

CM undertakes aerial survey of flood hit areas in Garo Hills 10-day GR announced for flood affected residents



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma carried out an aerial survey of the flood affected areas in the plains belt areas of West Garo Hills district on July 27 and a Gratuitous Relief (GR) for 10 days for the affected population was announced after the three local MLAs of those areas – Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Clement Marak, Assembly Speaker, A.T. Mondal and Parliamentary Secretary i/c Water Resources, Ashahel D. Shira along with the Deputy Commissioner Pravin Bakshi and other officials of the district assessed the situation from ground zero.

Several villages under Phulbari, Rajabala, Singimari, Paham, Bhaitbari and Hallidayganj areas were inundated by floods caused by heavy rains for several days with the situation worsening due to back-drafting of the Brahmaputra and Jinjiram rivers. A total number of 132 villages, 20,673 and 107464 people have been affected by floods. The displaced families, 247 of them are being sheltered in 20 designated camps and few makeshift camps in the higher grounds. The number is expected rise as the water level is likely to rise further in the next few days.

In view of the floods, which had occurred after a gap of one year, the Chief

Minister held a meeting with the local MLAs of the affected areas and the district administration on Tuesday night to take assess the situation and under his guidance, a high-level committee was constituted to monitor the flood affected areas. While the Chief Minister himself undertook the aerial survey before proceeding to Shillong, at the ground level, the high level committee, including A T Mondal, Clement Marak, Ashahel D Shira, Deputy Commissioner and other district officials, visited the areas to take stock of the situation.

The team had a brief meeting at Phulbari before the GR for ten days was announced to the waiting crowd by Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Minister Clement Marak. The GR would be given to the affected areas after final assessment of the damage and the number of people affected, it was informed. Earlier, the team also held a meeting with the affected persons at Hallidayganj.

The flood waters, besides inundating the villages and wreaking havoc on the residents, have brought them innumerable loss in terms of damage to fishery ponds and loss of livestock among others. The local MLAs and the District Administration would continue to monitor the situation closely for the next few days.

1st State Level NSS Meet Held



The Three Day 1st State Level NSS Meet 2016 carrying the theme “Bridging Differences, Bonding Diversity” was inaugurated by Meghalaya Governor, Shri V. Shanmuganathan on August 3 at a programme held at the Multi-Use Convention Centre, NEHU Shillong. Organised by the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit, NEHU, the State Level Meet is significant in that it provides a platform to NSS volunteers and Programme Officers from across the state to engage, interact and to reassess the programmes of the NSS in the State of Meghalaya.

Speaking as Chief Guest at the inaugural function, Meghalaya Governor, V. Shanmuganathan took the occasion to acknowledge the services rendered by the NSS through its various programmes and activities among which include adoption of villages, Blood Donation Camps, Health Awareness programmes,

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GOVERNMENT REVOKES LAND DEAL WITH UCIL

The Government of Meghalaya has decided to revoke the August 24th 2009 cabinet decision to lease 422 hectares of land in South West Khasi Hills to Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) for pre mining activities.

The decision was taken in a meeting of State Cabinet on August 1. The Chief Minister said that the decision taken by the Cabinet was historic and is a strong message that any initiatives relating to pre-mining activities which is precursor to uranium mining should not be done until and unless the people of the State are taken on board.

The Chief Minister also informed that direction to all concerned departments have been given to communicate the decision of the cabinet to UCIL and embark upon all measures for taking the people of the state into account. He also said that the decision was taken following the recent tender for Expression of Interest (EOI) floated by the UCIL without the consent of the state government and UCIL's indication in the



EOI for mining activities also. He added that the State Government has been consistent in its approach in respect to the issue of uranium mining and that the people of the state will be taken into consideration.

The Cabinet also approved the appointment of two

Assistant Lecturers in Commerce in Pine Mount School Shillong and also approved the proposal for enhancement of grants for salaries of Adhoc Secondary and Higher Secondary School teachers during the meeting.

TRAINING ON ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCESS AUDIT



As part of the Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan), the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with CBM India Trust and Bethany Society today kick-started a two days training on Accessibility and Access Audit at the Bethany Society Campus, Shillong wherein the Meghalaya Minister for Social Welfare, Smti. Deborah C. Marak was the Chief Guest.

