mr. RK Ranjan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Tran Phuoc Anh, Director of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City.

The day featured enlightening talks on various destinations, including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, presented by government officials and experts, emphasising the unique attractions of these regions.

The festival's cultural segment was brought to a magnificent close with a Drum Ensemble performance of the traditional music of tribes of Meghalaya by Troupes from Meghalaya, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo tribes. The inaugural day concluded with a remark by Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in HCMC.

The second day of the North East India Festival, scheduled for October 28th, promises to be equally impressive, featuring the

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वियतनाम मे होगा आयोजित नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल का तीसरा संस्करण

संवाददाता (दिल्ली) नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल (एनईआईएफ) का तीसरा संस्करण 27 अक्टूबर से 29 अक्टूबर 2023 तक वियतनाम के प्रसिद्ध 23 सितंबर पार्क, डिस्ट्रिक्ट 1, हो ची मिन्ह सिटी में वियतनाम के दर्शकों का मनोरंजन करने के लिए तैयार है। इस तीन दिवसीय आयोजन में भारत और वियतनाम के बीच आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से कई कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जाएंगे।

इससे पूर्व नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल के पिछले दो संस्करण जोकि बेकोंग में आयोजित हुए थे बहुत सफल रहे। तीन दिवसीय यह फेस्टिवल भारत और वियतनाम के प्रतिष्ठित स्टेकहोल्डर्स को साथ लाएगा। विदेश राज्य मंत्री और के.एन. खेरन मंत्रालय की एक टीम, इवेस्ट इंडिया एवं वन उत्तर पूर्व भारत के राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्री द्विपक्षीय व्यापार, पर्यटन, हवाई कनेक्टिविटी, रूटिंज एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम, आदि पर चर्चा करने के लिए वियतनाम में अपने सम्पर्कों से मिलेंगे। उसके बाद सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों, शोज, एग्जीबीशन्स और महत्वपूर्ण बीबीसी बैठकें भी होंगी। नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल के मुख्य आयोजक श्यामकानु महंत ने कहा कि

एनईआईएफ ने माननीय प्रधान मंत्री की एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी के दृष्टिकोण के अनुरूप दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया के साथ भारत के संबंधों में सफलतापूर्वक नए दरवाजे खोले हैं। पिछले दो सालों में बेकोंग में आयोजित हुए नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल के ठोस परिणाम मिले। जिसमें गुवाहाटी और बेकोंग के बीच नई उड़ानें, रूटिंज एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम में वृद्धि, नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया में टूरिज्म में वृद्धि शामिल है। हो ची मिन्ह में भारत के महावाणिज्य दूत (कोसल जनरल) मदन मोहन सेठी ने कहा कि इस बड़ी पहल को आयोजित करने और उसमें महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाकर हमें बहुत खुशी हो रही है। जोकि कार्यक्रम के मुख्य आयोजक श्यामकानु महंत के नेतृत्व में, हो ची मिन्ह शहर, भारतीय वाणिज्य दूतावास और विदेश मंत्रालय के बीच एक सहयोगात्मक प्रयास है। यह फेस्टिवल व्यापार, पर्यटन, अकादमिक सर्जों, सहित कई गतिविधियों को श्रुद्धालु का गठन करता है जो भारत और वियतनाम के बीच व्यापार और शैक्षणिक संबंधों को सुविधाजनक बनाएगा। फेस्टिवल के दौरान एनईआईएफ विभिन्न प्रदर्शनों की मेजबानी करेगा। जिसमें अतुल्य भारत प्रदर्शनी भी शामिल है। इस प्रदर्शनी में भारत के अधिष्ठापनीय

स्थलों को प्रदर्शित किया जाएगा। भारत के विभिन्न नॉर्थ ईस्ट के राज्यों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाला एक विशेष टेक्सटाइल जून और राज्य के विशिष्ट प्रदर्शनी क्षेत्रों में एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी, चाय उद्योग, कपड़ा, पर्यटन और बहुत कुछ अन्य विषयों पर प्रकाश डाला जाएगा। फेस्टिवल में मनोरंजन से भरपूर सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों की भी अच्छी खासी लिस्ट है। जिसमें नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया के कलरफुल फोक डंस और नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया के प्रसिद्ध डिजाइनरों के फैशन शोज भी होंगे जिसमें दर्शकों को नॉर्थ ईस्ट के पारंपरिक परिधानों के खूबसूरत रंग दिखाई देंगे। इस दौरान संगीतमय फूकन, बिदुत-राकेश, मंजुश्री रैफिया, याना नगोबा, हसीना खारबिंद और इबा मलाई जैसे डिजाइनरों के शानदार कलेक्शन पेश किए जाएंगे। फेस्टिवल में नागातैंड भी अपनी शानदार प्रस्तुति देने के लिए तैयार है। नागातैंड का टास्क फोर्स ऑफ म्यूजिक एंड आर्ट्स अपनी प्रस्तुति देगा। साथ ही द फेस्टिवल कम्पनी, ब्राइट लाइट्स, गिटारिस्ट इमेनला जमीर, ट्रान्स इलेक्ट, कैल पमेई और मेघालय के प्रसिद्ध बैंड समरसाल्ट और इसके साथ ही असम के कलाकार बाबा अपने अभिनय से दर्शकों को मंत्रमुग्ध करने के लिए तैयार है।

PM Modi's vision to link NE India with SE Asia through Act East Policy: Ranjan Singh

HO CHI MINH CITY, OCTOBER 28/--/Union Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on Friday



said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is to link all the states of North East India with South East Asia and the Act East Policy is the main point of the bilateral relationship with these key countries. India's foreign policy under Prime Minister Modi is focused on bringing the whole world under

one family, Singh said at the inaugural session of the three-day North East India Festival (NEIF) here in Vietnam. "The G20 motto has been one earth-one family and one future which is the philosophy and wisdom of India as a nation. Based on this as our foreign policy we try to improve the relationships with countries all over the globe, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and South East Asia", he said. Singh said the prime minister was committed to improving, creating and strengthening more multilateral and bilateral relations. "The Act East policy is the main point of our relationship with the South East Asian countries and it is the Prime Minister's vision to link all the states of North East India with this region," he said.

