



the MEGHALAYA Chronicle

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InsidethisISSUE

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GOVERNOR LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR RAJ BHAWAN ANNEXE AT TURA

In a step toward fulfilling the long-cherished dream of the people of Garo Hills for having a Governor's house at Tura, the Meghalaya Governor Mr. R S Mooshahary laid a foundation stone for construction of the Governor's Guest House, at Danakgre in the presence of the Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma, Deputy Chief Minister B M Lanong, other ministers, parliamentary secretaries, government officials and the public of the area on August 6, 2010.

The complex to be constructed over a 28.45 acre land at Danakgre would include Governor's office, a secretariat, a conference hall, one VVIP and one VIP guest house and is expected to be completed within three years' time. Once completed, the guest house would serve as an official residence of the Governor whenever he comes on an official tour to Garo Hills.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Mr. Mooshahary stated that many states in India have Raj Bhawans in other places besides the state capital, so having a Raj Bhawan in Garo Hills is not an exception nor is it a sign of extravagance, because Garo Hills is one of the oldest districts in the North East and considering its distance from the state capital and backwardness of the region, it was rather a necessity for the people of the region. With the laying of the foundation stone for this project, we have taken one step closer to decentralization of institutions in the State, he added. He also called for completion of the project not only in a stipulated time but also with quality as well.

Endorsing the Chief Minister's idea of holding the Assembly session in Tura and Jowai, the Governor even suggested that sometimes the entire cabinet should go down to the most backward districts in the State so that those areas could be developed at a faster rate. The Governor also called upon the people, particularly officers to do away with the culture of sluggish work and procrastination, adding that, once we change our work culture, Meghalaya can move forward progressively and become a vibrant state.

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma, in his address to the gathering, recalled that the idea to have a Governor's house in Garo Hills was conceived immediately after the inception of the State in order to respond to the needs and aspirations of the people of the region. However, when the project did not take off



the region. However, when the project did not take off even after so many years, the land owners became impatient and approached him saying that they would sell off their land. So he got the proposal cleared and managed to acquire the land, he said, adding that the government was determined to complete the project soon so that the present Governor can be the first to occupy the Guest House.

Dr. Sangma said that the construction of Governor's guest house in Tura was just the first step of the government in responding to the aspirations of various sections of the people in the state and also urged all the heads of departments to respond to the needs of the people according to the change in time and to ensure proper and efficient delivery. He also added that schemes and programmes conceived by different departments should be innovative and socially relevant.

He also informed about his plan to hold the Assembly session in Tura and Jowai, saying that the infrastructure is already there and that the GHADC and JHADC building could be used for the purpose. Sharing his government's initiative with the gathering, the Chief Minister informed about the State's livelihood programmes, with an emphasis on the farming sector. Also reiterating on the policy of "inclusive politics", he said that his government was committed to ensure the involvement of the people while implementing every project. The meeting was presided over by GAD Minister Mr. Prestone Tynsong and among others who also spoke on the occasion were Minister Supply, Mr. Augustine D. Marak, local MLA Mr. P A Sangma, former minister Mrs. Miriam D Shira, Commissioner and Secretary GAD, Mr. P. W Ingty and Deputy Commissioner Mr. Sanjay Goyal.

CM INAUGURATES DHS PERMANENT OFFICE

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"Coordination between the referral centers, the CHC's and PHC's is of utmost importance and is possible through use of modern technology that would relieve the patients of rural areas from the burden of seeking private treatment" said the Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma while inaugurating the Director of Health Services (DHS) permanent Office Complex at Laitumkhrah, Shillong on August 14, 2010.

"Malaria and Cancer are two major diseases affecting the people in the State and often when it is diagnosed and detected it is found to have acquired advanced proportions and a close coordination between the referral government hospital and the doctor at CHCs and PHCs can help in early detection" the CM said.

He also said the permanent structure of the health department is in a way an incentive for the employees of the Health Department. He said that the government is committed to provide a good infrastructure for the health care facilities in the state and announced that by September 2010 South Garo Hills shall have a new civil hospital. He said that the women of the State has some inherent qualities related to nursing and care and the nurses from Meghalaya are among the best in the country and by exploring such potential the State can become a favourite health care destination in the country.

The foundation stone of the new DHS located in Laitumkhrah was laid on August 14 2006 and within four years the building was commissioned at an estimated cost of Rs 3.28 cr. on 28000 sqft of plinth area with latest architectural design. The complex consists of a parking bay for 50 vehicles along with a guest house.

Amongst those who spoke on the occasion included Rowel Lyngdoh the Deputy Chief Minister in Charge of Health in the State who exhorted upon the employees of the health department to emulate better work culture.

Those present on the occasion also included W M S Pariat, the Chief Secretary besides the DHS and officers and employees of the department.



CHILDREN'S PARK CUM VIEW POINT INAUGURATED

A Children's Park-cum-View Point constructed by the Soil and Water Conservation Department at a cost of Rs. 2.85 lakhs at Chilliang Raij, Jowai, Jaintia Hills District was inaugurated on 26th July, 2010 by the Meghalaya Minister of Soil and Water Conservation, etc., Dr. R C Laloo. The inaugural function was also attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. T Dkhar, Director of Soil & Water Conservation, Mr. A Syiem, and other Government officials of the District.

