

## **GOVERNOR FLAGS OFF HISTORIC RAJ BHAVAN TOUR**

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"It is never too late to start something new and that which benefits the people," said the Governor, Smt. Mridula Sinha at a function held to flag off the Raj Bhavan-Goa Darshan (Raj Bhavan Tour) at Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula, today.

The Governor spoke of how the Raj Bhavan was a place that was truly blessed with natural beauty as well historical significance. Smt. Sinha informed that they had received a lot of suggestions on how to go about the Raj Bhavan tours from the people and added that these suggestions will be taken up for consideration. "We will also be adding more elements such as short programs depicting the cultural aspects of Goa, to these tours so that visitors learn more about the true Goa," the Governor said.

Minister for Tourism, Shri Manohar Ajgaonkar, thanked the Governor for throwing open the gates of the Raj Bhavan to the people. Calling the day 'historic', Shri Ajgaonkar said that this shows that democracy is truly intact.

The Chairperson of Goa Tourism Development Corporation, (GTDC) Shri Dayanand Sopte, also expressed his gratitude to the Governor for allowing visitors to come to Raj Bhavan and said that it would be beneficial to Goans as well as to the tourists visiting Goa.

Earlier, Secretary to Governor, Shri Rupesh Kumar Thakur, IAS, in his welcome address briefed the gathering on history of the Raj Bhavan and stressed on its heritage value, its unmatched grandeur and opulence and its flora and fauna which he said was the epitome of natural beauty. Managing Director, GTDC, Shri Nikhil Desai proposed the vote of thanks.

Chief Executive Officer of Goa Electronics Limited (GEL), Ms. Revathi Majumdar spoke briefly about the online booking system and gate management system which will be followed for the tours. She also highlighted the security measures that would be taken during the tours.

On the occasion, the Information Centre was inaugurated and the Raj Bhavan Information Book was released. The Governor later flagged-off the first tour.

Present on the occasion were Dr Ram Kripal Sinha, Secretary- Tourism, Shri Sheo Pratap Singh IAS, the Vice-Chancellor of the Goa University, Prof Varun Sahni among others.

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