

State Govt hands over bid documents for Nat'l Games 2022 to MSOA



The State Government has handed over the bid documents to the Meghalaya State Olympic Association (MSOA) to begin the bidding process for hosting the National Games 2022 at a brief function held on June 21 at the State Convention Centre.

The function to drum up all support and efforts to bid for the Games was attended by Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma as the chief guest in the presence of the Leader of Opposition Dr. Donkumar Roy, Deputy Chief Minister Rowell Lyngdoh, Sports & Youth Affairs Minister Zenith Sangma, former Union Minister of State and MP, Vincent Pala, Parliamentary Secretaries, KHADC MDCs, members of MSOA, senior officials, sports associations and heads of institutions, besides the officials of Sports & Youth Affairs department.

Besides the bid documents, the Chief Minister on behalf of the State Government also handed over a cheque of Rs. 50 lakh and letters of support from both the State Government and Leader of Opposition were given to the MSOA for placing the bid.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that the meeting was to carry forward the mission of the State to host the National Games 2022 as it would be a befitting tribute to the State and the people to mark the 50th year of Statehood and appealed to all the people of the State to come together to achieve the shared objective with utmost seriousness and a sense of ownership. Conceding that there would be challenges on the way, the foremost being to mop up resources within the next five years, he however expressed his optimism that if it is accepted by all as collective endeavour the State would be able to equip itself with all the wherewithal needed to host the event, adding that a number of measures would be required to be taken by the State Government to mop up required resources.

Stating that there was no time to be complacent, the Chief Minister said there are a lot of activities to be done by sports associations and stressed the need to have an apex committee to bring in convergence from all line departments and also a much more inclusive team drawn from all political parties to achieve the mission. Observing that there would be huge requirement for infrastructure

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International Yoga Day

Along with the rest of the world, Shillong city observed the 2nd International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2016. As part of the observation in Shillong, the Meghalaya Governor, Shri V. Shanmuganathan visited ARC Happy Valley, Sri Aurobindo Institute of Indian Culture and Ward's Lake where he participated in yoga exercises.

International Domestic Workers' Day celebrated in city CM comes up with proposals for empowerment domestic workers



The International Domestic Workers' Day was celebrated in a befitting manner, on June 16 at Sri Aurobindo Institute, Bivar Road in the presence of the Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma as the chief guest and Labour Minister Dr. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh as guest of honour. The theme for the celebration was "Regulate Domestic Works and Recognize Domestic Workers as Workers".

Organized jointly by the North Eastern Regional Domestic Workers' Movement (NERDWM), Meghalaya and Ferrando Domestic Workers' Alliance (FDWA), Shillong City, the celebration saw huge participation of domestic workers from across the North East states and was also attended by Nongthymmai Legislator, Jemino Mawthoh, Director of Information & Public Relations, H.M. Shangpliang, Chairperson, Meghalaya State Women's Commission Theilin Phanbuh, Provincial, Silchar Province, Rev.Fr. George Maliekal and Provincial, MSMHC – Shillong Province, Rev. Sr. Mary Concepta Dkhar, among many others.

In his address the Chief Minister said it was a privilege to be part of the celebration and termed the domestic workers as "an indispensable part of our society". He pointed out the difficulty of finding domestic workers in developed countries and said it was fortunate that they are still available here, adding that "it is time we give back to them for the difference they make in our society and families". He also came up with several suggestions for empowerment of the domestic workers and for the benefit of their children.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister along with other dignitaries also gave away certificates of various trainings on skill development conducted for the domestic workers.

The Chief Minister called upon the departments of Labour and Social Welfare to jointly take up the responsibility to provide support to organizations working to empower the domestic workers through out-of-the-box, innovative approach involving all concerned to create the kind of environment that would benefit both the employer and the worker. He said that one crucial aspect that the Government should look at was the children of domestic workers to enable them to realize their dreams as per their potentialities. Observing that most domestic workers are also single mothers, he said: "There is a need to create a very innovative concept to ensure that all our domestic workers and all single mothers are able to send their children to schools which are capable of providing shelter and quality education. We will look at that programme which is dedicated to domestic workers and single mothers – a model programme which can be replicated in other states in the country, so that when domestic workers go to

assist their employers they can have the comfort that their children are having the access to that kind of quality education to enable them to compete with the rest of younger generation".

