

"Students namely Mr. Suraj Acharjee, Ms. Debolina Roy and Mr. Simon Reang of BA-Eng(Hons.) of FLA department has published their Articles in The Tripura Observer Newspaper".

TRIPURA OBSERVER
FRIDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2023

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Research underway for commercial breeding of 'Pabda' fish in state

Suraj Acharjee

Agartala: April 06. An assistant professor of the Tripura's College of Fisheries is striving hard for breeding of a freshwater fish popularly known as 'Pabda' (Bengali dialect) using technology targeting to meet up various aspects like curtailing prices, increase in survival rates, etc. With advantages and disadvantages in every research, Dr Pradyut Biswas, an assistant professor in the Department of Aquaculture at the College of Fisheries, Central Agriculture University, Lembucherra in Tripura, has made significant strides in breeding 'Pabda' fish, resulting in a decrease in price due to better production.

'Pabda' fish seed was once rare and difficult to find, but thanks to Dr. Biswas' contributions to seed production technology, 'Pabda' is now more readily available in Tripura. The price of 'Pabda' has reduced over time due to its mass availability in the market.

Dr Biswas, along with his students Reshmi Debbarma and Soibam Khogen Singh, has been working on 'Pabda' seed production for the past



ten years, and his research has led to a number of innovations in the field. One of the major issues with 'Pabda' breeding was the high mortality rate among male fish during the early stages of seed production. To address this issue, Dr. Biswas introduced certain chemicals into the 'Pabda' feed and made changes to the fish's rearing process, resulting in a significant increase in survival rates.

Another problem that Dr. Biswas tackled was the issue of cannibalism among 'Pabda' fish. This problem resulted in many hatches being eaten, leading to smaller yields at the end of the breeding cycle. Dr. Biswas' research helped solve this problem through further experimentation. Biswas' work on 'Pabda' fish breeding has been highly beneficial for farmers in the region. He is a key member of the 'Matsa-Varta Project,' which began in 2020 and aims to provide advisory assistance to farmers in the field. The project is ongoing and is headed by Dr. Biswajit Lahiri. Thanks to Dr. Biswas' innovative research and contributions to seed production technology, 'Pabda' fish is now more readily available in Tripura, and farmers are seeing better yields than ever before. His work serves as an inspiration to others in the field and demonstrates the importance of research in advancing technology.

Mr. S. Acharjee pursuing BA English Honours in ICFAI University

“We are like clouds in the sky which have no limits”-Meghbalika



Debalina Roy

Agartala: Apr 09. Leaving behind all the social taboos, women of our state are actively taking equal participation in every field.

Starting from President of India Droupadi Murmu, Indian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar, and captain of Indian women's cricket team Harman Preet Kaur are some of examples of women empowerment nowadays.

Just like them, a band full of talented ladies, “Meghbalika” is making a strong statement to all those people who think that females are there to look after only the family and music is not for them.

Ankita Roy, President and lyricist of the band told Tripura Observer, “Moon Saha who is the founder and guitarist of “Meghbalika” had to face these kinds of social issues while pursuing her music. Then she thought there might be other girls around facing similar issues like her. Later all of us came together and formed this music band. Connecting through social media, the band was formed in 2017 August with five mem-

bers”, says Ankita Roy, President and lyricist of the band.

“Meghbalika” who slowly gained fame not only in Tripura but also in other states of the country had initially started performing in various places like Dharmanagar, Udaipur, etc.

They also performed in Kolkata, Shantiniketan, Mumbai, Assam, etc.

“We received tremendous response in Assam. We also won a competition organized by the Aids Control Society which was held state wise and the winners from each state got the opportunity to perform in Sikkim representing their states. We received lots of love and response there also”, said Ankita.

The band which started gaining fame had to go through hard times during their journey in the reality show ‘India’s Got Talent’.

After the Kolkata audition, they were selected for the TV round in Mumbai. When they landed there, the officials of that reality show reportedly made no contact with them. They kept all the records proof and bared their own expenses. The officials told them if they take a girl in their group who was a participant of Kolkata, then they will allow

the band to give the audition. As the girls were representing Tripura, they denied the offer and from then they decided not to take part in any kind of reality show.

However, real hard times arrived for the lone women-run band during the Covid outbreak.

“During Covid, there were no shows for us. It was really a hard time. We

weren’t able to do our weekly practices. Social Media has helped us during these bad times. Post lockdown the scenario is much better, we are getting shows from different places and recently we got an opportunity to perform inside the Indigo flight at mid-air on the request of the air hostesses. The video is also available on Youtube”, she told this publication.

The band has now ten members including two vocalists Ananya Sarkar and Debjani Mundu, and keyboardists Sharmistha Sarkar and Portia Choudhury.

JyotisreeChakraborty looks after the beat section and keyboard; Dishari Saha and Somia Dey are the drummers and flutist Mamon Debnath.

“Krishna Dhar, a Jirania school teacher happily said to us that we are like clouds in the sky that have no limits, you all are ‘Meghbalika’. From there the band name came”, Ankita added.

This lone women's band of Tripura is receiving love and appreciation from all over the country.

Ms. D. Roy pursuing BA English Honours in ICAI University.

Scheme for tea workers struggles to impact generation pluckers



Simon Reang

Agartala, Apr 10: Tea is the second most consumed beverage in the world after water. As it is a source of comfort for many, we often overlook the hard work and dedication of the tea farmers who grow and harvest tea leaves. Tea farming is a challenging profession that requires a great deal of skill and hard work. Tea farmers work long hours in the fields, often in difficult weather conditions. Despite this, tea workers in many parts of the world are often marginalized and lack access to basic social security measures.

In the state of Tripura, the government launched the 'Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa' scheme in 2022, aimed at providing social security to tea workers. With an allocation of 85 crores, the government aimed to bring the tea garden workers of Tripura

under the social security net. The scheme ensured housing, rations, and financial support to the tea garden workers by incorporating the facilities that they are entitled to.

One year after the launch of the scheme, our correspondents visited the Fatikchara Tea estate 18KM away from the capital city Agartala to comprehend the impact of the governmental scheme. While interviewing the tea workers, it became clear that while most of them were aware of the scheme and had received the benefits it was observed that many tea workers in the field were temporary workers who receive very little as pay at the end of the day. The permanent workers were mostly from the same generational families who had been working in the tea gardens for generations, while the temporary workers were the first generation in the garden. This further highlights the stark

contrast between the two group and the discrepancy between them in terms of benefits. The temporary workers, who had joined the tea worker force a few years ago, were not receiving the same benefits as permanent workers. As they were unsure of when they would become permanent workers, they remained stuck in the unorganized sector.

Despite the difference in the benefits, the scheme has had a positive impact on the lives of many tea workers in Tripura. The provision of housing and rations has brought much-needed relief to the workers, many of whom were previously living in dire conditions. The financial support provided by the scheme has also helped ease the financial burden on the workers. However, much remains to be done to ensure that tea workers receive adequate social security measures. The unorganized sector, which many tea workers fall under, remains a challenge to overcome.

The government needs to do more to ensure that temporary workers are also included in the scheme and receive the same benefits as permanent workers. Moreover, ensuring that tea workers receive fair wages for their hard work and dedication is another challenge that needs to be addressed.

*S. Reang
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