

December 11, 2003

Press Release No.684/03

### NATIONAL LEVEL TURA TRADE FAIR BEGINS

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Level Tura trade Fair, 2003 got underway at Police Parade Ground, Tura with the symbolic lighting of the lamp by the MCCL Chairman, Mr. Zenith M Sangma, MLA at the inaugural function on December 10, 2003. Organized by the North East Trade Promotions, the mega marketing event witnessed the participation of trading houses from Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Jorhat and Assam besides local entrepreneurs from Garo Hills.

Speaking as the Chief Guest on the occasion, Mr. Sangma said that the Trade Fair would give a much-needed exposure to the entrepreneurs of the State and its sectors for different investments. Stating that there are plenty of raw materials in the region, many of which are yet to be exposed, he said that by organising such events, businesses houses from other States can be exposed to the rich wealth that this region has to offer. He further appealed to the people to maintain peace and March forward to uplift the States economy.

Meghalaya Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mr Billykid Sangma, in his presidential address said that, the need to organise such trade fairs is that they serve as a platform for local entrepreneurs to showcase their talents and products to traders from outside. He also expressed his hope that this event would give a boost to the slow trade and commercial activities in the region.

Earlier the Chief Executive, NE Trade Promotions, Mr N P Yadav, welcomed the gathering while the coordinator, Mr S Roy Choudhury proposed the vote of thanks.

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### WILD LIFE WEEK CELEBRATION CONCLUDES AT TURA

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** The celebration of Wildlife Week 2003 concluded at Tura with a prize distribution function organised by the Forest and Environment Department at Government Girls Higher Secondary school, Tura on December 10, 2003. Besides the students and teachers of various institutions, the function was attended by officials from various departments.

Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, Tura Mr. R Shullai, who graces the occasion as the Chief Guest said that the Government of India, understanding the importance of maintaining ecological balance has laid much stress on the preservation of wildlife and called for concerted efforts by all the citizens to create awareness among the people. He later gave away the prizes to the winners of drawing and painting, essay and debate competition, conducted during the observation of Wildlife Week.

The function was chaired by Conservator of Forest, Social Forestry, Tura Mr. N S Burfal while the DFO, East and West Garo Hills Wildlife Division Mr. P R Marak gave the introductory speech on the significance of the Wildlife Week celebration. The vote of thanks was proposed by ACF, East and West Garo Hills Wildlife Division, Mr. S K Chaudhury.

Earlier, a lively debate on the motion, "Should Elephants be conserved in Garo Hills?" was conducted by the Inner Wheel Club of Tura, in which the President of Tura Rotary Club Prof. U R Dutta was the speaker. Ms Bonny Sharma, who spoke for the motion walked away with the first prize of Rs. 1000 in cash, while Ms. Anindita Sangma and Cherry Sangma bagged the second and third prizes respectively.

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**NONGPOH LEPERS TO RECEIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT**

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** In a meeting convened by the Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Mr W L Lyngdoh, on December 8, 2003 it was decided that as part of the Advance Christmas celebration, gifts will be presented to the inmates of the Leprosy Colony, Nongpoh on December 22, 2003 at the Circuit House Nongpoh.

Individuals from different walks of life in the District, firms/associations/organisations and institutions willing to contribute to this cause may do so by sending donations in cash or kind, including unused clothes and other articles addressed to Smt. M N Nampui, Addl. Deputy Commissioner, on or before December 20, 2003.

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**INCLUSION OF NEWLY ENROLLED ELECTORS IN EPIC**

**Shillong December 11, 2003:** The Deputy Commissioner (Election), South Garo Hills in response to the directives of Joint Chief Electoral Officer of Meghalaya had furnished the detailed action plan for inclusion of newly enrolled electors of 37-Baghmara and 53-Chokpot (ST) Legislative Assembly constituencies in the electors photo identity card (EPIC) during the summary revision of electoral roll, 2004.

As per the detailed action plan, photography of newly enrolled electors for inclusion in the EPIC, would be starting from December 13, 2003 in all the Polling Stations of both Constituencies. The Photography according to the detailed plan, would be concluding on December 18, 2003.

To supervise the programme of photography, three extra Assistant Commissioners, namely Mr. S K Momin, Mr Z J Sangma, and Mr A C Marak have been entrusted as Electoral Registration Officers.

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**SECTION 144 Cr. PC IMPOSED**

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** In view of the likelihood of a demonstration, rally and taking out of procession by some interested persons/ organisations during the Assembly session which will commence on December 15, 2003, Section 144 Cr.PC has been clamped prohibiting the holding of any demonstration/rally/taking out of procession, shouting of slogans, carrying of arms and other deadly weapons and assembly of five or more persons within 200 meters radius of the State Central Library which is the temporary Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shillong. This was informed by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District.

This order will come into immediate effect until further notice.

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**DEMONSTRATION ON DYING ON CANE AND BAMBOO HANDICRAFTS TO BE HELD**

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** A live demonstration on dying and treatment of Cane and Bamboo Handicrafts will be held at the Common Facility Centre at MEWCO Campus, Mawlai Mawroh from December 15-17, 2003. The training will be provided by Mr. R C Debnath, Instructor, Abjhijit Majumder, LDC and Mrs. Bina Debnath, Instructor from the Bamboo and Cane Development Institute, Agartala.

