

Aizawl District Takes Steps to Enhance Fire Prevention Measures

OUR CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL: Today, under the leadership of Nazuk Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Aizawl District, the District Level Committee on Fire Prevention convened to assess and reinforce fire prevention measures in the region.

Chaired by Nazuk Kumar, who also serves as the Chairman of DLFCP, Lalnungdanga Khawhring, DDO Aizawl Forest Division, and Member Secretary, presented a comprehensive report on



the ongoing initiatives aimed at preventing fires across Aizawl District.

The report highlighted that since January 2024, a total of 308 fires have been recorded, affecting an area spanning 498.61 hectares. The majority of these incidents were attributed to jhum burning activities, with Khawpwar village being the only exception, having delayed their jhum burning.

During the meeting, discussions centered on actionable steps to address the prevailing fire risks, emphasizing

the importance of sustained efforts in fire prevention. Nazuk Kumar emphasized the necessity of raising awareness among the public and stressed the significance of seamless cooperation among various departments.

Furthermore, it was underscored that fire prevention measures should extend beyond rural areas to cover the urban landscape of Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) as well, highlighting the comprehensive approach required to safeguard against fire hazards.

Election Preparations in Saitual: Nodal Officers Gear Up

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SAITUAL: Today, the second meeting of the Saitual District Nodal Officers convened at the DC Conference Room to strategize for the upcoming Lok Sabha MP General Election. Chaired by Dr. Lalngura Tlau, District Election Officer & ARO, the meeting saw the participation of all 16 appointed Nodal Officers.

Dr. Tlau emphasized the urgency of election preparations, citing the limited time available before polling day. Concerns over potential disruptions like roadblocks due to landslides and issues with essential services were raised, urging proactive measures to mitigate such challenges during the election period.

Furthermore, Dr. Tlau



underscored the importance of intensifying the SVEEP campaign to encourage voter turnout. Given the nationwide scope of the election, he emphasized the need for heightened priority and focus.

Key discussions during the meeting encompassed various

responsibilities of the Nodal Officers, including initiatives to facilitate voting for elderly and differently-abled individuals. Matters concerning MCMC, security arrangements, EVM management, and polling party logistics were also addressed comprehensively.

Accused in killing of two non-tribals in Ichatmati identified: Meghalaya CM

AGENCIES

SHILLONG: Perpetrators behind the killing of two non-tribals at Ichatmati in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, have been identified. This was stated by Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma.

"We are actively pursuing the culprits," stated Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma. Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma reaffirmed his government's dedication to uphold law and ensure justice.

However, as of now, no arrests have been made, according to police in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.

The bodies of Esan Sing and Sujit Dutta, both non-tribals, were discovered at Ichatmati and Dalda, situated within the Shella assembly constituency along the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya.

Amit Shah speaks to CMs of Assam & Manipur after hailstorms hit Northeast

AGENCIES

GUWAHATI: Union home minister Amit Shah reached out to the chief ministers of Assam and Manipur on Monday (April 01) following the extensive damages caused by a severe storm in both the Northeast states, assuring them of full central support.

Amit Shah also urged Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers in both Assam and Manipur to extend assistance to the affected populace during this challenging period. Expressing deep concern over the significant losses incurred in Assam and Manipur due to the storm, Shah contacted the chief ministers to pledge all



possible aid. In South Salmara-Mankachar district of Assam, tragic news emerged as a child lost their life and two individuals were reported missing fol-

lowing a boat capsizing incident in the Brahmaputra River amid heavy rainfall and hailstorms. Additionally, reports surfaced of rain and hailstorms wreaking havoc in various

parts of Manipur on Sunday (March 31), resulting in damages to homes, structures, and agricultural crops.

"Deeply concerned about the severe loss suffered by West Bengal, Assam, and Manipur due to a storm. Spoke to the Chief Ministers and assured them of all possible assistance," Amit Shah said. He added: "I extend my sincerest condolences to the families of the deceased and pray for the swift recovery of the injured."

