वाल! प्रकृति की गोद है इंडिया

आनंद कुमार सिंह, भागलपुर: 'बांध, टूट रिश्ते लेना आएं नए।' नेपाल सरकार से अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक होकर दोहरा (बांध में यह प्रकृति की गोद है और आग के चाहे ऐसे ही कुछकुछ दुर्गम होने कहीं नहीं रहे)। 'पंडडू बांध का हमारा प्रतीक है। भारत भ्रमण पर निकली विदेशी संगठनों के मुंडे ने आनंदात यह बांध निकली गई जब ये बंगाल से कोलकाता जाने वाली सौगात को फलस्वरूप पहुँचा। इस सीजन संख्या में 42

तसर सिल्क देखा उच्चल गहरी लीला
भागलपुर: तसर सिल्क, लीला रंग की लीला अपने पत्ते की भागलपुरी सिल्क का दुनिया दिखाता है। भागलपुर तसर सिल्क के लागू होने पर मंजूरी दिया गया। भागलपुर के थालिया विकास और भागलपुरी तसर किसानों के लाभ में कामयाब किया गया। नहीं होने के लागू होने के कारण भागलपुर में हजारों लीलाओं के बाद में इसका सम्मान भी है। सौराष्ट्र और प्रायोजन पाये में भी सिल्क की विकास कर दी। सैकड़ों लोगों को कामों का पड़ोसा कर दिया।
They explored a new, colourful India

TOURISTS ONBOARD ‘Pandaw’ share their experiences with the Hindustan Times

Rashmi Gupta

VARANASI: Journey of the maiden cruise ‘Pandaw’ was full of excitement for the tourists who explored India in a new way.

A few of the tourists, who were on the cruise vessel from Kolkata to Ghazipur, shared their experience and excitement with the Hindustan Times, on Sunday.

Dimity Davy, a cattle farmer in Australia wearing a khadi kurta that she purchased during her trip, said it was an exciting journey for her as she saw the beauty of real India during the trip. She saw women wearing colourful clothes and working in agricultural farms, something that were really new for her. She said lectures on fauna and flora, emergence of the Ganga, various religions and historical places were organised at the lecture hall of the cruise vessel that helped them know and understand things in a better way.

Ingrid, also a cattle farmer in Australia, said they happened to have glimpses of beautiful sights on the Ganga through cruise deck. They also enjoyed thunderstorm, rain and breeze at the terrace of the vessel. She said she had explored India in a new way that she had never seen in her earlier trips to the country.

For Gerry Cropp, a retired professor in the UK, the journey was full of excitement as he visited two ancient universities of international renown, namely Nalanda and Vikramashila along with other monuments at various places, including Sarnath.

“After this happening trip to India, when I will read about India in books, I would be able to closely relate the things and understand them in a better way,” he said.

He said 90 per cent of the tourists, including himself, on the cruise suffered stomach infection like diarrhoea though there were doctors and medical team to look after them.

Dr Asim Kumar Das Gupta, an Indian now residing in the UK, said his dreams for a cruise journey to the temple city was shattered when the cruise got stranded at Ghazipur.

He suggested a few things to make the journey more comfortable. These included an instrument to measure the depth of water as the cruise crew members did not get an idea of the depth of the river water; improved service and hygiene. He added the trip should be extended to 16 days so that they could not miss any site due to paucity of time.
Kolkata-Varanasi
Ganga cruise from today

Kolkata: Tourists will now be able to sail through the country's colonial past from Kolkata to Varanasi, with the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation (WBTDCPL) launching a 1,280-km cruise on the Ganga from Monday. "This is the first cruise on the Ganges after almost 200 years. Very few journeys can be as interesting as a journey into the colonial past," WBTDCPL managing director T V N Rao said.

The demand for the cruise is very high and tickets are already booked till 2011, he said. "This will promote many of the less-visited areas of West Bengal among both domestic and foreign tourists. We will also be venturing into the Sundarbans at a later stage," he added.

The WBTDCPL has signed an MoU with Pandaw Cruises India Ltd and the cruise would be the company's first venture in the country. Pandaw's parent company operates six cruisers in countries like Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysia. RV Bengal Pandaw, designed on the lines of a colonial steamer, would take 15 days to sail from Kolkata to Varanasi, Raj Singh, director of Pandaw Cruises India, said. While the tariff for domestic passengers is yet to be decided, foreign tourists will have to pay between Rs 1.2 lakh and Rs 1.8 lakh, Singh said. The first cruise would have 50 passengers on board, mostly foreigners and NRIs.

A Clyde-built steamer called the Pandaw was restored and six more replicas built, he said. "We now have six beautifully crafted Pandaw steamers upholstered in hand-finished brass and teakwood by traditional craftsmen," Singh said. "The secret of our success is that luxury and comfort are discreetly present recreating a colonial and friendly atmosphere," he added. The Pandaw steamers have shallow draught which can sail to areas where other vessels can't. AGENCIES

- It'll take about 15 days to sail from Varanasi to Kolkata
- Tickets already booked till 2011
- First cruise to have 50 people
- Domestic tariff yet to be decided
- Foreigners to pay anywhere between Rs 1.2 lakh and Rs 1.8 lakh