He also appealed to the organizations to take advantage of a number of interventions from the government to create a sustainable livelihood in the rural areas to prevent continuous migration from rural to urban centres in search of opportunities. He emphasized that there should be some endeavour from the government, the line departments and the organizations representing the domestic workers to give them access to information about these programmes, including skill development, farming activities backed with training, marketing linkage and network, etc and show them ways to apply for these programmes and help them climb the ladder of growth and prosperity. He also suggested that many employers can take advantage of the domestic workers to piggy-ride on the Government scheme of Home-stays - where 30 percent assistance for the whole project is given by the Government – and train the domestic workers as the best chefs so that they become available workforce in promoting tourism in the State.

On the memorandum submitted by the Movement, the Chief Minister gave his assurance saying the Government would examine it in detail with due diligence and consultation with the partners who have long experiences in dealing with the problems and challenges of the domestic workers.

It may be mentioned that the North Eastern Regional Domestic Workers' Movement, initially known as Domestic Workers' Association was initiated on June 1, 2003 by the congregation of Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, Shillong Province in Meghalaya in response to violence and injustice perpetuated on domestic workers. The Movement received its legal recognition from the State Government on October 15, 2005, under the banner of North Eastern Regional Domestic Workers' Welfare Trust. The Movement gradually expanded its activities in other parts of the region including Mizoram, Assam Manipur and Nagaland and recently its activities are further extended in 12 cities of North East under the name of Ferrando Domestic Workers' Alliance.

The overall objective of the Movement is sustainable improvement of the living and working conditions of domestic workers through activities ranging from mobilizing and registration of domestic workers to assisting them to avail various schemes of the Government. Till date, 5000 domestic workers are registered in Shillong.

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building not only hosting 32 Olympic and 8 non-Olympic disciplines but also for hospitality sector, Dr. Sangma said that there were also many local potential investors in the State who could be roped in for creating the infrastructure. Every infrastructure created would be used to move further and open up diverse opportunities for the people of the State, he added.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for out of the box approach to design the Games Village in such a way to create a product to benefit the people of the State by structuring the investment appropriately.

Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Donkumar Roy while expressing his support for the bid, stressed the need to go forward with the involvement of all the people of the State with due seriousness and transparency in the process. He also stressed the need to ensure that the sportspersons of the State are able to participate in the Games and win medals.

Earlier, Sports & Youth Affairs Minister Zenith Sangma in his welcome and introductory note, said that tremendous experience and credibility earned by the State in hosting the South Asian Games, 2016 had led to the bold decision of the State Government to bid for the National Games 2022, while the MSOA Working President John F. Kharshiing, in a power-point presentation, highlighted the way forward for the bidding process and the need for sports policy for hosting the Games.

So far, only two states in North East have hosted the National Games – Manipur in 1999 and Assam in 2007.

Foundation stone for construction of DIPR office building laid



The Meghalaya Minister incharge Information and Public Relations Department (IPR), Shri. A L Hek laid the foundation stone for the construction of the office building of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) at Lower Lachauimiere, Shillong on June 22. Also present on the momentous occasion were the Chairman, Meghalaya Government Construction Corporation Ltd (MGCC), Shri. R V Lyngdoh, MLA, Commissioner & Secretary, IPR, Smti. M H K Marak, Director of IPR, Shri. H M Shangpliang, Deputy Regional Passport Officer, Passport Seva Kendra, Shri. M S Sangma, Managing Director, MGCC, Shri. S Nongkynrih, officers and staff of IPR and media persons.

The construction work for the DIPR office has been entrusted to the MGCC at the total cost of Rs. 9,41,78,000/-. The building is expected to be completed by March 2018. Besides the office of DIPR, the building will also accommodate the Meghalaya Integrated Information System (MiiS), office of the Commandant Civil Task Force, Passport Seva Kendra, Shillong Press Club and Meghalaya Editors and Publishers Association (MEPA).

In his inaugural speech, the Minister said that the long cherished dream of having IPR's own building has come into reality due to the vision and leadership of the present and past Directors, officers and the Department as a whole. As a

mouthpiece of the Government, the Minister urged upon the officers and staff of the department to render their services to the maximum to ensure people's participation in the successful implementation of different developmental Programmes and schemes. He also expressed hope that the office will open up a space for commitment and dedication and for providing quality service to the people of the State.

The Minister also called upon the MGCC and the contractor to speed up the construction work to ensure that the building completes within the stipulated time to avoid time and cost overrun.

