Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma awarded stipends to 110 student beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Career Guidance & Counseling Scheme, Government of Meghalaya through the Ministry of Minorities, Government of India at a function held at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on October 26. The programme was also attended by Minister, Sports & Youth Affairs, Shri. Zenith M Sangma as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma said that the Chief Minister's Career Guidance & Counseling Scheme, which goes beyond the ambit of only coaching, is dedicated to the youth to realize their dreams of building their career based on their potential and skills. He added that the challenge of fulfilling the aspirations of the youth and the people can be addressed by bringing about a change in the system through the empowerment of the people.

The Chief Minister also said that the programme creates an enabling environment provoking the youth to dare to dream big while providing the guidance to enable the youth to make the right career decision based on their potential. He also stressed on the importance of looking
Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma stressed on the sustainability of trade and commerce along the borders with neighbouring countries and called for regulating border trade, saying that absence of legal trade would lead to illegal trade across the borders, the fallout of which, can be dangerous to the country as a whole.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the Two-Day International Seminar on "Border Trade in North East India: A Politico-Economic Perspective", organized by Women's College, Shillong, on October 21.

The Chief Minister referred to pre-Independence days when trade flourished in the so-called remotest and most difficult border areas of the country and regretted that post-Independence border trade was not taken advantage of and the borders have become areas of conflict and poverty. However, with the long drawn engagements by successive governments of the Northeastern states with the Centre and the governments of neighbouring countries to make the international borders the borders of friendship and prosperity, things have started happening, he said, but we need to move faster and that is why such seminars are important to look at the opportunities and challenges of border trade from politico-economic perspective.

He said that the opening of the two border haats in 2012—one at Kalaichar in South West Garo Hills and another at Balat, East Khasi Hills—was a humble step of the Government to promote the age-old trade relations with Bangladesh, which not only brought economic benefit but also promoted social bonding of the people across the border. After seeing the success of these border haats, he informed that the State has given a proposal for 22 more border haats, out of which four have already been sanctioned.

Highlighting the bottlenecks and challenges that come in the way of promoting border trade, the Chief Minister said that the whole integration and convergence of all stakeholders was crucial and expressed hope that the discussions and deliberations in the seminar would culminate with suggestions for the policy makers.

He also called for having such seminars on a larger scale so as to reach out to the youth and motivate them towards entrepreneurship, adding that there cannot be sustainability of trade and commerce without entrepreneurs.

Earlier, the Chairman, Board of Governors, RGIIM, Shillong, Shri. Falguni Rajkumar in his keynote address termed South East Asia as a divided family broken down by politics of states and stressed on the need to restore the dynamics of exchange across the borders.

President of Education India Trust, Shri. J.B.Bhattacharya and former MP Rajya Sabha and President Governing Body, Women's College, Shillong, Prof.B.B.Dutta also addressed the inaugural session.

Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, besides hosts of academicians and students from various institutions including those from beyond the borders, attended the seminar.
A weeklong Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme, 2016 organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs Department under the theme: “Empowering the Youth, Powering the Nation” was inaugurated by the Meghalaya Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Shri Zenith M. Sangma on October 26 at the J. N. Sports Complex, Shillong.

The Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme is being organised with a view of empowering the youth in building the future of the nation. Youths from all the 11 Districts of the State are participating in the programme.

Meghalaya Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Shri Zenith M. Sangma in his inaugural address said that the programme will not only enable the youth to know each other, share knowledge and exchange ideas among themselves but it will also act as a platform for them to build friendly relationships among the fellow citizens. Stating that the Government has been making an effort to give maximum focus on youth development, the Minister said, “if youth are empowered, their future will be secured which in turn will make the nation stronger. Every youth is an asset to the nation; they are the future of the nation.”

The Minister called upon all the youth to hone their skills and to work on their weaknesses and further urged them to invest more time in learning and interactions and to be more productive so as to enable the nation to grow.

Smti M. W. Nongbri, Director, Sports and Youth Affairs and Member Secretary, Organising Committee, Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme while briefing on the Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programmes held in the previous years, said that such programmes will bring about a positive vibe and environment, and through interactions there will be an exchange of ideas among the youth.

