



Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma inaugurated the Ri-Bhoi District Jail at Mawsynti village, in the presence of Minister, Home, Roshan Warjri, Chief Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya, Dr D D Lapang and Dr Celestine Lyngdoh MLA, Umsning on July 8.

Addressing the gathering during the Inaugural Function, Dr Mukul M Sangma said that the opening of a new jail in Ri-Bhoi for the jail inmates belonging to the District after separation of the judiciary from the executive, was long overdue and he expressed his happiness at the inauguration of the jail which would be an effective instrument for reformation and rehabilitation of offenders. He said that pris-

ons are very crucial in the overall administration of justice and thus overcrowding of inmates in the existing prisons is a matter of concern. "Reformation and rehabilitation of jail inmates is vital to human liberty and dignity and inmates must be provided with conducive environment for reformation and correction," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government shall make efforts to strengthen vocational and skill training to the jail inmates to become sustainable and productive after release and assimilate themselves in the society as responsible and productive citizens. He also stated that the villages around the jail must be a model and a source of motivation for the inmates. He added that jails should be capable

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Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Launched



Meghalaya Governor V. Shanmuganathan inaugurated the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya at a programme organised by the office of the District Medical & Health Officer, East Khasi Hills District, under the aegis of the National Health Mission at St. Jerome School, Nongmynsong in the city on July 9.

The programme was also attended by Meghalaya Health Minister, A.L Hek, Principal Secretary to the Governor, M. S Rao IAS, Secretary Health & Family

Welfare Department, M. R Synrem, IAS, Director of Health Services (MI) Dr. R. Wankhar, District MCH Officer, East Khasi Hills District, Dr. (Mrs) J.B Rane, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Specialist Ganesh Das Hospital, Dr. N. Wanswet and others.

Expressing concern over the high Maternal Mortality Rate in the state of Meghalaya, the Governor in his speech called upon all stake holders including the government, social and religious organisations, youth bodies and the general

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CM felicitates ODF villages, inaugurates Cultural Complex-cum-District Library

Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the newly constructed Cultural Complex-cum-District Library at Nongpoh in the presence of former Chief Minister & Chief Adviser to the Government, Dr. D.D.Lapang, Home Minister Roshan Warjri, Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Celestine Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Pooja Pandey and Director, Art & Culture, Matsiewdor War-Nongbri on July 8.

The Chief Minister also gave away the felicitated the 'open defecation free' (ODF) villages, while Dr. Lapang felicitated the Swachh Bharat team led by Deputy Commissioner Pooja Pandey during the celebration of success of rural sanitation in Ri Bhoi district in the same venue.

It may be mentioned that 527 villages of three C&RD blocks under Ri Bhoi district have achieved ODF status, till date and the district was also given certificate of appreciation

from the Union Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation on April 26, 2016 for its performance Swachh Bharat Mission. This achievement has been possible due to intensive awareness campaign and adoption of low cost technology in construction of safe toilets with the involvement of private and public enterprises through corporate social responsibility.

In his address, the Chief Minister congratulated all the partners and stakeholders of the respective villages on their achievement of ODF status through their collective endeavour. Citing the example of Mawlynnong and how people's movement can bring the change we want, he said that the shared objective of clean and green environment can be achieved when all the people come together and take it as their shared responsibility, he said and expressed his hope that cent percent villages of the State would very soon achieve the ODF status.

Based on the rich natural resources available in the State he spoke of the number of initiative taken up by the State Government for sustainable livelihood and sustainable ecology, including clean and green campaign under Mission Green which was launched before the Swachh Bharat Mission and which he said goes beyond the ODF concept. "Under this mission, we not only acknowledge and declare them as clean & green village of the year and give them award, but they are also



eligible to submit programmes for developmental schemes. It is a complete motivational programme where people own up the programme and drive it forward", he added. He urged upon the officers to drive the programmes under Mission Green with active participation of the community.

While dedicating the new structure – Cultural complex-cum-District Library – to the people of the district, he urged upon them to make use of the asset to have some kinds of programmes every weekend and also informed the gathering that the department of Arts & Culture will soon establish Centre of Excellence for teaching the youth to excel as vocalists and musicians.

The complex is established to cater to the culture rich population of the area under 13th Financial Year Aawsrd, 2013 and its construction was completed within 20 months. The first floor of the building is the Library and the second floor is the auditorium.

Chief Adviser to the Government, Dr. D.D. Lapang in his address as the guest of honour, also congratulated the SBM team, the headmen and the NGOs for their hard work and cooperation with the Government in making Ri Bhoi district clean and green and also sought the cooperation of the people with the Government for further development in the district.

Chief Minister inaugurates Ri-Bhoi District Jail at Mawsyntai

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of generating hope among the inmates and hoped that the Ri-Bhoi District Jail will provide all requisite support and assistance to the jail inmates to facilitate the task of correction, rehabilitation and reformation.