The union home minister further said: "Also, appeal to all the Karyakartas of the BJP to be with the affected people and provide every possible help to them during this hour of distress."

Assam: Minor killed, two missing after boat capsized in Mankachar

AGENCIES

GUWAHATI: A minor was killed while two others reportedly went missing after a boat capsized in South Salmara Mankachar, Assam.

As per reports, the incident took place at the Alga area in Nepur, Mankachar along the Indo-Bangladesh border during a storm. While initially, three were reported to be missing, one retrieved from the waters died during treatment.

Operations to locate the other two missing persons are still being carried out by the rescue teams.

The boat carrying 18 passengers capsized at around 5:30 pm on Sunday.

Tripura CM Manik Saha exudes confidence in BJP's victory in Lok Sabha polls



AGENCIES

GOMATI (TRIPURA): Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday expressed confidence in the BJP's victory in the state, saying that the large crowds during the nomination filing for BJP candidates prove it.

The remark was made at a gathering in Garji, Gomati District, where the participation of women was significant.

"We are working to fulfil PM Modi's hope to win over 400 seats in the Lok Sabha. Biplab Kumar Deb will contest from the West Parliamentary Constituency, and Kriti Singh Debarma will contest from the East seat. When we went to file nominations in both seats, we witnessed massive crowds of people. This indicated what would happen on June 4. We are confident that we will win both seats," said Saha. The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of empowering women for the country's progress.

"To empower and strengthen women, we have implemented a 33 per cent job reservation and 55 per cent stall distribution for women. Furthermore, additional measures have been taken to empower women," stated the Chief Minister.

Saha criticized the CPI (M) and Congress for their alliance and the terror they unleashed during their regime. He contrasted this with the peaceful 2023 Assembly election under

the BJP's rule.

"The opposition always said that law and order were not good, but what we have seen is that during their regime, elections meant terror and violence. However, the 2023 Assembly election was held peacefully with no violence. We must visit each house to strengthen our relationship with the public, gain support, and ask people to bless PM Modi. If we want to strengthen the country, then we need Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. PM Modi always works for the people and guarantees it. We always respect the constitution. Many people were killed and violence took place over the last 35 years. During the elections, members of the opposition party had to leave the state in fear. But it is unfortunate that now Congress has formed an alliance with CPIM and created the INDI alliance, in which I will be the only one left," he added.

The CM also interacted with senior citizens and eminent personalities of Kakraban Mondal on the same day.

The elections are scheduled to be held in two phases in Tripura. The West Tripura seat will go to the polls on April 19, while the East Tripura seat will witness voting on April 26. The counting of votes will be held on June 4.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won the two seats in the state. Pratima Bhowmik and Rebati Tripura were elected from the West Tripura and East Tripura constituencies, respectively.

This was a notable achievement, as the BJP had not won any seats in the previous elections. Meanwhile, in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections in Tripura, the BJP did not win any seats. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) secured a landslide victory, winning both seats in the state.

19 traditional products, crafts of Assam receive GI tag: CM Sarma

AGENCIES

GUWAHATI: As many as 19 traditional products and crafts of Assam, including Bihu Dhol, Jaapi and several items of the Bodo community, have been accorded with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

These traditional products and crafts include the Assam Bihu Dhol, Assam Jaapi, Sarthebari Metal Craft, Assam Pani Mateka Craft, Assam Asharikandi Terracotta Craft, Assam Mising Handloom Products and several items of the Bodo community.

"A big win for Assam's heritage! Six prestigious GI Tags have been granted to traditional crafts with support from NABARD, RO Guwahati, and facilitated by Padma Shri Dr Rajani Kant, GI Expert. This includes iconic items



like Assam Bihu Dhol, Japi, Sarthebari Metal Craft, and more. These products, deeply rooted in history, support nearly one lakh people directly," CM Sarma said in a post on X. "What a better day than Bodofa's birth anniversary to receive the GI tags for 13 articles that embody the rich cultural heritage of our Bodo community. This recognition will greatly boost the promotion of the items and in taking forward the legacy of these cultural items," CM Sarma added.