There are more than 250 communities in the North East and most of them have similarities with Southeast Asian communities in terms of culture, music, and folklore among other commonalities. "Taking advantage of these commonalities and the historic links of Buddhism and Hinduism, under the leadership of the Prime Minister we have used and revitalised all these foundations for the Northeastern states," Singh said. He said the North East India Festival, which is the third in the series, will expose the region to South East Asia and create a platform for taking the potential of the region to South East Asia and vice versa. The Indian embassy in Vietnam has focussed on tourism, trade promotion and the relationship between people. "The Prime Minister has focussed on North East India and promoted it as the growth engine of the country and as the Gateway to SouthEast Asia and as such through these initiatives, infrastructure development has been speeded up which will help in improving the connectivity between the two regions," the minister said. (PTI)

Investment, air Connectivity and

discussions with Shyamkanu Mahanta, and I'm pleased to share that I will be leading a delegation of 22 investors to explore opportunities in Northeast in the upcoming months."

The subsequent Investment and Trade Session saw active participation from 30 companies representing Northeast and 80 Vietnamese companies. Presentations covered a wide spectrum of trade and investment opportunities, from trade and investment relationships to prospects in sectors like agriculture, handloom, handicrafts, and more, between Vietnam and India, highlighting the advantages of the Northeast.

These discussions were instrumental in promoting business collaborations and investment opportunities.

The People-to-People Exchange Meet offered insightful discussions on the historical connections between Northeast and Vietnam, shedding light on academic exchange opportunities. Esteemed representatives from educational institutions in both nations shared their perspectives, emphasizing the importance of cross-cultural

learning.

Dr Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in HCMC, reflected on the event, stating, "The North East India Festival serves as a bridge of cultural and economic collaboration between our nations. It is heartening to witness the spirit of partnership and exchange that this festival embodies."

The festival also featured the Incredible India Exhibition, which showcased the incredible destinations of India, including a dedicated textile zone, state-specific exhibition zones representing various northeastern states, and themes related to the Act East Policy, tea, industry, and tourism. The event was enriched with captivating folk performances from North East India, including Bagurumba (Boro), Bhorthaal (Assam), Drum Ensemble & flute (Meghalaya), Tiwa Dance (Assam), Mwsaglangnai (Boro), Bihu dance (Assam), Mishing (Assam), Daosri Delai (Boro), Drum Beating (Meghalaya), and Jarapagla (Boro).

The three-day festival will culminate on October 29th, promising an exciting finale to this cultural extravaganza.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

increased by three times in the last year. In the speed of mobile broadband, where earlier we were at 118th position, today we have reached 43," PM Modi added. (ANI)

Gadkari to review NH...

in the Northeast, including Sikkim. The total cost of the projects is Rs 98,592 as of July 31, 2023. The awarding of a few projects is over. The construction of such projects is to start shortly.

During the visit, Gadkari is likely to lay the foundation stones for a few NH projects. Since the NH projects in Assam are slow-moving, the kind of instruction the minister will issue to the officials and construction companies is something to keep tabs on.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma did take up the issue of NH projects in Assam with Gadkari several times.

NE Festival paves way...

Incredible India Exhibition with a dedicated textile zone and state-specific exhibition zones from various North Eastern states of India. The day will also host discussions on trade and investment opportunities, the handloom and handicraft industry, and investible projects in the North East Region.

Shyamkanu Mahanta, Chief Organiser of the North East India Festival, shared his vision for the event, saying, "The entire programme is deeply rooted in the Act East Policy. Last year, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi highlighted in his address how the North East India Festival held in Bangkok played a pivotal role in boosting the connections between India and Bangkok, significantly strengthening ties in Southeast Asia. This year, in Vietnam, we are placing a special emphasis on cultural exchange. Our vision extends to encompass educational and trade exchange programmes. What began as a platform for the North East has now blossomed into one of India's largest forums, promoting not only cultural exchange but also propelling trade, commerce, education, tourism, and more. This marks the first time Vietnam is witnessing a festival of such magnitude and scale. We are enthusiastic and optimistic about witnessing tangible outcomes from this initiative."

Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in HCMC, echoing the sentiment, stated, "The North East India Festival is an exceptional initiative that bridges

the cultural and economic opportunities of India's North Eastern states with Vietnam. This grand festival marks a first for Vietnam on this scale, and it undoubtedly offers an invaluable platform for mutual learning and collaborative endeavours."

The festival's diverse programme includes an Investment and Trade Session, a Tourism B2B Meet, and a People-to-People Exchange Meet, with the aim of nurturing academic exchange, promoting educational programmes, and enhancing cultural understanding between India and Vietnam. The Investment and Trade Session will facilitate interactions between the DoNER Ministry, Invest India, and the Investor's Community of Vietnam, paving the way for long-term business relationships.

A spectacular fashion show featuring the top-notch designers of North East India will take centre stage, showcasing the region's rich fabrics and designs. The festival will also feature musical performances and cultural showcases, promising an immersive experience for all attendees. As the North East India Festival unfolds, it promises to be a testament to the growing partnership between India and Vietnam, reinforcing their commitment to enhancing academic, trade, business, and cultural cooperation. This extraordinary event underscores the Act East policy and sets the stage for a future filled with opportunities and collaborations. (IANS)

'Umami', the fifth taste...

The fifth taste sense is called 'Umami'. "An ingredient in fast food called MSG (Monosodium glutamate), commonly called ajinomoto, which contains an excitatory neurotransmitter, makes you eat fast food often. It actually develops a different/fifth taste called Umami for you, which actually is not beneficial for your body," said Prof N.S. Verma, HoD, physiology, KGMU.

"Food with MSG should be a big no for all but unfortunately this is not happening," said Prof Verma.