In his inaugural speech, Dr. Laloo lauded the initiatives and efforts taken by the Soil and Water Conservation Department to construct the view point cum children's park saying that such activities of the Department will not only preserve the environment but it could also be one of the main tourist attractions of the District. He also called upon other localities of the District to approach the Department if they have the land for construction of such view point and park.

The Director of Soil and Water Conservation, Mr. A. Syiem in his welcome address suggested that Self Help Groups should also take necessary steps to preserve the aquatic life of the Myntdu river, so that it can be one of the tourist spot he added. After the inauguration ceremony, the view point-cum-children's park was handed over to the Chilliang Raij locality for maintenance of the park.

SAAKSHAR BHARAT MISSION 2012 LAUNCHED IN WEST AND SOUTH GARO HILLS

The Saakshar Bharat Mission 2012 was launched on August 12, 2010 for both West and South Garo Hills by Meghalaya Minister of Education, Ms. Ampareen Lyngdoh at the Don Bosco College Auditorium, Tura, West Garo Hills District. Ms. Lyngdoh was accompanied by Mr. P S Thangkhiew, Principal Secretary, Education, Mr. F R Kharkongor, Secretary Education, Mr. W Synrem, OSD, Education Department, Mr. E P Kharbhih, Executive Chairman, MBoSE.

Before the launch of the Mission, Mr. Sanjay Goyal and Mr. B D Tiwari, Deputy Commissioners of West and South Garo Hills respectively, gave a brief report on the status of the percentage of literacy in their respective Districts and also summarized certain activities and programmes initiated to eliminate illiteracy in their Districts.

Ms. Ampareen Lyngdoh addressing the gathering said that the Saakshar Bharat Mission was aimed specially at the female populace but not excluding the male populace of the country, considering that the female literacy rate was not at par with the male literacy rate of the nation. She added that the selection for the Saakshar Bharat Mission was based on gender equity and therefore bearing in mind the low literacy rate of women in the two Districts, it was imperative to implement the Mission in the above Districts.

Reflecting on pertinent health issues relating to infant mortality rate, Ms. Lyngdoh said that she believe literacy plays a major role in emancipating people in life. The pertinent health issues in the State have made imperative the launching of the Mission, she added.

It may be mentioned that the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh launched the Saakshar Bharat Mission for Female Literacy on International Literacy Day at New Delhi on September 8, 2009.

One-third of India's population still continues to be illiterate and about half of the women cannot read or write. The number of illiterates in India is probably the highest among all nations of the world. Therefore the persistent illiteracy, particularly among women, Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes and other backward classes is a challenge the government is committed to providing good quality education to each and every child of the country. The Mission that is being launched in West and South Garo Hills reaffirmed the national commitment to literacy. The mission seeks to raise literacy levels, especially among women in a phased manner.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Mr. P S Thangkhiew and Mr. Sanjay Goyal who elaborated on various literacy programmes implemented in the State such as the Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) and the Post Literacy Programme (PLP) to eradicate illiteracy in the State.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE INAUGURATED IN RI BHOI DISTRICT

In order to provide information and assistance to the tourists, both domestic and international, the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) was inaugurated by the Minister incharge of Education and Tourism, Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh at Umlyngkdait, Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi District on 22nd July in presence of the Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Mr. W M S Pariat, Commissioner & Secretary, Tourism Department, Mrs. R V Suchiang, Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Mr. Akash Deep Singh, Director of Tourism, Mrs. R C Sohkhlet and all District Heads.

The Centre is the first entry point which will serve as an introduction to the tourist destinations in the State. The TIC will also provide tourist with information on important features of the State, landmarks and sites, besides general information which includes fooding and lodging, transportation, etc. The TIC will also receive complaints and suggestions for improvement.

Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.

Buddha

CM LAUNCHES RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SCHEME IN WEST GARO HILLS

Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma formally launched the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), a scheme for providing electricity for every rural house-hold, at an impressive function which was presided over by the Power Minister Mr. A T Mondal at Garobadha in West Garo Hills on 7th August.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the scheme was sanctioned for 3650 villages in the State and would cover 657 un-electrified villages in Garo Hills. With rapid industrialization taking place in the State, requirement of power is also increasing he said, adding that the government would be taking up several power projects to fill the gap. In this regard he informed that the government of Meghalaya has signed an agreement with NEEPCO for thermal power project at Naringgre village in Garo Hills. He also stressed the need for the youth to be familiarized about franchisee concept for power distribution and suggested to the MeECL authorities to organize workshops to create awareness about the franchisee concept.

