

Tripura celebrated World Environment Day-2013

World Environment Day – 2013 was celebrated with much enthusiasm across Tripura on 5th of June. The UNEP theme of the World Environment Day celebrations was “Think. Eat. Save”.

The Central Programme was organized by Tripura State Pollution Control Board and the Recreation Club of Department of Science, Technology and Environment in Sukanta Academy, Agartala with “Sit & Draw Competition” among children. About 350 children participated in the competition. This was followed by the Cultural Programme on Environment and prize distribution ceremony. The programme was presided by Smt. Bijita Nath, Hon’ble Minister, Science, Technology & Environment.



Sri Aghore Debbarma, Hon’ble Minister, Agriculture Department etc was the Chief Guest of the programme. Sri Surender Kumar, Special Secretary, Science, Technology & Environment, Tripura was the Special Guest. Prof. Mihir Deb, Chairman, Tripura State Pollution Control Board delivered the Welcome Address and Sri S.K.Paul, IFS, Member Secretary, Tripura State Pollution Control Board proposed the Vote of Thanks. Smt. Bijita Nath, Hon’ble Minister, Science, Technology & Environment released the TSPCB- ENVIS Newsletter on the occasion.

Agartala Municipal Council, TTAADC, all the Nagar Panchayets, District Offices of Department of Science, Technology & Environment, 850 Eco – Clubs of the State, different NGOs, Schools, Institute of Engineers’ (I), Tripura State Centre etc. also celebrated the World Environment Day – 2013. A massive environmental awareness has been generated among the masses of Tripura.

TSPCB provided Tipper Trucks to Nagar Panchayets

In December 2012, TSPCB completed 25 years of its existence. To mark the occasion of Silver Jubilee TSPCB provided 15 Tipper Trucks to 15 Nagar Panchayets. This will help the Nagar Panchayets in managing Municipal Solid Wastes a little better manner.



Tripura's blanket ban on plastic carry bags- Environment Minister Meets Bazaar Committees

Tripura has imposed a complete ban on the manufacture, import; storing, transport, sale and use of plastic carry bags in the state with effect from October 4, 2013 in view of its hazardous effect on the environment. A public notification was issued here banning the plastic carry bags.



For any violation of the ban, the authority would impose a fine of Rs.1 lakh or jail for a maximum term of five years or both. In case of any violation of the government order by any institution or by any industry or by any shop, the TSPCB would issue closure order and would also issue order for disconnection of electricity of that institution or industry or shop.

The government has been observing that the plastic carry bags are littered around and pose a detrimental effect on the environment. The plastic bags also block gutters, sewers and drains, resulting in unhygienic environment and health-related problems.

Aquatic and terrestrial animals die after consuming the plastic bags. These bags arrest the recharging ground water aquifers while harmful chemicals and plastic colours contaminate the soil and water and choke the organisms. Irresponsibly trashing of the plastic bags also affects the growth of roots, plants and creatures which causes long-term effect on ecology and environment.

As a part of implementation of the notification Minister, Science, Technology & Environment met the Bazaar Committees and appealed to render all cooperation for banning of plastic carry bags.

TSPCB Organized Pre-Proposal Workshops for NEAC 2013-14

The Theme for National Environment Awareness Campaign 2013-14 is 'Biodiversity Conservation', keeping in view that the current decade (2011-2020) has been declared as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification. With India hosted the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), from 8- 19 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, it is considered an opportune time to showcase the wide array of biodiversity in the country and the conservation measures adopted thereof.



The Ministry of Environment & Forests has also identified different sub-theme for conducting the campaign. There is also a suggestive list of action components that includes: Preparation of biodiversity registers for schools/villages/local areas; Promotion of Traditional medicinal practices; Establishment of seed banks and encouraging the farmers for in-situ conservation of seed diversity; Promotion of agro bio-diverse food; Planting bio-diverse mix species/herbal gardens/kitchen garden and its maintenance.