Doctors said that if people want to eat different dishes they should try and cook them at home and avoid going to eat street food. "The habit of eating food under the influence of an excitatory neurotransmitter can make people ill," said Prof Manish Bajpai, a senior medical expert. The topic is being discussed at the ongoing national conference of physiology here.

Prof Verma said that 300 experts will participate in the event that will have 150 speaker sessions and six

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India urges airlines in Vietnam to explore possibilities of direct flights to north-eastern states

PTI / Updated: Oct 28, 2023, 18:28 IST

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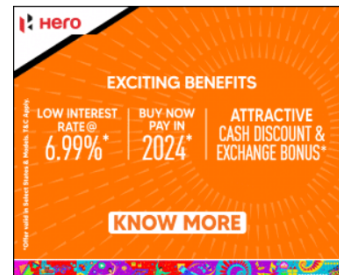


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India's Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, has called on airlines from Vietnam to consider launching direct flights to cities in the north-eastern states of India. Singh believes that this would provide increased investment and tourism opportunities for both countries. He highlighted that the north-eastern states of India are well connected by air, land, and rail, and invited airlines from Vietnam to explore the possibility of connecting these states with cities in Vietnam. Singh also emphasized the strong bilateral relations and friendship between India and

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Trending Stories

3rd edition of NE India Festival begins in Ho Chi Minh City

● Paving way for academic, trade, cultural exchange between India and Vietnam

GUWAHATI, OCT 27: The North East India Festival officially commenced today in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, marking the beginning of a momentous event that aims to strengthen the ties between India and Vietnam in the world of academics, trade, business, and culture. The festival opened its doors to a distinguished assembly of critical stakeholders, including chief ministers, union ministers, and entrepreneurs, hailing from both the nations.

The inaugural programme witnessed the participation of several notable personalities and associations from various provinces in Vietnam, underscoring the significance of the event. Key dignitaries present included Tran Phuoc Anh, Director General of the Department of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam, and Nguyen Long Bien, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ninh Thuan Province, among others. This grand assembly, from both India and Vietnam, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the festival. The opening day's programme was a harmonious blend of culture and diplomacy. It commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by a mesmerising Sattriya dance performance by Mridusmita Das Bora, Ambassador H.E. Sandeep Arya, India's Ambassador to Vietnam, delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for the festival. Special remarks were also shared by MOS (RRS) RK Ranjan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, and Tran

Phuoc Anh, Director of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City.

The day featured enlightening talks on various destinations, including Assam, Arunachal, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, presented by government officials and experts, emphasising the unique attractions of these regions. The festival's cultural segment was brought to a magnificent close with a Drum Ensemble performance of the traditional music of tribes of Meghalaya by Troupes from Meghalaya, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo tribes. The inaugural day concluded with a remark by Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in HCMC.

The second day of North East India Festival, scheduled for October 28th, promises to be equally impressive, featuring the Incredible India Exhibition with a dedicated textile zone, and state-specific exhibition zones from various North Eastern states of India. The day will also host discussions on trade and investment opportunities, the handloom and handicraft industry, and investible projects in the North East Region.

Shyamkanu Mahanta, Chief Organiser of the North East India Festival, shared his vision for the event, saying, "The entire programme is deeply rooted in the Act East Policy. Last year, Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi highlighted in his address how the North East India Festival held in Bangkok played a pivotal role in boosting the connections between In-

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The festival's diverse programme includes an Investment and Trade Session, a Tourism B2B Meet, and a People-to-People Exchange Meet, with the aim of nurturing academic exchange, promoting educational programmes, and enhancing cultural understanding between India and Vietnam. The Investment and Trade Session will facilitate interactions between the DoNER Ministry, Invest India, and the Investor's Community of Vietnam, paving the way for long-term business relationships.

As North East India Festival unfolds, it promises to be a testament to the growing partnership between India and Vietnam, reinforcing their commitment to enhancing academic, trade, business, and cultural cooperation. This extraordinary event underscores the Act East Policy and sets the stage for a future filled with opportunities and collaborations.

3rd edition of North East India Festival begins in Ho Chi Minh City

AGENCIES

HOCHIMINH, 27 OCTOBER

The North East India Festival officially commenced on Friday in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, marking the beginning of a momentous event that aims to strengthen the ties between India and Vietnam in the world of academics, trade, business, and culture. The festival opened its doors to a distinguished assembly of critical stakeholders, including chief ministers, union ministers, and entrepreneurs, hailing from both the nations.

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3rd NE India Festival gets underway

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The second day of the Festival, scheduled for October 28, promised to be equally impressive, featuring the Incredible India Exhibition with a dedicated textile zone, and state-specific exhibition zones from various northeastern states.

North East Festival in Vietnam celebrates north-eastern art, culture: As part of the 3rd edition of the North East India Festival, cultural programmes and exhibitions celebrating northeastern art and culture and featuring a variety of products from the North Eastern states of India was held in Ho Chi Minh City on Saturday evening. The 3-day-long North East India Festival, which began on October 27 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam opened a new door of tourism, investment, and people-to-people connectivity to Vietnam and other South East Asian countries from North East India.

भारत- वियतनाम के बीच शिक्षा, व्यापार व सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान का रास्ता खुला

हो ची मिन्ह, (एजेसी)। नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल की आधिकारिक रूप से शुरुआत वियतनाम के हो ची मिन्ह शहर में आज हुई। यह एक भव्य और विशालकाय इवेंट की शुरुआत का प्रतीक है। इसका उद्देश्य भारत और वियतनाम में शिक्षा, व्यापार, कारोबार और सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को मजबूत बनाना है।

उद्घाटन कार्यक्रम में वियतनाम के कई प्रांतों की विशिष्ट हस्तियां और संघ ने भागीदारी की, जिससे इस इवेंट का महत्व सभी के सामने उजागर किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में कई विशिष्ट हस्तियां मौजूद थीं। इस समारोह में वियतनाम के हो ची चिन्ह शहर में विदेशी मामलों के मंत्रालय में महानिदेशक ट्रॉन फुओक अन्ह और निन्ह थुआन प्रांत की उपाध्यक्ष गुयेन लॉन्ग बिएन शामिल थे। उद्घाटन समारोह में