Pramod Boro, Chief Executive Member of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) also said that the 13 articles that have received the prestigious GI Tag are of immense pride for all of Bodoland community.

"Today is a day of immense pride for all Bodoland, as on the birth anniversary of Bodofa UN Brahma, 13 articles that embody Bodo identity have received the prestigious GI Tag from the Geographical Indication Registry, Government of India," said Pramod Boro.

Centuries-old handicraft industry - the Sarthebari bell-metal industry is the second largest handicraft sector in Assam after bamboo craft and currently around 2000 artisans are engaged in the Sarthebari bell-metal craft industry.

Sarthebari in the Barpeta district is a place well known for its metal products making clusters like bell-metal and

brass-metal work and developing a variety of products since generations which have been recognised 2,000 years back also as one of the most useful and prominent products from the one of the holiest place in the country situated in the Kamrup geographical region of Assam. The common objects made by the artisans in Sarthebari are kalah (water pot), sarai (a platter or tray mounted on a base), kahi (dish), bati (bowl), lota (water pot with a long neck) and tal (cymbals).

The technology involved in making the objects is traditional and simple. The main tools are anvils of different sizes locally known as balmuri, chatuli and akue, hammers, pincers, files, chisels and some minor equipment.

Locally they are called Dulaii, Gasha, Saria, Piri, Khanta (an iron instrument used for polishing the bell metal products), Pocker etc.

These artisans inherit the knowledge from their elders and thus the craft sector runs on the hereditary system. Modern tools and technology have not yet touched the lives of the artisans and they still adhere to primitive tools and equipment in bell-metal production.

Historically, this craft form dates back to the 7th century AD. Various written records reveal that the bell metal industry of Assam existed from the time of Kumar Bhaskarvarman, the king of the Varman Dynasty, when, the Kumar of eastern India gifted drinking vessels to Harshavardhana of Kannauj. Despite facing numerous problems, and challenges, the artisans are engaging to preserve their ancestral craft.

The Assam Bihu Dhol is a drum-like musical instrument from Assam with a barrel shape carved and hollowed out of a single piece of quality wood.

The right head is larger and has a louder pitch than the left side. Both the faces of the Bihu Dhol are enclosed with thin leather. It is tightened with the support of 'Gajra' (the outer diameter of the dhol head), similar to Tabla and it is interlaced to the shell and hoop on the other side by thin but solid leather straps.

Bihu Dhol is the most valued musical instrument for the Assamese, a vital part of its folk festival and tradition. Bihu Dhol becomes more relevant when the festival in question is Bihu itself. This special Dhol is beaten along the Rongali Bihu dance and songs like Bihu Naam, are performed during the occasion. Expressing his gratitude to the government, Najat Deka, a shopkeeper of Guwahati who sells Sarthebari bell-metal products told ANI, "It is a great moment for Assam that Sarthebari Metal Craft and other traditional products, craft of Assam get GI tag."

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal begins campaign in tea-majority areas in Assam's Dibrugarh

AGENCIES

DIBRUGARH (ASSAM): Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, launched a campaign in the tea-majority areas in Dibrugarh, emphasizing the significance of Assam tea's 200-year legacy in elevating India's global reputation.

Union Minister Sonowal, who has been fielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was canvassing for the party for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. He began the campaign on Sunday with meetings in Dikom Ses tea garden field, Bamunbari tea garden field, and Keheng tea garden in Tingrai Itakhuli field.

Despite inclement weather conditions, Sarbananda Sonowal was accorded a warm reception by the members of the tea garden community during his visit.

