Chief Minister lays Foundation Stone for ‘Eco Resort’ at Nongkhlaw
Cherra Teachers’ Training Centre celebrates Sesquicentennial Celebration
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SUCCESS STORY
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On the Lighter Side

On 8th November 2017, Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State Government of Meghalaya, Republic of India and the Wallonia Region of the Kingdom of Belgium at the Taj Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi.

The MoU was signed to promote favourable relations of partnership and beneficial cooperation between the two and to recognize the importance of the principles of equality and mutual benefit in the fields of Trade and Commerce, Training, Healthcare, Environmental areas, Science and Technology, Agro-food including breweries, Sports and leisure, Architecture and heritage, Urban development / Eco-systems management, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry and other fields that shall be mutually agreed upon.

The King and Queen of Belgium are on a visit to India and as many as 16 MoUs have been signed between different stakeholders of India and the Kingdom of Belgium during the signing ceremony. Two MoUs have been signed with the Government of Meghalaya during the occasion.

Meghalaya signs MoU with Belgium

67th Foundation Day of Bharat Scouts and Guides

The Governor of Meghalaya, Shri. Ganga Prasad, who is also the newly inducted Patron of the Meghalaya Bharat Scouts & Guides and the Chief Guest on the occasion of the Bharat Scouts and Guides’ 67th Foundation Day and Bharat Scouts and Guides Flag Day, graced the event. On the occasion, Rajya Puraskar Certificates to 40 Guides, 28 Scouts, 8 Rovers and 2 Rangers in a ceremony held on 7th November, 2017 at Raj Bhavan, Shillong. The Foundation Day was also attended by the President in charge, MBSG, Shri. P. S Thangkhiew, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Shri. K. N Kumar and officials of the Meghalaya Bharat Scouts and Guides.

Meghalaya signs MoU with Belgium

67th Foundation Day of Bharat Scouts and Guides
Chief Minister inauguruates seminar on Power Conservation Techniques

On 27th October, 2017, Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the seminar on Power Conservation Techniques - A Roadmap to a Green Environment organized by the Chief Engineer Shillong Zone under the aegis of HQ 101 Area at the State Convention Centre, Shillong.

Delivering the opening address, Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma while welcoming the participants of the seminar from different parts of the country expressed his appreciation to GOC 101 for having initiated the important seminar in Shillong. "We are all collectively committed to deal with the challenges of global warming and its effects. As a nation and as global citizens it is important for all to connect with this shared objective," he said. He said that conservation of energy has been an issue and conservation of energy techniques is what is needed.

He added that the Government of India has come up with a very vibrant Electricity Act 2003 to address this concern of tapping the resources to take care of the energy needs across the nation. "In sync with this, the Government of Meghalaya came up with a policy and the State Government has clearly substantiated its intent of ensuring that Meghalaya will look at all the energy requirements to be met from renewable sources even as currently Meghalaya is dependent on hydro electricity power projects," he said.

Dr. Sangma also informed that in order to tap other potential sites to further generate power the State has been trying to reach out to private investors. He further said that in energy conservation the challenge lies with the mindset and the way of life of the people. "For a government especially, the State Government, the challenge is always on how to look at the cross subsidizing of the tariff for the consumers and how energy saving mechanisms can enable us to sell the saved energy to industries at a tariff to cross subsidize the tariff passed on to the domestic consumers", said Dr Sangma.

The Chief Minister added that the Government has embarked upon stand alone electricity power projects to increase the efficiency of power generation and to convert all luminaries into LED. He informed that in the backdrop of the efforts towards energy conservation and at Shillong a special drive has been undertaken to convert all luminaries into LED. He informed that in the backdrop of the concerns in power and energy the seminar is an effort on spearheading and promoting Culture Tourism. He said tourism as a sector has the potential of positioning itself as a unique exclusive destination for promoting Culture Tourism. "How this challenge can be addressed by adopting techniques and by policy interventions is something which I am sure will emanate from this kind of seminar," said Dr Sangma.

Dr Sangma urged all gathered to utilize the knowledge derived from the seminar and to look at new technologies that can replace the conventional power generation methods to increase the efficiency of power generation and consumption to make energy sustainable and environment friendly.

Earlier, giving the Welcome Address, GOC 101 Area, Lieutenant General, Dipender Singh Ahuja said the armed forces in India have taken major initiatives for villages and habitations which are far away from the generating stations. The mode of transmission and distribution is also crucial for saving energy he said. He said that the whole of aggregate commercial and technical losses in transmission and distribution of energy remains a challenge for the Government. "How this challenge can be addressed by adopting techniques and by policy interventions is something which I am sure will emanate from this kind of seminar," said Dr Sangma.

