

2-day River Festival NADI 2016 held in city

The two-day Asian Confluence River Festival – NADI 2016, the first of its kind in the region, got underway at the State Convention Centre on July 15 where noted speakers and high level observers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and India and experts on rivers and rural development came together to explore the possibilities of enhancing cultural ties and amplifying the creative use of riverine connectivity by catalyzing environment friendly trade and tourism between the North-East region and surrounding neighbours.



The festival – organized by the Asian Confluence, India, East Asia Centre, Shillong, in collaboration with the State Government and the Maulana Abul Kamal Azad Institute of Asian Studies – is a celebration of the spirit of commonality between the Northeastern states and neighbouring countries through the rivers of the region, which had for long been the treasured highways of culture and unison among the people. It is aimed at offering the participants a great networking platform with access to both intellectual as well as entertainment events, with a special focus on the shared borders with immediate neighbour, Bangladesh.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma, Bangladesh Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon, Bangladesh Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla, former Water Resources Minister from Nepal Dipak Gyawali, former Ambassador of Bhutan to India, Dago Tshering, High Commissioner of Bangladesh in India, Syed Muazzem Ali and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla were among many noted speakers during the inaugural session on the first day of the festival.

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Governor Releases Commemorative Monograph

The Governor of Meghalaya, Shri V. Shanmuganathan released the Commemorative monograph on completion of more than 100 years of the Shillong offices of the Accountant General as well as Lyndhurst Estate, the residential complex for IA & AS officers at a function held on July 14 at Raj Bhavan, Shillong.

The offices of the Accountant General, Meghalaya have a history dating back to 1910 when the office of the Comptroller, Assam was established at Shillong. The monograph includes copies of some of the very old and important photographs, references, maps, memos etc. narrating the history of Lyndhurst Estate and the

offices of the erstwhile Comptroller, Assam. The photography illustrates the Office Buildings, Lyndhurst Estate and Motinagar A&A Estate and the narrative combines a lucid account of the history with some previously untold stories.

Availability of such a monograph with the historical information at one place would facilitate referral and appreciation of history. The monograph will be of relevance to history lovers, students and researchers in this field as well as the general public. It may be mentioned that the State Government has notified Lyndhurst Estate as a Heritage Property as it is an important historical legacy of Shillong.

CM lays foundation stone for ADB-funded Raid Lyngkhohi school building



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma laid the foundation stone for construction of Raid Lyngkhohi Higher Secondary School building at Pdeng Shnong, Lyngkhohi in East Khasi Hills on July 14.

The construction of the school building is being funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the project – Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya – which is aimed at enhancing the employability of the State's youth through improvement in secondary education and vocational skills training programmes.

Under the project, scores of government-aided private schools in the State are in the process of being upgraded to meet the national standards, improve the overall learning environment for the students and provide training for under-qualified teachers. The project will improve the quality, delivery and access to secondary and higher secondary school education and facilitate results oriented technical and vocational skills training in the State.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the ADB project is the only project

of its kind in the country, adding that the total amount being spent under the scheme is more than Rs. 800 crore and called for the need to expedite the projects under Phase I on timeline basis so that the State can get more amount of money for phase II, he said.

Stating the reasons for school drop-outs in the State, the Chief Minister said that the Government was striving hard to minimize the dropout rate by creating an enabling environment and handholding support to the students from poor rural background. As such there is bound

to be higher demand for admission to higher classes and there is a need to upgrade all schools to higher secondary levels to enable their intake of students, he said.

He congratulated the people of Raid Lyngkhohi area for assuming upon themselves the responsibility of opening up the higher secondary school and informed that 57 higher secondary schools in the State have got the opening permission and received Government recognition, while assuring that 145 secondary schools, which are still awaiting permission and financial support from the Government – including Raid Lyngkhohi School – would be getting necessary support this year.

He called upon the people of Lyngkhohi to have one dedicated programme for the area to create a sustainable livelihood and also explore the possibilities of promoting the scenic village as an eco-tourism spot for which he assured necessary support from the side of the Government.

