



ARUNACHAL PRADESH AIRGUN SURRENDER CAMPAIGN

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE ENVIS HUB
STATUS OF ENVIRONMENT & ITS RELATED ISSUES**

Supported by
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India

Hosted by
Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Government of Arunachal Pradesh



ARUNACHAL PRADESH AIRGUN SURRENDER CAMPAIGN

The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan is an initiative taken up by Shri Mama Natung, Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh inviting people to voluntarily surrender their guns to stop indiscriminate killing of birds in the state. The campaign was initially launched on 17 March 2021 at Lumdung in East Kameng district, where 46 airguns were surrendered. Since then, the campaign is gaining momentum. So far, over 2000 airguns, eight licensed guns, and 11 power chainsaws have been surrendered by the people of the state.

Arunachal Pradesh is home to more than 500 species of birds. These include some indigenous species, which are not found anywhere else in the world and many more to be discovered. But gradually, now the number of birds and wildlife population in the forests are alarmingly decreasing due to lack awareness on protecting and conserving wild animals & forests also mostly due to human intervention in hunting as a traditional practice and commercial purpose, in spite of having a large forest-covered area. The state is a tribal state where hunting activities have been a community practice steeped in history and culture.

This airgun surrender campaign is going on now to rectify this very situation. During the past few months, from the hills to the plains, from one community to the other, people everywhere in the state welcomed it with open arms. The program is spinning a new hope for conservation with over 2000 weapons given up voluntarily since its launch in March 2021 as per the source of the concerned department.

The campaign was carried out in every district of the state, involving all stakeholders, such as village elders, GBs, youths, student leaders, NGOs, civil society, and the district administrations, to stop unabated hunting of wild animals.



In picture: Advisor to Minister Envt. Forests & Climate change shri kumsi sidisow, Honble Minister (E&F) Shri Mama Natung, Shri R.K Singh P'CF & Prl. Envt & Forests with CBOs, DFO Seppa etc.

BRIEF REPORT ON ARUNACHAL PRADESH AIRGUN SURRENDER CAMPAIGN (AASA) AND ITS IMPACT

The program was first started from Hon'ble Minister Environment, Forests & Climate Change at his native village Lumdung in East Kameng district on 17th March 2021 organized by the Debeyor Socio-Cultural Welfare Organisation and supported by the environment, forests & CC department. More than 46 airguns were voluntarily surrendered by individuals, including former AAPSU president Kamta Lapung. The Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh awarded certificates of appreciation to each individual for support and surrendered voluntarily. The East Kameng Social Welfare and Cultural Organization, the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, bird-watching experts, and the villagers took part in the program.

During the very occasion, Shri Mama Natung said that *"The reason why I am starting this campaign is that we hardly found a single bird along the roadside when we drove from Itanagar to Seppa. It is a sign that the birds' population is vanishing at an alarming rate."* *"With this alarming decrease of the birds population due to unabated hunting, the days are not far when we would have to tell our children about many bird species only through documented photography or through drawing"*



Pic - PCCF & Prl Secy. (E&F), advisor to EF&CC with Hon'ble Minister (EF&CC) awarded certificate of appreciation to whom who surrendered their airgun voluntarily.

The ongoing 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan' initiated by the state government was gaining positive response in the East Siang district also as 123 persons have deposited their airguns at different forest range offices under the Pasighat forest (T) division.



On 2nd April 2021, the locals of the pasighat areas came out in large numbers and surrendered more than 300 airguns in presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu and Hon'ble Minister Env't. & Forests shri Mama Natung. The drive is an initiative of the state government to dissuade people from hunting and create awareness of the ill-effects of killing wildlife. The local public appreciated the initiative and surrendered their airguns voluntarily at JNC Auditorium district headquarter in East Siang.



In Changlang, the Changlang district where seventeen (17) airguns were also surrendered by villagers during an event 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan' organized by the Changlang social forestry division at the divisional forest office on April 10, 2021.



Similarly, the Abhiyan was carried out at Radhpu, Ekha Taya, Deed, Nyelam and Dem panchayats of Deed Circle under Lower Subansiri organized by Lower Subansiri ZPC Likha Sangchhore and her team, where Thirteen (13) airguns were also surrendered voluntarily by the public on April 24, 2021



On April 27, 2021, a total of 22 air guns were surrendered at the DFO's office, Tirap district in presence of Kapu block ZPM Wiram Matey as part of the ongoing initiative 'the Air Gun Surrender Abhiyan' voluntarily by supporting the State Government.

On May 26, 2021 sixteen more air guns were surrendered by the people of Taliha constituency so as to support and appreciate the airgun surrender program in presence of Taliha MLA Nyato Dukam under Upper Subansiri district. And similarly fourteen (14) airguns and a power chainsaw were surrendered during an 'airgun/power chainsaw surrender drive' by the farmers. The program was organized by the Kurung Kumey DFO in collaboration with the district administration at Koloriang, Kurung Kumey on 17th May 2021.