Deliberating further on the measures being taken up by the government to generate more power to counter the deficit, the Chief Minister informed the gathering that the government was coming up with an attractive solar power policy, adding that it was also exploring ways to introduce a new scheme in which the entire river, right from the catchment down to the last course could be utilized for various purposes, including generation of power, cultivation, irrigation, etc

Spelling out the various developmental projects being conceived by his government, Dr. Sangma informed the people that the government was coming up with special schemes of livelihood for farmers, youths and women, economic empowerment of women through financial inclusion, among other schemes. Earlier, the Director, Distribution, MeECL Mr. C B Sailo gave a brief introduction on RGGVY scheme, while the Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, District Electricity Committee Mr. Sanjay Goyal informed that the deadline for completion of the scheme was January 5, 2011 and requested the MeECL officials to be present in the monthly DCC review meetings to sort out the issues concerning power supply and also to review the implementation of RGGVY scheme. Among others who also spoke on the occasion were Parliamentary Secretary Saleng A Sangma, CEO, MeECL, Tura Mr. U N Madan, Executive Engineer (RE) MeECL, Mr. J H G Momin and Mrs. R. Ch Marak, who spoke on behalf of the Nokmas of the area.

DRIVE IN CAFETERIA INAUGURATED AT MAWKDOK

The Meghalaya Minister for Tourism, Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh today unveiled a plaque to mark the inauguration of the Drive In Cafeteria at Mawkdok in the presence of Dr. P W Khongjee, Parliamentary Secretary of Tourism and Shri. R V Lyngdoh, Chairman of Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation on August 19, 2010

In view of the large number of tourist visiting Sohra , the Tourism Department renovated the PWD IB at Mawkdok, keeping the old structure and style, to a Drive In Cafeteria to provide the essential services and amenities. The Drive-In Cafeteria has been handed for management to the Institute of Hotel Management, Shillong, which in turn is training around 25 locals of Mawkdok in hospitality services. On completion of the training, the locals will be provided with a kitchen kit to enable them to carry forward their career in hospitality and service which will generate self employment and self reliance.

All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual.

Albert Einstein

59TH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL HELD

The 59th North Eastern Council Meeting, which is the 10th Meeting as the statutory Regional Planning Body for the North Eastern Region, was held on September 28, 2010 at the Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi. The Meeting was chaired by the Union Minister of Mines and DoNER and Chairman NEC, Mr. B K Handique.

The meeting was attended by Governors of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, Chief Ministers of Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and senior officials from the North Eastern States.

Mr. Handique in his speech touched upon various issues including the achievements made by NEC since the last meeting in all the sectors of NEC particularly the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the State of Nagaland and NEC for setting up of an Institute for Paramedical. He also said that the overall health infrastructure available in the North Eastern States at tertiary, secondary and primary levels and gaps persisting therein are also being assessed.

He reiterated that in tandem with the expectations of the members, NEC would play more proactive role in the development of the region by promoting the capacities in emerging opportunities.

Mr. Handique informed that the NEC is in touch with Assam Rifles to facilitate admission in the Assam Rifles Public School for violence-affected poor students of all 8 NE States

To further process the Look East Policy, Mr. Handique informed that the Ministry has arranged the visit of 8 ASEAN Ambassador to Manipur and holding of Youth Exchange Programmes between the North Eastern Youth with the neighbouring countries.

It was announced in the meeting that the Ministry of DoNER will be partnering with the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2011.

The youths being the most promising resources, their education and skills is the prime responsibility of the Ministry. To give impetus to the sports talent of the region, it was informed in the meeting that Dr. T. Ao Regional Football Tournament was started by NEC which will be held in all the North Eastern States. The second tournament will be held in Manipur this year.

The NEC has already constituted a working group to identify Transport and Communication Projects for 12th Plan with Member States, line Ministries and Planning Commission.

The Chief Minister of Meghalaya Dr. Mukul Sangma brought out the issues of erratic telecommunications. He also assured that land acquisition issues with regard to railway projects will be addressed.

Setting up of North East Cultural Form in Dwarka, Delhi is also in the process.

The meeting also discussed at length the process to increase pace of sanctioning projects under NLCPR. Presentations made on Telecommunications, Railway Connectivity, Inland water by Ministries concerned were deliberated upon.

Action taken on 58th Council was also presented during the meeting.

The Annual plan 2010-11 of the NEC was also passed and new NEC Guidelines approved for implementations.

*Be as smart as you can, but remember that it is always
better to be wise than to be smart.*

Alan Alda

BENCHMARKING PERFORMANCE OF WATER SUPPLY IN SHILLONG

Urban areas throughout the country are striving to improve service delivery, which is key for the success of various initiatives launched by the Government of India, (GOI), such as JNNURM, NERCCDIP, UIDDDMT etc and also crucial to furthering India's progress Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). However, linked to these initiatives are investments and the experience has shown that more investments in urban infrastructure have not always resulted in corresponding improvements in levels of service delivery. There is, therefore, an urgent need for a shift in focus towards service delivery.

In this context, a one day workshop was organised on July 23, 2010 at the Conference Hall of Raitong Building to initiate benchmarking process for water supply systems in Shillong. This workshop was held as part of the Asian Development Bank and Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India funded North Eastern Region Capital Cities Development Investment Programme (NERCCDIP) being implemented in Shillong, Senior officials of Public Health Engineering, Urban Affairs Department, Shillong Municipal Board and Meghalaya Urban Development Authority participated in the workshop. The resource person for the workshop was provided by

M/S Pricewaterhouse Coopers, an institutional development consultant engaged in Shillong.