Shri. R V Lyngdoh, in his speech, said that the IPR is the most important organisation in the State which serves as a link between people and the Government. Dissemination of information about important scheme and policies of the Government need to reach out to every nook and corner of the State and it is the responsibility of the department to ensure that not one individual is left uninformed, said Shri. Lyngdoh. Therefore, he felt that I&PR Department should be considered as a major department and called upon the officers and staff to work with vigour and determination for the benefit of the people of the State.

International Biodiversity Day 2016 observed

The International Biodiversity Day 2016 organized by the State Forest and Environment Department and Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) was observed on June 15 at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on the theme "Mainstreaming Biodiversity; sustaining people and their livelihoods".

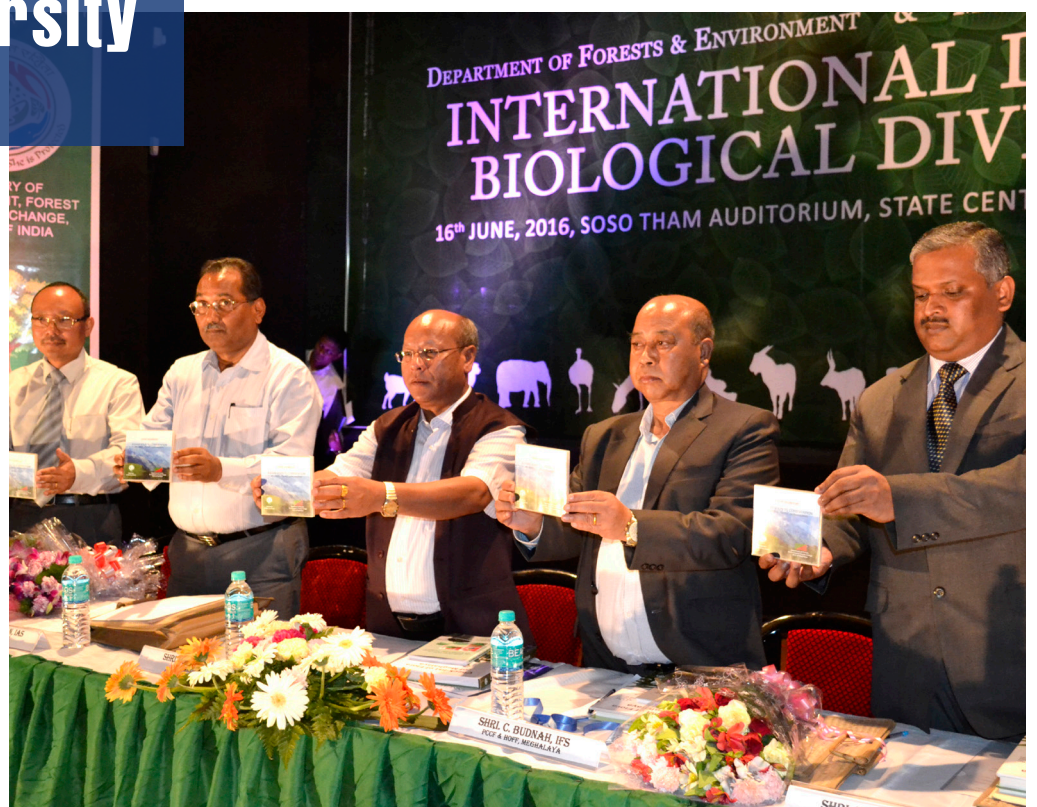
Shri Prestone Tynsong, Minister of Forest & Environment graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The programme was also attended by Dr. Shreeranjana, Additional Chief Secretary incharge Forest and Environment, Shri C. Budnah, PCCF & HoFF, Shri C.P. Marak, PCCF, Territorial, Shri D. Sathyan, Secretary, MBB, government officials and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Prestone Tynsong calls for urgent need for the conservation

and protection of environment. He also appealed the institutions and students to partner with the Forest department to take the initiative of preserving the rich biodiversity of the State by way of creating awareness on various issues that's endangering the environment.

During the day, the Chief Guest felicitated the Self Help Group from Mawkyrnot village, under Pynursla C&RD Block for winning the 'India Biodiversity Award 2016' under the category 'sustainable use of biological resources' in recognition of its contribution in the promotion of root bridges and protection of their surroundings which include the longest known root bridge during the last few years.