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**PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ELECTORS**

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** Photography for Electors of 16 – Malki Nongthymmai (ST) A/C, 17 – Laitumkhrah (ST) A/C, 18 – Pynthorumkhrah (GEN) A/C, 19 – Jaiaw (ST) A/C, 20 – Mawkhar (ST) AC, 21 – Mawprem (GEN) A/C, 22 – Laban (GEN) A/C, 23 – Mawlai (ST) A/C will be taken in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner (Election), East Khasi Hills District, Shillong with effect from December 22, 2003 up to January 15, 2004, during Office hours, except during holidays and sundays.

The electors of the 16 – Malki Nongthymmai (ST) AC and 21 – Mawprem (GEN) A/C, who have not been photographed or do not have Electors' Photo Identity Card (EPIC) are requested to appear in room 208 of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner (Election), East Khasi Hills District, Shillong; those belonging to 17 – Laitumkhrah (ST) A/C, 18 – Pynthorumkhrah (GEN) A/C, 22- Laban (GEN) A/C and 23-Mawlai (ST) A/C are to appear in room 213 while those belonging to 9 – Jaiaw (ST) A/C, 20 – Mawkhar (ST) AC are to appear in room 214.

**Press Release No.691/03**

**ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED**

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** The Excise Staff of East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, in their continued drive against illicit liquor and conducted raids in the Restaurants/Stalls in the town and its outskirts. During the month of November, the Excise staff detected 57 cases with a seizure of 138.375 litres of i/d liquor and 19.850 litres IMFL. In this connection 45 persons were arrested under Excise Act.

### MINISTER LAUNCHED WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** Meghalaya Minister for Agriculture, Mr P M Syiem and C&RD Minister, Mr J D Rymbai, visited Sohkyrbam , a village in Ri Bhoi District on December 9, 2003 to launch the watershed development project proposed to be implemented by the Department of agriculture during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period. It may be mentioned that Rs 30 lakhs have been earmarked for this project, which includes two villages, viz, Sohlyrbam and Dongphlang covering an area of about 500 hectares.

To commemorate this event, a public meeting was held where about 600 villagers attended. The meeting was presided over by Mr. W L Mynsong, MDC of the area amidst cultural presentation by participants from the village.

In his speech, Mr J D Rymbai, Minister and MLA of the area said that once the project is implemented it will prove to be a great boon to the farmers of the areas and it will go a long way in elevating their economic conditions. He informed that through this programme, farmers would be benefited through various assistance in the field of agriculture including cattle rearing, piggery, poultry and fishery. He therefore urged upon the implementing officers to work sincerely and give to the farmers their due share. He also announced that the process of creation of the PWD sub-division has been completed and very soon the Sub-divisional office would be established at Jirang.

Also speaking on the occasion, Mr P M Syiem, said that inspite of the majority of the population depending on agriculture for their livelihood, it is disheartening that the farmers continue to face many difficulties, particularly when it comes to marketing their products. Therefore, he expressed the need for the department to strengthen the marketing infrastructure in the State. While encouraging farmers to expand maize cultivation as there is a market potential for this crop, being a major ingredient of cattle and poultry feed, he also expressed satisfaction that the farmers are traditionally practicing organic farming, a concept which the world is attempting to reinforce.

For implementation of the scheme, Mr Syiem, informed that a watershed development committee has been constituted with members from among the villagers. This watershed development committee will be responsible for implementation of watershed development programmes with technical advice of the coordinator or the team leader. To keep track of the progress, he also advised the DHO to videograph the condition of the area before and after implementation of the programmes. Further, he suggested to erect durable signpost for each activity of employed within the project site.

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DECLARED DRY DAY

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** In exercise of the power conferred by Section 52(1) of the M.E. Act (Assam Excise Act, 1910 as adopted), the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, has promulgated an order that all IMFL Shops/Bars/Hotels/Clubs/C.S. Shops/Outstill Shops shall remain closed in the entire District of East Khasi Hills on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2003 on account of Christmas Day and 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2004 on account of New Year Day.

**HOME GUARD AND CIVIL DEFENCE ANNUAL DAY AT NONGPOH**

**Shillong, December 11, 2003:** The Annual Day of Home Guards and Civil Defence was celebrated for the first time in Ri Bhoi District at Pahamsyiem Mini Stadium, Nongpoh amidst a large gathering on December 10, 2003. The Meghalaya Minister for Home Guards and Civil Defence, Mr. D P langjuh was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Meghalaya Minister for Soil Conservation, Mr. P W Muktieh, was the Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. langjuh said that all over the country this day is celebrated annually with a view to highlight the activities and role played by the Home Guards and Civil Defence in the society. Lauding the service rendered by the twin organisations, he called upon them to renew their dedication in serving the people of the State and urged them to work harder to strive ahead and set an example to others. He also called upon the people to cooperate with the Home Guards and Civil Defence Department to ensure safety in the District and the State as a whole.

While highlighting the activities and role played by the Home Guards and Civil Defence, Mr. Muktieh congratulated the twin organisations for the credit and honour earned by them in the past years when they were awarded with the meritorious and gallantry award from the President of India.

On the day, a two-minute silence was also observed during the meeting as a mark of respect to the martyrs of the organisation in the country.