



NEWS LETTER

1st September, 2018 (1st issue)

NORTH EAST INDIA TOUR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

Northeast India Tour Operator Association

(**NETO**), an association of tour operators of North East India approved by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), was formed recently. The main objectives of NETO are:

- Placing North East India on the global tourism map.
- Bringing all MoT (Ministry of Tourism) approved tour operators of North East India under one umbrella to maintain uniformity of quality tourism service in the region.
- Working in close coordination with public and private stakeholders for sustainable development of tourism industry in the region.



It is expected that this initiative will inspire tour operators of the region who are currently not approved by the Ministry of Tourism to meet policy guidelines and seek Ministry approval.

Message from Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, Chairman of the Advisory Board, NETO (North East India Tour Operators Association) Permanent Representative (Hon.), UN-WTO, Former Member, North Eastern Council, (in the rank of MOS); Former Secretary, Ministry of Tourism ; Former Chairman, PATA; Former Banking Ombudsman, RBI.



Shri M.P. Bezbaruah

Formation of NETO (North East India Tour Operators Association) is a great news for North-East India tourism. It fulfills a long felt need for promotion of tourism in the region. Personally it gives me great pleasure because I have always advocated that the private sector should be the force that makes tourism happen. For too long the North East India has been languishing as the Paradise "Unexplored".

It is time to change that perception and NETO can be the change agent. The Act East policy of the government has opened up many possibilities of tourism development of the NE. NETO should take the leadership role to make the possibilities a reality.

With Best wishes,

M.P. Bezbaruah

NEITO NEWS

Indo-Myanmar Checkpoints Open In Manipur And Mizoram

August 2018: In a major boost to Indo-Myanmar bilateral relations, international entry-exit checkpoints in Tamu-Moreh between Manipur and Sagaing division of Myanmar and in Rihkhawdar-Zokhawthar between Mizoram and Myanmar's Chin State were officially opened on Wednesday, August 8, 2018.

This will now enable visitors with passports and visas to travel between the two countries for tourism, business and education purposes. It is also expected that this will bring the two countries closer and connect North-East much more durably with Myanmar and the broader ASEAN region.



A one-day citizens' dialogue on Prospect of Manipur and Sagaing Region, Myanmar was organised by the Act East Committee, Government of Manipur, on August 19, 2018 at Hotel Imphal by the Classic. Three technical sessions were held with resource persons from various sectors – including academicians from Manipur University, entrepreneurs from Manipur Chamber of Commerce, Manipur Tourism Forum members, Indo-Myanmar Fraternal Alliance representatives and delegates from Myanmar. H Radhakrishna Sharma, NEITO PR and Managing Partner of Seven Sisters Holidays, Imphal participated in the dialogue.

Dialogue On Transformation Of India-Sub-Himalayan Geo Space

August 2018: A dialogue on 'India and Sub Himalayan Eastern Neighbours: Shared Borders, Shared Opportunities' and seminar on 'Transforming Geo Spaces to Celebrate Ideas, Skills and People' were held on August 16-17, 2018 in Shillong.

Organised by Asian Confluence, the dialogue-seminar was inaugurated by Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya and attended by dignitaries and delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal.

Arijit Purkayastha, NEITO Advisor and CEO of Koyeli Tours & Travels (P) Ltd, was a speaker at the dialogue.



Japanese tourists in Dibrugarh

August 2018: A group of 14 Japanese tourists arrive in Dibrugarh for Tea Tourism, covering Dibrugarh and Jorhat towns. Tea Tourism, being actively promoted by Assam & North-East tour operators, is a silent revolution that is playing a decisive role in placing many places of North East India on the global tourism map.



Promotion of NorthEast India in Toronto

June 2018: Rotary International Convention 2018 was held in Toronto, Canada from 23rd to 27th June, 2018. It is often called as a mini United Nations as people all over the world attend the convention. NEITO members Madhusmita and Sudarshan Khound who are also partners at Avani Travel Services, had participated in the convention and had put a booth promoting the beautiful NorthEast India as a tourist destination. They interacted with Rotarians from all over the



world explaining about the unique location, landscape, culture and attractions of NorthEast India and how tourism can be an important factor in the economic development of the region.

