

Meghalaya pays homage to Dr. Abdul Kalam



The people of Meghalaya came together on July 29 to pay homage to Late Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and an eminent scientist who breathed his last here at Bethany Hospital following a massive cardiac arrest on Monday evening.

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma, Deputy Chief Ministers, Rowell Lyngdoh and Prof. R.C. Laloo, the Cabinet Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, MLAs, bureaucrats and people from all walks of life joined in paying their respects to Late Dr. Kalam at a public meeting organized by the State Government at U Soso Tham Auditorium. A two minute silence was observed and floral tributes were paid to the departed leader by the dignitaries, representatives from various institutions and the public present on the occasion and condolence messages from the Governor of Meghalaya, V. Shanmuganathan and the Chief Minister were also read out during the meeting.

Expressing his deep sorrow at the sudden demise of the "People's President", the Chief Minister spoke of Dr. Kalam as "the greatest Nationalist ever born whose faithfulness and God-fearing nature is reflected in his books". "Being a God-fearing man he fell in love with everybody, all the people of the Nation and he demonstrated his love for the people through his actions", he said of Dr. Kalam. He ignited positive mindset in the minds of many, especially the youth and captured the imagination of the policy makers to tap the resources bestowed on us by the Almighty God, he added.



The Chief Minister also quoted a line from Dr. Kalam's book "Wings of Fire" and exhorted all those present at the meeting not to forget him once the memorial meeting is over but to remain ignited and motivated by his thoughts and ideas.

Deputy Chief Minister Prof. R. C.Laloo, Chief Secretary P.B.O. Warjri, Dean, Students' Welfare, NEHU, Dr. S.N. Lamare and Director, IIM, Shillong, Dr. Amitabh De were among many others who paid accolades to the Late former President during the meeting.

Creation of 'entity' of political parties decided to solve inter-state border dispute



In an attempt to carry forward the intent of the State Government to find a solution to the long-pending, ever-alluding Assam-Meghalaya boundary issue, a decision to create "an entity" comprising the representatives of all political parties was arrived at during the meeting held here at the Yojna Bhavan Auditorium on July 29.

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma who chaired the meeting said that the boundary dispute with Assam is a thorny issue that needs to be discussed in a frank and candid manner and come to a collective decision. He also recalled the 1993 Assembly elections when the border issue was exploited to the maximum and therefore stressed the need for all political parties and stakeholders to share the responsibility of finding a solution to the vexed issue so that there would be no scope for any blame game.

He urged upon all the members present to offer suggestions as to whether the State should go for legal intervention or political engagement and dialogue with its counterpart Assam and to think of interim mechanism until they could come up with ultimate resolution.

Earlier an in depth presentation on issues and approach relating to inter-state boundary with Assam was made by Principal Secretary, Revenue & Disaster

Management, Shri. P. K. Srivastava before the meeting. The presentation was corroborated with a number of notifications to justify Meghalaya's claim.

During the meeting, the representatives from the affected border areas shared the problems being faced by the people in the areas of dispute, citing lack of development as one of the main causes for their sufferings.

The Chief Minister said that Meghalaya had never accepted the boundary demarcated by the Survey of India and although the both the states have been asked to maintain status quo, he stressed that developmental works must continue in the areas of difference. Admitting the fact that Assam was prompt in taking up developmental works in those areas, the Chief Minister said that more and more land alienation has been taking place and therefore there was a need for all political parties to come together with a sense of urgency.

After hours of discussion, the meeting decided on creation of an entity of all political parties in the State to engage with counterpart Assam at a political level. The "entity" with necessary terms of reference would be notified soon so that the first exercise can begin before the Independence Day celebrations, the Chief Minister said. He also informed that the problems and issues being faced by the people in the border areas would be taken up separately

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Interview for PMEGP 2015-2016 postponed

The General Manager of District Commerce & Industries Centre, West Jaintia Hills District has informed that the Interview for PMEGP 2015-2016 for West Jaintia Hills District which was to be held on the 28th July 2015 is postponed to the 31st July 2015 from 11 am onwards. The applicants whose interview dates falls on the 28th July 2015 are requested to appear at the same venue on the 31st July 2015. The interview for applicants on the 29th & 30th July 2015 remains the same.

