

## 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Panorama Film Festival held in Shillong



The three days Indian Panorama Film Festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on August 4.

This year Shillong hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indian Panorama Film Festival, a conclave of some of the best talents of the film fraternity. The Festival was organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with the Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

Delivering the inaugural address, Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma while

expressing gratitude to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India for extending support to the State to host the event in the past three years said the festival which is an important event provides a platform for the state to give exposure to all budding talents to associate with luminaries from the film fraternity. "Shillong has been able to attract film makers recently and the region being a storehouse of undiscovered folklore and stories gives a huge opportunity for collaboration leveraging upon the vibrant and rich ethnic culture of the state and the North East," he said.

The Chief Minister also said that such festivals also provide an insight to the

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## Brain Storming Session on "Act East and India's North-East: How to Reap the Dividend" held at NEHU



Meghalaya Governor, Shri V. Shanmuganathan inaugurated the Brain Storming Session on "Act East and India's North-East: How to Reap the Dividend" organized by the ASEAN Study Centre (ASC) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) - North East Regional Centre (NERC), NEHU Campus, Shillong at the Multi Convention Hall, NEHU, Shillong on August 9. Also present were, Shri Rajiv K. Bhatia, Ambassador (Retired), Prof. S. K. Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, NEHU and Chairman, ICSSR-NERC, Prof. L. S. Gassah, Honorary Director, ICSSR-NERC, Dr. Gulshan Sharma, Director General, International Chamber of Service Industry, delegates from ASEAN member countries, academicians, students among others.

In his inaugural address, the Governor said that the northeastern region have a huge role to play in India's "Act East" policy given its geographic proximity to the South East Asian Region and can also serve as the cultural bridge between India and Southeast Asia.

Stating that the historical trade links between the North eastern part of India and the Southeast Asian countries were severed during the colonial rule, and the revival of connectivity and trade will enhance India-ASEAN trade, the Governor said that border trade between India, through the north-eastern states, and ASEAN will have huge potential for trade and investment in the field of skill development, agricultural products, manufacturing and energy among others. He also stressed on the importance of road-transport connectivity between Northeastern regions and the ASEAN countries thereby strengthening people to people contacts in the region.

Later, the Governor released a book titled "Constraints & Challenges to Social Science Research in North East India" edited by Prof. L. S. Gassah and Dr. C. J. Thomas.

The inaugural programme was followed by a series of discussions on topics namely; India-ASEAN Relations: Economic engagements, Social and Cultural Engagements and Political and Strategic Engagements.



**PBO Warjri takes Oath as Meghalaya CIC**

Former Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, P.B.O Warjri, IAS (Retired) took Oath as the New State Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) at a ceremony held on August 4 at the Durbar Hall, Raj Bhawan in the city.

The Oath of office to the new State CIC was administered by the Governor of Meghalaya, V.Shanmuganathan. Attending the oath taking ceremony were Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma, Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. R. C. Laloo, Home Minister, Roshan Warjri, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Zenith Sangma, MLA, Dikkanchi D. Shira, Chief Secretary K. S. Kropha, IAS and other officials, functionaries and invitees.

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problems confronted by the film industry and find means to overcome those challenges. While assuring support from the State Government to local and regional film makers, he added that Meghalaya has an enabling and conducive environment for film making with immense potentialities of youth coupled with the scenic locales and picturesque surroundings. “The creativity and potentiality of our youth will make Shillong the catchment area for skilled workforce for film industry”, he added.

He hoped that the workshops conducted and the films screened during the Festival will not only entertain cine goers but also aspire local youths to explore new openings of sustainable livelihood in the film industry.

The festival opened with the screening of Nitin Kakkar’s unreleased film, Ramsingh Charlie. The lead actors of the film, Kumud Mishra and Divya Dutta were some of the leading film personalities of Bollywood who attended the Festival.

Over the course of three days, a total of 13 films (9 feature and 4 non feature films) were screened at the event. The Head Hunter (production from Arunachal Pradesh), Dau Huduni Methai (Bodo) a film on militancy, Phum Zhang, a Manipuri non feature film on Loktak Lake, Kadambari (Bengali), Ore Udal (Malayalam), Katyar Kalyat Ghusali (Marathi) and the box office hit film Bajrangi Bhaijan were some of the films screened during the festival.

A special screening of the National Award winning movie from Meghalaya, Onataah – Of the Earth and U Syiem were organized in an effort to promote the local film industry of Meghalaya.

The festival also hosted several workshops conducted by industry personalities and an interactive panel discussion on future film policy for the State.





## Meghalaya Human Rights Commission Constituted

The Meghalaya Human Rights Commission (MHRC), the fourth such commissions in the North East after Assam, Tripura and Sikkim was constituted by the State Government with the consent of the Governor on June 7, 2016 with Dr. Justice A.H. Saikia, a former chief justice of the Sikkim High Court as its chairperson and former Meghalaya DGP PJP Haneman as the non-judicial member.

During an interaction with media persons at State Convention Centre on August 4, Justice Saikia spoke at length about the mandate of the Commission and also about the challenges faced by it particularly as the Commission is empowered with all functions and responsibilities except the power to punish the perpetrator.

