To commemorate the 2nd Anniversary of the launch of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the District Administration, East Khasi Hills in collaboration with the Dorbar Syiem Hima Mylliem undertook a cleaning drive at Iewduh, Shillong on October 2. The programme was sponsored under the Chief Minister’s Youth for Green Campaign.

The Governor of Meghalaya, Shri V. Shanmuganathan graced the inaugural function as the Chief Guest in the presence of Smti Roshan Warjri, Health and
Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma, visited Iewduh market, the largest and oldest traditional market in Meghalaya and the hub of trade and commerce on October 29.

Speaking to the gathering, Dr. Mukul Sangma said that the pride and legacy of Iewduh must be carried forward and all action plans should pave way for the prosperity of the people. He also added that Hima Mylliem will be supported by the government to make the market befitting to its legacy.

He also said that all departments of the government will be integrated to make the market not only safe and viable but also attractive but an important tourist destination of the state. He urged upon all to engage with the authorities and to take upon the improvement of Iewduh as a shared objective and responsibility.

Among others who spoke during the occasion was Minister, Urban Affairs, Arts & Culture etc Shri. R V Lyngdoh who said that the age old market where traders from Khasi, Jaintia and Ri Bhoi Districts converge to carry out their business looked no longer like a market but a slum. He said that the need of the hour is to modernize the market in an environment friendly manner where traders can do business in a healthy and conducive atmosphere.

Also present were Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Higher & Technical Education etc Smti. Roshan Warjri, and senior officials from the district administration and Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Commerce & Industries and Urban Affairs and the Syiem of Hima Mylliem and representatives and members of local bodies.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the Fish Stalls and other Stalls at Iewduh and interacted with the traders and vendors.

CM kicks off final match as Rongkhon Premier League concludes at Tura

He also called upon the football clubs and other youth organizations to take advantage of the support being given by the Government through the District Sports Promotion Society in all the districts and expressed confidence that by leveraging upon “the strength that we have in sports and our rich cultural heritage we will be able to pass on their benefits to our next generations”.

Local MLA & Parliamentary Secretary, Urban Affairs, etc. Shri. Noverfield R. Marak, in his brief address, said that the special kind of interest that people of Rongkhon have in various sports activities and music, drew him to collaborate with the people of the area for having such a tournament and also informed the gathering about his plan to have a basketball tournament especially for girls from next year.

The premier league football tournament, which was jointly organized by Rongkhon Premier League Association and Rongkhon Sports Association and sponsored by local MLA Shri. Noverfield Marak, drew participation of 16 teams from different localities of Rongkhon area and while eight teams participated in the 35+ football matches.

In the final match, Combined Rongkhon thrashed Real Rongkhon 4 – 1 and emerged winners of the tournament and in the 35+ category played between Rongkhon Agal and Upper Rongkhon the former beat the latter 5 – 4.

The match was witnessed by a large crowd of people from the area and elsewhere, including local leaders as well as senior citizens.
The Department of Political Science, Nongstoin College organized a two-day National Seminar on “Crime against Tribal Women” at Nongstoin College, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin on September 27-28. Dr. M. A Ampareen Lyngdoh, IPR Minister graced the inaugural function as Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lyngdoh lauded the managing body of the college for holding the seminar with a view to create awareness about crime against women. She said that often crime against women is linked with illiteracy and poverty although there are many factors. Dr. Lyngdoh urged the gathering to stand and reach out to the victims who are in distress and in need of help and support.

Amongst others who spoke on the occasion were Shri D. Jyndiang, Local MLA, Shri S. Kharyl Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills District, Shri. B. K. Laithplang, Principal, Nongstoin College.

Resource persons for the seminar included Dr. Neelam Borwankar, Associate Professor, Deshbandhu College and Professor S. Patil, Director, Lifelong and Extension Education, Mumbai University.

Headmen, NGOs, Seng Longkme, Police personnel and college students of West Khasi Hills and South West Khasi Hills District attended the seminar.

Family Welfare Minister, Shri R.V. Lyngdoh, Urban Affairs Minister, Shri H. Lyngdoh, MDC, Shri Y. Tsering, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri P. S. Dikhar, Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, Shri H. M. Shangpliang, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Shri M. Kharkrang, SP, East Khasi Hills, Paimi Ricky Nelson Syiem, Syiem Hima Mylliem among others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor exhorted the efforts of individuals and various organizations who came together to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of Clean India. He further said that Gandhiji’s life symbolized simplicity, honesty and dedication which needs to be inculcated in our day to day life. He also said that clean body, clean mind and clean surroundings are imperative for a society to progress.