In the workshop officers of the Departments concerned were exposed to the different aspects of benchmarking of water supply services with the aim of setting performance indicators, the standards to be achieved and the monitoring mechanism to be adopted. The practice of benchmarking is expected to improve service delivery, strengthen accountability, bring in greater transparency, help in optimal resource allocation and prioritising of activities and facilitate PPP. Benchmarking is also consistent with the need for regulation – an idea which is increasingly gaining momentum in the urban service delivery sector. Benchmarking also becomes highly relevant in view of rising customer expectations, demands for more efficient performance ever increasing quality standards. Benchmarking water supply systems in Shillong would serve as a tool which is proposed to be used for improvement in services provided to end consumers.

This is the first of many reforms planned for the sector in the coming years.

GOVERNOR VISITS MIR JUMLA TOMB IN WEST GARO HILLS

The Governor of Meghalaya Mr. Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary, during his two-day tour to Garo Hills, visited the tomb of Mir Jumla, one of the Mughal generals, at Thakuranbari on the Assam-Meghalaya border in the westernmost part of West Garo Hills district on 6th August.

Interacting with the residents of the area, the Governor recalled his visit to Mankachar in Assam when he was serving as the Director-General of BSF, where he was told about the existence of the tomb and later during his visit to Bangladesh, he had also come across another memorial set up in the name of Mir Jumla with claims that the general's body was buried there. This, the Governor said, made him particularly keen to visit the place and find out for himself whether his remains were actually buried there or not.

One of the members of Mir Jumla Mazar Sharif Committee, Ichaguri-Thakuranbari showed the Governor some documents to prove that the Mughal general was really buried in the hillock under the erstwhile kingdom of Kamarupa in Assam, which now falls under Ampati Sub-division of West Garo Hills.

It may be mentioned here that Mir Jumla, who was appointed the Governor of Bengal sometime around 1659 by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, invaded Assam heading a vast army, but the difficult terrain and the malaria prone climate of the area took a heavy toll on the Mughal Army. This forced Mir Jumla to retreat during 1663 without having fully accomplished the subjugation of Assam. Before he could return to Bengal, the general himself was stricken with malaria and succumbed to the disease in the same year near Mankachar. His body was buried in the same place on a beautiful hillock and his tomb has been maintained over the centuries.

RONGRAM HORTI-HUB: *a remarkable achievement in a short span*



The near perfect agro-climatic conditions of West Garo Hills district, diversity of flora and fauna and the possibility of successful commercial ventures by introducing a wide range of fruits, vegetables and plantation crops induced the Directorate of Horticulture to identify its generic strengths and devise various ways to provide integrated support to farmers for enhanced productivity.

Various initiatives taken up by the Department like allotment of Central and State subsidies, demonstration programmes, area expansion and multiple cropping etc to farmers. Recent interventions under the Technology Mission for the integrated development of Horticulture in North East have further catalyzed a spurt of new activities in the district, especially in the area of commercial, low-volume high-value crops such as Cashewnut, Pineapple, Arecanut, Ginger, Orange, etc. These interventions along with the setting up of the first Horticultural-Hub in Rongram calls for strong infrastructural support to make horticultural production more remunerative.

The first Horticultural-Hub at Rongram, around 15 kilometers from Tura, which was sanctioned in August, 2008 and commissioned on September 25, 2009, has seen remarkable achievements during the last one year. Under this project, the Department has been able to achieve 7580 square meters of protected area under poly houses, two water tanks with a capacity to store 5 lakh liters, pump house, generator room, fertigation room, grading and packing hall, cold room etc. The commercial crops cultivated in this center are Gerbera (2600 sq m), Anthuriums (1000 sq m), colored capsicum (600 sq m), carnation (600 sq m), leather leaf ferns (1000 sq m), vegetables (500 sq m) and an orange nursery (1280 sq m).

Besides, a primary hardening unit for tissue culture plants and training hall (pre-fabricated bamboo structure) has also been set up within the Horti-Hub premises. The Horti-Hub envisages meeting the holistic C2C center of excellence for market demand

driven crops with a distinct business model set up under the Technology Mission, provide state of the art infrastructure for hi-tech horticulture in the district on pre-identified cluster basis, facilitate induction of latest technology, focus on low-volume-high-value crops etc.

It may be recalled that the then Adviser to the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Mr. Anish Gandhi, who accompanied the then Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma for the inauguration of the Horti-Hub on September 25, 2009, had commended the work of the Horticulture Department, saying, "It is a remarkable achievement, given the short span of time".



Horticulture – future of Garo Hills

Garo Hills is situated in an expansive area conducive to growth of exotic fruits and vegetables and has long been acknowledged by agro-experts as a region worth looking at twice and investing in. Several entrepreneurs have, taking advantage of this fact, engaged themselves in the flourishing trade of cultivating fruits and vegetables, processing them into various products be it bottled, canned or boxed. One enterprising and resourceful entrepreneur, Kailash Agarwal of K D Agro-Industry fame who is also a resident of Tura started a flourishing trade of processing agro-products into various profitable and exportable agro-based products like jams, squashes, pickles, vinegar etc. The K D Agro Industry is one of the most successful of its kind in the region and has even won accolades from the center for its resourcefulness and ingenuity.

