

Nationwide strike hits life in Assam, Tripura

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Guwahati/Agartala/Shillong: Life was hit in Assam and Tripura owing to the day-long nationwide strike as protestors blocked railway tracks and staged protests in different places.

The 10 central trade unions which called the strike are CITU, INTUC, AITUC, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICTTU, UTUC and LPF.

Public transport was off the roads, keeping people away from offices, schools and colleges. Business establishments also remained down.

"The sufferings of the people are increasing with the 'anti-people' policy of the current government. The prices of essential commodities are increasing, making life difficult for common people. Besides, there is no proper policy for the development of workers. The current government seems to be for the big corporates," said a CITU leader in Guwahati.

Police have arrested protestors from different locations of the city and the state. The Assam unit of All India Students' Federation of India (AISF) burnt the effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in protest against the government's decision to privatize the education sector.

At least 10 bandh supporters were injured in Karimganj when police wielded the baton to disperse picketers squatting in front of the deputy commissioner's office to stop officials from entering the building.

In Tripura, the strike was by and large peaceful. Police arrested surrendered NLFT leader Nayanbasi Jamatia from Teliamura of West Tripura in the morning for allegedly attacking Left picketers in Trishabari.

Though the state government had made mandatory for employees to attend the offices, most of them refrained from work. A holiday was declared in educational institutions.

Banks, post offices, trains and state transport buses did not ply across the state. Police arranged two buses to ferry passengers to and from Agartala airport.

In Shillong, more than 3,000 bandh supporters held a rally in the afternoon braving heavy rain. They urged the state government to fix a minimum wage of Rs 15,000 for workers of unorganized sectors without any discrimination and take strong measure to check price rise of essential commodities.

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