

## CM Inaugurates New College at Sohiong



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the newly established college - Meribon K.H. Memorial College, Sohiong at an impressive function on August 25 in the presence of the local MLA and Transport Minister Shri. H.D.R. Lyngdoh, Home Minister Smti. Roshan Warjri, Mawhati Legislator Julius Dorphang,

President of the Grand Council of Chiefs & Co-Chairman, State Planning Board, Shri. John F. Kharshiing, hosts of local leaders, members of the Governing Body, teachers and students of the college and feeder schools of the area.

The nascent college is a project of the HDR Educational Trust as a fulfilment of

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## Martin Luther Christian University holds 9<sup>th</sup> Convocation



Altogether 550 Graduates, 240 of them from the University and 310 from Affiliated Institutes were conferred Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctoral Degrees at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation Ceremony of the Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU) at a colourful function held at U Soso Tham Auditorium in the city on August 25.

The Convocation was attended by Meghalaya Governor, Shri. V. Shamuganathan, who is also the Visitor of the University and Padmashree Bertha Gyndykes Dkhar, who delivered the Convocation Address.

Delivering his Presidential Address, the Governor offered his congratulations to

all the students on whom the university has conferred the degrees and certificates also expressing hope that education and service to humanity will continue to be a part of the graduating students' lives as they seek to upgrade their skills and improve their careers.

He stated that while individual success is desirable and is to be aimed at, yet that is not enough. "We have to be socially responsible" he also said while urging the graduates to assume social responsibility by making use of the acquired skills to help tackle the myriad of issues afflicting the country including unemployment, poverty, Infant and Maternal Mortality, corruption from among others.

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## 100<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Garo leader Sonaram Sangma celebrated

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma stressed the need for the people today to connect with the past and emulate the positive actions of our late leaders, while at the same time he also underlined the need to insulate the young generation from negative forces.

The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering at the 100<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary celebration of noted Garo politician, a patriot and freedom fighter Late Sonaram Rongrogre Sangma organized jointly by the 100 Years Death Anniversary Celebration Committee and Garo Students' Union at Bakrapur in Goalpara district of Assam on August 27.

Participating for the first time in the celebration being organized annually, the Chief Minister called Sonaram Sangma a selfless and compassionate leader, whose love for the people led him to give up his job to fight against the British for the rights of his community and protect their interests through non-violent means. While stressing on the need to connect with the positive past, he said that in today's age there is no longer need for taking up armed struggle to address our grievances.

"When we love our community, we must also love people from other communities because no community can exist in isolation and prosperity can sustain only when all communities prosper together", he said. On the problems faced by the people living in the contiguous Garo-habited areas of Assam, he said that people on both sides of the border share the same problems and added that the people have been given their rights and opportunities but they must also remember their

responsibilities. He exhorted the people to be righteous like their past leaders, saying that a community can grow only when we move ahead with righteousness.

The Chief Minister, who also released the souvenir "Jachri" which was published to commemorate the occasion, gave a word of caution saying that there is a need to screen some writings that eulogize wrong and negative things as they could mislead the people.

On the occasion, the celebration committee also honoured eight outstanding Garo personalities for their contributions in various fields. A book by Dr. Milton Sangma, former Pro-VC, NEHU and ICFAI, titled "The Mongoloid Invasion of South Goalpara" was released by the Chief Minister. A book – "Political Movement of Sonaram R. Sangma and its impact upon the Garo Society" authored by Dr. Tharsush K. Sangma was also released on the occasion.

Tura MP, Conrad K. Sangma and MLA of Bokajan, Assam, Numal G. Momin were among others who also addressed the gathering on the occasion. The day-long celebration was also marked by laying of wreathes at the late leader's cemetery and performance of cultural dances, patriotic songs and entertainment by various groups and artists.

First political leader among the Garos, Sonaram Sangma organized the Garo people living in the then Garo Hills and Goalpara districts of erstwhile Assam and led thenon-violent movement against the British Raj. He died on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 and was buried at the Bakrapur Christian Cemetery which presently falls under Goalpara district of Assam.

## CM inspects Shillong Civil Hospital



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma visited the Shillong Civil Hospital on August 26 and inspected the different units and also met and interacted with some of the patients in the hospital.

After inspecting the hospital, the Chief Minister felt the acute shortage of surgeons and anesthetists and the need to strengthen the manpower. He called for immediate construction of the proposed Shillong Medical College and informed that construction and infrastructure for Reid Chest Hospital at Umsawli would be completed in the next three months. He also said that the 300 posts of nurses sanctioned by the Government three years ago but are still pending due to certain litigation. He, however, assured that the matter would be reviewed and necessary steps would be taken to fill the vacancies at the earliest.

The Chief Minister was of the view that Shillong Civil Hospital can be expanded to accommodate about 600 beds and that the hospital must be upgraded to a referral centre for all medical facilities in different parts of the State.