The Chief Minister also gave positive response to the memorandum submitted by the SMC and others seeking grant for construction of hostel and teachers' salaries, construction of link roads from Lyngkhohi to Nongspung and Mairang and upgradation of health sub-centre, among others.

It may be mentioned that Raid Lyngkhohi School was established in 1986 and upgraded to higher secondary in 2008. Raid Lyngkhohi area has 10 villages under one Lyngdoh.

Indian Red Cross Society adopts Pyrda village

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Meghalaya, on July 16 adopted Pyrda, in a programme held by IRCS, Meghalaya, at Pyrda village.

The idea for adopting a remote village in need of medical help was mooted by the Governor of Meghalaya, V Shanmuganathan who is also the President of ICRC, Meghalaya, on 9th May 2016 during the celebration of the World Red Cross Day.

The adoption of Pyrda was followed with the opening of Charitable Dispensary, aided by the ICRC, Meghalaya. Some, Over the Counter (OTC) medicines donated by various pharmaceutical companies and by ICRC, Meghalaya have been left in the Dispensary to be dispensed by volunteers who have received some basic training in this regard. The training on first aid and basic rescue techniques was given by a team of competent instructors from the Directorate of Civil Defence and Home Guards.

Neighbouring villages will also benefit from the Charitable Dispensary at Pyrda. A total of over 200 patients were attended to by the doctors and medicines prescribed accordingly were dispensed free of cost. Visitation by medical officers as and when available will be arranged and OTC medicines will be replenished on a regular basis.

It is hoped that with the assistance and support of the Health Department and other line departments, ICRC, Meghalaya, in collaboration with Government of Meghalaya, such adoptions continue and much needed medical support reach people in remote areas.

It may be mentioned here that Pyrda is a remote village near Mawbeh which is about 35 kms away from Shillong.

DR A P J ABDUL KALAM ISLAMIC LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTRE INAUGURATED



Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma inaugurated the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Islamic Library and Information Centre at Laban on July 15.

During his Inaugural Address, Dr Mukul M Sangma congratulated the Shillong Muslim Union for having created the important facility that would be dedicated for all who sought knowledge and wisdom that has been collected in the form of documents, journals and books. He added that such a centre is a privilege for the knowledge seekers and very befitting tribute to Dr A P J Abdul Kalam.

He also said that many of our traditional knowledge and wisdom which had contributed to the wealth of knowledge and wisdom have been missed out as they were not captured in the form of documentation. The Chief Minister said that the library will facilitate not only ardent readers but will also give an opportunity to young budding writers to connect with the thoughts and ideas of great minds.

Praveen Davar, Member, National Commission for Minorities, Government of India attended the function as the Guest of Honour and also donated few books to the newly inaugurated library.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEGHALAYA YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2016 MEET THE CHIEF MINISTER



Participants of the Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme 2016 meeting the Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma at Delhi Meghalaya House. The aim of the programme is to provide opportunity to young people from Meghalaya to visit different parts of the country and gain firsthand knowledge about the culture, heritage and lifestyle of different communities

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Delivering the inaugural address, Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma said that the festival through dialogue and engagement with the stakeholders would pave the way for effective convergence and “actionable” for using rivers for mutual benefit and prosperity in the region.

He was of the view that rivers are not only source of prosperity, but a source of disaster and conflict and referred to the River Teesta hurdle with a sense of sadness as the NE states being land locked have no access to seaports and expressed hope that this kind of platform would facilitate to bring solutions to such problems.

Stressing on the importance of waterways for connectivity, he highlighted the challenges of upgrading the roads vis-à-vis land acquisition, but just scientific approach was needed to use the natural course of rivers for waterways which is the cheapest and most environment friendly, he said.

The highlights of the two-day festival, besides a policy dialogue and stakeholder meetings, include live exhibitions on yarns and dyes, cultural programmes, crafts bazaar, performing arts of the border areas, special evening performances

by top dance, music and theatre troupes of Bangladesh and NE region.