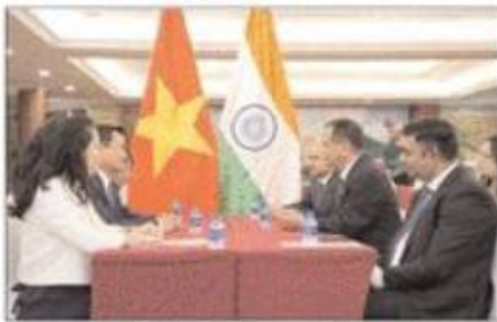
संस्कृति और कूटनीति का बेहतरीन तालमेल देखा गया। उद्घाटन समारोह की शुरुआत दीप प्रज्ज्वलित करने से हुई। इसके बाद मृदुस्मिता दास बोरा ने मनमोहक सत्रिय डांस परफॉर्मेंस पेश की। वियतनाम में भारत के राजदूत श्री संदीप आर्य ने उद्घाटन भाषण किया, जिसमें उन्होंने इस फेस्टिवल के बारे में उन्होंने काफी कुछ बताया। भारतीय विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री एमओएस (आरआरएस) आर.के. रंजन और हो ची चिन्ह शहर में विदेशी मामलों के मंत्रालय में महानिदेशक ट्रॉन फुओक अन्ह ने अपने मूल्यवान विचार व्यक्त किए। नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल के मुख्य आयोजक श्यामकानू महंता ने इस इवेंट के बारे में विचार साझा करते हुए कहा, इस पूरे कार्यक्रम की जड़ें एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी में हैं।

नॉर्थ ईस्ट फेस्टिवल शुरू: भारत एवं वियतनाम के बीच शिक्षा, व्यापार और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान का रास्ता खुला

देवम न्यूर नॉर्थ इंडिया, हो ची मिन्ह

नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल की आधिकारिक रूप से शुरुआत वियतनाम के हो ची मिन्ह शहर में आज हुई। यह एक भव्य और विशालकाय इवेंट की शुरुआत का प्रतीक है। इसका उद्देश्य भारत और वियतनाम में शिक्षा, व्यापार, कारोबार और सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को मजबूत बनाना है। इस फेस्टिवल में महत्वपूर्ण और विशिष्ट हस्तियां एकत्र हुए। इसमें दोनों देशों के विभिन्न प्रांतों के मुख्यमंत्री, कैबिनेट मंत्री और कारोबारी एकत्र हुए।

उद्घाटन कार्यक्रम में वियतनाम के कई प्रांतों की विशिष्ट हस्तियां और संघ ने भागीदारी की, जिससे इस इवेंट का महत्व सभी के सामने उजागर किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में कई विशिष्ट हस्तियां मौजूद थीं। इस समारोह में वियतनाम के हो ची चिन्ह शहर में विदेशी मामलों के मंत्रालय में महानिदेशक श्री ट्रॉन फुओक अन्ह और निन्ह थुआन प्रांत की उपाध्यक्ष



गुयेन लॉन्ग बिएन शामिल थे। भारत और वियतनाम की विशिष्ट हस्तियों के भव्य जमावड़े ने फेस्टिवल में खाद्य और सफाई के जन्म को जन्म दिया।

उद्घाटन समारोह में संस्कृति और कूटनीति का बेहतरीन तालमेल देखा गया। उद्घाटन समारोह की शुरुआत दीप प्रज्ज्वलित करने से हुई। इसके बाद मृदुस्मिता दास बोरा ने मनमोहक सत्रिय डांस परफॉर्मेंस पेश की। वियतनाम में भारत के राजदूत श्री संदीप आर्य ने उद्घाटन

भाषण किया, जिसमें उन्होंने इस फेस्टिवल के बारे में उन्होंने काफी कुछ बताया। भारतीय विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री एमओएस (आरआरएस) आर.के. रंजन और हो ची चिन्ह शहर में विदेशी मामलों के मंत्रालय में महानिदेशक ट्रॉन फुओक अन्ह ने अपने मूल्यवान विचार व्यक्त किए। समारोह के शुरुआती दिन पर अलग-अलग जगहों के बारे में चर्चा की गई, जिसमें अस्सम, असमिया प्रांत और नगालैंड शामिल थे। दूरी

सरकारी अधिकारियों और विशेषज्ञों ने पेश किया। इसमें इन जगहों के अन्वेषण आकर्षण पर जोर दिया गया। महोत्सव के सांस्कृतिक लेखों का सम्मान मेधापत्र के अतिथियों के परिपक्व संघर्ष और इस एनोबल परफॉर्मेंस के साथ हुआ। इस डांस परफॉर्मेंस में खन्ने, जैनिंग और सवे अतिथियों की समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत का जलवा पेश किया। इस उद्घाटन दिवस का सम्मान एचओएससी के वीसुल जनाल और इंडिया डॉ. यदन मोहन सेन ने किया।

नॉर्थ इंडिया फेस्टिवल का दूसरा दिन, 28 अक्टूबर भी कारी आकर्षक होगा। इस दिन डॉक्यूमेंट्री टेक्सटाइल जेन के साथ इनकेटिवल इंडिया एग्जिबिशन भी लॉन्ग देख सकते हैं। 28 को भारत के अलग-अलग उत्तरपूर्वी राज्यों का एग्जिबिशन जेन भी महत्व देखा सकते हैं। फेस्टिवल के दूसरे दिन व्यापार और निवेश के अवसरों, हितमय और इंटरनेट इंडस्ट्री और

उत्तर पूर्वी राज्यों में निवेश योग्य परियोजनाओं पर विचार-विमर्श के साथ भी मेजबानी की जाएगी।