The objective of the training was to prepare officials of the PWD (Buildings), Health (Engineer Wing), MUDA and Directorate of Urban Affairs, members of the Persons with Disabilities, students of architecture, NEHU to conduct Access Audit on the identified buildings to ensure that PwDs are able to access physical facilities.

Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan), unveiled during the observation of World Disability Day on 3rd December, 2015, is a flagship programme to create awareness and implementation of the principle of universal accessibility enshrined in existing national laws and schemes. The campaign was formulated by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

In her inaugural address, Smti. Marak said that universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) is critical for enabling them to gain access for equal opportunity and live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life in an inclusive society. Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan is a right step towards inclusive society, she said adding that accessibility for persons with disability to all infrastructure and activities should be one of the parameters of development.

The Minister also informed that the State Government has forwarded proposals



for construction of ramps in Government buildings and sanctions for the same are awaited. The target is challenging, but reachable, with the cooperation of all stakeholders, she added. She assured Government's assistance during the access audit so that the objectives can be implemented in letter and spirit. She further informed that a number of Government buildings in Shillong are identified for access audit whereby audit findings would be submitted to the Ministry for retrofitting and conversion of the buildings. Funds will be sanctioned under the Scheme for Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA), she said.

Shri. Dhariyal informed that CBM in India was started in 1967 and CBM India Trust was established in 1994. The objective of the Trust is to promote quality health care for PwDs. In recognition for its ongoing work on highlighting universal accessibility for inclusion, CBM India has been empanelled as one of the domain experts and resource in accessibility for the Government of India's Accessible India Campaign. He also informed that the Trust has been assigned the task to organise awareness campaign and capacity building for officials of various departments in creating an enabling and barrier-free environment for PwDs. The campaign targets at enhancing the accessibility of PwDs to information, transportation, physical environment, communication technology and other services and towards this end, the campaign seeks to make at least 50 percent of all government buildings in the national capital and all state capitals "fully accessible" for the disabled by July 2018, he further informed.

Stressing on the importance of cooperation, coordination and convergence, Shri. Dhariyal said that with the support of the State Government in capacity building, pool of experts for access audit can be generated from the State so that they can be master trainers for future participants.

Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse held

An awareness programme to sensitize the hazards of drug abuse was organized on July 29 by the Dorbar Shnong Dymmiew in collaboration with the State Social Welfare Department and K.J.P. Synod Mihngi, Urban Mission at Dymmiew locality, Shillong.

The programme was attended by Shri Paul Lyngdoh, local MLA, Shri Adelbert Nongrum, local MDC, Shri H.M. Shangpliang, Director of Social Welfare, Shri M. Kharkrang, Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills, Rev. B. Syiem, Director, K.J.P. Synod Sepngi, Urban Mission among others. The programme was presided over by Shri Manphyrnai Marbanian, Rangbah Shnong, Dymmiew.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Paul Lyngdoh said that drug is a major restraint to humanity and poison to the well being of the youth in particular poses greater problems to the families and communities at large.

Shri Lyngdoh said that with increase in drug or substance abuse, there is direct increase in number of crimes and chances of contracting HIV/AIDS are higher among drug users and abusers. He therefore, urged upon the communities as a whole to work together against substance abuse and actively involved in campaigns to mobilize support to put an end to such destructive lifestyle.



It may be mentioned that the K.J.P. Synod Sepngi, Urban Mission will start the counseling center at the Community Hall of Dymmiew locality every Tuesday and Saturday from 6 pm onwards.

Others who spoke on the occasion includes Shri

Adelbert Nongrum, MDC, Shri H.M. Shangpliang, Director of Social Welfare, Shri M. Kharkrang, Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills and Rev. B. Syiem, Director, K.J.P. Synod Sepngi, Urban Mission.

Workshop on management of sexual abuse held



A workshop on management of sexual abuse was organised by the State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW), Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) Shillong and ICARE on July 28 in Shillong.

