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GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS GIVEN PRIORITY TO DEVELOPMENT OF CHILIKA LAKE

Odisha Samachar

Bhubaneswar, 18/8 (Odisha Samachar/Abhisek Mohanty) : "Odisha Government has always given priority to development of Chilika Lake. The exercise of framing a Tourism Master Plan for Chilika Lake & its Catchment area is a serious attempt that will unfold opportunities in tourism sector", said Tourism & Culture Minister Ashok Chandra Panda while addressing the

Inception workshop on "Tourism Master Plan for the Chilika Lake & its Catchment in Odisha", organized by Infrastructure Professionals Enterprise (IPE) Global Private Limited in collaboration with Chilika Development Authority (CDA) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP), Odisha at Hotel New Marrison here on Monday.



Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Tourism Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee said "The vision of Tourism Department is to put Odisha on International map as a preferred tourist destination. Tourism is a sector that boosts the economy to a large extent". He emphasized to promote sustainable tourism in the State.

Government has drawn up an ambitious eco-tourism plan not just to find prominence on the domestic and international tourism map but to establish itself as a forerunner at the national level for perusing a progressive and sustainable tourism agenda that not only conserves the environment but also benefits local communities. This is critical as the tourism sector in Odisha has grown manifold and is now recognized as a major instrument for employment creation and all round development of the State. It is in this regard that an exercise on framing a Tourism Master Plan for Chilika Lake & its Catchment Area has been development. The workshop focused on the project scope and the inception report. The exercise of framing the plan is being undertaken with an objective to conserve ecological resources in Chilika Lake and its Catchment, promote sustainable use of the lake & its resource basin and appropriate economic activities to benefit the benefit the local communities.

Among others, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J.D. Sharma, Chief Executive of CDA Dr. A.K. Patnaik, Additional Chief Executive of CDA Rajesh Gopalan Nair and Deputy Team Leader of IPE Global Veena Garella also spoke during the workshop.