Skill Fest cum Mela

The Jowai Municipal Board, Jowai in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Skills Development Society (MSSDS) will organise a Skill Fest Cum Mela under the Scheme Employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P) of National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) on 31st July 2015 at District Library Auditorium, Jowai from 11 AM onwards.

Four Project Implementation Agencies viz S.S Net.Com, Shillong, DonBosco Technical Society, Shillong, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (ILFS) Shillong and North Eastern Security Agency (NESA) Shillong will give presentation on the service provided by them regarding training and placement and will also conduct spot enrollment drive.

Interested participants may bring along all documents and testimonials related to educational qualification during registration process.

State Level Advocacy Meeting on World Population Day, 2015 held



The State level Advocacy Meeting on World Population Day, 2015 on the theme, "For a Happy Family: Two Children With A Gap Of Three Years" was organized by the National Health Mission in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services (MCH & FW), Government of Meghalaya on July 24 at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong.

Meghalaya Health & Family Welfare Minister, Shri A. L. Hek graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. "We must come up with proper strategies and bring about an amicable solution to address the problem of rapid population growth we are experiencing in our country," said Shri A. L. Hek while stressing on the need to have a proper family planning. With regards to family planning and having happier and healthier families, the families themselves must voluntarily take up the cause, he added.

It may be mentioned that the World Population Day is celebrated in over 200

countries worldwide. The main objective of observing the World Population Day is to highlight the population explosion and also to highlight the causes and put forward remedial strategies for better and healthier lives.

The Chief Guest also handed over the Awards for the best performing Block and District. The Best Performing District went to the East Khasi Hills District while Myllem Block got the award as the Best Performing Block.

Earlier the Meghalaya Additional Chief Secretary i/c Health & Family Welfare, Shri Y. Tsering in his speech said that female education and educating a girl child in the rural areas holds the key in addressing the ever increasing population growth.

During the programme a short play on Family Planning was performed by the ASHAs of the Rynjah State Dispensary, Shillong.

Meghalaya Rural Public Transport Services Flagged Off At Baghmara



Meghalaya Transport Minister, Shri H.D.R Lyngdoh flagged off the Meghalaya Rural Public Transport Services (MRPTS) at Baghmara on July 29, in the presence of Shri Ropul S. Marak, Parliamentary Secretary C&RD, I& PR etc, Smt Bluebell Sangma, MLA, Chokpot Constituency, Shri I. W Ingty, Commissioner of Transport, Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, South Garo Hills, other District Heads, NGO's, Nokmas and public of South Garo Hills District.

Shri H D.R.Lyngdoh while speaking in the flagging off ceremony of the Meghalaya Rural Public Transport Services said that, "this Meghalaya Rural Public Transport Services Scheme is first of its kind not only in the District but also in the State." It has been conceptualized in the year 2012 but the vehicles has actually been purchased in the year 2013 with an aim to facilitate easy transport to the rural areas and to bring people living in the remote areas closer to the District Headquarter. He also informed that at present the number of

vehicles provided may be less but it will be increased in future depending on the successful operation of the scheme.

Shri Ropul S Marak in his address expressed his appreciation towards the State Government for the implementation of the MRPTS Scheme and for allotting the vehicles to cater the needs of the people of the South Garo Hills District. He also requested the Minister of Transport to increase the numbers of vehicles provided so that it will cover the most remote part of the District.

Smt Bluebell Sangma, Local MLA, while speaking on the occasion, expressed her happiness for launching the scheme in the district and hope that the Meghalaya Rural Public Transport Services will serve and ease the transporting problem of the general public of the District. She also appealed the gathering to use these vehicles with proper care and maintenance so as to meet the maximum benefits of the people.

Celebration of Vanamahotsav 2015



The Forest & Environment Department, Meghalaya (Social Forestry & Environment Wing) in collaboration with the 119 Infantry Battalion (TA), ASSAM, Lawsohtun, Shillong on July 24 observed the Vanamahotsav (Grand Festival of Tree Plantation) by planting seedlings in the permanent location of the Territorial Army (TA) Unit. Seedlings were planted in blank areas of the location which will improve the micro climate of the area and also its hydrology in the long run. Mr. Sunil Kumar, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Meghalaya, Col. Sanjeev Shenoy, CO 119 Inf. Bn. (TA), ASSAM along with other Forest and Army officers including their JCOs and men took part in the celebration.