In her address, Minister, Home, Roshan Warjri informed that the jail campus had been acquired since September 10th 1999 with a total area of approximately 16.33 acres for compensation amount of Rs 61.16 lakhs. She added that an administrative approval and sanction of Rs 6.28 crores was given in March 2004 and a revised estimate of Rs 7.67 crores was again sanctioned in March 2014 which finally completed the jail infrastructures.

The Ri-Bhoi District Jail will house 100 inmates. The inmates of Ri-Bhoi District will be shifted soon from the existing Shillong District Jail. A full length of officers and staff of this jail has been put in place for administration of jail management in accordance with the Jail Manual that has been adopted in the State. Trail of cases through video conferencing will also be installed and completed in the Ri-Bhoi District Jail. The Jail has separate wards for male and female inmates, kitchen, dining room, treatment and medical centre, sports hall, training centre with facilities for skill development, vocational training and occupational therapy, solitary hall for prayer and meditation and staff quarters.

Population Stabilization Fortnight Inaugurated



The World Population Stabilization Fortnight was observed on July 11 at the Multi Purpose Hall, Block Development Office, Mawkyrwat Block wherein Shri. Rowell Lyngdoh, Deputy Chief Minister of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest. The programme was organized by the office of the District Medical & Health Officer, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat. Smt. R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, Mawkyrwat chaired the programme.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Lyngdoh informed that India has the 2nd highest population in the world and will

overtake China in years to come if left uncontrolled and unsolved. Pointing out that Meghalaya has a population of over 29 lakhs, he stressed on the need of a stabilized population as population explosion has certain drawbacks and implications in terms of affecting health, environment, growth and development. He therefore suggest that a family should be well planned so as to avoid ignorance and poverty. He encouraged people to adopt family control and also advised expecting mothers especially to avail the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matriva Abhiyan (PMSMA) so as to ensure Antenatal Care to women.

Early Diagnostic and Intervention Centres inaugurated



The Early Diagnostic and Intervention Centre (EDIC) attached to the ENT Department for the assessment of hearing handicapped at Shillong Civil Hospital was inaugurated by Shri A.L. Hek, Minister for Health and Family Welfare at State Resource Centre, Shillong Civil Hospital, Shillong on July 12.

Besides EDIC, Shillong Centre, EDICs were also set up in West Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills and West Garo Hills Districts. All these four centres are attached to their respective Civil Hospitals.

The EDIC were sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India and State Society for the Implementation of Rehabilitation Services for Persons with Disabilities (SSIRPD), State Resource Centre, Civil Hospital Shillong.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Hek said that the aim of these centers is to facilitate early detection of disabilities in children and treat them before they become major health problem for such children. Opining that hearing loss is one of the most common congenital anomaly in early age, Shri Hek said that early detection of such anomaly in children is critical for the development of age appropriate speech, language and learning skills.

The Minister also appealed the citizens to take advantage of the free treatments

available for patients with disabilities and BPL background in these centres.

Dr. (Mrs) B. Mawlong, Project Director & State Coordinator, State Resource Centre Shillong in her speech said that hearing impairment not only affects child's speech and language development but also impedes the child's social, educational and personality development. If hearing impairment is identified early, these adverse effects due to hearing impairment in the child can be minimized, added Dr. Mawlong.

She also informed, henceforth, the new born babies, children even adult will no longer be referred outside the State to get the Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry (BERA) test done. Dr. Mawlong further informed that BERA test can be done at these centres for free of cost for patients with disabilities and BPL background. Generally, these test costs about Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000 outside the State.

It may be mentioned that these centres are equipped with diagnostic facilities including pure tone audio meter, impedance audio meter with tympanometry, auditory steady state response and brainstem evoked response audiometry. Also, to get accurate and effective test results for assessing hearing impairment, sound proof treatment room in all the four centres have also been set up.

Incident Response System Training for Incident Response Team held



The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), Meghalaya in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Shillong conducted a two day training programme on the 7th and 8th July on Incident Response System (IRS) for Incident Response Team (IRT) of East Khasi Hills District at Shillong.

The Training was inaugurated by Shri Y. Tsering, Additional Chief Secretary.

During the training, resource persons Shri H.B. Marak, EO, SDMA and Shri S. Bordoloi, Consultant, SDMA dwelt at length on the importance of the Incident Response System (IRS) and the role of the Incident Response Team (IRT) during any disaster.

Three books published by the Meghalaya State Disaster

Management Authority (SDMA) titled "Emergency Education in Disaster Management, a Manual", "Disaster Management Activities Report of Meghalaya State Disaster Management Authority upto 2015" and "Directory of the Meghalaya State Disaster Management Authority" were also released during the training by Shri Y. Tsering, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri P. W. Ingt, Principal Secretary in-charge Disaster Management Authority and Shri P.S. Dkhar, Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman DDMA, East Khasi Hills District respectively.