On the concluding day of the programme, the Meghalaya Governor V. Shanmuganathan graced the concluding function as Chief Guest and Bangladesh Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Rasheed Khan Menon was Guest of Honour

Delivering his valedictory address, the Governor highlighted the importance of rivers and the crucial impacts that they have on the people situated upstream and along its course who depend on it for daily economic activities and sustenance. The Governor called upon all gathered to provide a safe passage to rivers whilst also urging upon them to “purify, protect and preserve rivers and water systems” for the greater good of all.

Affirming the important role that rivers play, he stated that they provide a vital link between one place and another further adding that rivers facilitate economic growth, connectivity and friendship amongst people. The Governor also took the occasion to appeal to all concerned to be more sympathetic and more giving to one another as a river does to all life forms along its course.

SHILLONG COLLEGE CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

From its humble beginning at Jail Road Boys in 1956 where the I.A and I Com classes were held with the enrolled 35 students, Shillong College celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on July 19. While Dr. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Urban Affairs Minister attended the function as the Guest of Honour, former Vice Chancellor of North Eastern Hill University and Former Rajya Sabha Member Professor Shri. Mrinal Miri was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The Principal of the College, Dr K D Ramsiej while giving a brief history of the college lauded the efforts of both the past and present Principals and Staff (both Teaching and Non-teaching) which has helped to establish the college as a premier institution of the state.

Mrs Ampareen Lyngdoh, Urban Affairs Minister, Government of Meghalaya and an alumni member of the college in her address as Guest of honour reminisced her life as a student of the college. She stated that her life in Shillong College rendered her confidence and moulded her for her future. She urged the students of the college to dili-

gently work hard and prove to the world that they can be the best.

Former Vice Chancellor of North Eastern Hill University and Former Rajya Sabha Member Professor Shri. Mrinal Miri in his inaugural address said that an institutions growth depends on the dedication of the academic and supporting staff under the leadership of the Principal. He expressed that he was sure that Shillong College like other institutions would continue to grow in its pursuit of excellence rendering its service to the society.

To mark the beginning of this year-long celebration the two day National Seminar on Applied Ethics on the theme: “Issues in Contemporary Society: Rights, Duties and Sustainability In Search Of Harmony” organized by the Department of Philosophy and IQAC was also inaugurated on this day. It may be added that the inaugural function was attended by Principals of the other Colleges of the state, alumni members of the College, retired and serving Staff of the College as well as students.



World Youth Skills Day celebrated in South West Khasi Hills District



The World Youth Skills Day organized by the office of the Deputy Commissioner & District Projector Coordination Unit, South West Khasi Hills in collaboration with Khasi Students Union, Mawkyrwat Circle supported by AIDE-ET-ACTION-Awareness Building & Mobilisation Consultants “Supporting Human Capital Development In

Meghalaya” was celebrated on July 15 at the Multi Purpose Hall, Deputy Commissioner's Office, Mawkyrwat wherein Smti R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, South West Khasi Hills District graced the function as Chief Guest and Smti R. Iangrai, Additional Deputy Commissioner, South West Khasi Hills District as Guest Of Honour.

The programme started with a March which was flagged off by Smti R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, South West Khasi Hills District from Sngap Syiem College, Mawkyrwat and culminated at the Multi Purpose Hall, DC's office.

Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, Smti Lyngdoh said that the programme serves as a platform for the people in enhancing their productivity, employability and sustainable livelihood. While stating that government jobs have become saturated, “it's high time that people change their mindsets and look towards other sectors of development”, she added. She also laid emphasis on skill development thereby urging youths to hone their skills and talents with determination, resilient and a competitive spirit.

Smti R. Iangrai while stating that the district has huge potential for tourism, stressed on the importance of hospitality which needs to be cultivated amongst the people in order to promote tourism which is one of the sectors of development.

