

Cabinet approves Mining & Geology dept proposal on coal mining



The Cabinet in its meeting on June 24 took up the proposal of the Mining & Geology Department to exclusively deal with the coal related issues in relation to the proposal of the State Government for exemption of the operational part of the Coal Mines Nationalization Act, 1973, through a Presidential Notification rescinding its operation in the scheduled areas of Meghalaya.

In view of the coal mine owners and operators in the State being affected by the ruling of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on mining and transportation of coal, the Cabinet was briefed by the Department on how the proposal would help expedite the process of bringing all coal mining activities under regulation and

achieve the objective in the best interest of the State and its people.

Addressing the media persons after the meeting, Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma recollected the fact that the State Government over a period of time was engaged in the exercise of bringing all mining activities in the State under appropriate regulation conforming to the whole requirement of statutory laws pertaining to environment safety, labour laws, etc and based on that long drawn exercise with the involvement of the stakeholders, the State Government had come up with the Meghalaya Mines & Minerals Development Policy, 2012, he said, adding that exercise was on after a number of workshops and interactions to

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23rd Conference of DGSP, IGSP and Heads of CPOs of North Eastern States culminates



The Valedictory Function of the 23rd conference of DGSP, IGSP and CPOs of North Eastern States was held at Raj Bhavan on June 24 with Meghalaya Governor, V. Shanmuganathan attending the function as Chief Guest.

Altogether 42 officials from the police forces and security agencies from the 8 North Eastern States as well as from West Bengal participated in the Two Day Conference. The conference provided a platform for participating officials to share their experiences, best practices on issues and challenges pertaining to internal security and regional coordination among the security agencies and police forces of North eastern states besides issues related to International Border management. During his valedictory address, the Governor urged upon the participating

officials to try not to be complacent in spite of the fact that the overall security in the region has improved in the last three years.

“The time has come for North East to reap peace dividends” he said while stating the fact of North east India, surrounded by international borders, is strategically a very sensitive region in the country.

The Governor further called on all concerned to participate actively in the Act East Policy, an agenda that the two day conference took up for discussion. The role of security establishments in maintaining peace is crucial for the success of the Act East Policy, he stated.

Zenith lays foundation stone for ADB-funded school building in Tura



Meghalaya Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Zenith Sangma laid the foundation stone for construction of new school building for Wadanang Government Aided Secondary School, Tura under the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded project - "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya" on June 25.

It may be mentioned that this project focuses on improvement of secondary education, infrastructure and skill development. Under the project, scores of government-aided secondary and higher secondary schools in the State are being upgraded with the kind of infrastructure to improve the overall learning environment for the students.

The foundation stone for the school building was laid in the presence of Parliamentary Secretary incharge Urban Affairs and local MLA, Noverfield R Marak, Chairman of Tura Municipal Board Donbosh Sangma, West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner, Pravin Bakshi, other dignitaries, members of the school management committee, officials of Education department, heads of institutions, senior citizens, teachers and the students of the school.

While speaking on the occasion, Zenith Sangma expressed his happiness on being able to bring such projects for social sector in the State which will address the critical gaps in the education sector and called for collective responsibility with sense of ownership from all concerned to take the project forward.

Recalling the fact that earlier there were less allocation of funds for Education department Mr. Sangma informed that the State government has invested maximum number of funds for the education sector over the years. "But even after

all these years we are still struggling to ensure that children get the right ambience in their place of study and therefore "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya" project has been taken up by the State Government with the funding from ADB to address these kinds of challenges and improve human resources, he added.

Further, he also called upon the institutions in the State to act as a platform of information for the students about opportunities available before them so that they are not dependent on "white collared" jobs but can take up other spaces of jobs available. He also advised them to make use of the precious time wisely and productively so that they can lead a good life in future.

Noverfield R Marak the Guest of Honour on the occasion, in his brief speech said that education is a necessity nowadays for acquiring all the other things in life and called upon one and all to take education seriously while seeking their cooperation to work together for the success of any developmental projects in the state. Moreover, he thanked the Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma for initiating the said project.

It may be mentioned that Wadanang Government Aided Secondary School was established in 1932 which was further upgraded to Secondary School in the year 1985 and since then has been catering to the students from various parts of Garo Hills.

Deputy Commissioner Pravin Bakshi and former Director, Education Department J D Sangma, were among others who also spoke on the occasion.



Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma during his visit to Mawphanlur village, West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya on 24.06.2016. During the inspection he interacted with the locals to explore the possibility of the village to be developed as a tourist spot.

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ensure implementation of the policy.

"Now there are two things before the State Government to deal with the situation – one is how to operationalize the Meghalaya Mines & Minerals Policy, 2012 to conform to the various statutory laws in respect to the environment safety, labour laws, etc, and another is to make its submissions to the NGT to vacate the earlier order banning coal mining and transportation in Meghalaya. However, in order to place before the NGT all the measures which can be implemented by the State Government, the first hurdle is the Coal Mines Nationalization Act, 1973," he said. Therefore, he said that the Mining and Geology Department came up with the proposal to exclusively deal with the issue of the proposal of the State Government to prevail upon the Union Government to exempt the operational part of the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act 1957 through a Presidential Notification rescinding its operation in the scheduled areas of Meghalaya.

Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting Project Inaugurated at Mawkyrwat



The Deputy Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Rowel Lyngdoh on June 23 unveiled the tablet to mark the inauguration of the Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting Project at Sngap Syiem College Girls' Hostel, Mawlangwir, Mawkyrwat in the presence of Smti R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat and other distinguished guests. The programme was organized by the office of the Divisional Soil & Water Conservation Officer, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rowel Lyngdoh said that the Project was constructed at the cost of seven lacs and the major cost involves underground tank which holds about ninety thousand litres which is filtered and pumped to the water storage that can store about 8 thousand litres of water. He hopes that this structure will cater to the needs of the hostellers to meet their daily requirements especially during dry seasons. He said that its high time that one should realize the value of water thereby stressing on the needs and importance of proper utilization of water so as to make it sustainable. He then called upon one and all to preserve Surface and Underground water by conserving forest in order to retain water for future sustenance.

In her speech, Smti R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, South West Khasi Hills District said that this is the second project in the district. She also informed that the same project will be implemented soon in several government institutions of the district such as Deputy Commissioner's office, Public Health Centre, Mawthawpdah and in the District Medical & Health Office, Mawkyrwat. She calls for preservation of underground water and at the same time inspired one and all to try Rain Water Harvesting in their homes and to contribute something towards water preservation.

Shri O. T. Lyngwa, Divisional Soil & Water Conservation Officer, Mawkyrwat gave a brief report on the project.

Dr. S.S. Khongkliam, Principal, Sngap Syiem College chaired the function. Earlier, Shri K.S. Pale, Assistant Soil & Water Conservation Officer delivered the welcome address while Shri K.S. Kharshiing, Junior Engineer, Soil & Water Conservation, Mawkyrwat offered the vote of thanks.

Meeting for the manufacture of the Rabies Vaccine held



The mission for manufacturing of the Rabies Vaccine of plant origin by tissue culture method which was initiated by the Minister, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Meghalaya, Shri A. L. Hek after his visit to the Sami Labs, Bangalore in May 2016 Will look into the possibilities of reviving the Pasteur Institute, Shillong and nurture medicinal plants based activities for the sustainable development in Meghalaya.

A meeting in this regard was held on June 21 at the Pasteur Institute which was presided over by the Minister and attended by the official from the Health Department which include Mr M.R Synrem, IAS, Secretary Health and Mission Director, National Health Mission, Dr R.R. Wankhar, Director Health Services (MI), Dr R.O. Budnah, Director Health Services (Research) Pasteur Institute, Dr Kharkarang, Director Health Services (MCH), and several other senior doctors and scientists with a view to deliberate and chalk out a plan for the manufacture of the Rabies Vaccine of plant origin by tissue culture method and decommissioning of the Pasteur Institute.

The Minister of Health, Secretary, Health and other officials while appreciating the initiative of Dr Muhammed Majeed have agreed to work together with Sami-Sabinsa Group to revive the Pasteur Institute and begin manufacturing of Rabies vaccine. Sami-Sabinsa Group will also be submitting a proposal to the Government of Meghalaya in this regard.

Sami-Sabinsa Group has also committed to offer the services of the Group for strengthening the analytical capabilities of the laboratory which is functioning under the Department of AYUSH including providing training to the lab technicians and doctors of the department.

The company is also contemplating to take up cultivation of medicinal plants in a big way in State of Meghalaya through contract farming directly with the farmers eliminating intermediates. The farmers who toil in fields will be the actual beneficiaries of the price of their produce. The company also expressed that the state offers excellent soil and climatic conditions for cultivation of several medicinal plants including many endangered species. The Company will create a Model Farm of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in order to train farmers of the State in advanced cultivation methods.

A major initiative will be undertaken to propagate the cultivation of turmeric in Jowai, Shangpung and other areas of Jaintia Hills, where the Lakadong variety of turmeric is grown in which a meeting of over 100 farmers is being organised at Shangpung on the June 22.

Prohibitory Order

In order to prevent and minimize the frequent fatal road accident along the National Highway 44 occurred during the last few years the Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District has issued an order under section 144 CrPC prohibiting selling of liquor along the National Highway 44, restaurants, hotels and dhabas in the entire District except in the licensed bars.

The Deputy Commissioner also called upon the people to cooperate with the District Administration on the matter to strictly adhere to the order for safety along the National Highway. Any one violating the order will be prosecuted.

Plying of overloaded trucks prohibited

The District Magistrate, East Khasi Hills has promulgated an Order under Section 144 CrPC prohibiting heavy loaded commercial vehicles carrying weight of more than nine tonnes from plying along the Nongspung-Laitmawsing road, Mawkneng-Nongspung road and Sohiong-Pariong road.