According to Justice Saikia, the State Commission is not an advisory court, it decides on papers and reports. "We can only act on complaints by inquiring into the matter and directs the police to present a report of the case within a prescribed timeframe," he said.



## One Day State Level Consultation held

Meghalaya Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Y Tsering inaugurated the State Level Consultation on "Accelerating Progress towards Good Nutrition for All in Meghalaya" on August 9 at the State Convention Centre, Shillong. The meeting was organised by the Social Welfare Department, State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW), Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the India Institute of Public Health Shillong (IIPHS).

The meeting was organised to discuss implications of the India Health Report: Nutrition 2015 (IHR). Meghalaya has made some improvements in health and nutrition status of women and children, but the progress is slow. For instance, Meghalaya (43.8 percent) and Assam (40.6 percent) have the most number of stunted children under the age of five in the Northeast. The rates are above the national average rate of 38.7 percent. Being stunted means that these children are not fulfilling their potential. Their brains and immune systems are compromised. The IHR cites open defecation and inadequate hand washing as reasons for poor health among children, leading to malnourishment.

Presenting the keynote address at the event, Shri Y Tsering emphasised the importance of focusing on quality care and services and not just the numbers. He said that "holistic, state-level actions are needed to address nutrition in Meghalaya. There is a need to look at food habits in rural areas and create awareness on the importance of nutritious food, healthy lifestyle, education for women and girls and water, sanitation and hygiene practices. Education plays an important role in shaping the perceptions of children, therefore,

educators play a key role in spreading health literacy."

Shri Tsering also released the Meghalaya dashboard – a report with data specific to Meghalaya's nutritional indicators.

The Mission Director, State Resource Centre for Women, Ms. Ivyreen Warjri spoke about key initiatives of the Government to address under-nutrition. Ms Warjri highlighted the importance of women's empowerment for achieving better nutrition and health outcomes in Meghalaya. She also urged to give equal importance to nutrition just as families and the government gives priority to education of the students. She also appealed to stop open defecation which is one of the prime reasons for contagious diseases. She was highly positive of the improvement of Nutritional Index of Meghalaya in the coming months.

Professor Ramanan Laxminarayan, Distinguished Professor, PHFI co-author on the India Health Report research said, "In this inaugural India Health Report (IHR), we focused on the topic of child stunting and malnutrition. The data has highlighted that if the population of stunted children in India were a single country, it would be the ninth-largest country in the world."

Professor Sandra Albert, Director, IIPH-S highlighted that often our people do not suffer from overt hunger as they eat diets rich in carbohydrates (e.g. rice) but they remain malnourished due to lack of proteins and micronutrients.

Presenting data on Meghalaya's nutrition status, Dr Neha Raykar, Lead Economist, PHFI and author

on the IHR said that "strategies that accelerate improvements in child stunting in Meghalaya will need to focus on health of adolescent girls and women as well as their educational and socio-economic status. Moreover, there are considerable disparities and inequities in nutritional outcomes and their drivers across districts of Meghalaya that state programmes need to address".

IHR provides easy-to-understand data infographics for Meghalaya that give a comprehensive view of nutrition and its multiple determinants. It also looks at disparities in these indicators across geographical regions, socio-economic classes, and demographic groups and helps identify strategic choices for policy-making at the state level.

An eminent group of panelists with representatives from Social Welfare Department, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Education, Food and Nutrition Board and NIPCCD discussed how the current rate of improvement in nutritional status of children in Meghalaya can be accelerated further and will identify priorities and multi-sectoral pathways towards good nutrition for all. The panelists suggested for improving inter-sectoral coordination and creating synergy by focusing on key underlying determinants of nutrition: education, water and sanitation, gender and equity.

The meeting was attended by 120 participants including Government officials from Departments of Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Education, Tribal Welfare, Social Welfare, non-governmental organisations working on health and nutrition issues, academic institutions and development partners.

## Legal Awareness programme on Child Adoption held



Legal Awareness programme on Child Adoption organized by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Tura in collaboration with Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Tura was held on August 5 at the Multi-Facility Hall, DRDA, Tura. Block Development Officers of West Garo Hills Districts, District Medical Officers, representatives of various Non Governmental Organizations and officers of line departments were among others present at the programme.

Pointing to the minimal knowledge available pertaining to Child Adoption policies in the previous years, the Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills District, Pravin Bakshi expressed his satisfaction that the newly formulated guidelines for adoption of children has provided great relief for all in matters concerning adoption. Further, he insisted that everyone has a role to play and ensure that child adoption takes place smoothly.

A M Ripnar, District and Session Judge cum Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, West Garo Hills District, Tura in his keynote address expects that this awareness programme would benefit the people at large in matters related to adoption and also make the people aware about the rules and regulations framed under the act. He said that earlier people adopt a child by merely signing the deed of agreement which has been considered illegal now and thereby specific provisions for adoption has evolved for the welfare of the child and accordingly laid the procedures for adoption of a child which need to be followed.