Another young and enterprising entrepreneur, Tinash Ch Momin of Tinash Agro-Industry fame is also successfully reaping the benefits of the abundance of horticulture produce. While K D-Agro Industry basically, deals in processed ready-made food, Tinash Agro-industries basically, deals in processing spices like turmeric, pepper etc.

The Meghalaya Government too acknowledging the benefits of introducing horticulture as a sustainable source of livelihood into the region has introduced various schemes such as granting subsidies for seedlings, imparting first hand training to villagers in various methods of cultivating different kinds of fruits, vegetables etc. Till date there are around twenty-two different schemes granted by the Meghalaya Government for the promotion of Horticulture in the state and various other schemes and grants by the NEC, Central Government etc. The latest being the Technology Mission wherein the idea of 'Low Volume High Value' is being implemented. The general idea is to cultivate crops that have high value in a limited area but with higher gains compared to other crops.



Even so the Government's initial decision of implementing these 'horticulture initiatives' faced some setbacks at the outset as the mind-sets of the people of the region had to be changed so as to embrace the idea of horticulture as a sustainable source of livelihood. However after much coaxing and creating sufficient general awareness the Government has to some extent able to make the people have a handle on the idea.

The cultivation of tea, oranges, pineapple, cashew nuts etc in the region increased tremendously and within a period of time the region became famous for its tea oranges, pineapples, cashew nuts etc. But the frenzy and enthusiasm died down as fast as it spread because the Government was unable to deliver much needed seeds in time and at times only became available well after the sowing or cultivating season.

This time round, the Government with renewed enthusiasm and additional funding from the center has managed to successfully implement various Horti-projects in the region. The latest example is the Horti-hub in Rongram around 15 kilometers from here where various exotic fruits, vegetables and decorative plants like the gerbera, leather leaf ferns, anthuriums,



colored capsicums etc are being cultivated under the 'Technology Mission', a scheme encouraging cultivation of high value crops enabling higher profits in a limited area of expansion. Other examples are the strawberry and Anthurium plantation in Williamnagar East Garo Hills.

Unlike past trysts with the idea of horticulture as a sustainable livelihood for the people of Garo Hills this time round it is unbelievably getting around successfully with the Meghalaya Government making certain commendable initiatives for the promotion of Horticulture in the State in general and Garo Hills in Particular. The Government has enthusiastically started imparting training to villagers on various dos and don'ts of Horticulture, providing tech-know-how and assisting individuals and groups setting up their own horticulture cultivation through various grants and aids. Officers too have taken keen interest in the promotion of horticulture in the region. James Warren



Sangma, Assistant Horticulturist, Horticulture Department, Tura, speaking to media persons, said, "Sixty-five lakhs is being funded by the Government to set

up poly-houses for protected cultivation of high value crops like gerbera, anthurium, colored capsicums, dahlia etc. The state Government's fund alone cannot sustain the implementation of various schemes throughout Garo Hills and seeing this deficit the Center has provided much needed aid through schemes like the 'technology mission' and added, "This year alone twenty lakhs has been spent on seeds alone and funds are also being put aside women's development schemes and Self Help Groups etc".

Sangma has also stated that if the present trend of vast numbers of farmers opting for horticulture persists for a long period of time then horticulture as the major source of livelihood in the region is already slated. He further informed that certain horticulture produces such as anthuriums, etc are already being exported outside the country to destinations like the Middle East etc. Other Horticulture produces like pine apple slices, jams and squashes etc are also finding markets outside the state in cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc informed Kailash Agarwal. While Tinash Ch Momin informed that spices and especially mustard of the region was much preferred by exporters because of its pungent quality.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The Govt. of India had sanctioned one MLTC (Middle Level Training Centre) for Meghalaya during 2002-2003, under erstwhile UDISHA World Bank Assisted training programme under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) with a view to train Lady Supervisor, other related functionaries and to organise Innovative Training Programme. Prior to 2002-03 the Lady Supervisors were imparted Job/Refresher training course at NIPCCD, Regional Centre, Guwahati. Since then, all Job Training Programme/Refresher Course for Lady Supervisors under ICDS is now conducted at the Middle Level Training Centre, Shillong. Altogether 25 Lady Supervisors attended the training from different ICDS Projects in the State.



The Department of Social Welfare had organised a Job Training Course for Lady Supervisors under ICDS Project from 21st June – 19th July, 2010. The objectives of the training were to review the status of ICDS scheme and to get a feedback from the supervisors on its implement at the field level; to acquaint the supervisors with the suitable mechanisms and development for effective supervision and convergence approach; to improve the knowledge and skills of supervisors for effective management of the programme; to provide the field functionaries with update information and skills and to facilitate and provide supportive guidance to AWWs for effective co-ordination and supervision at the community level.