Also, Eighteen (18) airguns were surrendered to the forest department in Lower Subansiri district on Saturday under the airgun surrender campaign at Pistana on 8th May 2022



On April 27, 2021, a total of 22 air guns were surrendered at the DFO's office here in Tirap district, in presence of Kapu block ZPM Wiram Matey as part of the state government's ongoing 'Air Gun Surrender Abhiyan'.



Government of Arunachal to Launch "Air Gun Surrender Abhiyan" to protect Wildlife.





On 6th May 2021, In the Upper Siang district, more than 100 airguns were also surrendered by the people from various villages in Tuting and Yingkiong circles to the forest department by supporting the AASA program. Concurrently, at least 64 airguns were also surrendered by the villagers of Komkar during an awareness meeting organized by the territorial forest department at their village on Thursday. All surrendered airguns were deposited before DFO Annying Boli, Yingkiong.

Also, the people under likabali constituency had surrendered (42)Forty-two airguns as part of the airgun surrender campaign of the environment & forests department of Lower Siang district at the circuit house near in presence of Hon'ble Minister Forests and Environment On 5th May 2021



And followed by Fifty people from all seven villages in Namphai circle of Changlang district surrendered their airguns in the presence of Miao ADC Sunny K Singh, Miao ZPM Ashamto Tikhak, Namphai ZPM Khumko Mossang, SDPO DSP Zirido, GBs, forest officials, and members of the Miao Singpho Ramma Hpung.



On June 27, 2021, The villagers of Kuch-Kut village in Yazali segment of Lower Subansiri district surrendered 11 airguns in a function

Impacts:-

The program aimed at creating awareness and motivating the public to surrender their airguns. It described the significance of the conservation of avifauna and other wildlife in the ecosystem and their symbiotic affinity with other components of the living world as well as their role in the conservation of biodiversity for posterity.

An initiative in Arunachal Pradesh that has brought recognition and award to the 2014-batch officer a certification of appreciation from the department of Environment and Forest for extraordinary efforts to positively influence and motivate the local residents of three districts which falls under the Hapoli forest division.

The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Shri Mama Natung, was felicitated with the Conservation Award on eve of valedictory session of the 6th North-east Green Summit at Assam on 18 November 2021 in recognition of the efforts of the Arunachal government and its environment, forest & climate change department to protect and conserve the rare, unique and endangered wildlife of the state from being hunted.

The successful initiative has shown the way to deliver results in environment conservation and the Centre has decided to roll out similar drives across the country with the help of retired forest workers and representatives of social organizations for wildlife conservation. The Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey urged **“people not to hunt animals and birds and said that retired forest workers and representatives of social**



The whole exercise has been possible solely because of community involvement.” As a result of the impact of this campaign, about 2000 air guns have been surrendered across Arunachal so far. On average, 2 guns are surrendered almost every day.

Ashwini Kr. Choubey
@AshwiniKChoubey

पूरे देश में एयर गन सरेंडर अभियान को गति दी जाएगी। आज ईटानगर अरुणाचल प्रदेश में एयर गन सरेंडर करने वालों को सम्मानित किया। पूरे देश में एयर गन सरेंडर अभियान चलाया जाएगा। इसमें सेवानिवृत्त वनकर्मी, सामाजिक संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि आदि को जोड़ गति प्रदान की जाएगी। (1/2)

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(Source: By Ayodhya Prasad Singh for Indian Masterminds)



organisations will be roped in for the 'Air Gun Surrender Campaign' to be launched soon across the country. The whole exercise has been possible solely because of community involvement."



As a result of the impact of the campaign, about 2000 air guns have been surrendered across Arunachal Pradesh so far. On average, 2 guns are surrendered almost every day as per the forest, environment & climate change department, govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

Hunting of wild animals is illegal in India, although it is part of the culture of many tribal communities of the country. Also, hunting used to be a tradition in many places. But with the advent of guns, their numbers have increased tremendously. Although there are some festivals where ritualistic hunting still takes place, nowadays it has become a part-time activity for the youth. But due to this initiative people have understood the role of wildlife, and birds in the ecosystem. The program brought changes in the mentality of tribal people and also brought awareness among the panchayat leader, block leader, now in many villages restriction have been ruled and accordingly, fines are being imposed for violation of the order by the Goan burah.