In Tripura, the Tripura State Pollution Control Board is the Regional Resource Agency (RRA) for implementation of the NEAC. The Board has organized District wise pre-proposal workshops in order to provide the concerned organizations etc, the guidelines for filling up the proforma for application. On 19th July, 2013, pre-proposal interaction meet was held in Ambassa DRDA Conference Hall for Dhalai and Khowai

Districts and at Sukanta Academy Auditorium, Agartala for West Tripura & Sepahijala Districts. On 20th July, 2013, such interaction meet was also organized in Kumarghat Panchayet Samiti Hall for North Tripura & Unakoti Districts and at Udaipur Nagar Panchayet Hall for Gomati & South Tripura Districts.

Interaction Meet With The ECO-Clubs

In our state, the Tripura State Pollution Control Board is the Nodal Agency for coordinating ECO -Club programmes. At present there are 850 Eco-Clubs in schools covering all the eight (8) districts. Through Tripura State Pollution Control Board, the MoEF is providing fund to these Eco-Clubs every year for organizing different programmes.



The Tripura State Pollution Control Board organized interaction meet with ECO-Clubs teachers in charge of schools to provide guidelines for carrying out activities. An interaction meet was organized at Conference Hall of District Education Office, Udaipur for Eco-Clubs in Gomati district on 18th July, 2013 and 19th July, 2013 for Eco-Clubs in Dhalai district at Conference Hall, DRDA, Ambassa. Similar interaction meet for Eco-Clubs of North Tripura District and Unakoti District were held on 25th July, 2013 at Old Town Hall, Dharmanagar and Kumarghat Panchayet Samity Hall respectively. On 26th July, 2013, interaction meet for Eco-Clubs of Khowai District was held at Ashwini Kumar Ghosh Smriti Community Hall, Teliamura. Interaction meet for Eco-Clubs of South Tripura District was held on 27th July, 2013 at Conference Hall of Agriculture Department, Santirbazar. On 29th July, 2013 interaction meets were held for Eco-Clubs of Sepahijala and West Tripura District at Nari Mangal C.R.C Hall, Bishalgarh and Matangini Pritilata Sabha Griha, Women's College, Agartala respectively.

Pineapple in Tripura

Tripura is fortunate to have agricultural as well as climatic conditions suitable for production of a large variety of horticultural crops chief among which include "Queen" and "Kew"; varieties of Pineapple, Oranges, Lichis and Cashew. Each of these from Tripura is well known in the rest of the country. These Fruit products are free of any

chemical residue thus making the fruits of Tripura products of ORGANIC FARMING.

Two varieties of Pineapples are available in Tripura during mid-May to mid-September. The varieties are Queen and Kew.

Queen Pineapple

Fruits are Spiny, golden yellow in color and emits pleasant aroma and flavor at the ripen stage. The fruits are harvested when eyes turns yellow during mid-May to mid-July when the fruit is available. Average weight of fruit varies from 600 Grams to 800 Grams. It possesses all the good Organoleptic qualities. Juice bright yellow color. TSS varies from 10° to 14° brix depending upon the stage of maturity and season. pH 4 to 4.5. Water content 80% to 90%. Sweetness and unique aroma differentiates it with Pineapple of other region of North East India.



Kew Pineapple

Spineless large size fruit weight varies from 1.5 Kg. to 3 Kg. Highly juicy with TSS content 8° to 12° brix. The colour of Juice is light yellow with considerable aroma and flavor. Highly suitable for canning.

Pineapples harvested at half ripe stage can be kept fresh for 1 to 3 weeks at 12° c to 13°c.

Farmers have pioneered pineapple cultivation in Tripura. In their traditional lore too, they have carefully preserved a belief that "pineapple would never betray them". That, any crop may fail in an unfavourable circumstance, but pineapple is just a viable crop of survival, providing substantial income year after year.

This popular belief of the Darlongs, a sub tribe of Mizos, residing in Nalkata area of Kumarghat Block of North Tripura district, 140 km off Agartala, the capital city of Tripura is still instrumental in ensuring bumper pineapple crops in their hamlet.

Productivity of pineapple per hectare in Tripura is 18.73 tonnes, which is higher than the national average of 15.80 tonnes. The Dhalai district, another buffer zone of pineapple cultivation records the highest yield per hectare production in the state with 21.88 tonnes.

Is Northeast India the next disaster point after Uttarakhand?

