

Indigenous Communities in Assam and Northeast India Mark International Human Rights Day



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December 10, 2023, saw the Indigenous Peoples' of Mung-Dun-Chun-Kham, Assam, Northeast, joined by the Jatiatabad Punar Nirman Samiti, observe World Human Rights Day in diverse regions of the state. The programme was held at Guwahati Press Club. A discussion titled "Human Rights and Northeast Region" was arranged.

Notable speakers, including Pradeep Gogoi, Vice President of the ULFA (Discussion faction), L. Khongsai, President of Assam Kuki Welfare Society, N.G. Sanahaal Singha, President of Assam Manipuri Students' Association, Mrinal Gohain, Thinker, Meishnam Bhagat Singha, Paotinlen Chongloui, human rights activist, Shaheen Ahmed, academic and researcher, Rajkumar Baishya, Secretary of Jatiyatabad Punor Nirman Samiti, graced the programme.

The discussions aimed to spotlight human rights violations among the Indigenous communities in Mung-Dun-Chun-Kham, Assam, and Northeast India Secretary Geeral Anup Arandhara chaired the forum, supported by Kagenjit Thakuria, Vice President of the Assam Koch Rajbongshi Sanmilani, as the Deputy Chairman.

Forum speakers deliberated on various factors contributing to human rights violations among the diverse communities in Northeast India, emphasizing the ongoing imposition of special rights by the armed forces in specific areas. They pressed for the comprehensive implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, by both the central and state governments in the region.

In response to the urgent needs of thousands of people living in various relief camps due to ongoing violent ethnic conflict, Anup Arandhara, shared their organization's efforts to supply essential resources. Contact numbers for assistance—91018-41554 and 94019-34262—were provided, urging all concerned individuals to extend financial aid and donate essential items like clothing, food, and medical supplies to support the affected populace.

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