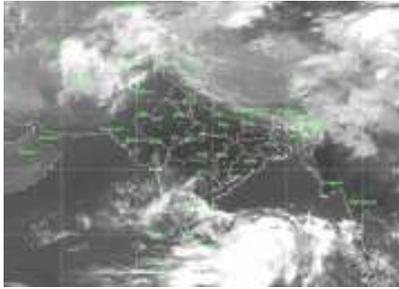




Cyclone FANI likely to hit North East including Manipur tomorrow

IT News
(with inputs from PIB)
Imphal, April 29,

The Cyclonic Storm FANI, which has its root at Bay of Bengal is likely to hit the North Eastern states of India including Manipur by the evening of May 1. PIB report says as per notification by the Ministry of Earth Science. A freak storm possibly an impact of the Cyclonic FANI yesterday killed 3 persons including a woman while enjoying Boat ride at Chadong artificial lake. Many trees and houses were also destroyed at various places in the nearby 30 minutes deadly storm. Report said that wind speed reached 50-60 km per hour and came from the south western side in Imphal town affected vehicular movement and passersby for nearly half an hour. Rooftops of houses, hostel and other structures were carried away in many areas in the state. The Ministry of Earth Science report said that the Cyclonic Storm 'FANI' (pronounced as 'FONI') over southeast Bay of



Bengal & neighbourhood moved northwards with a speed of about 04 kmph in last six hours and lay centred at 0830 hrs IST of 29th April, 2019 near latitude 8.7°N and longitude 86.9°E over southeast Bay of Bengal & neighbourhood, about 620 km east of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka), 870 km east-southeast of Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and 1040 km south-southeast of Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh). It is very likely to intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 06

hours and into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm during subsequent 24 hours. It is very likely to move northwestwards till May 1 evening and thereafter recurve northeastwards gradually. The Cyclonic Storm FANI is expected to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm by tomorrow and will continue to move North West and change its path to North East from Wednesday, according to India Meteorological Department.

Chief Minister N. Biren inspect Chadong incident site; announces ban on unauthorized boat at tourism related spot

IT News
Imphal, April 29,

Chief Minister N. Birenshing today announced banned to the use of unauthorized local made boat at lakes which are tourism related sites of the state. The announcement was made after inspecting the Ramrei/Chadong Village today morning where three persons including a woman were killed in yesterday freak storm while they were enjoying boat ride. The fierce storm that lasted for around 30 minutes blown the boats that the three were riding and as it turn upside-down bodies the trio could not be found till today morning. "What we are facing today is the result of the mass deforestation that has been taking place in the state", Chief Minister N. Biren said. He said Hills look barren as almost all trees has been cut down and because of that natural mechanism to control storm wind are no more. This could be the result for the sudden fierce storm that took



the lives of the three precious persons. The Chief Minister said while sharing the pain and sorrow of those who lost their lives in yesterday's freak storm. The drastic change in the climatic condition due to the Global warming need to be handled with extreme

seriousness to ensure safety of the tourist who comes to enjoy boat ride at tourist related spot where there were beautiful lakes. As the boats used to earn money are not taken approval from the tourism department in terms of safety, the Chief Minister announced banned to the use

of unauthorized local made Canoe or Boats at tourist related sites including Loktak lake, Chadong/Ramrei, Singda Dam and Khuga Dam. He further added that unarmed police post will be opened at Ramrei and other alike location which comprises of National Disaster Management team.

PM Narendra Modi closely monitoring Cyclonic Storm 'FANI'

PIB
New Delhi, April 29,

Prime Minister himself is closely monitoring the situation and has directed Cabinet Secretary to convene the Meeting of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to take stock of the situation with State Governments and Central Ministries/Agencies concerned and ensure that all preparations to deal with any situation are in place. NDRF and Indian Coast Guard have been put on high alert and placed at the disposal of State Government Authorities. Regular warnings have been issued since 25th April to fishermen not to venture into the sea and asking those at sea to return to coast. IMD has been issuing three hourly bulletins with latest forecast to all the concerned States. MHA is also in continuous touch with the State Governments and the Central Agencies concerned.

CADA destroys seized illicit liquors; organises awareness prog.

IT News
Imphal, April 29,

Coalition Against Drugs & Alcohol (CADA) destroyed around 150 litres of seized illicit country liquored at around 2 pm yesterday at Wabagai Lamkhai in front of public. The liquors were seized during a drive conducted by the volunteers of CADA Kakching District Committee from three hotels at Wabagai Bazaar. On the other hand, an awareness programme on the theme "Impact of intoxicants on student community" was also organised by the CADA at Ching Tam School, Salungpham in Thoubal district. The Academic awareness programme was attended by Head Master of Ching - Tam High School, Ningthoujam Khomdon, Hijam Priyokumar - President, CADA and



Ningthoujam Doren - Vice-President, CADA as dignitaries. Secretary General of CADA Geetchandra Mangang attended as resource person.

