

This year's Kharchi begins with restrictions in COVID time

Following the COVID-19 guidelines Kharchi Puja set off this year's journey yesterday at Chaturdash Devata Temple in Old Agartala. The weeklong puja or festival began with the ceremonial bathing of the fourteen deities under the guidance of the priest Chantai in the morning. After that the deities were established in the outer temple for worship.



Pic. by Kritisundar Chowdhury, Photographer

On the other hand, the BDO of Old Agartala Sudipta Biswas informed, during the seven days of the puja, all pilgrims

have to mandatorily wear mask, wash hands before entering the temple, maintain social distance, no food could be offered or no *Prasad* would be given away, holy water of feet will not be given away, nobody could touch the priest or any other worker of the temple, each pilgrim will be allowed to use the entry and exit point and nobody shall be allowed to spit in the temple premises, children below 10 years of age and adults above 65 years of age will not be allowed to enter the temple complex. These guidelines have been issued by the West Tripura district administration, informed the BDO.

Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 – an actionable roadmap for NE India

Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modiji the Union minister for petroleum and natural gas released the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for the Northeast India. This vision document not only gave an aim but also an actionable roadmap, stated the deputy chief minister Jishnu Dev Varma while addressing a webinar organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) yesterday. The webinar was also attended by the asset manager of ONGC, Tripura Tarun Malik and several executives of the CII.

Speaking at the webinar the deputy chief minister said, objectives of the vision document are to leverage the hydrocarbon potential of the region, enhance access to clean fuels, improve availability of petroleum products, facilitate economic development and link common people to the economic activities in this sector. Deliberating on the five pillars of this Vision 2030 namely people, policy, partnership, projects and production he said, for people, it foresees clean fuel access to households alongside fostering skill development and involvement of the local community; by policy meant moderation in light of specific terrain and weather conditions of the region coupled with ensuring fund for new projects; for partnership, the stress is on greater involvement of governments in planning and implementation and on boosting trade with neighbouring nations; in projects the focus is on pipeline connectivity for carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas and petroleum products, oil and lubricants, building refineries and import links, development of compressed natural gas (CNG) highways and city gas distribution network. And the production side emphasizes production enhancement, technology deployment, fast-track clearance and development of service provider hubs.

Beyond production, other focus areas included exploring hydrocarbon linkages and trade opportunities with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan and implementation of 'Make in India' in the region. The deputy chief minister also informed, the Vision 2030 also talked about doubling oil and gas production by 2030, making clean fuels accessible, fast-tracking projects, generating employment opportunities and promoting cooperation with neighbouring countries. He said, the government also encourages new downstream industries in the area that will use polymers as raw materials, taking advantage of the 2.8 lakh ton polymer output from the Assam gas cracker project, as downstream industries are, in general, more stable and have higher profit margins than the upstream (raw material producing) industries.

The deputy chief minister stated, the new pipeline network, part of which would go through Bangladesh under a transit agreement, is expected to connect the entire north-east region with the rest of the country. At present NE region has nearly 18 per cent of the national hydrocarbon resources and the total demand for petroleum products in the region is round 3.2 million MT per annum. With the proposed the region will have

more capacity than demand. Lastly, he said, the Vision 2030 is a paradigm shift in production and utilization of hydrocarbon to catalyse growth in the North East region and this is a concrete step towards realizing the Prime Minister's vision to develop the North East India in a mission mode.



The chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb paying tribute to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on the occasion of his birth anniversary held at Rabindra Shatabarshiki Bhavan on June 27. The day has also been observed across the state in a befitting manner through different programmes. The programme at Rabindra Shatabarshiki Bhavan was organized by the information and cultural affairs department. The artistes of the department presented 'Bande Mataram' song composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

Mock drill held at Panisagar

Under the initiative of Panisagar sub-divisional administration a mock drill for

disaster management was held at Ramnagar village in Panisagar block on June 26. As part of the mock drill techniques of life saving were exhibited in case of a flood and other disasters. Staffs of the fire service department, TSR jawans, members of Red Cross Society, health workers and volunteers of different organizations took part in the mock exercise. The SDM L. Darlong, DCM, BDOs of Panisagar and Damchera, officials of various departments and local people were present there.

95 Deep tube wells to be installed in North district

A target has been set by the North district office of DWS department for installation of 95 deep tube wells in different blocks of the district during the current financial year.

Under the scheme, installation of one deep tube well in Damchhara block, three deep tube wells in Jubarajnagar block, one deep tube well in Kadamtala block, three deep tube wells in Laljuri block, three deep tube wells in Panisagar block and three deep tube wells in Kalachhara block, totaling 14 deep tube wells, is going on. Almost 75 lakh rupees will be spent for installation of each deep tube well. The executive

engineer of DWS Animesh Das has informed this.

Mr Das also informed that a tender has already been invited for installation of 60 deep tube wells in the district under the scheme. A target has been set for installation of 77 small bore deep tube wells in different blocks of the district. Under the scheme, installation of four small bore deep tube wells in Damchhara block, five small bore deep tube wells in Kadamtala block and two small bore deep tube wells in Panisagar block is going on. Almost 7 lakh rupees will be spent for installation of each small bore deep tube well. The executive engineer informed that the tender has been invited for installation of 56 small bore deep tube wells under the scheme.

Assistance for Kuroiler farming

Three beneficiaries of Madhya Ganki panchayat in Khowai block have been covered by the subdivisional animal resources development office under ST Welfare Poultry Scheme. 150 chicks of Kuroiler variant have been provided to each beneficiary. Moreover, 300 Kg feed, required medicines have been provided to the beneficiaries. Shelter houses have been raised for the chicks. The officer of the subdivisional office Dr. Jhutan Ghosh

has informed that Rs 50,000 has been spent for each unit of Kuroiler.

Mosquito nets distributed in Kanchanpur

Total 1,14,527 medicated mosquito nets have been distributed by the health and family welfare department free of cost in different areas of Kanchanpur subdivision during the current financial year. These mosquito nets have been distributed in DASDA, Laljuri, Bhangmoon, Damchhara, Khedachhara, Gachirampara, Anandanagar, Shantipur PHC and TSR camp of the subdivision. Kanchanpur subdivision hospital has informed this.

60,141 Mandays generated under MGNREGA in Chandipur block

During the current financial year different development activities have been implemented in different gram panchayat and ADC villages of Chandipur block under MGNREGA. So far 60,141 mandays have been generated in the process of these activities which included earth leveling, digging of water bodies, construction of dams for irrigation purpose etc. Under the programme an amount of Rs. 1,01,63,000 has been spent. The BDO of Chandipur block Pradip Debbarma has informed this.