The distribution of certificates and closing function was graced by the Minister Social Welfare Shri. J. A. Lyngdoh as the Chief Guest, Shri. A. Som, the Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare Department as Guest of Honour. Amongst others present were Shri. C. C. M. Mihsil, the Director of Social Welfare, Smti. L. N. Jyrwa, the Additional Director of Social Welfare, District Programme Officers, District Social Welfare Officers, Child Development Project Officers, NGOs, Prominent Guests from various professional fields and online Department and all the staff of MLTC attended the function.

On 28th July, 2010, Dr. H. T. Sangliana, Vice Chairman National Commission for Minorities visited the State and had a joint meeting with the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, other Government officials at the Conference Hall of Main Secretariat. The issues discussed during the meeting were Scheme for Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme granted and pending application; scheme for Post-matric Scholarship Scheme granted and pending application; free Coaching and Allied Scheme granted and pending application and Housing Scheme.

As part of his visit, the Vice Chairman National Commission for Minorities also visited Cherrapunjee and interacted with media persons of the States.

Multi-stakeholder Retreat on Addressing India's Nutrition Challenges:

On 7th and 8th August, 2010, a Multistakeholder Retreat on Addressing India's Nutrition Challenges was organised by the Planning Commission at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), NASC Complex PUSA, New Delhi.

State Teams were encouraged to display material highlighting state specific initiatives, for display in the Pre Retreat Poster Exhibition on 'Innovative Approaches' on 6th August, 2010.

The Retreat sought to evolve a Framework for a multisectoral National Plan of Action to prevent and reduce undernutrition – especially maternal and child undernutrition in India, in a time bound manner, with clearly articulated commitments of different stakeholders.



Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission at the Display Material (Meghalaya) Pre Retreat Poster Exhibition on Innovative Approaches at New Delhi.

The State delegates who attended the Retreat were, Shri. A. Som, I.A.S., Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Social Welfare Department, Shri. C. C. M. Mihsil, I.A.S., Director of Social Welfare, Meghalaya, Shillong, Smti. L. N. Jyrwa, Addl. Director of Social Welfare, Meghalaya, Shillong and other officials of the Department.

MOU SIGNED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ICPS IN THE STATE

The Government of Meghalaya signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development, for implementation of 'Integrated Child Protection Schemes' (ICPS) in the State on July 6, 2010. The State Government was presented by Shri. Arindam Som, Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare Department.

This newly Centrally sponsored Scheme has been formulated by the Government of India, with the objectives to provide a safe and secure environment to children in the country who are in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law, contribute to the improvement in the well being of children in different circumstances, reduce vulnerabilities to situation and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation. The intervention includes inter alia, financial support for setting up and maintenance of the existing homes for children in need of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law, setting up

of child protection structure, capacity building, advocacy etc.

The Central Government provides substantial financial support to the State Government for implementation of ICPS in the States.

The expenditure sharing ratio between Centre and State Government is 90 percent Central Share and 10 percent State share.

The expected outcomes of the scheme are reduced vulnerabilities of children, better child protection services, increased availability and accessibility of a variety of child protection services, less children in need of care and protection, increase in protection of children in family based non institutional care, increase in the protection of children/young people leaving institutional care who are self sufficient and gainfully engaged in productive activity and information/knowledge base of children and family at risk.

Already twenty two States have signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

WISDOM

Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Memory is the mother of all wisdom.

Aeschylus

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

Thomas Jefferson

Every man is a damn fool for at least five minutes every day; wisdom consists in not exceeding the limit.

Elbert Hubbard

NEWS ROUND UP

SEMINAR ON SUICIDE : WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT

SANKER organized a Seminar themed, "Suicide: What can we do about it?" at Mawroh, Shillong on 9th August to address the increasing trend of Suicide cases in the State which stands at about 3 percent and 10.8 percent of the total National suicide rate which is escalating day by day.

The motive of the seminar is to bring to light the various factors associated with suicide such as socio economic, family and individual crisis and the steps that can be taken in order to tackle the issue and treatment for underlying mental disorders, adequate social support which can help reduce the risk of suicide.

Besides resource person, Dr. Nirmal K. Shahoo, Psychiatrist and Lecturer Medical Sciences, University of Alberta, Canada, other participants includes Mr. Frederick Kharkongor, IAS, Education Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Dr. Sandi Syiem, Psychiatrist and Director of SAN-KER, Shillong, Mrs. Patricia Mukhim, Editor of Shillong Times and Social Activist, Mr. Baluk Blah, Producer, Peitngor Cable News, Mr. Toki Blah, Mr. Teddy Langstieh, Pastor, teachers from various schools and colleges and many more.

The speakers while sharing their thoughts on the issue, highlighted various factors and reasons that influence suicide and reiterated the need for greater awareness among those dealing with the youth in identifying warning signs.

TRAINING ON IMPROVEMENT OF SLAUGHTER HOUSE HELD

A One day Butchers Training on "Slaughter House Improvement for Better Quality Meat and Safer Environment" organized by the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department jointly with National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB) and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technical (IICPT) Ministry of Food Processing Industries was held on August 9, at the Conference Hall of the Veterinary Council Meghalaya, Shillong. The training was inaugurated by Dr. L. Lyngwa, Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary.