Crops of over 80 villages affected after Fall Armyworm (FAWs) attack

Courtesy Morning Express
Imphal, April 29,

Mizoram, a highly agriculture depending state, has been presently invaded by Fall Armyworms (FAWs), a dangerous crop damaging pest, creating fear among farmers, who constituted more than 70 per cent of the total population. The farmers are apprehensive of the possible of the recurrence of "mautam" famine-like situation Mizoram had witnessed 60 years ago. According to officials of the state Agriculture department, the outbreak of FAWs has been reported in all the eight districts of Mizoram, affecting more than 80 villages. Agriculture director, Rohmingthaga Colney said that the outbreak of FAWs was first reported on March 3 from Ngasih area in south Mizoram's Lunglei district.

The infestation has soon spread in the entire state in less than a month, he said. Rohmingthaga Colney also said that at least 31 villages in Aizawl district, 10 each in Mamit, Serchhip and Lunglei districts, 6 in Champhai district, 5 in Kolsib district and 4 each in Siaha and Lawngtlai districts have been affected by the outbreak of FAWs. According to Colney, maize cultivation in 1409 hectares of land worth Rs 18.4 crore has been severely damaged by the infestation. The official then said that joint teams of the Agriculture Technology Management Authority and District Agriculture Office have visited the affected villages, organized on-the-spot training and demonstration on how to prevent the worms and also distributed pesticides, insecticides and sprayers to

the maize farmers, whose crops have been attacked by the worms. He added that the infestation of the worms would be informed to the Centre and the state agriculture experts have also consulted scientists in the ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research. Citing about the possible reason for the outbreak, Colney said it could be due to long dry spell and sudden rise in temperature. Colney also said that the state government has formed Rapid Response team to carry out survey and use insecticides to curb the infestation. Colney further said they received pre-warming about the possible outbreak of FAWs from the Centre on February 27. Mizoram had witnessed a plague of black rats due to large scale flowering of bamboos (mautam in Mizo parlance) between 1958 and 1959.

Polling for the 4th phase of Lok Sabha elections held

Agency
New Delhi April 29,

Polling took place today for the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections. The voting began at 7 this morning amidst tight security arrangements. Polling is taking place for 71 Parliamentary constituencies, spread over nine states and Kulgam district of Anantnag Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir. Voting is taking place for 17 seats in Maharashtra, 13 each in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, eight in West Bengal, six each in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, five in Bihar, and three in Jharkhand

in this phase. The prominent candidates in the fray include Union Ministers Giriraj Singh, SS Ahluwalia, Babul Supriyo, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, PP Chaudhary, Subhash Bhamre and Sudershan Bhagat. Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav, film actor Urmila Matondkar, BJP Bihar unit chief Nityanand Roy and RLSF chief Upendra Kushwaha. Voting is also being held for the remaining 41 assembly seats in Odisha, by-election to Chhindwara assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh, Nighasan in Uttar Pradesh, and Krishnaganj in West

Bengal. In Maharashtra, 17 constituencies going to polls are all the six seats from Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Bhiwandi, Nashik, Palghar, Maval, Shirdi, Dhule, Shirur, Dindori and Nandurbar. In West Bengal, polling is being held for Baharampur, Bolpur, Birbhum, Ranaghat, Krishnanagar, Asansol, Burdwan East, and Burdwan-Durgapur constituencies. 68 candidates are in the fray for 8 parliamentary seats. Besides State Police, around 580 companies of Central forces have been deployed. Election Commission appointed Special Police Observer Vivek Dubey has said that almost all polling booths will be manned

by the Central Force this time. Security measures have been tightened along the India-Bangladesh border. In Bihar, polling is taking place in Darbhanga, Ujjiarpur, Samastipur, Begusarai, and Munger. 66 candidates, including three women, are in the fray five seats. In Uttar Pradesh, polling is progressing peacefully for 13 constituencies amid tight security. The constituencies where voting is going on are Shahjahanpur, kheri, Hardoi, Mishrikh, Unnao, Farrukhabad, Etawah, Kannauj, Kanpur, Akbarpur, Jalaun, Jhansi and Hamirpur. "There are 152 candidates including 18 women in the

fray in this phase. Twenty seven thousands 512 polling booths have been erected for 2 crore 41 lakh voters. The first time voters are 3 lakh 56 thousand and five. Elaborate security arrangements have been put in place and whole area has been divided into 293 zones and 2 thousand 298 sectors. Besides 1 lakh 73 thousand civil police and other security personnel, two hundred thirty companies of Central Armed Police Forces and 58 companies of PAC have been deployed. The key contestants in this phase are SP president Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav, Salman Khurshid and

Sriprakash Jaiswal of Congress, Satyadev Pachauri, Sakshi Maharaj and Ram Shankar Katherina of BJP. MS Yadav Reporting for AIR News From Kannauj." In Jammu and Kashmir, strict security arrangements are in place in Kulgam district, part of the Anantnag parliamentary constituency. Officials said a multi-layered security set up has been put in place for the protection of polling booths, handling of law and order problems and thwarting the designs of anti-national elements to disrupt the polls. All of the 433 polling stations have been designated either as hypersensitive or sensitive.