The technical sessions included discussions on Enhanced Production and Reduced Consumption of Energy and Conservation of Energy with Dr. Sukumar Mishra, IIT Delhi, Shri. Rajat Chandra Sarmah, Executive Director, NEPECO, Dr. Samar Paul, NEHU, B B L Ram, Advisor to GOI, Dr. Praveen Tripathy, IIT, Guwahati, Dr. Gayadhar Panda, NIT, Meghalaya, Shri. Mukesh Gupta, Director, (E/M), E-in-C Branch and Col Anuj Srivastav (Retd) as panellists.
The closing ceremony of Sesquicentennial Celebrations of Cherra Teachers’ Training Centre (CTTC) was held on 17th October 2017 at Sohra which was attended by Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma as Chief Guest while Principal Secretary Education Department, Shri. D. P Wahlang was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

Speaking to the gathering, Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma while congratulating the management for its long innings of service in the education scenario in the region and in the State said that it would be difficult to evaluate the quantum of services rendered by the institution in the long period of 150 years. "Given the History of the State, the seed of education has been planted in Sohra and it has borne fruits across the State", said Dr Mukul Sangma.

Dr. Sangma also informed that the Government has tried to align different programmes and interventions to live up to the name and fame of the State as the centre of education. "The State has for long been leveraging upon the legacy of being the hub of education and the opportunities that could have been generated out of it", he added. He further said that the Government has to facilitate and create an enabling environment for education to promote quality and higher education to equip children to ultimately become members of the global community capable of competing at the global scale.

The Chief Minister also placed on record his deep sense of gratitude to the missionaries who had been instrumental in setting a high benchmark in imparting quality education in the State. He further stated that though there is a need of setting more teachers’ training institutions in the State, the Government has embarked upon a number of initiatives to encourage genuinely aspiring youths who want to become teachers by choice and not by default.

“There is a need to motivate the youth to look at teaching and the education sector as a viable sustainable space not only for imparting quality education but also for creating entrepreneurship and job opportunities”, said Dr. Sangma. He also said that the approach to education needs to be revisited and education centers need to look at other associated courses and go beyond the normal courses so that the children are groomed and moulded into productive citizens.

Further, he urged centers of learning to be capable of identifying the capabilities and capacities of every student and providing them the guidance to pursue their career based on their potentialities.

The Chief Minister also released the celebration Souvenir during the occasion.

Among others who spoke during the function were Guest of Honour, Shri. D. P Wahlang, Rev N. S Phawa, Senior Administrative Secretary K.J.P. Assembly and Smti. M. B Nongbri, Principal, CTTC, Sohra who delivered the Welcome Address.

It may be mentioned that CTTC established at Nongwaiwa, Sohra is one of the oldest teachers’ training institutes in the State. Its origin can be traced back to the days when the present North Eastern States were a part of the then East Bengal Province. CTTC is the project of the Khasi-Jaintia Presbyterian Assembly. As the sponsoring body, the Assembly constitutes the Managing Committee through the Human Resource Department and approved by the Directorate of Education Research and Training (DERT), Government of Meghalaya.

On 24th October, 2017, Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister, Prof. R. C. Laloo, attended the inaugural function of the 3 Day Specialized Training Programme on “Seismic Safety Assessment of Building in Rapid Visual Screening and Retrofitting” for Engineers, Architects and Town Planers of various State Departments held at Shillong Club in the city. The programme was organized by the Meghalaya State Disaster Management Authority (MSDMA) in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The inaugural programme was also attended by Shri P. W. Ingty, Additional Chief Secretary in charge Revenue and Disaster Management, Shri. H. B. Marak, Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management, Smti. I. Mawlong, Executive Director, SDMA, Prof. Chandan Ghosh and Dr. Amir Ali Khan from National Institute of Disaster Management among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Laloo said the State of Meghalaya has experienced several earthquakes in the past, it being in the Zone V of the seismic map of India. Stating that the threat of earthquakes of big and small magnitudes always looms large, Prof. Laloo said that resilience building practices such as Rapid Visual Screening and Retrofitting has become the need of the hour.

Prof. Laloo stressed on the urgent need to assess the seismic vulnerability of buildings in urban areas of Meghalaya as an essential component of a comprehensive earthquake disaster risk management policy.