The meeting was attended by the members of the

Meghalaya Commercial Veterinary Butcher Society, Khasi Jaintia Butcher Welfare Association, Seng ki Nongdie Dohsniang, Shillong and senior officials of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department. The Resource Persons for the Training include Dr. Suresh Kumar, Senior Scientist IICPT, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Dr. S. K. Laskar, Associate Professor and Dr. D.R. Nath, Professor and Head of Department, Livestock Products Technology, College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati.

The day long training includes power point presentation followed by discussion on the problems face by the butchers and technical session on skills on meat slaughter and abattoir management.

WORKSHOP ON STATE HEALTH POLICY HELD

A workshop on State Health Policy was held at the auditorium of the Yojana Bhavan, Shillong on 26th July. The workshop was organised by the Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU) and sponsored by the Health Department, Government of Meghalaya. Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma, graced the inaugural function as the Chief Guest. Also present on the occasion were Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister in charge Health, Mr. R. Lyngdoh, Chancellor of MLCU, Dr K M Shyamprasad, Vice Chancellor of MLCU, Dr. G C Kharkongor, Commissioner and Secretary, Health, Mr. D. P. Wahlang, medical practitioners and NGOs working in the health sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that it was high time for the State to have its own Health Policy. Once the State Health Policy is in place, Dr Sangma opined that through community participation, successful implementation of the Policy will take place. He further stressed that the outlook of the State Health Policy should lay focus on preventive and investigative measures rather than curative. The Government is also contemplating making Health Insurance packages available to the weaker sections of society and BPL families, he added. Dr Sangma also urged upon all stakeholders to contribute their inputs so as to ensure that the State is equipped with comprehensive Health Policy.

It may be mentioned that the Health Department has entrusted Martin Luther Christian University to work out the modalities of drafting the State Health

NEWS ROUND UP

the MEGHALAYA Chronicle

Policy and the aim of the Workshop was to solicit views and inputs from all stakeholders towards achieving this end.

LADY KEANE COLLEGE CELEBRATE PLATINUM JUBILEE

Meghalaya Governor, Mr R S Mooshahary inaugurated the year long Platinum Jubilee celebration of Lady Keane School and College, Shillong on July 26 in the college auditorium in the presence of the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma, Education Minister, Mrs Ampareen Lyngdoh, Padmashree Mrs Queenie Rynjah, President of the College Governing Body, Mrs Roshan Warjri, President of the School Managing Committee, Mr Manas Choudhuri and the Pro-Vice Chancellor, NEHU, Prof. V Lalthantluanga among others.

It may be mentioned that Lady Keane School and College, the premier institution of Meghalaya and the first Lady's College in the Northeast was started way back in 1935 in a rented building in Laban, Shillong and on 25th July 1936 Lady Keane, the wife of the then Governor Sir Michael Keane, laid the foundation stone of the school and college in the 8.3 acres of land allotted by Sir Michael Keane to a few men who took up the challenging task of establishing a women's college in Shillong.

CM INAUGURATES ONLINE SYSTEM OF TAX RECEIPT

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma inaugurated the Online System of Tax Receipt via Cyber Treasury at the Yojana Bhavan Auditorium, Shillong on July 14, in the presence of the Chief Secretary, Mr W M S Pariat, Principal Secretary, Finance, Mr B K Dev Varma, Commissioner & Secretary, Finance, Mr N S Samant, Commissioner of Taxes, Mrs L Kharkongor and the General Manager, State Bank of India, Mr S K Mishra.

The inaugural programme was organized by the Department of Finance, Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with the State Bank of India and the National Informatic Centre (NIC), Shillong Centre.

The Online system of Tax Receipt will enable

registered tax payers to pay their taxes online through the internet by logging on to www.meghalayaonline.gov.in. It may be mentioned that Meghalaya is the 21st State in the country to use this facility while Assam is the 1st among the North eastern States. The website is integrated with the State Bank of India and also with the Treasury offices in the State. At present only the State Bank of India is having the facility.

MEGHALAYA IT AWARDS FOR MERITORIOUS STUDENTS

In recognition of the hard work and dedication of students who excelled in the 2009-2010 board examination including MBOSE, SSLC, HSSLC, ICSE, CBSE and ICS, the State Information Technology Department felicitated meritorious students as well as subject toppers in a function held at the U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on September 23, 2010. Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma attended the function as the Chief Guest and Minister of Education Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh as the Guest of Honour. Besides government officials, the function was also attended by the President ITEL, India Mr. Praveen Vishakantiah.

A total of 105 students were awarded laptops on the occasion. Of the awardees, two physically disabled students received laptops which were installed with specialized software to meet their needs. The said laptops were sponsored by INTEL India.

The Meghalaya IT Award was constituted in the year 2007-08 with the aim to encourage students of the State to build self confidence and take education to a higher level.

Sometimes one creates a dynamic impression by saying something, and sometimes one creates as significant an impression by remaining silent.