NORTH-EAST INDIA

- North East India's amazing diversity makes it a holiday destination for all seasons, although October to May is the best time to explore the region and April to November is excellent for Tea Tourism. On the eastern border of Assam, north of River Brahmaputra, is the luxuriant land of Arunachal Pradesh with its vast network of ancient rivers and streams. It can be accessed from Tezpur and Dibrugarh in Assam.
- Nagaon in Assam is an excellent entry point to Nagaland capital, Kohima via Dimapur, the State's commercial capital. Jorhat in Assam is also a good entry point into Nagaland.
- Manipur can be accessed from Dimapur in Nagaland, while the hill station of Shillong is a convenient base for exploring Meghalaya. From here one can move on to Mizoram past Silchar to Tripura.
- With lush paddy fields and scenic tea gardens, Assam lies in the Brahmaputra Valley that has land access through a narrow strip in North Bengal. Sikkim can be accessed through the Teesta gorge from Siliguri in West Bengal's Dooars region which is integrally linked to the Greater North East.

WITH BETTER AIR CONNECTIVITY, NORTH-EAST INDIA IS GRADUALLY RISING ON THE TOURISM MAP.

Improved infrastructure and air connectivity are drawing a large number of visitors and considering the current traction, tourist footfall in this picturesque region is expected to grow 10-12 per cent in 2019.

In 2017, new air routes were established buoying air connectivity in the region. New flights to prominent tourist destinations in North-East India have been introduced, with Guwahati – the ninth busiest airport in India – as the hub.

The other functional airports in the North East are Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lilabari and Silchar in Assam, Shillong in Meghalaya, Imphal in Manipur,

Dimapur in Nagaland, Agartala in Tripura and Aizawl in Mizoram.

A new airport at Pakyong in Sikkim has made the northern part of the State, especially tourist attractions such as Nathu La Pass, more accessible. Accommodation infrastructure in the region has also expanded, making it easier for travelers to find places to stay in locations that were earlier not well-connected.

ENTRY FORMALITIES IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

1. No permits are required to visit the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura – neither for Indians nor foreigners.

2. **a) For Indian Nationals :**
Indian travelers require Inner Line Permits (ILP) to visit the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

b) For Foreign nationals:

As per instructions issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 30.12.2010, the entire area of the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland has been excluded from the Protected Area regime notified under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1958, initially for a period of one year w.e.f. 1.1.2011, which has been extended from time to time.

This relaxation has been extended till 31.12.2022 subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries would continue to require prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs before their visit to the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- (ii) All foreigners visiting these States will register themselves with the Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) of the State/ District they visit within 24 hours of their arrival.

Protected Area Permit: Areas open for tourism in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, tour-circuits to be followed by foreign tourists where applicable, and the authorities delegated with the powers to grant a special permit are given below:

(A) ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The whole of Arunachal Pradesh is a Protected Area. No foreigner can enter or stay in the State without obtaining a permit from the competent authority.

However,

1. Foreign tourists in a group consisting of two or more persons, duly sponsored by a recognized travel agency in India and with a pre-drawn itinerary;
2. A group of two foreign tourists, even if they are not a married couple; and
3. A foreigner married to an Indian national belonging to the State of Arunachal Pradesh visiting the State on a tourist visa, can be allowed to visit the places indicated below, after obtaining a Protected Area Permit from the competent authority, for a period of thirty (30) days:

(i) Along, Deporijo, Itanagar, Pasighat, Ziro

(ii) Mia, Namdapha, Sejus (Puki), Tipi

(iii) Bhalukpong

(iv) Pasighat-Jengging-Yingkiong Tuting

(v) Bhalukpong-Bomdilla-Tawang

(vi) Roing-Mayodila-Anini

(vii) Tezu-Hayuling

(viii) Along-Mechukha

(ix) Daporijo-Nacho circuit via Taliha and Sayum

(x) Ziro - Palin-Nyapin-Sangram - Kaloriang

(xi) Doimukh - Sagalee - PakkeKasang-Seppa

(xii) Margerita-Miao-Namdapa - Vijoynagar

(xiii) Margerita -Jairampur - Nampong - Manmao-Pangsau Pass.