नॉर्थ ईस्ट इंडिया फेस्टिवल के मुख्य आयोजक श्यामकानू महंता ने इस इवेंट के बारे में विचार साझा करते हुए कहा, "इस पूरे कार्यक्रम की जड़ें एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी में हैं। वियतनाम भारत के प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने अपने संबोधन में खाद्य और पर्यावरण का कि बैचरी में हुए नॉर्थ ईस्ट फेस्टिवल में भारत और वैश्वीकरण के बीच संबंधों को बढ़ावा देने में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाई है। इससे भारत और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया के संबंध अत्यंत गहन रूप से मजबूत हुए हैं। इस साल वियतनाम में सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान पर खास फोकस रखा रहे हैं। हमारा विजन दोनों देशों के बीच शिक्षा और व्यापार के क्षेत्र में रिश्तों को मजबूत देना है। यह महोत्सव नॉर्थ ईस्ट के लिए कभी एक परियोजना के रूप में शुरू हुआ था। आज यह भारत के सबसे बड़े फोरम में से एक है।

Investment, air Connectivity and trade talks soar at NE Festival in Vietnam

OUR CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI: The second day of the 3rd North East India Festival, a three-day extravaganza, kicked off on Friday in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and featured enriching discussions and captivating cultural performances.

The second day kicked off with the Tourism Meet, which welcomed 52 tour operators from Vietnam and 20 tour operators from the Northeast.

The event showcased presentations highlighting the tourism potential of the Northeast, featuring insights from notable speakers. Discussions on deluxe



The second day kicked off with the Tourism Meet, which welcomed 52 tour operators from Vietnam and 20 tour operators from the Northeast.

hotels further highlighted the hospitality industry's growth in the area.

Anil Oraw, Regional Director, Ministry of Tourism, emphasised the potential for bilateral tourism and trade, stating, "We aim to introduce Vietnamese tour operators to the wonders of India. This mutual exchange will not only enrich cultural understanding but also stimulate tourism and trade business."

Adding further, Dinh Vinh Cuong, Director, Vietnam International Entrepreneurs Networking Club said: "We are initiating direct flight routes between Vietnam and Northeast India. I've had productive... Pg5

Investment, air Connectivity and

discussions with Shyamkanu Mahanta, and I'm pleased to share that I will be leading a delegation of 22 investors to explore opportunities in Northeast in the upcoming months."

The subsequent Investment and Trade Session saw active participation from 30 companies representing Northeast and 80 Vietnamese companies. Presentations covered a wide spectrum of trade and investment opportunities, from trade and investment relationships to prospects in sectors like agriculture, handloom, handicrafts, and more, between Vietnam and India, highlighting the advantages of the Northeast.

These discussions were instrumental in promoting business collaborations and investment opportunities.

The People-to-People Exchange Meet offered insightful discussions on the historical connections between Northeast and Vietnam, shedding light on academic exchange opportunities. Esteemed representatives from educational institutions in both nations shared their perspectives, emphasizing the importance of cross-cultural

learning.

Dr Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in HCMC, reflected on the event, stating, "The North East India Festival serves as a bridge of cultural and economic collaboration between our nations. It is heartening to witness the spirit of partnership and exchange that this festival embodies."

The festival also featured the Incredible India Exhibition, which showcased the incredible destinations of India, including a dedicated textile zone, state-specific exhibition zones representing various northeastern states, and themes related to the Act East Policy, tea, industry, and tourism. The event was enriched with captivating folk performances from North East India, including Bagurumba (Boro), Bhortaal (Assam), Drum Ensemble & flute (Meghalaya), Tiwa Dance (Assam), Mwsaglangnai (Boro), Bihu dance (Assam), Mishing (Assam), Daosri Delai (Boro), Drum Beating (Meghalaya), and Jarapagla (Boro).

The three-day festival will culminate on October 29th, promising an exciting finale to this cultural extravaganza.

The Political & Business Daily- New Delhi- October

Immense scope for investment, trade between India and Vietnam: Ambassador

HO CHI MINH CITY, OCT 29

INDIA and Vietnam have shown a steady growth pattern and there is immense scope for investments and trade between both the countries, Indian envoy here has said. As both the countries are growing rapidly, the thrust areas have been emphasised on infrastructure, manufacturing and connectivity for increased bilateral trade and investments between India and Vietnam. Ambassador Sandeep Arya told PTI at the North East India Festival (NEIF) being held here. A steady growth pattern has been witnessed in the trade between the two countries with \$ 15

billion in total trade, out of which India exports about seven billion dollars and Vietnam about eight billion dollars, he pointed out. Foreign Investments (FDI) have also grown by about eight times during the last ten years while the export growth of domestic enterprises was three times during the same period between the two countries. There is immense potential for growth of trade and investments between the two countries and is particularly relevant for North Eastern states," the ambassador said. The most important factor for increasing trade relations between



Vietnam and North East India is civil aviation connectivity, he said. "Guwahati is already among the approved list of airports and as such the Government of India's approval is not really necessary to start operations in the sector. Any airline that wants to fly to Guwahati does not require specific approval which is required for many other

airports," Arya said. There is a group of airports as part of the ASEAN arrangement and there is a very strong case for air connectivity between Vietnam and North East India, he added. From the North Eastern states there are nearby ports in Myanmar, Bangladesh and Kolkata in India which presents it as an ideal area, providing direct shipping services. Besides, the extension of the India Myanmar Thailand (IMT) Highway and multimodal transport through Myanmar also presents a strong case for trade promotion and investment opportunities, he added. There is also immense

scope for investments in the digital connectivity sector and India is doing fairly well in this technology, Arya said. "UPI is something we are working on to have digital connectivity for cross-border payments and we are talking to the State Bank of Vietnam and Reserve Bank of India in this regard," the ambassador said. Vietnam's manufacturing sector has a very important role to play and its electronics goods sector comprises a major sector of their exports. The garment sector is also an area where Vietnam is growing very rapidly and there is a lot of opportunity in yarn, and cotton among others, Arya said. -PTI

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

BUSINESS & ECON

3rd North East India Festival

52 tour operators from Vietnam, 20 from NE take part in tourism meet

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Oct 28: Altogether 52 tour operators from Vietnam and 20 tour operators from the Northeast took part in a tourism meet held on the second day of the 3rd North East India Festival, which is under way at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

According to a statement, the event showcased presentations highlighting the tourism potential of Northeast India.

