

Made in Tripura: Bamboo-made water bottles

29 June 2020



AGARTALA: Water bottles made out of bamboo, an unique innovation by Bamboo and Cane Development Institute (BCDI) in Tripura, have shot to the limelight after Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon placed an order from Tripura Rehabilitation and Plantation Corporation (TRPC). Indian Forest Service Officer Parveen Kaswan's tweet stating that Tandon has placed an order went viral, catapulting the product into its moment of fame.

Retweeting Kaswan, Raveena Tandon wrote, "Just ordering mine! Have you?" The unique innovation instantly started grabbing eyeballs on social media.

Buoyed by the response, Tripura chief minister Biplab Deb said, "Raveena-ji's encouragement will surely boost the morale of the local artisans. As a sign of gratitude, we will make sure the product reaches you soon."

Taking to Twitter, the CM wrote, "Tripura is proud to introduce a variety of unique & eco-friendly handcrafted bamboo made bottles. The bottles made by the bamboo artisans of the state. The products are being promoted under PMVDVK and National Bamboo Mission (NBM) schemes. This industry can create huge employment and livelihood opportunity to thousands of artisans."

With help from Forest Research Centre for Livelihood Extension (FRCLE), the scientists of BCDI here had developed the bamboo-made water bottle two years ago but it was launched formally by Deb about six months back.

"This is a hygienic and leak-proof bottle with the concept designed and developed by us," said BCDI head Dr Abhinav Kant, adding that a barrier of glass, steel and copper prevents the water from coming in contact with the bamboo. This helps prevent fungal growth, odour and leakage.

FRCLE and BCDI have also designed a large number of household items and handicraft items made of bamboo and other non-timber forests produces. Officials said that the head of FRCLE, Dr Pawan Kaushik, has been working on cultivation and promotion of different varieties of bamboo for over a decade. With the dedicated efforts of Dr Kaushik, bamboo cultivation has become a sustainable livelihood option for more than 5,000 tribal families in different parts of Tripura today.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agartala/tripuras-bamboo-made-water-bottles-stir-up-twitter-storm/articleshow/76681981.cms>