Commissioner and Secretary, Sports and Youth Affairs and Chairman, Organising Committee, Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme, Shri F. R. Kharkongor delivered the welcome address while Dr. C. Varghese, Member, Organising Committee, Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme proposed the vote of thanks. Working President, MSOA, Shri John F. Kharshing and officials from the Sports Department were also present during the inaugural programme.

Other highlights of the programme included felicitation of the actress, Kum. Andrea Tariang by the Minister. Songs and dances were also presented by the students of the Institute of Arts and Culture and Geetanjali Dance Academy respectively.

A Review Meeting on the National Health Mission was held on October 24 at the Conference Hall, Shillong Club, here Smti Roshan Warjri, Meghalaya Health and Family Welfare Minister graced the inaugural function as Chief Guest.

Smti Roshan Warjri in her inaugural address dwelt at length on the alarming rise in the IMR and MMR rate in the State and the need to have the right mechanism and the right strategy to effectively address the issue. “In order to serve people better, it is imperative upon us all to work hand in hand as a team,” she added. She also urged upon the participants to freely put forward their experiences and suggestions during the discussions so that issues pertaining to the overall health scenario of the State can be improved. She also informed that in future such review meetings will be held in all the Districts so that the problems can be dealt with effectively from the grassroot level.

Additional Chief Secretary, Shri T. Tsering while highlighting the various issues that hamper the smooth delivery of health services to the people, said that the main concern and problem lies with the scarcity of manpower and the constraints in human resources. He also stressed on the need for maximum use of the available resources for the benefit of the people.

Shri K. W. Marbaniang, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Director, NHM gave a power point presentation on the Maternal and Child Health and also on various health issues.

Shri K. W. Marbaniang, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. R. Wankhar, Director of Health Services (MI), Dr. D. Lyngdoh, Director of Health Services (R) and Dr. B. Mawthoh, Joint Director of Health Services (MCH & FW) were among others present during the inaugural programme.

The inaugural programme was followed by the presentations by Nodal Officers, State Programme Manager, Consultants, Programme Officer and the State Finance Manager and culminated with discussions.
The 26th Death Anniversary of the first Chief Minister of Meghalaya (L) Capt. Williamson A. Sangma was observed at his native place at Siju, South Garo Hills on October 24. The programme was jointly organised by the Capt. Williamson A. Sangma Welfare Committee, Siju and his nearest kith and kin at the Capt Williamson A. Sangma Memorial Park, near Siju cave where hundreds of people from all walks of life gathered at the Memorial service as a mark of respect to the great leader.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, the Local MLA and Parliamentary Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya Shri. Rophul S. Marak while recalling the good works of Capt. Sangma said that as a mark of respect to the great leader, his death anniversary deserved to be a State Holiday and opined that different types of programmes should be organised to mark the day.

In a different function, the death anniversary of Capt. Williamson A. Sangma, was observed in a park situated on the banks of Simang river and named after him in a befitting manner. Besides soulful hymns and prayers, wreaths and floral tributes were laid on the bust erected in his memory by the Capt. Williamson A. Sangma Welfare Committee, Siju and his nearest kith and kin. His death anniversary was observed with different types of programmes should be organised to mark the day.

Death anniversary of Capt. Williamson A. Sangma observed

A n awareness programme on housekeeping and security guard under the Meghalaya State Skill Development Society (MSSDS) was held in Shillong on October 22.

Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, besides hosts of academicians and students from various institutions including those from beyond the borders, along with the Centre and the governments of neighbouring countries to make the international borders the borders of friendship and prosperity, things have been turned for the better by the efforts of the government and the Centre.

The programme aimed at creating awareness on human resource development through the MSSDS. The programme was held at the State Institute of Technology, Shillong, where more than 300 youths from various parts of Meghalaya and Nagaland attended the programme.

The programme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of South West Garo Hills, Shri. D. Diengdoh, who spoke about the importance of skill development and the role of the MSSDS in promoting it.

He said that the opening of the two border haats in 2012-one at Kalaichar in the West Garo Hills and another at the India-Bangladesh border near Shillong- has provided a boost to the local economy and has helped many people to earn a livelihood through trade.

He also called for having such seminars on a larger scale so as to reach out to the people across the border. He said that the Centre and the governments of neighbouring countries to make the international borders the borders of friendship and prosperity, things have been turned for the better by the efforts of the government and the Centre.

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