Holistic tourism at Ganga Lake soon

By Special Correspondent

GANGA, Feb 06: Holistic tourism will begin soon at the historic Gokar Snyy (confluent 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 truckload of equipment from the Eastern Naval Command, Vishakapatnam, led by Lt Manoj Gavali, which arrived here on a goodwill mission at the initiative of Governor Gen (Retd) Lt. Gen. T. S. Virk, began survey of the ovularite-triangular shaped lake today for improving its tourism potential.

Talking to this daily, Lt Gavali, who had detailed the lake from Google.com, said during their weeklong survey they would start the danger and safe zones and suggest measures for improvement.

The lake, with an area of about 67 500 m2 and a four-km long concrete footpath with iron grills, built around it by the tourism department for easy movement, has huge tourism potential, said Lt Gavali, adding that rafting, boat pedaling and water skiing could be introduced to attract adventure tourists.

"It abounds in natural beauty with unpoluted, 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 Jitom Gantin, RWD Minister Kalichho Pal, officers of tourism and fisheries departments led by secretary Bandhana Deori and Sama Dedom (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 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 Dedom for his excellent job in protecting and developing the lake.

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

The proposal given by the command insurance 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 electricity through the required payment was deposited with the department.

The lake has to generate revenue as the beautiful lawn with sitting arrangement needs regular maintenance, she said, and urged visitors to pay the nominal entry fee of Rs. 10 and the charge for vehicle parking. None is exempted from payment, including officials and officers of any department, she categorically claimed.

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, Pal and Deori inspected the triple-storied guest house building and advised Dedom 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.