Others highlights of the day includes release of Annual Report of Meghalaya Biodiversity Board for the period 2012-2015, two



books published by the Department titled 'Checklist of Flora of Meghalaya' and 'Tissue Culture Studies on Some Threatened Taxa, Rare Orchids, and Medicinal Plants of Meghalaya', biodiversity posters, short trailer documentary of the biodiversity of Mawlyngbna village followed by screening and distribution of prizes to the winners of posters and drawing competitions for schools and colleges students.

One Stop Crisis Centre inaugurated



The One Stop Crisis Centre for the rehabilitation of survivors of violence against women was inaugurated on June 20 at Ganesh Das Hospital, OPD Building, Shillong by Social Welfare Minister, Smti Deborah C. Marak.

The Centre will be operated by the North East Network (NEN) in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department and will cater to comprehensive medical care, counselling and emotional support, legal and court activities, provision of temporary shelter and medical reporting for women victims of domestic violence, sexual assault etc.

Social Welfare Minister, Smti Deborah C. Marak while highlighting that

Meghalaya has been witnessing an alarming rise in crime against women and children said that it is a matter of concern which needs to be taken seriously. She also said that the Centre will not only extend emotional and psychological support to women who are victims of crimes and domestic violence but will also cater as a Centre for the overall development of women and child.

Others who spoke at the programme include Additional Chief Secretary, I/c Social Welfare, Shri H. Marwein, Commissioner & Secretary, Social Welfare, Shri T. Dkhar, Director, Social Welfare, Shri H. M. Shangpliang and Chairperson, NEN, Smti D. Syiem. The programme was also attended by Chairperson, MSCW, Smti T. Phanbuh and Chairperson, MSCPCR, Smti M. Kharkongor among others.

Felicitated Programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme held

With a mission to promote and encourage the talent and bravery of the District and to recognize the achievements bagged by its residents, the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District felicitated the three women achievers under the scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in the programme held on June 21 at the District Auditorium Hall, Nongpoh. Shri Hector Marwein IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the government of Meghalaya graced the occasion as the chief guest in the presence of Shri H.M Shangpliang IAS, Director of Social Welfare and DIPR, Smti I. Warjri, Mission Director, State Resource Centre for women and Smti Pooja Pandey IAS, Deputy Commissioner.

The three achievers who felicitated today were Smt. Anjelica Tynsong, a brave heart girl from Pahamrioh village who had received the national bravery award from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi for risking her life for saving her little brother when her house was gutted in fire, Smt Dolyne Kharbhih a girl Cadet Instructor Serving in the 62 Assam Bn NCC from Nongsder village who scaled Mount Everest and Smti Plenty Makri of Thad Nongriaw Village who was voted as one of 100 women achievers of India in the category of Commerce Industry and Entrepreneurship.

The programme also included song and dance performed by students of Little Star Sec.School Byrnihat and Umkon Women SHG.

Speaking on the occasion, Marwein lauded and appreciated the Deputy Commissioner for organizing the programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme which is to inspire and encourage the three women achievers and also for other women in the district. While delivering a speech to the achievers, Marwein said that receiving the award is not only the pride to them and their family but also it is the pride and honor of the district, the state and the country as a whole. He stated that the bravery and courage shown by Anjelica Tynsong while rescuing her brother from fire is rare to find and this has set a moral example for others.

He appreciated and congratulated the three awardees for their achievements and exhorted them to remain in the spirit of bravery and courage for serving others. He also highlighted to school children that being brave alone was not enough to succeed in life but sacrifice, dedication and hard work can lead them to achieve success in their career.

He also stated that it is the pride for the district Ribhoi that it has produce three distinctive women who has brought laurels to the district and the state as a whole



and this transpire that our women are no far behind comparing with others in the country to rise and shine in achieving their goal.

Shri H.M.Shangpliang, the Director of Social Welfare in his speech lauded the initiatives taken by the Deputy Commissioner for uplifting the welfare of women in the district, he highlighted that Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme is the central scheme launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi in 2014 to implement in those areas or the district where the birthrate of girl child declined whereby Ribhoi District also falls within the ambit of the scheme.

He lauded and appreciated to all the line departments for supporting the cost of a girl child and he also informed that the government has released money of Rs. 32 Lakhs for Ri Bhoi District for the services and hardwork in implementing Beti Bachao Beti Padhao within the district. Lastly, he advice the district administration to have a better ideas of how to encourage a girl child and the society at large and the people of the district that we should allow the girl child to grow normally like any other child in a family.

The programme ended with handing over the mementoes, certificates and cash prize to the three achievers by the Chief Guest.