Seedlings planted included *Alnus nepalensis*, *Bucklandia populnea*, *Callistemon lanceolatus*, *Camelia* spp, *Cryptomeria japonica*, *Chukrasia tabularis*, *Guava*, *Ligustrum*



spp, *Myrica esculenta*, *Prunus cerasoides*, *Salix babylonica*, *Schima khasiana*, Silver oak and *Thuja compacta*.

Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight launched

The three week Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) was launched for West Garo Hills District on July 24 at a function organized by the West Garo Hills District Health Society at Tura Circuit House. The IDCF which will start from July 27th to August 8th 2015 aims at intensifying efforts to achieve zero child mortality due to diarrhoea.

During the fortnight ASHAs, ANMs and Medical Officers will focus on diarrhoea control related activities

and child & infant feeding practices through trainings on IDCF at various levels.

While addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Shri Z. J. Sangma stated that IDCF was an important initiative taken up by the Government. He said that diarrhoea is posing a problem an alarming rate in the region and that the IDCF will help in reducing diarrhoea related child mortality.

Nominations for National Youth Awards 2014-2015

The office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh has invited nominations for the National Youth Awards, 2014-15 from individuals and voluntary organizations of Ri Bhoi District who work for national development and community service. The last date for receiving nominations is on 7th August, 2015. For detailed information and application form please contact the General Branch, DC's Office, Nongpoh.

Office of District Social Welfare Officer shifted

The Office of the District Social Welfare Officer, East Khasi Hills, Shillong, has shifted to the new building of Shri Nicholas Wahlang at Lower Lachumiere, Shillong 1 opposite V.W. bonded Warehouse. This is for the information of all concerned.

Social Security Schemes launched

The Social Security Schemes viz., Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and the pension scheme, Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have already been rolled out in the State of Meghalaya. Apart from APY, progress has also been made under PMSBY and PMJJBY. This was informed by the Director Institutional Finance & ex-officio Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Finance (EA) Department.

Any queries or information sought should be send to the nodal officer of the Insurance Sector for Meghalaya, Mr. Akendra Rajkumar, Area Manager, National Insurance Company and his contact number is 9007103405.

Under PMJJBY scheme, an amount of Rs. 2, 00,000/- is payable on death of a member to her/her nominee(s). The risk cover will be provided to the person from his/her age of 18 years till attaining 55 years as on the annual renewal date, i.e., eligibility will cease on attaining 55 years or on closure of account with the Bank or insufficiency of balance to keep the insurance in force. Death claim benefit will be settled by the designated office of Insurance Company concerned.

For realization of the scheme, nominee should approach the bank wherein the member was having the Savings Bank Account through which he/she was covered under PMJJBY, along with the death certificate of the member. Nominee will collect claim form, and discharge receipt from the bank or any other designated source like insurance company branches, hospital, PHCs, BCs, insurance agents, etc., including from designated websites. The insurance

companies concerned shall ensure wide availability or forms at all such locations. Supply of the form shall not be denied to any person requesting the same. Nominee should submit completed claim form, discharge receipt, death certificate along with photocopy of the cancelled cheque of the nominee's bank account or the bank account details to the bank wherein the member was having the Saving Bank Account through which he/she was covered under PMJJBY.

Under PMSBY scheme, the insured or the nominee (in case of death of the insured) shall contact the bank branch where the insured person held the underlying Bank Account from which the premium for the policy was auto debited and submit a duly completed claim form. The claim form may be obtained from the above branch or any other designated source like insurance company branches, hospitals, PHCs, BCs, insurance agents, etc., including from designated websites. The insurance companies concerned shall ensure wide availability of forms at all such locations. Supply of the form shall not be denied to any person requesting the same. The claim form shall be completed by the insured or, as the case may be, by the nominee and submitted to the above bank branch preferably within 30 days of the occurrence of the accident giving rise to the claim under the policy. The claim form shall be supported, in case of death of the insured, by the original FIR/Panchnama, Post Mortem Report and Death Certificate and in case of permanent disablement, by original FIR/Panchnama and a Disability Certificate issued by a Civil Surgeon. A discharge certificate shall also be submitted by the claimant/nominee.

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