

Section 4(1)(b)(xvii) of RTIA 2005

Such other information as may be prescribed:

Meghalaya has several significant advantages over other tourist destinations in the North East. The State has a unique blend of different cultures and endowed with an ideal natural setting for which with proper developmental efforts; Tourism could flourish in a much effective way.

The Department has been gearing itself to promote tourism in a proper manner. In the past few years, a number of schemes have been undertaken to cater to the ever increasing number of tourists. It has been observed that Publicity has become a convincing factor in the promotion of Tourism in Meghalaya. The Tourist Information Centres at Kolkata, Guwahati, Baghmara, Tura, Jowai have been established for the convenience of tourists. The Calendar of Events-2005 has been submitted to the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India for national and international circulation. The Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation arranges accommodation, transport including conducted tours for the benefit of tourists.

The Meghalaya Tourism Policy 2001 has been formulated to attract more tourists from India and abroad and at the same time allow benefit to reach the grass root of the populace thereby mitigating innumerable interlinked problems. Some of the major salient features of the Policy are :

- (i) Create self sustainable job for the locals youth of the State.
- (ii) Generate substantial revenue for the State exchequer.
- (iii) Promote local interests through strategic alliances with investors.
- (iv) Preserving and enriching are cultural heritage in all its manifestations
- (v) To create suitable environment for the development of basic infrastructure facilities.
- (vi) To encourage traditional artisans and the handicraft sector.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that there has been a marked increase in the tourist inflow as indicated below:-

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DOMESTIC TOURISTS</u>	<u>FOREIGN TOURISTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2002	2,68,529	3,191	2,71,720
2003	3,71,953	6,304	3,78,257
2004	4,33,495	12,407	4,45,902.