"The tea working community is very close to my heart. Your colourful community enriches the complex, dynamic, and vibrant socio-cultural fabric

of Assamese community. Two hundred years of glorious Assam tea have made India world famous. A hard-working tea tribe is behind this success," the Union Minister said while speaking during his campaign.

"You elected me to represent your causes as MLA, MP, Chief Minister, and now Union Minister. My job is to serve you; this is my first and foremost duty. Under the inspiring leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the tea community, along with contemporary society from every section, has been reaping the fruits of welfare democracy that were long denied during the misrule of the Congress government. Due to Modi ji's early experience in life as a tea worker, he always advised me to work for the welfare of the tea garden community. This is the reason why I, as the then CM of Assam, gave special attention to setting up new schools so that the young generation from your community can get educated," Sonowal said.

During his visit, Union Minister Sonowal also participated in various programs, including Kutumba Milan Samaroh of All Assam Patar Samaj, the BJP's Tea Tribe March Workers' Conference, and the BJP-AGP election campaign rally. He was accompanied by the Union Minister of State Rameswar Teji, the Ministers of the Government of Assam, Sanjay Kishan, and Bimal Bora; the MLA of Dibrugarh, Prasanta Phukan; the MLA of Dulaijan, Teras Goyala, the Chairman of the Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC), Rituparna Barua; and other BJP office bearers.

Adding further, Sonowal said, "Our zero-tolerance against the APSC scam led to the arrest of culprits who were running a job racket, denying the dues of eligible candidates. Today, anyone, whether from the tea tribe community or any other community in Assam, has a level playing field where one can secure a job with merit. We also worked to improve the

conditions of roads within tea gardens, Anganwadi centres, a cash incentive of Rs 12,000 to every pregnant woman, free primary education for the children of the tea community, free medicines at hospitals, and many other schemes. The visionary step of the Jan Dhan Yojana, launched by PM Narendra Modi ji, has given all of us an opportunity to become financially secure and become part of the financially and socially inclusive development of the country. It is a moment of great satisfaction that more than 8,50,000 bank accounts were opened under this scheme for the tea workers, making them part of the country's development process."

"Since 2014, PM Narendra Modi ji has spearheaded numerous welfare initiatives aimed at uplifting the tea community. Programs such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have significantly enhanced living standards within this community.

Nagaland Congress urges Centre to address ENPO's FNT demand



AGENCIES

KOHIMA: Nagaland Congress has urged the government of India (GoI) to heed the demands of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organization (ENPO) for "Frontier Nagaland".

This comes amidst recent discussions concerning ENPO's demand for Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT). The Nagaland Congress reaffirmed its position on the Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT) issue.

Former Nagaland Congress president K Therie criticized ENPO's decision to boycott the Lok Sabha elections as an extreme measure, equating it to a constitutional breakdown that would stain Nagaland's statehood history.

Therise emphasized ENPO's significance, asserting its representation of grievances and discrimination issues among the rural population and youth, deserving respect. He urged Nagaland governor to mediate discussions between the government of India (GoI) and ENPO to address the issue amicably.

Clarifying their stance, the Nagaland Congress emphasized that Therie's statement represents his personal opinion and not the party's official position. The Nagaland Congress expressed solidarity with ENPO, considering their demands as legitimate manifestations of longstanding grievances and trust deficits. They criticized successive Nagaland and central governments for exacerbating disunity through indifference and political ineptitude over the past decade. While acknowledging concerns raised by some political factions regarding ENPO's approach, the Nagaland Congress recognized the organization's limited avenues for voicing demands within conventional democratic norms.

The Nagaland Congress also called upon the government of India (GoI) to acknowledge ENPO's demands and refrain from actions that oppose the spirit of ENPO resolutions.

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8.5 lacs with the highest package of 44 lacs. Many of the students got multiple job offers across the industry. The success of the RCMB students is attributed to its high standard academic curriculum with additional certification programs such as advance XL, Business Analytics, AI& ML, Project Management and International Bootcamps as per the industry requirements.

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