Speaking on the occasion, Anil Oraw, Regional Director, Union Ministry of Tourism, emphasised the potential for bilateral tourism and trade.

Further, Dinh Vinh Cuong, Director of Vietnam International Entrepreneurs Networking Club said, "We are initiating direct flight routes between Vietnam and North East India. I am pleased to share that I will be leading a delegation of 22 investors to explore opportunities in Northeast India soon."

Another session on Investment and Trade Session also witnessed participation from 30 companies representing Northeast India and 80 Vietnamese companies.

"Presentations covered a wide spectrum of trade and investment opportunities, from trade and investment relationships to prospects in sectors like agriculture, handloom, handicrafts, and more, between Vietnam and India, highlighting the advantages of the Northeast region. These discussions

were instrumental in promoting business collaborations and investment opportunities. Further, the People-to-People Exchange Meet offered insightful discussions on the historical connect between Northeast India and Vietnam," the statement said.

The festival also featured the Incredible India Exhibition, which showcased the incredible destinations of India, including a dedicated textile zone, State-specific exhibition zones representing

various northeastern States, and themes related to the Act East Policy, tea, industry, and tourism.

The event was enriched with captivating folk performances from the Northeast, including Bagurumba, Bhortaal, Tiwa dance, Mwsaglangnai, Bihu dance, Mishing, Daosri Delai and Jarapagla of Assam and Drum beating, Drum ensemble & flute of Meghalaya.

The three-day festival will culminate on October 29, the statement added.

India invites Vietnamese airlines to explore possibilities of flights to NE States

HO CHI MINH CITY (Vietnam), Oct 28: Union Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on Saturday urged airlines from Vietnam to explore launching direct flights to cities in northeastern States of India to provide increased investment and tourism opportunities to both countries.

Guwahati, considered the Gateway to Southeast Asia, has an international airport with direct flights connecting Bangkok and Singapore, Singh said while addressing a session on investment and trade at the North East India Festival here.

"All eight Northeast States are well

connected by air, land and rail with other parts of India. I invite airlines from Vietnam to explore possibilities of connecting NE States with cities by air," he said.

Singh said that India and Vietnam are long-standing friends with their bilateral relations and friendship rooted in shared history. He said the relation has been further strengthened by India's Act East Policy.

"It has further fostered its strategic relationship promoting economic cooperation and strengthening cultural ties with ASEAN countries. Our journey from the establishment of diplomatic relations to

comprehensive strategic partnership has been further enhanced since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Vietnam in 2016," he said.

"All the 8 NE States have abundant natural and human resources and all have international borders which are integral to India's Act East Policy," Singh said.

"The region also has an abundance of raw materials, cheap labour and access to South East Asia markets. It also has the potential to become the manufacturing hub of organic products, renewable energy and international tourism," he said.

The Northeast is well known for its varied geography, rich cultural history and heritage and the reason why it is visited by domestic and international tourists. While the hospitality industry is developing fast in order to match the growing need, the minister said.

"There is a need for more hotels and associated industries and so I invite hospitality businesses from Vietnam to identify investment opportunities in this sector. We will facilitate and extend all support for investments from Vietnam in India," Singh said at the 'Investment and Trade Session'. - PTI



3rd Edition of North East India Festival (October 27-29, 2023)

📅 October 31, 2023

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education [MoS(RRS)] visited Vietnam to participate in the third edition of North East India Festival (NEIF) in Ho Chi Minh City from 27-29 October 2023. The first and second editions of NEIF were held in 2019 and 2022 in Bangkok.

MoS(RRS) inaugurated NEIF along with H.E. Mr. Bui Xuan Cuong, Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee and H.E. Mr. Nguyen Long Bien, Vice Chairman of People's Committee of Ninh Thuan. There was also ministerial and senior official representation from North Eastern States of India in NEIF.

Organised by the Embassy of India, Hanoi, Consulate General of India, Ho Chi Minh City in collaboration with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, various state governments of North East India and coordinated by M/s Trend MMS, NEIF saw participation of large number of dignitaries, entrepreneurs, academic institutions and artists from both India and Vietnam. Seminars and exhibition of products including handicrafts from North East India were organised as part of the event.

MoS(RRS) also had a productive bilateral meeting with the Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee H.E. Mr. Bui Xuan Cuong. During the visit, MoS (RRS) interacted with Indian community members in Ho Chi Minh City.

NEIF aimed to promote closer cooperation between India and Vietnam and enhance awareness of India's North Eastern region which is key to India's 'Act East Policy'.

New Delhi
October 31, 2023



The Shillong Times, November 05, 2023



Thank you, for all the demons you've created,
Thank you, for ending all of that time with hate,
Thank you, for disrespecting all the moments we made,
Thank you, for faking love even though you never stayed.

Thank you, for pretending like you genuinely care,
Thank you, for trusting me with all the things you've shared,
Thank you for making me believe we were a pair,
Thank you, to show feelings once again now I'm scared.

Thank you, for you've taught me a lesson,
Thank you, for the gift of depression,
Thank you, for now I've realized I was so stubborn. Thank you,
because I'll never trust another one.

Thank you, for breaking my heart once again,
Thank you, for teaching me how it feels to be in pain,
Thank you, for pushing the happy me into the rain,
Thank you, because I have gone insane.

-Nicholas Kharjahn

#Poetry

Meghalaya's ARTS AND MUSIC enthralled Ho Chi Minh City, brought India & Vietnam closer



If arts and music could make it fun and easy for the academic, business and trade-exchange of two nations to reach further, Meghalaya could be at the forefront of all this. This was witnessed at the recently concluded 3rd edition North East India Festival, held in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City from 27-29 October. The region's contingent included government leaders, artists, artisans and entrepreneurs who travelled and participated in the festival.

