

January 21, 2004

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MEGHALAYA DAY CELEBRATION

Shillong, January 21, 2004: The official function of the Meghalaya Day Celebration was held today at the Polo Grounds where His Excellency, the Governor of Meghalaya, Mr. M M Jacob, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Among a host of dignitaries and invitees, also present on the occasion was the Meghalaya Home and IPR Minister, Mr. R G Lyngdoh, as the Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the fundamental problem of development in a tribal State like Meghalaya, is trying to maintain a balance between preserving the identity and distinctive charm of local culture while at the same time integrating the economy and the society with the outside world. Citing the fact that Meghalaya has immense potential, he stressed upon the need for development of physical infrastructure such as communication services, power and water resources etc., for maximum utilisation of its resources.

Citing the change for the better in the peace and security environment in Meghalaya, the Governor said that the situation will augur well for the future and will create a congenial environment for investment and growth.

While addressing the gathering both the Guest of Honour, Mr. R G Lyngdoh and the Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Mr. J Tayeng, reiterated the need to look upon the occasion as an opportunity to renew their pledge of dedication in shaping the future of a better and prosperous Meghalaya.

Earlier, the Governor also gave away the Meghalaya Day Award 2004. This year's "**U Tirot Sing Award**" was conferred upon Dr. Hamlet B. Ngapkynta and Dr. (Rev). Gilbert K Marak in recognition of their contribution in the field of Art and Literature. "**The U Kiang Nangbah Award**" for Sports went to ace Chess player of the State, Master Gillford Thangkhiew while "**The Pa Togan N Sangma Award**" for Social Services was posthumously awarded to (L) Mr. B B Lyngdoh.

In recognition of their dedicated service to the State, 30 employees ranging from Grade IV to Officers of different Government Departments were presented with the Meghalaya Excellence Award 2004. On this day, the list of recipients of the Meghalaya Governor's Police Award 2004 was also announced.

As part of the Meghalaya Day Celebration 2004, a Beat Contest was organised by the Arts and Culture Department at the Polo Ground (behind Nehru Stadium) on January 19 and 20, 2004. Out of 15 teams participating in the contest, the Charis Band was awarded the first prize, while the second prize went to Project Blend Ltd., and the third prize to Loud Silence.

The Director of Arts and Culture, Mr C M Mihsil gave away the cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-, Rs. 8,000/- and Rs. 5000/- to the first, second and third prize winners respectively. Besides the cash prizes, consolation prizes and individual prizes were also given away.

GOVERNOR INAUGURATES CLEANING DRIVE

Shillong, January 21, 2004: The Cleaner Shillong cleaning drive organised by the Shillong Rotary Club in collaboration with the Shillong Municipal Board and Durbar Hima Myllem was inaugurated today morning at Motphran, Iewduh by the Meghalaya Governor, Mr. M M Jacob.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Jacob lauded the organisers of the cleaning drive which was also symbolic of the day being the 32nd year of Meghalaya Statehood. He said that we also need to clean our hearts and minds just as we clean the surroundings and thus, he added that purity of heart and purity of the surroundings would make a happier and healthier life.

Others speaking on the occasion were the Syiem of Hima Myllem and Mr. Manas Choudhury, Shillong Rotary Club.