After visiting the Oncology unit of the hospital and seeing the patients wanting to leave the hospital without completing treatment, the Chief Minister said patients suffering from cancer or TB have to be hospitalized for long period of time and should be housed in spaces designed to be like second homes like that of a sanatorium where patients can recuperate without feeling homesick.



## State-wide mass bamboo plantation launched CM looks at adopting new approach for bamboo plantation



With the objective to take forward the Green Economy concept of the State Government in a more aggressive manner, a state-wide Mass Bamboo Plantation was launched by Agriculture & Horticulture departments with the involvement of all the Village Employment Councils (VECs) in all the C&RD blocks and the district administrations across the State on August 29.

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma kicked off the bamboo plantation at Betasing C&RD block in South West Garo Hills and also planted bamboo saplings. He also made a token distribution of bamboo saplings to selected farmers on the occasion. Including bamboo varieties like *Dendrocalamus Giganteus* and *Dendrocalamus Asper*.

From Betasing, the Chief Minister proceeded to Gongglanggre village under Selsella C&RD Block in West Garo Hills district and joined in the bamboo plantation there.

In his address, the Chief Minister said this mass bamboo plantation is not a new scheme and that it is more of a programme of adoption of new approach in a convergence mode as the scheme had been launched last year under Horticulture Mission to promote Agar & Bamboo plantation aimed at promoting sustainable livelihood as well as sustainable ecology. Stating that bamboo has always been the way of life of the tribal people and that it is not something new, the Chief Minister however said the government has given special thrust on bamboo to fill the demand and supply gap and create opportunities "in our own backyard". Despite being an agrarian country we are still importing bamboo for various purposes like paper mills and making incense sticks, besides other things, he said.

Highlighting the importance of bamboo, the number of activities associated with it and how it can be a raw material for various industries, the Chief Minister said that amazing things can happen when our natural resources are utilized

in a scientific approach and spoke of the proposal to create additional value of bamboo by producing bio-fuel from this wonder plant.

As part of the Mission Green, he said the bamboo plantation should also be done along the roads and that maintenance of different stretches of the roads should be given to communities, schools, clubs, etc, "because only when communities are involved, the forests that we create can be sustained", he added.

Stating that there are over five lakh job card holders in the State under MGNREGS, the Chief Minister was of the view that if all these families were involved in the plantation they could be able to create an aggregated impact. He also announced additional funds from the Government to those VECs who make schemes for livelihood so as to generate competition among the villages and to build stronger partnership with the communities for proper use of natural resources. He urged upon all the communities and stakeholders to extend their complete support and cooperation to the endeavor of Government to make all villages clean and green and the most liveable ones.

On queries about the weightage being given by the Government on construction of roads via Ampati, Dalu, Ranikor etc, the Chief Minister said that these roads once developed would become trans-nation business corridor for the entire North East region.

A total of 5,92,800 bamboo saplings were distributed and planted across 39 blocks of the State on the occasion.

At Samanda block in East Garo Hills, the inaugural programme for mass bamboo plantation on Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura road was attended by Parliamentary Secretary in-charge PHE, Noverfield Marak in the presence of departmental and other district officials, who also distributed saplings to the eight VECs from the block.

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"The sky is yours if you have a goal. The sky is the limit if you have a clearly defined purpose or aim. If you have a purpose and an aim you will master the difficulties that come your way" he said while motivating the students and all gathered. He further stressed that education is not merely an accumulation of facts since it provides one the opportunity to train one's mind, to think, and to analyse what is right and wrong.

Ms. Bertha Gyndykes Dkhar, herself an epitome of courage and determination, in her Convocation Address stated that as one strives towards a goal, one is bound to encounter challenges and obstacles. "Challenges are barriers that come from within the person as well as from outside" she said while encouraging the graduates to overcome the barriers in their path towards a goal.

She also urged upon the graduates to put into practice what they have imbibed and learnt from the university. "You are walking out with something precious, something priceless which can't be stolen, something which can multiply and become fruitful only if you put it into practice", she said.

She further called upon the graduates to try and cultivate life skills for themselves, to make a name in order to be the pride of the institution by making optimum use of the opportunities on offer to them.

Ms. Bertha also urged upon all gathered to help create an inclusive learning and working environment so that the marginalised and disadvantaged can access the opportunities on offer. She called also, upon all concerned to adopt the principle of love and compassion for all.

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a promise made by the local MLA to the people of his constituency three years ago, as the students of the area had to come to Shillong or other urban centres to pursue their higher studies due to absence of institution for higher education in the area. The college has been named after HDR Lyngdoh's grandmother and the classes for the first batch of students started on July 21 this year. The college is being affiliated to Shillong College for the first semester as it is still awaiting the permission and affiliation from NEHU.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Minister congratulated the people of Sohiong for the wonderful initiative that would generate a lot of hope for the young generation and expressed his joy that there are many such selfless, dedicated leaders amongst them who have started such institutions in the area.

Stating that the situation of overcrowding in urban centres was due to the absence of institutions for higher education in rural areas, the Chief Minister stressed the need to have more and more colleges or higher secondary schools to cater to

the feeder schools and spoke of the government's concerted efforts to open more institutions of higher studies to ensure that students of rural areas go for higher studies.