Virginia Malignang, Programme Manager, State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA), Shillong in her presentation on Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and Adoption in the state of Meghalaya, highlighted the salient features on guidelines and fundamental principles

governing Adoption of Children, 2015.

She informed that in order to ensure a smooth functioning of adoption process within the State of Meghalaya, the State government has implemented the ICPS by signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Government, MWCD, since 16th November, 2011 under the Meghalaya State Child Protection Society and has been registered under Meghalaya Societies Registration Act 12 of 1983. Since the implementation of the ICPS, SARA has been set up within the State of Meghalaya.

It may be mentioned that the Ministry of Women and Child Development is the Nodal Ministry which is regulated by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)- the designated Central Authority as per Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption, 1993 and under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, Guidelines Governing Adoption of Children, 2015 and Directions given by Hon'ble Apex Court while SARA coordinate, monitor and develop the work of adoption in the State and work as a bridge between State Government and Central government.

During the programme, there was a presentation on CARINGS Portal (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System) in which Ladei Kynti Lyngdoh, Programme Manager, SARA, Shillong briefed the gathering about the eligibility criteria for Prospective Adoptive Parents. She further informed that all adoptions outside CARINGS portal are strictly prohibited and punishable by the law and taking children directly from hospitals, maternity clinics, nursing homes or other unauthorized source is an offence. CARINGS portal is a web base management system created to register online for adoption processes.



## RIGHT TO FLY NATIONAL FLAG

Citizens of the state will now have the right to hoist the National Flag at their homes, building and establishments round the year starting from 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. This Right has been given to citizens after the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India declared that the Right to Fly National Flag is a Fundamental right of every Citizen within the wider definition of Article 19 of the Constitution of India and should be done with "respect and dignity" and rules made under a Flag Code of India 2002.

## CAUTION AGAINST FAKE ONLINE ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT

The general public is hereby informed of the new ways criminals are now using to cheat people. One of the methods used is giving fake online job advertisements and placements offer to lure innocent job seekers. The public are requested to be aware of such fake online advertisements and verify the authenticity of the advertisements through questioning etc before sharing your personal information or parting with money. In this connection, public may report the matter to Cyber Assistance Cell for any assistance at Telephone Helpline Number 91-364-2504001, Mobile Helpline Number 91-9615191002, Email ID ccw-meg@gov.in The Cell functions from 10:00AM to 6:00PM on all working days. This information comes from Spl. Superintendent of Police (CID), Meghalaya, Shillong.

## BREAD MANUFACTURE AND SOLD IN MEGHALAYA SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION

In view of the newspaper reports on the alleged presence of certain additives in the bread harmful to human consumption, the Food Safety Officers of the State were instructed to draw random samples of bread for analysis. The samples of bread were drawn and sent for analysis by the Food Analysts to the Government of Assam, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati, Assam.

The analysis report of 23 samples of bread has been received where it is confirmed that Potassium Bromated (a harmful additive) is not present in all the bread samples tested in the State of Meghalaya.

Therefore, bread manufactured and sold in the State of Meghalaya is considered safe for consumption. However, monitoring of the safety aspects of such products shall be continued in the interest of the consumers.

This was informed by the Deputy Commissioner of Food Safety, Meghalaya.

## ENTRANCE EXAM FOR ADMISSION TO CLASS VIII IN RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE

Director, Higher and Technical Education, Meghalaya, Shillong has informed that an entrance exam for Class VIII in the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun for July 2017 will be conducted at selected centres that will be notified later on 1st and 2nd December 2016 for boys only. Application forms will be accepted on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at the Office of Director, Higher & Technical Education, Shillong, Meghalaya.

Candidates should either be studying in Class VII or passed Class VII from any recognized school, should not be less than 11 and a half years in age, should not have attained the age of 13 years on 01st July 2016 and should not be born earlier than 02 July 2004 and not later than 01 July 2006. Details for application are available in the Press Release of the RIMC or in the Government Website [www.megeducation.gov.in/dhte/scholarship/schnotify](http://www.megeducation.gov.in/dhte/scholarship/schnotify) or may be obtained from the Office of the Director, Higher and Technical Education, College Branch, Room No 206, Additional Secretariat Building, Shillong.

## Karate Coaching Programme

With the prime objective of promoting young talented Karatekas from the grass root level, the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs will start a Karate Coaching programme that will be throughout the year. The Coaching programme is being initiated under the replication programme of the award winning initiative 'Hum Chuyeenge Aasman'.

For this, an invitation is extended to the young boys and girls from the age group between 10 and 14 years old who are interested in joining the Coaching programme that will be held at Indoor Stadium, Don Bosco Youth Centre, Laitumkrah, Shillong.

The coaching will be imparted from Monday-Friday from 4PM-6 PM. Last date for submission of registration form is on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

The coaching is absolutely free and equipments will be made available but karate uniforms will have to be arranged by the parents and guardians including dropping and picking up after practice.

Registration Form is available in the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, JNS Complex, Shillong. For any queries, parents can contact 0364-2592077/9612951167 during office hours.