Inforiming that the results from Rapid Visual Screening can be used for a variety of applications ranging from increasing awareness among city residents regarding seismic vulnerability of buildings to identifying simplified retrofitting requirements for vulnerable buildings, Prof. Laloo said that recent earthquakes have shown that many such buildings are seismically vulnerable and should be considered for retrofitting to increase the strength or ductility of reinforced and un reinforced concrete structures.
The 18 Degrees Festival under the theme "Converge, Create, Experience and Coalesce" – a multifaceted festival of art, culture, music etc, under the aegis of Arts and Culture Department, Government of Meghalaya was held from 16 to 21st October at U Soso Tham Auditorium premises, Shillong.

The Festival was inaugurated by Meghalaya Arts & Culture Minister, Shri. R. V. Lyngdoh on 16th October 2017.

Addressing the gathering during the inaugural programme, Shri. R. V. Lyngdoh said that the Festival was a platform for the youth to showcase their talents and share their experiences. Stating that arts and music brings unity and national integration, Shri. Lyngdoh hoped that the festival brings the youth of the State together on one platform and help them to further enhance their abilities and skills.

Director, Arts & Culture, Smti. M. W. Nongbri and author, Shri Mukul Deva also spoke at the inaugural function.

The six-day Festival featured various activities like Arts & Cultural programmes, Short Film Contest and Workshop, Cosplay, Photography workshop & exhibition, Literature Fest & Writing workshop with author Shri. Mukul Deva, Guitar Fest & Live Music, B-Boying & Popping Battle (Solo), Beatbox Battle, BMX & Skateboarding Show, Freestyle Motorcycling Show among others.

The 18 Degrees Festival, 2017 Enthrals Festival Visitors

The 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival kick started at 5th Ground, Polo Grounds, Shillong on 8th November, 2017 wherein Meghalaya Minister for Forests & Environment, Shri. Clement Marak attended as Chief Guest. Present at the inaugural function were Chief Secretary in charge, Shri. E S Thangkhiew, Principal Secretary, Tourism, etc, Smti. R V Suchiang and a host of other dignitaries.

The Festival is being held in association with the Institute of Bioresources & Sustainable Development (IBSD), Government of India and India Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India. In his inaugural address, Shri. Marak said that the State Government is focusing on promoting tourism potential of the State by organising such festivals which not only boost tourism but also project the positive image of the State. Stating that Cherry Blossom Festivals celebrated in countries like Japan, USA, Switzerland and Korea have established intercontinental friendship, he expressed hoped that in a few years, the State can get international recognition with the active participation of Government Departments and stakeholders.

Shri. Marak also said that the festival will further the commitment of the Government to promote tourism in the State by showcasing the rich cultural and natural resources the State can offer. ‘By celebrating Cherry Blossom we are celebrating nature’ said Shri. Marak and therefore it is our moral obligation to preserve this rich biodiversity, he said further

On the day, the Chief Guest also released the special cover of the 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival Postage Stamp.

Wildlife Week Celebrated

The weeklong observation of Wildlife Week, 2017 concluded on 31st October 2017 at a Valedictory Function held at All Saint's Hall, IGP Point, Shillong. Organised by the Wildlife Wing of the Forest & Environment Department, Government of Meghalaya, the programme was graced by Forest & Environment Minister, Shri. Clement Marak as Chief Guest.

In his address, the Minister stated that wildlife plays a vital role in our lives as it helps in maintaining and balancing the eco-system. It is imperative that we as human beings adopt the principle of mutual co-existence to preserve and protect it, he added. He also urged upon the gathering to volunteer and work together in preserving the rich bio-diversity of the State.

During the function, the Chief Guest distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions held as part of the weeklong celebration and also handed over the Wildlife Samaritan Award, 2017 to wildlife rescuers who helped and rescued the wild animals in distress.

Earlier, the Chief Guest along with other dignitaries released a poster on “Butterflies of Nongkyllem”.

The 2nd India International Cherry Blossom Festival

Wahkaji PHC Inaugurated

Wahkaji PHC was formally inaugurated on 3rd November 2017 by Health & Family Welfare Minister, Smti. Roshan Warrong in the presence of the Minister for PWD (R) Shri. M. M. Danggo, Government officials and people of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister expressed her happiness at being able to finally inaugurate the PHC which will cater to the needs and requirements of the people of the area even as she called on the general public to come forward and avail the services of the PHC.