(B) SIKKIM

While certain areas of Sikkim between the West Bengal-Sikkim border and the 'Inner Line' passing through the State have been declared as Restricted Area, the remaining areas falling between the 'Inner Line' and the international border fall in Protected Area.

No foreigner can enter or stay in the Restricted or Protected area without obtaining a Restricted/Protected Area permit from the competent authority.

The places in the protected areas of Sikkim, which have been kept open for tourism only for specified durations, are mentioned below:

Tourist Circuit / Routes

East District

(i) Gangtok-Penlong-TinjureRumtek/Martem

North District

(i)Gangtok-ChungthangLachen-Thangu.

(ii) Mangan-Lingzia Shabrung-Talung Monastery-Kisong (except Yabok)

(iii) Mangan-Lingzia Sakyong-Royot Patam

(iv)Yumthang-Phuni Punichoka-Tarum Chachu Chungtnag

(v)Dikchu-Phodong Labrang Namptam-Mangan-Maling Singhik-Samartek Chungthang

(vi) Lachung-YumthangYume-Samdong

South District

- (i)** Sirwani-Temi-Damthang-Tendong-Namchi
- (ii)** Damthang-Tendong-Damthong-Rabangla-Maenam-Yangaang-Singchuthang-Sirwani
- (iii)** Rabangla-Maenam-Borong/Polout-Tashiding.
- (iv)** Kewzing-Rayong-Tinkitam-Legship.

West District

- (i)** Yoksum-Dzongri (except Gochala)
- (ii)** Yoksum-Dzaongri-Thangsing- Lampokhri
- (iii)** Utterey-Chewa Bhajang Dhond-Garakhet-Oktak Dzongri
- (iv)** Hilley-Versay-Singalila Chewabhanjang (except Utterey)
- (v)** Hiley via Sombarey-Versay-Soreng
- (vi)** Hilley-Versay-Dentum (except Pilling)
- (vii)** Peilling-Sangcholing
Khecheperi-Yuksom-Dubdi Sinon-Tashiding

Mountain Biking / White Water Sports Routes

- (i)** Gangtok-Rumtek-Sang Sirwani-Temi-Damthong Ravong-Kewzing-Tashiding-Yoksum-Gyalzing-Dentam Rinchenpong-Soreng-Jorethang Melli
- (ii)** Gangtok-Phodong Rangrang-Dikchu-Makha Sirwani- and join the Temi
- (iii)** Gangtok-Rumtek-Sang Sirwani-Temi- Namchi Jorethang-Melli
- (iv)** Gangtok-Rumtek-Sang Sirwani-Temi-Namchi Namthang-Rangpo

White Water Sport Routes

- (i)** Legship-Jorethang-Melli

To visit Sikkim foreigners must obtain Restricted Area Permit (RAP) previously known as Inner Line Permit from Sikkim Tourism Officers on the strength of valid Indian Visa.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS OF NORTH EAST INDIA

Ziro Music Festival,
Arunachal Pradesh
(27th Sep. to
30th Sep. 2018)

Sangai festival,
Imphal, Manipur
(21st Nov. to
30th Nov. 2018)

Hornbill Festival,
Dimapur & Kohima,
Nagaland (1st Dec. to
10th Dec. 2018)

Silk & Dye Festival,
Kaziranga, Assam
(1st Dec. to
9th Dec. 2018)

**Haflong International
Film Festival,**
Halfong, Dima Hasao, Assam
(27th to 31st Dec. 2018)

Rongali Festival,
Guwahati, Assam
(4th Jan. to 6th
Jan. 2019)

Members and office bearers of NEITO

(Company's name in alphabetical order)

AVANI TRAVEL SERVICES



SUDARSHAN KHOUND, Partner
(NEITO Executive Member)



MADHUSMITA KHOUND, Partner
(NEITO Secretary)

Kadambari Complex, Thana Charali, Dibrugarh, Assam, India.

