

PRESS RELEASE



Speaker Thomas Sangma reviews preparations for 50th Wangala Festival; 1000 Drums to replace 100 this year

TURA, October 8: Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Speaker and North Tura MLA Thomas A. Sangma on Wednesday inspected the ongoing preparations at the Garo Heritage Village, Chibragre, for the Golden Jubilee celebration of the 100 Drums Wangala Festival, which will be held in November.

To mark 50 years of the organised Wangala Festival, this year's celebration will feature a special 1000 Drums Wangala Festival, replacing the customary 100-drums presentation.



Sangma reviewed the progress of the works and held discussions with officials from Tourism, Water Supply, PWD and Power departments, besides members of the 100 Drums Wangala Festival Committee. He was accompanied by Committee Chairman Ronald Rikman Sangma, Superintendent of Police Abraham T. Sangma, SP (Traffic), Tura Rupam R. Marak and other officials.



Speaking to the media, Sangma said preparations were progressing well despite the challenges involved in organising an event of such scale. He said arrangements were being coordinated with the district administration and various departments and expressed satisfaction with the progress.



Four Chief Ministers from the Northeast are expected to attend the Golden Jubilee celebration, while contingents from Nagaland, Assam and Tripura are also expected to perform. The Bangladesh contingent, however, will not be able to participate due to pending visa requirements.

On traffic, Sangma acknowledged that congestion on the route to Wangala A'dam had been a recurring concern. He said shuttle services would operate throughout the day to ferry visitors, as parking facilities would not be sufficient for everyone.



Sangma also clarified that the Golden Jubilee marks 50 years of the organised 100 Drums Wangala Festival, not 50 years of the Wangala tradition itself. The festival has been observed by the Garo people for centuries as a post-harvest expression of gratitude to the Creator.



The organised 100 Drums Wangala Festival was first held at Asanang in 1976, with the objective of preserving Garo culture and traditions at a time when traditional Songsarek practices were facing growing decline amid the community's increasing shift towards Christianity.



The 1000-drums celebration at Chibrage will therefore mark five decades of the organised festival while providing a major platform to showcase and preserve Garo cultural heritage.