Dalai Lama

Independence Day 2010



NEWSREEL

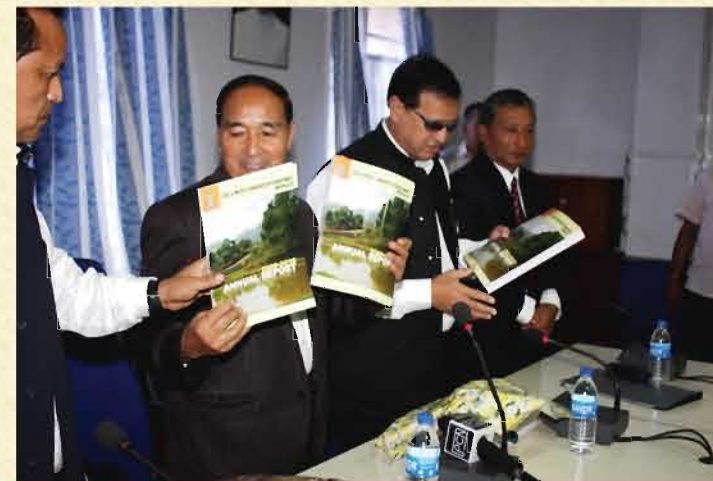
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Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma attending the Border Area meeting at the Committee Room, Yojana Bhavan, Shillong on July 15, 2010



The Governor of Meghalaya Mr. Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary visiting the Tomb of Mir Jumla, West Garo Hills on August 6, 2010



Dy CM, Mr. Rowell Lyngdoh releasing the Annual Report 09-10, Soil & Water Conservation Deptt in presence of Minister incharge, R C Laloo, Principal Secy, C D Kynjing at Secretariat on 6.7.10



Meghalaya CM, Dr Mukul Sangma launching the Online System of Tax Receipt via Cyber Treasury at the Yojana Bhavan Auditorium, Shillong on 14.7.10

Meghalaya Governor R. S. Mooshahary meets the members of the 15th Know India Programme, 2010 of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, GOI at Raj Bhavan on Sept 16, 10



Comptroller and Auditor General of India calling on the Governor of Meghalaya Mr. R.S. Mooshahary at Raj Bhavan on 23.6.10



Shri. R. S. Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya with General V. K. Singh, Chief of Army Staff at Raj Bhavan, Shillong on 19.07.10



Shri. R. S. Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya with CNI Upper Primary School students from Mawlynnong at Raj Bhavan, Shillong on 19.07.10



Dr. D. D. Lapang, Chief Advisor, Government of Meghalaya with Dr. J. A. Oliver, Pro Chancellor, SHIATS, Allahabad on 08.07.10



Dr. H.T. Sangliana, Vice Chairman, National Commission for Minorities interacting with senior State Government officials at the conference hall, Meghalaya Main Secretariat, Shillong on 28.7.2010

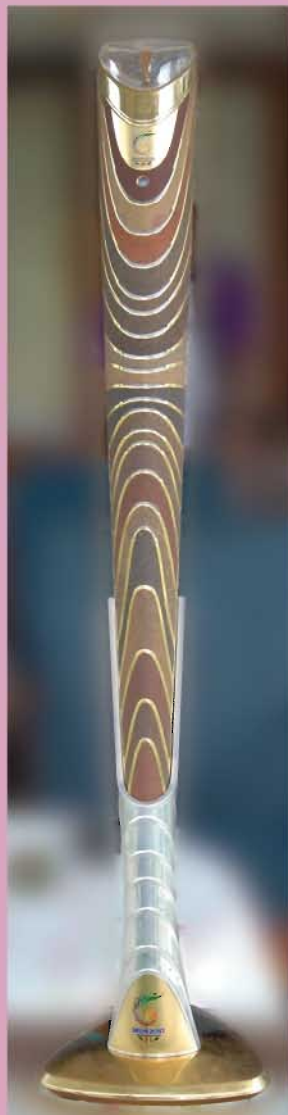
Children from S O S village, Umiam tying Rakhi wristbands to the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma in his office chamber on 24.8.2010



Deputy Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri B.M.Lanong in a meeting with Stake Holders on the Draft Mining Policy of the State at Main Secretariat Conference Room on 13.9.2010



Queen's Baton Relay Torch of the 19th Commonwealth Games 2010



July 21, 2010

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Waterfalls

Several places in Meghalaya resonate with the sound of thundering waterfalls that cascade down hill slope, spraying its surroundings with a delicate mist of water. In and around Shillong there are numerous waterfalls : Bishop Falls, Elephant Falls, Spread Eagle Falls, Sweet Falls, Crinoline Falls and Beadon Falls are the best known.

In Sohra, the heavy rainfall has sculpted many natural rock formations and waterfalls. The cascading Nohsngthiang waterfalls at Mawsmai, the hauntingly beautiful Nohkalikai falls, and the Dain Thlen falls, where according to folklore, a man-eating monster called the Thlen, was chopped into pieces. Natural rock carvings of the episode draw visitors to see the image of the Thlen, the symbol of greed, corruption and evil. The Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills too have their share of beautiful waterfalls, notably the Tyrchi falls en route to Jowai and the Pelga falls near Tura in Garo Hills.