Smti A. Khonglam, spoke on “Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya” while Smti D. Blah, Consultant AIDE-ET-ACTION gave a power point presentation on the project.

Cultural programmes, testimony from two passed-out trainees and interaction with the youths were the other highlights of the day.

CYBER CRIME WING, CID, MEGHALAYA POLICE GUIDELINES FOR CITIZENS

Internet/Mobile Phone Guidelines

- Never post your personal information, such as a cell phone number, home number, home address, or your location on any social networking site or through mobile apps like Whatsapp, Instagram, etc.
- Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore.
- Never share your password with anyone, including your best friend. The only people who should know your password are your parents or guardian. When you use a public computer make sure you logout off the accounts you've accessed before leaving the terminal.
- Refuse friend request on your face book account from unknown entities/strangers.
- Don't meet up with people you have met online. If someone asks to meet you, tell your parents or guardian right away. Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are.
- Never respond to mean or rude texts, messages, and e-mails. You may need to block such numbers/IDs who continuously bother you or post things that are not appropriate.
- Keep your privacy settings on social networking sites as high as possible.
- Do not open e-mails, suspicious attachments or click links received from unknown persons.
- Beware of unsolicited Emails/SMS/MMS that promise you money, jobs or prizes, ask for donations, propose lucrative business deals.
- Download free softwares with care and caution as these may contain malware.
- Do not use or buy a used SIM card. Make sure your SIM card is bought and registered under you name.
- Never lend your mobile phone to others. Protect your phone with password.
- Do not use the mobile for obscene/pornographic images, videos or SMS and MMS.
- Never leave your phone unattended. Treat it like you would treat your wallet or purse.
- Make a note of the mobile's serial number (IMEI). Type *#06# to get IMEI.
- In case your mobile is lost or stolen, call the service provider immediately to block the SIM card.

Be safe while surfing online. If any crime occurs, report the matter to the nearest Police Station or Cyber Crime Police Station immediately.

Order under Section 144 CrPC

The District Magistrate, East Khasi Hills District, has promulgated an Order under Section 144 CrPC in the District restraining any person, company or authority from illegal stone quarrying and sand mining in the hill slopes and removal of sand from river-beds without obtaining permission/licence from the competent authority.

The Order is necessitated following reports that illegal stone quarrying and sand mining on the hills slopes and removal of sand from river-beds are taking place in various parts of the District which has led to constant outflow of stone and sand into the rivers and down the hill slopes destroying vegetation and damaging the water sources and aquatic life.

Moreover, the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, has issued an Order which restrains any person, company, authority from carry out any mining activity or removal of sand from river beds anywhere in the country without obtaining environmental clearance from MoEF/SEIAA and licenses from the competent authority.

This order comes into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force until further orders.

Order under Section 144 CrPC

The District Magistrate, West Khasi Hills District has promulgated an order under Section 144 CrPC prohibiting the use of glass-coated, metal, plastic and other sharp manja thread in the shops within the jurisdiction of West Khasi Hills District

This order is necessitated in pursuance of the circular order issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Changes, Government of India prohibiting the selling and using of glass-coated, metal, plastic and other sharp manja thread.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect.

SK Oil released in East Khasi Hills

The Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Khasi Hills District has informed the public consumers that SK Oil for the month of July 2016 has been released and will be distributed through the SK Oil retailers to all family identity card holders in urban areas and households in rural areas. The scale of issue in urban areas is fixed at 6 litres per card while in rural areas the scale of issue may be determined by the Local Durbar or Vigilance Committee in consultation with respective SK oil retailers. The price per litre in Shillong area (urban) is Rs. 17.20 and in Myllem areas (rural) is Rs. 17.60. In Mawkyrnrew/ Mawryngkneng, Pynursla, Mawsynram/Balat, Mawphlang, Weiloi and Laitlyngkot, the price per litre is Rs. 17.90.

Any non-supply of SK Oil by the Retailers may be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Khasi Hills District, Shillong alongwith the details.