Shri. Martin. M Danggo, in his speech recalled and expressed his gratitude to former local MLA, (I) Shri. PK Raswai and former Health Minister (I) Shri. Khitur Syiem for the vision to construct the PHC at Wahkaji in the interest of the people of the area. He called upon the Doctors and Staff of the PHC to dedicate themselves in serving the rural people. On the day, Shri. Danggo also laid the foundation stone for black topping of the existing road at Wahkaji.
Motivated by the assistance from the Department of Fisheries, North Garo Hills, Shri. Pollindro Sangma of Lower Sualmari village of Bajengdoba area under North Garo Hills is now known as the most successful progressive fish farmer of the area. Despite trying his hands at several small businesses, luck was never on his side until the idea of fish farming struck his mind. With the intervention of the Fisheries Department and his “never give up attitude” Shri. Pollindro is the living inspiration for hundreds of fish farmers in the village. Through sheer perseverance, dint of hard work, good farm planning and management, ably supported by the Department, he attained this status. Shri. Pollindro Sangma, a father of 3 children was earlier engaged in small local business with the sole aim to make a livelihood but the income generated from this business was barely sufficient to support his family. Having heard about fish farming, he then decided to construct a fish pond of 0.1 hectare. Initial production from this pond was so scarce, that he was almost at the verge of giving up fish farming. However things changed when the Department assisted him with intensive training which inspired Shri. Pollindro to start learning scientific management practices. He now understood that Pisciculture is a scientific process and good management is essential. The project of Shri. Pollindro Sangma has been taken up under the “State Aquaculture Mission” in the year 2011-12. In the beginning, with much difficulties and financial hardships he managed to construct his pond covering an area of 0.1 hectare with his own capital. Later, upon receiving Departmental assistance he extended his pond to an area of 0.3 hectare with a required depth of 1.5-2 m. He extended his intensive fish farming with high expected returns and visible economic upliftment. Braving all odds to become a successful fish farmer, Shri. Pollindro is now a happy farmer and is taking care of his family from the income generated from his fish farming venture. During the “Aqua Fest” 2013 held at Tura, West Garo Hills, he sold 75 kgs of fish @ Rs 150/Kg making an income of Rs 11,250/-. The total fish production from this project is about 300-350 kgs of fish per annum which he sold @ Rs 200/kg generating an income of Rs 60,000-70,000. The success story of Shri. Pollindro Sangma is an eye-opener to many of the farmers for adopting fish farming as a means of livelihood. “Farming is fascinating. The only thing is that it requires continuous hard work and devotion”, says Smti. Enitha Marak, a woman entrepreneur who started fish farming few years ago. A resident of Reking Village under Resubelpara C&RD Block, Smti. Enitha paved the way for herself by earning a respectable livelihood out of fish farming. Her project was assisted by the Department of Fisheries in the year 2010-11 under the Scheme “Special Plan Assistance”. Her dedication and contribution to the fishery sector has gained her the Excellence Award conferred by the Fishery Department during the Awe Winter Festival cum Aqua Fest 2015. Her yearly production of table size fish is approximately 200-250 kgs from her 0.1 hectare pond. She is one of the active farmers of her area with her project being well managed and looked after. Smti. Enitha has also motivated other fellow farmers in her village and neighbouring villages also. The key to her success lies in her eagerness to learn, work hard and the adoption of a positive attitude. The success stories of Shri. Pollindro Sangma and Smti. Enitha Sangma in fish farming has inspired many other enthusiasts to partake in fish revolution which would help curb unemployment for scores of people and produce higher supply of white meat (Fish) at reasonable price.
The Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong has under Section 101 of the Meghalaya Police Act, 2010 issued instructions, outlining the role, functions and duties of the owners/promoters of all Hotels, Guest Houses and Resorts operating in East Khasi Hills District.

The role, functions and duties of the owners/promoters/concerned company shall broadly be to ensure that all people employed in management of hotels, guest houses and resorts are free from criminal records; bio-data with photographs of all employees are to be maintained and sent to the concerned Police Station and also to maintain such records properly and provide the same to Police within short notice, details of all customers staying in the hotels, guest houses and resorts to be sent to the PS daily under the signature of the owner or in his absence any other person duly authorized by him. The CCTV status needs to be reflected in the daily report and in case it is not functioning due to technical snags, the same needs to be mentioned and the efforts taken to get the CCTV footage compiled for a period of one month needs to be converted in CDs and given to the PS for record and usage in case there is no back up for a longer period. Photos of all visitors need to be taken in the PS and sent as part of daily basis to the Police Station, identity proof of all staffs with their name should be worn while on duty, sufficient well trained Private Securities Personnel should be engaged by the management from the registered Private Securities Agencies; no one is allotted rooms without any identity proof, no drink should be served inside the Hotels unless Bar license issued by the concerned authority has been obtained, cleanliness and hygiene should be maintained, segregation of areas for smoking and non-smoking. No juveniles as defined in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, shall be given accommodation unless the same is verified by the concerned Police Station. No illegal activities as defined in POCSO/Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and other Acts prevalent shall be carried out in the hotel, guest houses and resorts and no one shall be allowed to occupy the hotels for residential purposes and reside for a long period of time.