This Order is necessitated following reports by the Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads), Shillong South Division that overloaded trucks are plying on the said roads which are only village roads and are not designated to bear the loading capacity of more than 9 MT. Further, the routes are having weak culverts and two major SPT bridges which may collapse at any time due to frequent and daily plying of heavy overloaded trucks.

This Order come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force until further orders.

Prohibition

The District Magistrate, West Jaintia Hills has promulgated an order under Section 144 CrPC prohibiting collection of sand, stones, illegal hazardous activities such as washing of vehicles by riverside, dumping of spoils, waste and liquor bottles etc in the river beds and river banks of the rivers which fall under West Jaintia Hills District.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect.

International Day against Drug Abuse And Illicit Trafficking Observed



International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the theme “A message of Hope: drug use disorders are preventable and treatable” was observed on June 28 at St Vianney Auditorium, Nativity Mawkyrwat wherein Smti R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, South West Khasi Hills District attended the programme as the Chief Guest.

The programme was organized by the District Social Welfare Officer, South West Khasi Hills District Mawkyrwat in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawlangwir Presbyterian Social Development & Youth Organisation & Well Humanitarian Foundation, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat.

Speaking on the occasion, Smti Lyngdoh said that the day is observed with a view to create awareness amongst the youth about drug abuse and illicit trafficking and its evil influence upon health, family and society. Smti Lyngdoh advice the youth not to touch narcotic substance and to be careful in their choice of companions, to have self control with a strong determination so as not to fall prey to this greatest menace which can affect physically, mentally and spiritually. While stating that the trend of today's youth are drawn to addiction, she therefore urged upon parents to be on alert and to keep strict vigilance on their children and to do something to contain drugs for a better health, better society and prosperity.

Amongst others who spoke on the occasion were Mr .H. G. Lyngdoh, Superintendent of Police, South West Khasi Hills District, Rev. D. Jamir, Founder Wisdom Counseling Centre, Umdihar, Smti. P. Suchiang, DSWO and Mr. S. Passah, District Child Protection Officer, South West Khasi Hills District.

Olympic Day Run held



The District Administration, West Garo Hills in collaboration with the District Sports Office, Tura on June 28 organized a short run of about 2 Km starting from Chandmary playground and covering Ringrey Bridge, District Auditorium, Old Civil Hospital, MDC Hostel, AOC Hawakhana, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ringrey and back to Chandmary field.

It may be mentioned that this non-competitive run is being organized to create awareness about the ideals and values of Olympic Movement as well as to recognize and acknowledge the selfless services extended by thousands of officials and volunteers for the conduct of successful and peaceful Olympic Games every four years.

Workshop on solid and liquid waste management held



A day long Workshop on Solid and Liquid Waste Management for Municipalities and other stakeholders under Swachh Bharat Mission was held on June 23 at Circuit House, Tura. The workshop was organized by the Directorate of Urban Affairs, Government of Meghalaya.

Speaking on the occasion Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills District, Mr. Pravin Bakshi highlighted different issues relating to the proper waste disposal and effective waste management system in the districts of Garo Hills. Expressing his concern especially for the town areas which lags behind in parameters related to maintenance of health and hygiene he opined that in villages people are clean by nature and requires to follow few guidelines for systematic or scientific disposal of waste and further called upon every citizen to move forward with participative approach for better management of waste in our region.

While sharing the experiences of involving community participation in Shillong waste management project Mr. B. Dutta, Director, Urban Affairs Department said that intensive community mobilization strategy was necessary in order to make the project a successful one. Further, he informed that the main objective of organizing this workshop is to supervise different programs undertaken by Swachh Bharat Mission in the district which is being monitored every fortnight by Prime Minister's office with the state government. Another important issue concerning the workshop is about the Orders and Judgment issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on liquid and solid waste management, he added.

Earlier in the programme, Mr. E. Syiem, Environmental Expert, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) presented a brief highlight about the importance of the newly formulated Acts and Rules on waste management which needs to be followed strictly by the municipal boards.

Mr. Paul Loko, Social Mobilisation Expert, State Investment Programme Management and Implementation Unit (SIPMIU), Shillong, while deliberating on the topic “Public Awareness and Community Participation in Waste Management” stated that community participation is the key to success in the implementation of waste management.

During the day long programme, sessions on “Technology options for solid and liquid waste processing and disposal” by Mr. D Syiem, Environmental Expert, CBUD, “Environmental Aspects in Waste management and disposal” by Mr. L Lyngdoh, Assistant Environmental Expert, SIPMIU, Shillong while “Waste to Wealth and Bio-remediation” was explained by Mr. A Jain, Consultant, Eco-Pro Environmental Services, Delhi.

Mr. Donbosh Sangma, Chairman, Tura Municipal Board (TMB), Ms. S B Marak, Chief Executive officer, TMB, Sunil Jain from Sheetal Company, Delhi, representatives of Municipal Boards from Williamnagar, Resubelpara, Baghmara, representatives of Traders union, various NGO's were amongst others present at the programme.