Arunachal Pradesh is planning on at least 150 MoUs for power generation in the fragile hills of the Eastern

Himalayas in high seismic zones. Is the Northeast in the next disaster point after Uttarakhand?

Arunachal is no different. It's a part of the Himalayas and it's prone to such natural hazards and while Arunachal goes to exploit its hydel power potential, there's a need to really ensure that you have followed all the steps.



In more cases than one, environmental impact assessment and risk assessments have been ignored, though there are so far only three major projects under construction. Environmental activists are complaining about mega dams coming up on river Siang because it is submerging all livelihoods of the people. In totality we will be annihilated by these dams.

Sikkim has 26 hydel power projects. CNN-IBN noticed extensive tunneling and construction in its earlier visit. Almost like in a traffic jam one has bumper to bumper cars, you have bumper to bumper dams and tunneling in Sikkim and parts of Arunachal Pradesh and that makes the geologically fragile landscape weaker and more vulnerable during a natural disaster.

It is something Sikkim witnessed during the earthquake in 2011. So is it too late in Arunachal? The Government of India needs to take a pause and actually put these systems in place, the impact assessment, the risk assessment, consult people both in upstream and downstream area. That is crucial since the line between manmade and natural disaster is a very thin one.

Source: CNN-IBN

Arctic To Antarctica For A Feel Of Climate Change

A 35,000km overland expedition from Arctic to Antarctic is the latest expedition of India to build ties with resource rich Latin America.

Led by explorer Akhil Bakshi, the four-month expedition starts at Dead Horse Creek on the Arctic Ocean in Alaska and passes through the US West Coast before entering the Latin America and ending at Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of the continent. The focus of the expedition, named 'Pangea One World', will be climate change, said Bakshi. "During the journey meetings will be held with environment scientists, metrologists, hydrographers and agronomists to study the action being taken by various countries on monitoring the status of climate change and their preparedness to meet the challenge", said Bakshi, who will present a report to the Environment and Forests Ministry on his findings during the expedition.



Source: TOI

DoT for running towers on renewable energy

Concerned over the wide spread usage of diesel by over six lakhs telecom towers in the country, the Telecom Department is working on running towers on renewable energy, starting with non-grid areas.

Telecom companies are estimated to be the second biggest consumers of diesel in the country, behind railways. Apart from leading to high carbon emissions, diesel usage by telecom towers is also a big drain on exchequer as a loss to the government on account of the cheaper fuel is pegged at over Rs. 4,500 crores.



The Department of Telecom (DoT) has initiated projects in non-grid areas in around 20 states where they power the towers using green energy sources like solar panels and wind energy. The test have been found to have "worked out well" and there are now plans to actively spread them to more regions.

Average fuel consumption by a single tower is estimated at 8,760 litre diesel annually, assuming 8 hours of operation by diesel generator sets.

The total diesel usage by the telecom tower apparatus spread across the country is pegged at 5.12 billion litres a year. Also the total carbon emission on account of diesel usage by the telecom towers is estimated to be around 10Mt of Carbon-dioxide (CO₂).

The sources said that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been roped in for the exercise and the government has initially started the project with state-run BSNL. The idea is to see whether it is a sustainable model that can also be replicated.

Source: TOI

NEEPCO plan to tap solar, wind power

The North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) is embarking on a plan to generate at least 1500MW power from non-conventional sources of energy, especially by tapping solar power and wind, in the next five years. The upcoming 101MW gas-based combine cycle Monarchak power project will add 5 MW power to the grid from next January.



As part of clean development mechanism at Monarchak, NEEPCO has installed the first such initiative in the region to tap solar power. Similar projects are also coming up in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya.

Apart from this, NEEPCO has already signed an MoU last month with Arunachal Pradesh government to install a 3750-MW capacity hydropower project, biggest ever in the county, along with a 240-MW capacity plant in Assam, 176MW in Mizoram and 85MW in Meghalaya.

With the increasing power demand across the region, NEEPCO is enhancing generation capacity in all its existing thermal power plants by switching over to combine cycle from open cycle, which will also reduce pollution as well as wastage of energy.

Source: TNN

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