Anyone found violating the aforesaid instructions may be arrested and on conviction by a court of law, shall be liable to a fine of Rs. 5000/- as per Section 102 of the Meghalaya Police Act, 2010. This Order shall be applicable with immediate effect.

Financial Literacy Camp

As part of the financial inclusion agenda of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) a Financial Literacy Camp was held at Sejilieh Presbyterian Higher Secondary School, West Khasi Hills District on 25th October 2017. Shri. L. Hangmuanthang, Assistant General Manager and Shri. Anirban. Chakraborty, Assistant GM RBI Shillong addressed the students on various aspects and benefits of formal banking and financial inclusion by introduction of financial planning and budgeting, precaution from fraudulent e-mails, SMS, phone calls and precaution from fraudulent deposits, accepting companies and unincorporated bodies, grievance redressal mechanism in the banking system, features of genuine currency notes, new developments in the field of digital transaction viz UPI, BHIM, USSD, etc. Around eighty students including the Principals and teachers of the school participated in the programme.

State Level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee Constituted

To ensure free and fair conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha election 2019, Meghalaya, the State Level Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) is constituted with the Chief Electoral Officer, Meghalaya as the Chairman. The members of the Committee include Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Meghalaya, Expenditure Observer (to be nominated by CEO), Director Communications, Information and Public Relations, Meghalaya, Deputy Director of Field Publicity, Shillong and Shri. W. Rapelat Warjri, Media Plus, Meghalaya. The Secretary of the Chief Electoral Officer will be the Member Secretary.

The function of the Committee is to decide on appeals against orders of the MCMC headed by the Additional CEO/District Election Officers on Certification of Advertisement as per ECI’s instructions, to examine all cases of paid news on appeal against the decision of District MCMCs and to take up suo moto action and direct the concerned CEO/ROs to issue notice to the candidates or political parties.

Working Hours Timing Revised

The Managing Director, Meghalaya Transport Corporation has informed that the working hours of the Shillong Railway Booking Counters have been revised. During the month of March to October, the working hours will be from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM and from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Recess from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM. During the month of November to February, the working hours will be from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM and from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Recess from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM. During Sundays and National Holidays, the timing will be from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The revised timing will come into effect from 15th November, 2017.

National Disaster Reduction Day

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Nongstoin in collaboration with the District Administration, West Khasi Hills District observed the National Disaster Reduction Day through a Mock exercise on earthquake preparedness and response. On 26th October 2017, a Mock Exercise was conducted at Mawkhim – Nongstoin College and Nongstoin College on 27th October 2017. The Mock Exercise, which witnessed active participation of incidence response teams, State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF), local youth, villagers, college students, NCC; and the police force was organized with the aim of preparing the villagers in case of disasters.
CM, Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurating the building to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of St. Francis Institute, Mawkasiang on 27-10-2017.

Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma meeting the newly appointed Chairman of Social Audit Council Shri. Toki Blah in the former’s office chamber on 01-11-2017.

CM, Dr. Mukul Sangma speaking during the one-Day ‘Focus Group Workshop’ on 1917- Integrated Technology Enabled Agri-Management System (ITEAMS) held at IATC, Upper Shillong on 17-10-2017.

Health & Family Welfare Minister, Smti. Roshan Warjri administering the pledge on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) at Main Secretariat, Shillong on 31-10-2017.

Participants of Tug of War competition organised during the inaugural Day of Wangala Festival at Asanang on 08-11-2017.
**ON THE LIGHTER SIDE**

**THE DOT OVER THE LETTER “I” IS CALLED TITLE.**

A group of 12 engineers designed IBM PC and they were called as “The Dirty Dozen”.

A banana ripens quickly (overnight), when you put it into a brown paper bag with an apple or tomato.

The first five days after the weekend are always the hardest.

HP, Microsoft and Apple have one very interesting thing in common – they were all started in a garage.

Pineapples are berries, just like strawberries and blueberries.

A sentence which contains all 26 letters of the English alphabet is called a pangram. A famous pangram is: “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.” But there are even shorter ones such as: “Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs.”

The word ‘SWIMS’ will be ‘SWIMS’, even when turned upside down.

Your feedback and suggestions are valuable to us. Kindly mail us at megnews2015dipr@gmail.com

Source: Internet