

Poush Sankranti celebrated across the state amid fanfare



Pic. by Anupam Paul, ICO

Like every year Poush Sankranti festival has been celebrated throughout the state through different programmes, Poush Sankranti Mela at Tirthamukh being the biggest centre of attraction. Similar fairs have been organized at Chakmaghat, Lankamura and many other places. Amidst the huge crowd of pious people the chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb inaugurated the fair at Tirthamukh. Among other dignitaries were present tribal welfare minister Mewar Kumar

Jamatia, MLA Rampada Jamatia, MLA Sindhu Chandra Jamatia, DM Debapriya Bardhan and secretary of the tribal welfare department Tanushri Debbarma.

The fairground had seven exhibition stalls organized by different government departments and agencies. The fair was in full bloom through the 13th and 14th January. Nightlong cultural programmes were part of various attractions in the fair ground.

Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant limit hiked

The state government has decided to increase the Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. This decision was taken in the state cabinet meeting on January 14, 2021 by way of sixth amendment of the Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant Rules. After the cabinet meeting the education minister Ratan Lal Nath informed about the decision at a press meet held at the secretariat on January 14.

The education minister informed that the Sixth Amendment also incorporated the issue of financial benefits in case of accidental death / injury and death due to COVID-19. Earlier these were not a part of

the Chief Minister's Discretionary Grant Rules. He also informed that offer letters to 1468 teachers will be issued after January 20, 2021. Among them 897 will be for Graduate Teachers and 571 will be for Under-graduate Teacher posts. In this context the minister said, the education department sought 1,725 Under-graduate and 2,116 Graduate teachers from TRBT. For the rest of teachers i.e. 1,219 Graduate and 1,154 Undergraduate teachers the education department asked the TRBT to taken initiative for TET examination.

Very soon 18 more Under-Graduate and 11 Graduate teachers will posted, informed the education minister. They were issued offer letters earlier. He said, the education department has also taken initiative to appoint those who had cleared the Central TET and the matter of appointing those who cleared TET but their age limit has elapsed is also being considered. He said, January 18, onward classes for third and fourth standard will resume.

State physician brings accolades with her paper

State's physician Dr. Arpita Debnath has been honoured with the Best Paper award at the National Conference of

Epidemiology Foundation of India held at the AIIMS, Hrishikesh recently. Dr. Arpita Debnath, a staff under the health and family welfare department is currently pursuing MD, Medicine from Agartala Government Medical College. The paper that fetched Dr. Arpita this distinction was titled 'Prevalence of Anemia and its Associated Factors of Pregnant Women Attending ANC at AGMC Tripura'. Dr Arpita accomplished her paper under the guidance of associated professor of AGMC Dr. Himadri Bhattacharya and Dr. Subrata Baidya, head of the department, Community Medicine. The director of the health department has informed this in a press release.

Tool kits distributed among 70 artisans of 9 blocks

On behalf of the West Tripura district industrial centre improvement tool kits have been distributed among the artisans. With the assistance of National Bamboo Mission tool kits were distributed among 70 artisans of nine blocks of the state at a programme held at Pragna Bhavan on January 8. Among the dignitaries were present Sabhadhipati of West Tripura Zilla Parishad Antara Sarkar Deb, additional director of industries and commerce department P.G. Jamatia.