Such was the power of arts and music from the hills, that it immediately drew the rapt attention of cultural ambassadors from Shillong including folk-fusion outfit Summerwalk, flautist Benedict Bhayawata and the music troupe of the Arts and Culture Department, Government of Meghalaya, represented by artists from both the Khasi and Garo hills, performed extemporaneously to draw the interest of the Vietnamese audience.

The Meghalaya team led by Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Arts & Culture and Secretary, Department of External Relations, Frederick R. Kharlangar and driven by the indigenous music Summerwalk, Rhynda-based fashion designer Bha Malai from Khasi and Haina Kharibh of Jaintia Empower, put up an internationally befitting show presenting the rich arts, music, culture, tradition and history of the state.

The Hollow wife of the Khasi hills took the venue by storm as the non-Khasi singing crowd tried their best to sing, drawing the energy of the Hollow audience to take over Summerwalk was at their best, belting out their key songs, including Kamai Iaha Hah, Pnyhat ko Khum, Mikh and some English original songs of theirs to connect with the eager audience. The food-tapping music of the band showcased the engagement of the crowd that included both Indian and Vietnamese dignitaries and the Indian diaspora.

The cultural intricacies and affinities of the northwestern states of India made it naturally possible for arts and music to pave way for deeper connections in terms of strategies and multi-discipline interfaces.

The inaugural programme also witnessed the participation of several notable personalities and associations from various provinces in Vietnam, underscoring the significance of the event.

Key dignitaries present included Director General of the Department of External Relations, Tran Phouc Anh in Ho Chi Minh City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam, and Nguyen Long Bien, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ninh Thuan Province, among others. This grand assembly, from both India and Vietnam, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the festival.

Adding to the vivacious atmosphere, renowned designers and brands from Meghalaya including the Mallai of 'Kinsho' and Haina Kharibh under the brand 'Tropique Empower' showcased their line of Rhynda-based designs on models of Vietnamese origin, creating a fusion of styles that celebrated the rich fabric of cultures.

Shyamkaku Mahanta, Chief Organizer of the North East India Festival, said, "We are immensely grateful for the overwhelming response from the local community and the staunch support from Vietnam's stakeholders, local communities, and our representatives from India. The North East India Festival is a perfect alignment with the Indian government's Act East policy. We engaged in fruitful discussions on education exchange programmes between India and Vietnam, as well as collaborative efforts in tourism. This is underway with stakeholders to establish direct flight routes between Vietnam and North East India."

The cultural intricacies and affinities of the northwestern states of India made it naturally possible for arts and music to pave way for deeper connections in terms of strategies and multi-discipline interfaces.

The festival marked the beginning of a continuous event that aims to strengthen the ties between India and Vietnam in the world of academics, trade, business, and culture. The festival opened its doors to a distinguished assembly of critical stakeholders, including ministers, senior ministers and entrepreneurs, hailing from both the nations.

Do Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in Ho Chi Minh City also shared his insights, stating, "The North East India Festival has been an exceptional platform for distinguished figures from both India and Vietnam to engage in enriching dialogues. This event has not only strengthened the existing bonds between our nations but has also laid the foundation for even deeper collaboration in the future."

The festival also featured the Incredible India Exhibition, showcasing the diverse destinations of India. Attendees had the opportunity to explore a dedicated trade zone, state-specific exhibitions showcasing various northwestern states, and themes related to the Act East Policy, trade, industry, and tourism. Culinary enthusiasts relished the authentic delicacies of the North Eastern states.

buoyed by this year's success, the organizers eagerly look forward to an even bigger and more vibrant event next year, further cementing stronger bonds between the two countries and beyond. And if music should be the catalyst to propel the progress such international interface between Meghalaya and northeast with the rest of the world, the Hollow musical that took Saigon by storm is evident to prove that Meghalaya's indigenous arts and music are second to none.

(By Our Special Correspondent)

#BrainJam

1. What is the highest rated film on IMDb as of January 1st, 2022?
2. Halloween originated as an ancient Irish festival. True or False?
3. Name the place known as the 'Roof of the World'?
4. How many years are there in one Millennium?
5. What is an Incoherence triangle?
6. Sparrow is a bird known for its intelligence. True or False?
7. What sports car company manufactures the 911?
8. In what country would you find Mount Kilimanjaro?
9. Which Renaissance artist is buried in Rome's Pantheon?
10. Which artist has the most number of streams on Spotify?

ANSWER TO LAST EDITION'S #BRAINJAM
 1. IMDb Rating: 2.1 stars Sunday 4, 1965 5 early 4, Number 7 42
 8. 172 9 Fax 6. 30 Identify them: Ryan Reynolds, Brad Pitt, Shilpa Shetty

Last week's winner - Pradip Kumar Ghosh

Winners of the weekly #BrainJam, please collect your prize money of ₹s 200/- from The Shillong Times office. Do carry a proof of identity.

Answer to Puzzle

L H A Q U A R T U S Q I A S
 U A I O C S N O P P R O C S
 C P G B I R W R G O G A
 S A G I T T A R I U S I L S
 N E E M L O R S A N C O
 I A R T E S T U T A R N A I
 I S V U G G F B R G T R N S
 T I O P U D I C R N G C O
 E A R P G S E L I A R C E O
 R P U A U T E M G B S I R S
 R A A R T I N E C N R S I P
 A O E C U G R R E S I P U O
 P I S S C E R T A T O A C O
 U T A B T R E R E O O C I R



Monday, November 06, 2023

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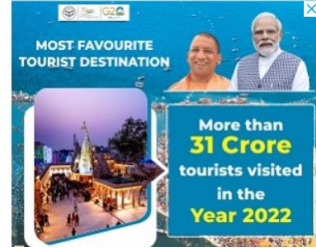


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India News | North East Festival in Vietnam Celebrates Northeastern Art, Culture

Get latest articles and stories on India at LatestLY. As part of the 3rd edition of the North East India Festival, cultural programmes and exhibitions celebrating northeastern art and culture and featuring a variety of products from the North Eastern states of India was held in Ho Chi Minh City on Saturday evening.



