

Arunachal Front

07.02.2010

Holistic tourism at Ganga Lake soon

By Special Correspondent GANGA, Feb 06: Holistic tourism will begin soon at the historic Gekar Sinyi (confined water) or Ganga Lake here with the tourism department executing an ambitious plan.

A 15-member team, including 10 divers and 5 surveyors with a truck-load of equipments from the Eastern Naval Command, Vishakapatnam, led by Lt Manoj Gawli, which arrived here on a goodwill mission at the initiative of Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh, began survey of the ovuculate-triangular shaped lake today for improving its tourism potential.

Talking to this daily, Lt Gawli, who had details of the lake from *Google.com*, said during their weeklong survey they would mark the danger and safe zones and suggest measures for improvement.

The lake, with an area of about 67,500 mtr and a four-km long concrete footsteps with iron grills built around it by the tourism department for easy

movement, has huge tourism potential, said Lt Gawli, adding that rafting, boat pedaling and water skiing could be introduced to attract adventure tourists.

"It abounds in natural beauty with an unpolluted, healthy, noiseless environment and has huge potential. We would extend all possible support for the development of the lake, which is sure to draw massive tourists from all over the country," he added.

As chief diver Baldev Mar plunged into the water, hundreds of tourists besides Power (Electrical) Minister Jarbom Gamlin, RWD Minister Kalikho Pul, officers of tourism and fisheries departments led by secretary Bandhana Deori and Sama Dodum (who is managing the lake on lease as per the state government's PPP policy) watched with curiosity.

Mar, who found only soft mud and plenty of fishes after diving at three spots, said there are undergrowths and dead



Naval team on survey mission

woods in a 20-metre periphery of the lake which have to be removed for various boating activities. The water depth is in between 30 to 35 feet, he said.

Appreciating the naval team for its gesture, Deori said the tourism department is hosting the team invited by the governor. She lauded Dodum for his excellent job in protecting and developing the lake.

Many new additions are in the pipeline, Deori said, adding that new boats will be introduced soon, and the guest house constructed by the RWD will be opened for use, while traditional accommodation reflecting the Arunachalee culture will be built for the tourists to live in the lap of nature.

The proposal given by the command clearance diving team of the Navy will be considered for early execution for holistic tourism, she said.

She, however, regretted that the swimming pools for learners, completed two years ago, have been lying unused for want of electric-

ity though the required payment was deposited with the department.

The lake has to generate revenue as the beautiful lawn with sitting arrangements needs regular maintenance, she said, and urged visitors to pay the nominal entry fee of Rs 10 and the charge for vehicle parking. No one is exempted from payment, including officials and officers of any department, she categorically clarified.

The willing cooperation of the local residents is needed to maintain the unique environment of the lake, she said, and appealed to them to help maintain the green cover.

Later, Pul and Deori inspected the triple-storied guest house building and advised Dodum on various measures to improve the surroundings.

The most attractive spot for picnics, outings and boating, about 6 km from the state capital, the lake amidst dense forests in the foothills of the Himalayas covers about 4 sq km and shelters a number of birds.