The Chief Guest, Chairperson, State Commission for Women, Smti Theilin Phanbuh noted that sensitization of personnels at different levels in all spheres such as medical, educational, police and at the community level should be widely spread so as to curb the problem of sexual abuse.

Smti Meena Kharkongor, Chairperson, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in her speech stated that coordination of personnels of different departments should be present so as to tackle crimes in the society and country as a whole.

Ms Ivyreen Warjri, Mission Director, State Resource Centre for Women highlighted that since sexual assault and rape cases is on the rise, therefore medical staffs, law enforcement agencies, police personnels and non - governmental

agencies should be well coordinated with a convergent effort to work together with the agencies concerned to tackle the loopholes so as to bring Justice, restore Dignity and assist in the Rehabilitation of the survivor of sexual assault.

The participants includes medical team of doctors and allied health professionals from Ganesh Das Hospital, NEIGRIHMS, the police, lawyers and NGOs who deals with victims of sexual abuse.

The resource persons, Dr. Shaibya Saldana, Enfold Trust, Bangalore and Prof. Sandra Albert, Director IIPH, Shillong are both medical doctors with a special interest in sexuality education and its role in preventing sexual violence and crime. An interactive session exploring the dynamics of sexual assault was followed by a skill building session on conducting a forensic interview and appropriate medical examination and management. The implications of the key laws pertaining to sexual assault: Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2013 (POCSO), Criminal law Amendment Act, 2013 were discussed in detail.

1st State Level NSS Meet Held

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active participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, imparting literary classes and others.

“Certain basic thoughts are required for doing service. The attitude for service is important while rendering services. Service is care, concern and understanding of the pain and suffering of others” he said while calling upon all gathered to try and understand the pain that the underprivileged, the deprived and the suffering go through on a daily basis further adding that there are multiple challenges confronting the state and country and an enormous amount of service is required to meet those challenges.

The Governor also urged upon all concerned to selflessly dedicate themselves by devoting their time and energy in serving the people. He also stated that Meghalaya has plenty of issues to worry about with cleanliness, high maternal mortality rate, unemployment and poverty being some of the major problems afflicting the state; and called therefore on all gathered to pick up challenges in our own backyard and to work towards ushering desired change.

NEHU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Srivastava meanwhile stated that akin to the defence forces who shield and guard the country's borders at all times, the general public are ‘civilian forces’ with each citizen carrying great responsibility towards the country.

He also urged upon the NSS volunteers gathered to follow the NSS Motto ‘Not Me, But You’ with right earnest in thoughts, words and action. He also stated that considering the large youth population in the country, the role played by NSS volunteers becomes all the more important.

Seven Technical sessions covering topics like ‘Understanding the Constitution of India and responsibility of citizens’, ‘Awareness on the RTI Act’, ‘Awareness on Voluntary Blood Donation’, ‘Leadership and Personality Development’, ‘Time Management’, ‘Drug abuse and illicit trafficking’, and ‘Environment and Nature Conservation’ spread across different sessions, in addition to sports activities, cultural programmes and a voluntary blood donation camp were held as part of the three day Meet.

Mass tree plantation marks Vanamahotsava in SW Garo Hills



A Mass tree plantation drive marked the Vanamahotsava celebration at Betasing C&RD Block in South West Garo Hills on July 28. Prior to the plantation an elaborate function was organized by the department of Forest and Environment, Social Forestry Division at Betasing Higher Secondary School to create awareness on the importance of protecting forests and planting trees.

During the daylong programme several speakers elaborated on the significance of protecting forests and the role it played in keeping the planet alive literally. The awareness session was followed by tree plantation within the school campus after which an avenue plantation was held at Bainapara near the C&RD Block office headquarters.

Earlier while elaborating on the origin and objective of Vanamahotsava, the DFO, Social Forestry Division, West Garo Hills, Tura, R K Marak stated that the celebration was a reminder for everyone as stakeholders of their responsibilities in the protection of nature and preservation of trees. He later urged everyone present at the gathering to support and participate in the conservation of forests and plant more trees.

Among others who spoke at the occasion were FR, Range Forest Officer, SF, Betasing Range, C T D Areng, Assistant Teacher Johnny Miller D Shira and Assistant Teacher Washington B Marak.