The two day training will be followed by a mock exercise simulating an earthquake of magnitude 7.5 Richter scale on 9th July, 2016 at State Central Library, Shillong from 11:00 am onwards.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Launched

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public to come together to ensure safe and secure delivery of children.

The Governor also impressed upon the pregnant women in attendance at the programme to visit hospitals and other health care institutions like PHCs, CHCs etc during the early stages of pregnancy in order to avoid complications during and after delivery.

Health Minister A.L. Hek meanwhile stated that Ante-Natal Check-ups are crucial in determining the health and wellness of women and children. He also urged upon all concerned to take an active part in the government's attempt at reducing the Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate in the state.

The inaugural programme was followed by a daylong Free Medical Camp for Pre-Natal and Post-Natal care which was availed by hundreds of women and children.

It may be reminded that the PMSMA Scheme is a new initiative of the central government aimed at boosting the health care facilities for pregnant women especially the poor. The scheme provides that pregnant women would be given health check-up and required treatment for free on the 9th of every month in all government hospitals and health centres across India.

PMSMA, IDCF launched

The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrima Abhiyan (PMSMA) was launched on July 11 at an elaborate gathering organized by the department of Health and Family Welfare at Betasing C and RD Block in South West Garo Hills for the district.

The PMSMA, a new scheme and an initiative of the government of India aims at ensuring quality Ante Natal Care (ANC) for women especially during the 2nd and 3rd trimester.

In order to improve the quality and coverage of Ante Natal Care for women a special ANC clinic will be opened on the ninth of every month at every health care facility or centre under the scheme. The clinic will give thorough clinical and laboratory examination including counseling to expecting mothers who are in their 2nd

and 3rd trimesters. These facilities will be given free of cost and anyone who may have missed an opportunity to visit the clinic can always avail the same facility during normal week days at their respective health centres.

During the programme the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) was also launched and World Population Day observed.

The IDCF which will start from 11th July to 23rd July aims at intensifying efforts to achieve zero child mortality due to diarrhea. During the fortnight ASHA's, ANM's and Medical Officers will focus on diarrhea control related activities and child & infant feeding practices through trainings on IDCF at various levels.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Betasing Block Development Officer (BDO) A G Momin stated that the scheme was essential in safeguarding the lives of expectant mothers and their unborn children. He urged the gathering to avail the facilities being provided by the government through the medical department. Speaking on diarrhoea the BDO stated that that the disease was an alarming problem in the region and that the IDCF would help in drastically



reducing diarrhea related child mortality.

On world population Momin informed the gathering that as the world was being overpopulated day by day there was a need to mitigate the problem. He advised the gathering to practice family planning and seek the help of professional doctors. The BDO stressed on using natural family planning methods and urged everyone to take the message home and share it.

Earlier while addressing the gathering, South West Garo Hills District Medical & Health Officer Dr Kona Sangma stressed on adequate family planning to mitigate over population. She informed that anyone opting for sterilization could come to Ampati CHC from 11th July to 24th July 2016. The procedure will be carried out by surgeons from Tura she added. The DM&HO also informed that other kinds of measures for family planning like contraceptive pills etc would be distributed during those days.

During the day a song and a skit sensitizing people on ante natal care was presented by Sachin Marak and betasing ASHA's respectively.

MOCK EXERCISE ON EARTHQUAKE CONDUCTED AT SHILLONG



In the wake of several earthquakes in the North Eastern Region and also reminding that Meghalaya lies in zone five of the seismic map, the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), Meghalaya in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) conducted a mock exercise simulating a major earthquake of magnitude 7.5 Richter scale on July 9 at State Central Library, Shillong.

The mock exercise was part of the three day training programme on Incident Response System (IRS) for Incident Response Team (IRT) of East Khasi Hills District. The aims of the mock exercise are to create awareness about earthquakes and to put into practice the Incident Response System (IRS) and for assessing the preparedness of the Incident Response Team (IRT) and other stakeholders in case of a disaster. The mock exercise was also participated by SDRF teams and volunteers from the Indian Red Cross, Shillong and Meghalaya Bharat Scout and Guides.

Earlier, Shri H.B. Marak, Executive Officer, SDMA and Shri P.S. Dkhar, Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman, DDMA, East Khasi Hills District who led the exercise, briefed about the proceedings of the day.

After the drill, a post-exercise analysis was carried out by the Principal Secretary in charge Revenue and Disaster Management, Shri P.W. Ingty and observers of the mock exercise which includes Shri W. R. Marbaniang, former DGP, Dr. P. Medhi, from Military Hospital, Prof. Streamlet Dkhar and Prof. D. Walia from NEHU, and Smti Minimon Laloo.

The observers urged all stakeholders to coordinate their efforts, cooperate with each other and be ready with resources to be able to discharge their duties efficiently. More exercise need to conduct from time to time to create awareness about earthquake and to inculcate preparedness among the community for quick respond during any disaster.