In his 84th edition of Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Modi lauded the air gun surrender campaign and its impact in Arunachal Pradesh. *He stated that over 1600 residents of the state 'voluntarily' surrendered their guns. He said, "The bird population across forests have started to diminish. To keep this in check, the Air Gun Abhiyan is going on. People of Arunachal Pradesh voluntarily surrendered over 1600 Air Guns to preserve nature and uplift conservation. I commend them for the endeavour."*



MORE GLIMPSE OF ARUNACHAL AIRGUN SURRENDER ABHIYAN (AASA)



Pic: Airgun Surrender Abhiyan launched at East Siang District, Pasighat in Presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Law Union Law Minister



Pic 2 more licensed guns; #SpanishMauser Rifle of Hon'ble Former Minister GoAP Hari Natung Ji & SBBL Gun of Manaki Natung Ji surrendered in presence of PCCF cum Prl. Secy, R.K Singh Sr Dept Officials & Wildlife Board members.



AirGun Surrender Abhiyan was launched at Yingki-ong, Upper Siang District, which saw a landmark surrender of personal air guns from the district. HM (E&F) @NatungMama ji & HM (H&FW) @libang_alo ji graced the event.



In such a major Airgun surrender move, the All Bo-gong Students' Union led by General Secretary, Siang Moyong and Otem Jomang, Drafting Chairman surrendered a total of 23 Airguns to the Divisional Forest Officer, Pasighat Forest Division East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh



Former Miss Arunachal Roshni Dada as a brand ambassador of Arunachal Airgun Surrender Abhiyan (AASA)



Did you know?

Giant Squirrels are protected under WPA -1972. Hunting or any of killing, poisoning or trapping giant Squirrels will attract 3 years of imprisonment.

Celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was celebrated on 10th October 2021 to mark the iconic week 04th to 10th October 2021 at Ganga Lake (Geker Sinyik) by the State Wetland Authority, ENVIS Hub Arunachal Pradesh in coordination with officers from Department of Environment and Forests, students and public. Simultaneously, on the same day, this was also observed at Glow Lake by the officials of DFO, Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve. Ms. Chestha Singh, IFS, DCF led the team.

Ganga Lake (Geker Sinyik)

- Opening remarks from Sh. Dohu James Programme Officer, ENVIS followed by Sh. Rajesh S., IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Environment and Climate Change) cum Member Secretary, State Wetland Authority, Arunachal Pradesh.
- Dr. K. Kire, PCCF (Planning and Development), Chief Guest, emphasized on importance of wetlands and its various kind in the world available and the inland water

bodies should be conserved to the best extent as somehow this is immensely contributing to down the line.

- Sh. K.B. Singh, Additional PCCF (Conservation), talked about water scarcity in our country and importance of protecting water resources in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Sh. D. Dohu Robin, Director (Environment), in his short talk requested all the participants to come forward in protecting the wetlands and Ganga Lake in particular, from degeneration and ecosystem threats posed such as encroachment, siltation etc.
- A nature walk was made led by Sh. Ankit Kumar, IFS, DCF (CAMPA), which focused on the importance of wetlands.
- Among the public, Dr. Praveen Francis, Principal of Nichipu Residential Senior Secondary School, Itanagar, Sh. Kara Topu ex. GPM and Sh. J. Flago, a student of Nichipu Residential Senior Secondary School, Itanagar interacted with the forest officials and expressed their experience/views and gave few suggestions to protect the wetlands, Ganga Lake in particular.
- The program was attended by ENVIS Officials, forest officials, nearby village communities, village leaders and school students.
- 10 Nos. of public including villagers and school students enrolled themselves as Wetland Mitras for Ganga Lake.

Glow Lake

- f. The wetland Mitras along with the forest staff trekked for over 6 hours to reach Glow Lake.
- Awareness program including sensitization regarding wetlands was undertaken
- Interactive session with the stakeholders was held.
- The program was attended by forest officials and people from nearby villages.
- 10 Nos. of public enrolled themselves as Wetland Mitras for Glow Lake.



E-flyer designed for the Iconic Week Program

T-Shirts and Cap designed for Wetland Mitras of Ganga Lake Activities at Ganga Lake on the Day



Pic: Address by Sh. Rajesh S. Kumar, IFS CCF (Env&CC)



Pic: Group photo with students, CBO, Publics etc



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Pic: Group photo with students, CBO, Publics etc

Pic: Nature walks lead by Sh. Rajesh S. Kumar, IFS CCF (Env&CC)



Pic: Nature walks by Officers of ENVIS, State Climate Cell and Forests Officers with Director Env & ENVIS Coordinator and CCF (Env&CC)



Pic: At Ganga Lake participated by officers from Department of Environment and Forests, students and public

ACTIVITIES AT GLOW LAKE ON THE DAY



Pic: - At Glow Lakev

VIEW OF GLOW LAKE

Signage Board designed for Ganga Lake as per the MoEF&CC Format





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