EDITION IN DELHI 28°C

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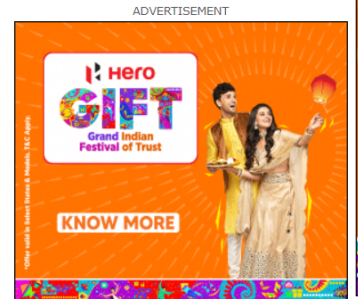
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'We are looking to bring whole world into one family': MoS Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on linking northeastern India with Southeast Asia

ANI / Oct 28, 2023, 09:47 IST

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North East India Festival in Vietnam opens new dimensions of tourism, investment

ANI | | Posted by Zarafshan Shiraz, Ho Chi Minh (vietnam)

Oct 28, 2023 05:01 PM IST

North East India Festival in Vietnam hosts cultural, fashion and musical shows, exhibitions and cultural exchange programmes in Ho Chi Minh City.



[PHOTOS]

Yoga to improve cardiovascular health, lower blood pressure, avoid heart disease



10

3rd edition of NE India Festival begins in Ho Chi Minh City

GUWAHATI, Oct 27: The North East India Festival officially commenced today in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, marking the beginning of a momentous event that aims to strengthen the ties between India and Vietnam in the world of academics, trade, business, and culture.

The festival opened its doors to a distinguished assembly of critical stakeholders, including Chief Ministers, union ministers, and entrepreneurs, hailing from both the nations.

The inaugural programme witnessed the participation of several notable personalities and associations from various provinces in Vietnam, underscoring the significance of the event.

Key dignitaries present included Tran Phuoc Anh, Director General of the Department of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam, and Nguyen Long Bien, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ninh Thuan Province, among others.

This grand assembly, from both India and Vietnam, highlighted the collaborative spirit of the festival.

The opening day's programme was a harmonious blend of culture and diplomacy. It commenced



with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by a mesmerising Satriya dance performance by Midusmita Das Bora.

Ambassador Sandeep Arya, India's Ambassador to Vietnam, delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for the festival.

Special remarks were also shared by MOS (RRS) RK Ranjan, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, and Tran Phuoc Anh, Director of External Relations in Ho Chi Minh City.

The day featured enlightening talks on various destinations, including Assam, Arunachal, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, presented by government officials and experts, emphasising the unique attractions of these regions.

The festival's cultural segment was brought to a magnificent close with a drum ensemble performance of the traditional music of tribes of

Meghalaya by troupes from Meghalaya, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo tribes.

The inaugural day concluded with a remark by Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in HCMC.

The second day of North East India Festival, scheduled for October 28, promises to be equally impressive, featuring the Incredible India Exhibition with a dedicated textile zone, and state-specific exhibition zones from various North Eastern states of India. The day will also host discussions on trade and investment projects in the North East Region.

The festival's diverse programme includes an Investment and Trade Session, a Tourism B2B Meet, and a People-to-People Exchange Meet, with the aim of nurturing academic exchange, promoting educational programmes, and enhancing cultural understanding between India and Vietnam. The Investment and Trade Session will facilitate interactions between the DoNER Ministry, Invest India, and the Investor's Community of Vietnam, paving the way for long-term business relationships, said a press communiqué.

Shyamkanu Mahanta, Chief Organiser of the North East India Festival, shared his vision for the event, saying, "The entire programme is

deeply rooted in the Act East Policy. Last year, Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi highlighted in his address how the North East India Festival held in Bangkok played a pivotal role in boosting the connections between India and Bangkok, significantly strengthening ties in South East Asia.

The festival's diverse programme includes an Investment and Trade Session, a Tourism B2B Meet, and a People-to-People Exchange Meet, with the aim of nurturing academic exchange, promoting educational programmes, and enhancing cultural understanding between India and Vietnam. The Investment and Trade Session will facilitate interactions between the DoNER Ministry, Invest India, and the Investor's Community of Vietnam, paving the way for long-term business relationships, said a press communiqué.

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India urges airlines in Vietnam to explore possibilities of direct flights to north-eastern states

Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, has called upon airlines from Vietnam to consider the possibility of introducing direct flights to cities located in the northeastern states of India. This proposal aims to foster enhanced economic and tourism opportunities for both nations. Facilitating better connectivity through direct flights could

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India pushes for direct Vietnam-NE flights

Sunday, 29 October 2023 | PTI | Ho Chi Minh City

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Union Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on Saturday urged airlines from Vietnam to explore launching direct flights to cities in north-eastern states of India to provide increased investment and tourism opportunities to both countries.

Guwahati, considered the Gateway to Southeast Asia, has an international airport with direct flights connecting Bangkok and Singapore, Singh said while addressing a session on investment and trade at the North East India Festival here.

"All eight North East states are well connected by air, land and rail with other parts of India. I invite airlines from Vietnam to explore possibilities of connecting NE states with cities by air," he said.

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India plans roadshows, travel mart to boost North East tourism, connect with Vietnam



ANI / 29 OCTOBER 2023 / SPORTS



New Delhi [India], October 29 (ANI): To connect North East India with South East Asian countries, including Vietnam, and promote North East Tourism, the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of India has planned road shows, particularly focused on tourism, and will organize an International Travel Mart in Shillong in November this year.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Anil Oraw, Regional Director of the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of India, said that during the ongoing 3rd edition of the North East India Festival in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, a B2B meeting on tourism was held, and various issues were discussed.



Home > World > North East India Festival in Vietnam concludes

World



North East India Festival in Vietnam concludes

PTI 29 October, 2023 08:33 pm IST

Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Oct 29 (PTI) The third edition of the North East India Festival — providing a platform for promoting trade, investment, tourism, education and cultural ties between India and Vietnam — concluded on Sunday.

The three-day festival, held here for the first time, was attended by Union Minister of state for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Indian ambassador to Vietnam Sandeep Arya, Indian Consul General Madan Mohan Sethi, Vietnamese leaders and officials, investors, entrepreneurs, tour operators, fashion designers, singers and musicians from the eight North