The Governor said that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a mission to clean India’s cities and villages launched by the Prime Minister of India inspires every section of society in every nook and corner of the country to take up cleanliness drive as a national mission.

Cleanliness is an ongoing process, therefore, he appealed to all the people involved in the day to day business at Iewduh to join hands with the Hima Mylliem and the District Administration in their endeavour of keeping the market area clean.

Later, the Governor led the cleaning drive at the market which saw the active participation of all the dignitaries, NCC, Bharat Scout and Guides, NSS and students.

The highlights of the day included lighting of the lamp, paying of floral tribute to the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, Swachhita Pledge taking ceremony administered by the Governor, and a song presentation by Shri B. Kharkongor.

Earlier, Shri H. Marwein, Additional Chief Secretary along with the Commissioner and Secretaries Shri D. P. Wahlang, Shri E. P. Kharbhui and Shri T. Dikhar led the State in paying floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Main Secretariat building premises.

Impressive passing out parade of first batch SF-10 commandos held (Contd. from Pg. 1)
citizens have knowledge of and respect for the law and expressed hope that the passing out of the first batch of SF-10 would further strengthen the police organization to live up to the expectations of the people.

Speaking about multiple challenges in dealing with the law & order situation, the Chief Minister emphasized on continuous trainings to the police forces using new and advanced technologies even after completion of their courses so that they are competent and equipped to take on new age criminals, but also the challenges of law & order situations. “There will be more inductions of similar batches of men and women to ensure that our security apparatus is one of the best”, he added.

Emotionally-charged by the occasion, the Chief Minister also expressed a deep sense of gratitude to the parents and families of the young cadets for their support and motivation and exhorted upon all to pray for these young men and women as they carry out the most challenging task of fighting the inimical forces that wage war against the country. He painfully recalled some members of the police who deserted the organization saying they were not able to insulate themselves from the designs of the evil forces. He wished that “all the angels of God Almighty” would be with the commandos as they take on their assignments and also urged upon all the citizens to be self-regulating to create a civilized society and place Meghalaya on the highest pedestal as the most civilized state in the country.

The Chief Minister also flagged off 30 SF-10 vehicles and distributed prizes to the 10 best commandos in different disciplines. The commandos also staged an ambush and counter-ambush demonstration on the occasion.

It may be mentioned that SF-10 was created as there was a need for the State to have its own specialized force to deal with counter-insurgency operations, crowd control and management during law and order situations. The counter insurgency training for the first batch personnel was coordinated by Brigadier (Retd.) W.B.J Sturgeon and were trained in both urban and jungle warfare scenarios by instructors of Army Special Forces and the Meghalaya Police.

The commandos will be deployed for anti-militancy operations while those selected for law & order would further undergo specialized training on Riot & Crowd Control to be imparted by the Rapid Action Force of the CRPF.
Shri. R. V. Lyngdoh, Urban Affairs Minister and Local MLA on October 3 declared Laitmynsaw as an Open Defecation Free (ODF) village during the celebration of Gram Panchayat Day 2016 covering Laitmynsaw, Nongpiur and Myrkhan villages at Laitmynsaw village, Upper Shillong.

The programme, organized by the Office of the Block Development Officer, Mylliem C&RD Block under the Chief Minister’s Youth for Green Campaign was also attended by Shri. P. T. Passah, BDO, Mylliem, C&RD Block, Shri. A. Langstieh, Rangbah Shnong Laitmynsaw village, village elders from Laitmynsaw, Nongpiur and Myrkhan villages, teachers and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Lyngdoh congratulated the residents of Laitmynsaw village for receiving the status of ODF village which is a recognition of the tremendous efforts and cooperation of Laitmynsaw and C&RD Block, Mylliem in achieving this target. He also urged the people of the locality to refrain from using plastic bags and encouraged them to go back to the habit of carrying shopping bags made from cloth or jute.

The Chief Guest also administered the Swachhta Pledge to the newly formed Eco-Club comprising of school students under Mylliem C&RD Block.