9th Monsoon football tourney kicked off



South West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Cyril V D Diengdoh in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner P K Boro and District Sports Officer J P Marak kicked off the 9th Monsoon Football Tournament at Ampati Mini Stadium on July 29. Thirty teams from in and around the district are participating in the tournament which is being organized by the District Administration in collaboration with the District Sports Office and the Ampati Youth Welfare Club.

With an aim to promote football in the region the tournament is organized every year during the run up to the Independence Day celebration and culminates on 15 August.

Addressing the gathering during the kick off ceremony the Deputy Commissioner stated that such tournaments were ideal platforms for athletes to hone their skills. He informed that these tournaments were small steps undertaken by the district administration to promote football in the region and promised the gathering to hold such events more often in the future.

Meghalaya is a football crazed state and as such there are several talented players from the region playing for the national team he said and urged the participants to give their best with the one exception that the outcome of the tourney was a positive one in all aspects.

The first match of the tourney was played between Bugara FC and Kumaligaon FC in which the former scored 3-0 to beat the latter.

Grass Root Football Coaching Programme



The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya has started the Grass Root Football Coaching Center in Shillong during the month of July, 2016 for the age group of 7-11 year old boys and girls under the replication programme of the Prime Minister's awarded initiative, 'Hum Chuyenge Asman' of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The primary aim of the programme is to enable the boys and girls to come to the playground and enjoy the game of football and at the same time also learn the basic nuances of the game so that in future the players with talent and aptitude can become star footballers from the State and represent the country.

The talented players identified from the Grass Root Football Centers will be admitted into the Youth Academy which will be fully residential and all expenses on education and sports training will be borne by the Academy. Free coaching is being imparted two days in a week to the kids, on Friday from 4 PM - 6 PM and on Saturday from 9 AM - 11 AM at JN Football Stadium, by the Coaches of the Department and all the play materials are being provided free of cost.

The Department will also be initiating the Grass Root Football Coaching Center for the age group of 7-11 year old boys and girls in all the District Headquarters. Application forms may be collected from the District Sports offices and submitted alongwith the birth certificate, medical fitness certificate and a passport size photograph. Registration of players will be accepted during the month of August and the grass root football coaching will start from the month of September onwards. Those interested may contact the District Sports Officers for further details.

Nomination for National Youth Award 2015-16

Applications are invited by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India from both individual and voluntary organisation who have contributed to the field of national development and social service for nomination of National Youth Award 2015-16.

For individual category, persons should be between 15-29 years and should have rendered service in the relevant field during the financial year for which award is to be given. Voluntary organisation should be registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 (Act XXII of 1860) or a corresponding State Act for at least 3 years and have a proper constitution or Articles of Association. Organisation should have rendered service involving the youth for at least 3 years and must be a non-profit organisation.

Detailed guidelines and application form may be obtained from the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, Meghalaya, Shillong. Last date of submission of application is 22nd August, 2016.

Mining and transportation of coal prohibited

The Deputy Commissioner, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat in a press release issued, has informed that in continuance of the Order passed under Section 144 CrPC, dated May 16, 2016 and in pursuance of the National Green Tribunal Order, dated April 17, 2016, mining of coal in the entire District is strictly prohibited, besides transportation of coal within or outside the District as well as ferrying or carrying of coal from mines or jungles to the coal depot or stockyard. Dumping of coal on the road sides of the National Highway-44 and PWD roads is also prohibited.

Further, the DC prohibits assembly of persons or groups of people and carrying of arms and lethal weapons that may likely to cause injury. Violation of the above conditions will attract strict action as per provisions of the Law.

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

Entries for National Awards for Excellence in Journalism

In celebration of completing 50 years of the Press Council of India, a Golden Jubilee Commemoration of the will be held on November 16th. A function to this effect will be held in Delhi, coinciding with conferment of National Awards for Excellence in Journalism by honouring Journalists / Photographers / Freelancers excelling in print Journalism in various fields.

The entries for Awards have been invited through advertisement and also through the Notice posted on the website of the Press Council of India, www.presscouncil.nic.in with other documents.