Phone : +91-9435530345 / +91-9401343501 / Landline : +91-373-2325969

Email : info@kazirangatours.com, info@avanitravels.com | Website : www.avanitravels.com

FASTRACK TRAVELS



SAZID I. SUBHAN, CEO
(NEITO TREASURER)

Gr.Floor,Subhan Building ,T.R.Phukan Road, Machkhowa, Guwahati -781009 Assam, India.

Phone : +91-9957187792 / +91-6900087792 / Landline : +91-361-2510633.

Email : fastracktravels@gmail.com | Website : www.travelfastrack.com

JUNGLE TRAVELS INDIA



NIRMALYA CHOUDHURY, Executive Director- Operations
(NEITO Public Relations)

3 B, Dirang Arcade, G.N.B. Road, Chandmari, Guwahati - 781003, Assam, India.

Phone : +91-9435146434, Landline : +91-361-2667872/73

Email : info@jungletravels.in | Website : www.jtigroup.co.in

KHUIBO TOURS & TRAVEL



NIVARAN NONGMAITHEM, CEO
(NEITO Executive Member)

Yaikul Chingakham Leirak Moirangkhom , Imphal West 795001, MANIPUR.

Phone: +91-9748753659, +91-9436891270, +91-7005402796

Email: khuibotours@gmail.com | Website: www.khuibotours.com

KOYELI TOURS & TRAVELS



ARIJIT PURKAYASTHA, CEO
(NEITO Advisor)

Building No. 37, Near Housing Colony, Basistha Road, Guwahati - 7810006. Assam.

Phone: +91-99540-55553 / Landline : +91-3612226656 / +91-361-2225789

E-mail: info@koyelitravels.in | Website: www.koyelitravels.in

LEISURE TRAVELS



ROFIQ UL ISLAM, CEO
(NEITO Joint Secretary)

3rd floor, 1st Building, Pinaki Path , Zoo Road Tiniali, Guwahati -03, Assam.
Tel: +91-9854040404/+91-9854041666 /+91-9859499830/ Landline : +91-361-2456456
E-mail: Sales@leisuretravels.in | Website: www.leisuretravels.in

LUIT TOURS AND TRAVELS



SANJIB CHAKRAVORTY, CEO
(NEITO Executive Member)

G-1 Astha Enclave, G.s. Road , Guwahati -781007, Assam, India.
Phone : +91-9864102424 / +91-9207121314 / Landline : +91-361-2458136/2464017.
Email: luit.travel@rediffmail.com, luittravels.98@gmail.com | Website: www.luittravels.com

MY VOYAGE



APARUP SAIKIA, Managing Partner
(NEITO Joint Treasurer)

House No 3, Near Housefed Complex, Basistha Road, Guwahati - 781006, Assam, India
Phone : +91-9678071669 / Landline : +91-361-2262228
Email : aparup@myvoyage.co.in | Website: www.myvoyage.co.in

NETWORK TRAVELS



HEMANTA DAS, Vice-President
(NEITO Vice-President)

17- Paltan Bazar, G. S. Road, Guwahati - 781008, Assam, India
Phone : +91-9435154638/ +91-9435306446 / Landline : +91-361-2605335
Email : networktravelsindia@gmail.com
Web site : www.networktravelindia.com/ www.networktravels.com

SEVEN SISTERS HOLIDAYS



H RADHAKRISHNA SHARMA, Partner
(NEITO Public Relations)

M G Avenue, Imphal-795001, Manipur, India
Phone: +91-9706123401/ +91-9774351953/ +91-8720905337 / Landline : +91-385-2443977 / 2443979
Email id : 7sistersholidays@gmail.com | Website : www.sevensistersholidays.com



MS ELINA SATAPATHY, Partner
(NEITO Public Relations)

SHIVANI AVIATES



VISHAL JAIN, Director
(NEITO President)

B-8, Tribeni Commercial Complex, G.S.Road, Ulubari, Guwahati -781007, Assam INDIA.
Phone : +91-9859977700 / Landline : + 91-361-2464263 - 66
Email : vishal@shivaniaviates.com | website: www.shivaniaviates.com