Inauguration of Sohiong as C&RD Block within this year and sanction of Rs.30 crore for a shopping complex in Sohiong were some of the announcements made during the programme.

Shri. H.D.R Lyngdoh, who is the founder-president of the college, in his address said that the objective of HDR educational trust was for transforming the lives of the people and building the intellect of the young generation of the area.

Co-Chairman of State Planning Board John F. Kharshiing who was the guest of honour on the occasion, spoke of the vision of the college, whose motto is "Knowledge, Wisdom, Virtue" and informed about the computer course which had been started in the college campus six months ago.



## Deputy Chief Minister lays base school building under ADB project



Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister, Incharge Education, Prof. R C Laloo laid the foundation stone for construction of new school building for Mt. Sinai Government Aided Secondary School, Tura under the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded project - "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya" on August 26.

It may be mentioned that this ambitious project focuses on improvement of secondary education, infrastructure and skill development. Under the project, scores of government-aided secondary and higher secondary schools in the State are being upgraded with the kind of infrastructure to improve the overall learning environment for the students. Altogether, five schools have been selected under this project in West Garo Hills out of which Hawakhana and Wadanang Secondary Schools have already started implementing the project and two more schools are yet to implement the same.

Stating that education is one of the most essential factor in a person's life, Prof. R C Laloo enlighten the students about the importance of education, duties and responsibilities of the students and urge them to study well so that they can become productive and distinctive citizens of the society.

Pointing to the presence of more girl students in almost every school in the state, he appealed the parents as well as the teachers of the school concerned to find out the reasons behind and work it out accordingly. Moreover, Prof. Laloo requested the teachers concerned to attend their everyday classes with preparation and update with the present technology so as to respond to the student's queries easily and efficiently.

Speaking at the function as the Guest of Honour, Parliamentary Secretary in charge Education, Shri W D Sangma stated that knowledge can break all barriers synchronizing with the motto of the school "Knowledge is power". Therefore, he urged the teachers to empower and equipped the students with skills and

knowledge for molding them to unique individual which would further take them to greater heights.

It may be mentioned that the opening permission for Mt Sinai Government Aided Secondary School was given in the year 1999 and was later recognized by Meghalaya Board of School Education in the year 2011 and since then has been catering to the students from various parts of the area. An amount of Rupees 1.40 crore has been sanctioned for the school under this ADB funded project.

MLA and Chairman MTC, Shri Hopeful Bamon, Commissioner and Secretary, Education, Shri D P Wahlang, were among others who also spoke on the occasion.

## Award for Government Employees for excellence in Punctuality



Meghalaya Minister in- charge SAD etc Smt. Deborah C. Marak gave away Cash Awards and Certificates to 38 (Thirty eight) Government Employees in the Meghalaya Civil Secretariat as a mark of appreciation for the outstanding punctuality displayed by them during the year 2015-16 in office attendance at a function held at the Conference Room, Main Secretariat, Shillong on August 30.

The attendance was based on the reports generated from the Access Control System installed in the Secretariat by the Secretariat Administration Department.

The Award ceremony was presided over by Shri. Hector Marwein, IAS, Additional

Chief Secretary in-Charge Secretariat Administration Department etc. Also present on the occasion were Smt. R.V Suchiang, IAS, Principal Secretary Personnel & AR etc, Shri. F. R Kharkongor, Commissioner & Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs Department, officers and staff of various departments from among others.

In her brief message to the Awardees, the minister lauded their good performance and punctuality and expressed hope that they would continue to work with dedication in the interest of the people.

## Felicitation Programme held



A programme for felicitation of sports achievers in the National and Regional Tournament was held on August 29 at Indoor Sports Complex, J. N. Stadium, Polo Ground, Shillong. The programme was organised by the Department of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya. Meghalaya Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs, Shri Zenith M. Sangma graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Congratulating Smti Dolyne Kharbhih, the third person from Meghalaya and the second woman who successfully summit the Mt. Everest in May last, Shri Sangma said that in order to achieve such a feat, one must be prepared both mentally and physically. "Only a sports person knows how difficult the tournament is", he added. He also said that proper guidance, counselling and maintaining discipline is not only needed in the field of sports and games but it is also a must for everyone for the overall development of personality to excel in any field. He urged upon the sports persons to strive forward with dedication and determination to achieve the pinnacle of success.

During the felicitation programme, Shri Sangma handed over a citation and a cash award of Rs. 2 lakh to Smti Dolyne Kharbhih and also released a Coffee Table Book - "12<sup>th</sup> South Asian Games, 2016".

A total of 131 athletes from 10 sports disciplines namely, Athletics, Boxing, Kick Boxing, Rock Climbing & Mountaineering, Wushu, Taekwondo, Judo, Football, Table Tennis and Karate were felicitated during the programme.

Shri F. R. Kharkongor, Commissioner & Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs, Shri John F. Kharshiing, Working President, MSOA and other officials were also present at the felicitation programme.