Children in Meghalaya as compared to those in other states are still insulated from abuse and exploitation but however they are nonetheless susceptible to it without a proper safeguarding mechanism. This was stated by Salmanpara MLA & Government Chief Whip Shri. W D Sangma at a District level awareness programme on Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and Child Rights organized by the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCHR) in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights at Ampati on September 30. The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner in charge ADC Smti. Hazel D B Sangma, Superintendent of Police, Shri. Ramesh Singh, officers from the Police, Social Welfare Department, CDO’s, DCPO’s and stakeholders from the NGOs and citizens.

Shri. Sangma who spoke as the Chief Guest emphasized on the need to educate the masses on the subject. Shri. Sangma stated that it was imperative for all stakeholders to know the new and amended Juvenile Justice Act 2015. Speaking on the Right to Education (RTE) Act, Shri. Sangma said that proper education should be ensured to every child because education is the foremost factor that can penetrate all barriers.

There is special concern when dealing with juvenile delinquents. Shri. Sangma stated and said that there was a need to identify and declare safe homes to keep them while they were being processed. He also emphasized that education for these delinquents be continued in these special homes as directed by the government. He later urged the participants to learn from the programme and utilize it to make the district a safer place for children.

NCPCR Member Shri. Shyashwant Jain who also spoke at the occasion stated that it was their duty to spread awareness right down to the grass root level on laws that have been passed by the government of India for the protection of child rights. Elaborating on the amended Juvenile Justice Act 2015, Child Protection & Child Rights, Shri. Jain informed that it was mandatory to keep any child who has committed a heinous crime in a safe home identified and declared by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). Running such homes without prior notification to the JJB or Child Welfare Committee (CWC) is a punishable offence, he stated. Stressing on the need for parents to motivate their children in order to boost their self confidence and enable them to speak out for themselves, Shri. Jain urged all the participants to work together to create a safe and conducive atmosphere for children to thrive and flourish.

Later while visiting the Girls Shelter Home at Ampati and Boys Shelter Home at Boshalgre near here, Shri. Jain urged the staff to dedicate their time and to utilize these infrastructures as centres for learning and for spreading awareness on the subject since the inmates housed there are few and far between.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were SCPCHR Chairperson Shri. M Kharkongor, Smti. Henriata R Marak and other organizations will cater to individual specific needs like substance abuse, behavioural problems and socially deviant behaviours.

Shri. S. L Mawlong, PRO

Smti. S. K Phanbuh, PRO

Vivek Syiem, SP, City, Rev. R. G. Laloo, President Reach Shillong Ministries, officials from Social Welfare Department, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Shangpliang appreciated the social services rendered by Reach Shillong Ministries for the welfare of the children who are in need of care and protection which includes run- away children, street children and children in crisis who are the most vulnerable sections of society exposed to all kinds of social evil.

Shri. Shangpliang expressed hope that the Center functioning 24 hours will provide immediate assistance to children who need help and will also serve as a place for the children to engage in meaningful activities that will enhance their wellbeing.

He also assured that the Social Welfare Department would extend all possible assistance and support to the Center while also appealing to the NGOs in the State to come forward to help the children in need of care and protection.

Rev. R.G. Laloo while highlighting the objectives said that the Center will provide 24 hour emergency services to children in need of care and protection, shelter from the rain and cold to homeless children living on the streets, space for children for bathing and a change of clothing, primary health care such as first aid and also to monitor the children’s medication and opportunities for education and develop their potential and talent.

The Center will try to wean these children away from vulnerable situations by sustained interventions and to guide the children away from high risk and socially deviant behaviours. It will also enhance life-skills and reduce their vulnerabilities to exploitation and will reintegrate these children into families, alternative care and community.

He also added that the Center through the professional help from SANKER and other organizations will cater to individual specific needs like substance abuse, behavioural problems and socially deviant behaviours.

The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner in charge ADC Smti. S. K Phanbuh, PRO, Smti. S. K Phanbuh, PRO, Smti. Tanya Derrinchi, cum Probation Officer, DCPU, Ampati, Smti. M Kharkongor SCPCR, Member Smti. Henriata R Marak and other organizations will cater to individual specific needs like substance abuse, behavioural problems and socially deviant behaviours.