

Governor inaugurates Permanent building of IGNOU Regional Centre



The Governor of Meghalaya, Shri. V Shanmuganathan on September 27 inaugurated the permanent building of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, (IGNOU) Regional Centre Shillong at NEHU, Shillong.

Speaking during the inaugural function, the Governor lauded the University for providing accessible and quality education to the masses through distance education especially to the economically weaker section of the society who could not otherwise pursue higher education through conventional education.

Stressing on the need to raise the standard of education in the country, the

Governor urged the teachers to render their services with dedication, honesty and sincerity so that India can be the global educational hub.

Other dignitaries who attended the inauguration ceremony include Prof. S K Srivastava, Vice Chancellor of NEHU, Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, Shri R. G. Lyngdoh, Vice Chancellor, MLCU, Shri M. S. Rao, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Shri D.P. Wahlang, Commissioner and Secretary, Education Department, Dr. V. Venugopal Reddy, Director Regional Services Division, IGNOU, New Delhi and Dr. A. S. Guha, Regional Director, IGNOU, Regional Centre, Shillong among others.

162nd Birth Anniversary of Jagatpurush Sree Narayana Guru observed



The 13th Annual Celebration of Sree Narayana Guru Cultural Centre (SNGCC), Shillong and 162nd Birth Anniversary of Jagatpurush Sree Narayana Guru was observed on September 24 at Assam Kristi Kendra, Shillong.

Shri A.T. Mondal, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Speaker graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in the presence of Dr. Jemino Mawthoh, MLA, Shri H. W.

T. Syiem, former Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, Prof. G.K. Sasidharan, former Vice Chancellor, University of Calicut, Shri M.K. Mohanan, President, SNGCC, Shillong among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mondal lauded the Shillong Centre for serving the society based on the philosophy of Sree Narayana Guru, a philosopher and

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Children's Film Festival evokes Huge Response in City



The final chapter of the weeklong Children's Film Festival - The Travelling Players - was held at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on September 22-23 after it kick started at Tura on September 19 last, has drawn a huge response from the young students from various schools across the city. Meghalaya Minister for Information & Public Relations, Dr. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh graced the inaugural programme as Chief Guest.

The festival was organised by the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI), Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its outreach partner Cinedarbaar in collaboration with the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Government of Meghalaya.

Addressing the school students on the occasion, Dr. Ampareen Lyngdoh focused on the amazing world of imagination that children have the ability to live and the constraints that bind them in their classrooms. Stating that children should be allowed to leave the bounds of reality to enable them to explore the possibilities of making a mark for themselves, "we need thinkers and people in the next generation who can bring about the change that we desire to see through their creative minds and imagination", she added.

She also advised the young ones against wishing to be somebody else and urged upon them to believe in the self because only then would they be able to design the future for themselves. She expressed hope that this Children's Film Festival would enable the children to enliven their imaginations and create an environment where the young

minds will bring about changes to enable the country to grow.

The aims of the festival was to inculcate in children an interest in cinema and expose young students to cinema so that they develop a keen interest in the aesthetics of film making and the art of film criticism.

Commissioner & Secretary, Information and Public Relations Department, Smti M. H. K. Marak expressed happiness to see such good response from school children, adding that the festival would continue to be an annual event and hoped that it would help to educate and motivate them in the art of film making.

Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Shri H. M. Shangpliang in his welcome address said that the aim for organising the festival is to bring about an opportunity for young minds to venture into the arena of art and film making.

North East Head of Cinedarbaar, Satya Raj Rai also spoke on the occasion. A total of 17 schools from in and around the city took part on the first day.

Two films namely, "Krish, Trish & Baltiboy" and "Kima's Lode-Beyond the Class" were screened during the first day of the Shillong leg of the festival.

Songs were also presented by the Students of St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Kiddies Corner Secondary School and St. Joseph Higher Secondary School during the inaugural programme.

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Photography Workshop and Exhibition inaugurated

Meghalaya Arts and Culture Minister, Shri R. V. Lyngdoh on September 26 inaugurated "Framing Stories", a Photography Workshop and Exhibition at the State Central Library premises. A five day workshop and exhibition cum sale was organised by the Arts and Culture Department, Government of Meghalaya. The workshop will cover various aspects and ranges of photography.

"A picture speaks a thousand words" said Meghalaya Minister, Arts & Culture, Shri R. V. Lyngdoh while delivering his speech at the inaugural programme. Stressing on the importance and the



need for exposing the young creative minds to the world of opportunities, Shri Lyngdoh said that such workshops will not only enable the photographers both amateurs and professionals to interact with each other but it will also act as a platform for them to showcase their talents and

their love for photography.

During the programme, Smti M. W. Nongbri, Director, Arts and Culture presented a memento to the Arts and Culture Minister.

World Tourism Day celebrated across the State



Shillong

The Department of Tourism along with the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Meghalaya joined hands with the rest of the world to celebrate World Tourism Day in the capital city as well as in the other District Headquarters on September 27. The theme of this year's celebration was Tourism for All – Promoting Universal Accessibility. At Shillong, the observation was held at U Soso Tham Auditorium with Shri Kennedy C Khyriem, Parliamentary Secretary, Tourism gracing the programme as Chief Guest. Others who attended the Programme were Smti. R V Suchiang, Principal Secretary, Tourism, Smti. C Kharkongor, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri Donald Ingty, Registrar, Martin Luther Christian University and Shri Carmo Noronha, Executive Director, Bethany Society. Representatives of travel agents, tours operators and hoteliers including students from management institutes, institutes for the Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) also participated in the event.

Tourism is an expanding industry and a 'passport to prosperity' and it is duty bound for us to commit towards our goal to promote and develop tourism in Meghalaya, said Shri Kennedy Khyriem in his inaugural address. Stating that everyone has the right to access leisure and tourism services on an equal basis, it is highly important that as stakeholders, we promote accessibility for all in the physical environment, in transport systems, in public facilities and services and in information and communications channels, said Shri Khyriem. This year's theme is a challenge for us to push for integration and to promote different culture and traditions and to work together to develop this industry of "great potential in terms of market and opportunities", by removing all barriers and create an environment that can cater to the needs of all of us, whether we are travelling or staying at home, said Shri Khyriem.

Smti. Suchiang, in her introductory speech, said that in tourism terms, persons with disabilities include senior citizens, mothers with small children and prams besides physical disabilities. With tourism being an intrinsic part of inclusive policy, reaching universal accessibility in tourism is a shared responsibility of all parties involved in the tourism value chain, as well as a business opportunity for companies and destinations, she said. As the State witnessed an increase of travellers every year, Smti. Suchiang said that we need to ensure that travelling is safe and seamless as possible and that the Government in collaboration with stakeholders has endeavoured to ensure that all tourists' spots are equipped with infrastructures and basic amenities inclusive for all.

Shri Noronha, in his speech, said that when a society is good for disabilities it becomes a good society, so also tourism for all promotes a better tourism. Stating that half the world population are ready to travel but still face obstacles in accessing fundamentals of travel such as reliable information, efficient transportation and public

services and a physical environment that is easy to navigate, Shri Noronha reiterated that by providing an inclusive tourism, we are promoting safety and security to all, including persons with disabilities.

To mark the day, the Chief Guest felicitated persons with disabilities who are involved in Tourism related activities. These awardees included Bashai Sohtun, instructor in Cane & Bamboo, Rihun Phawa, assistant instructor weaving, Benister Kharpor, computer instructor for the visually impaired students, Shamonlang Nongrum, assistant instructor bakery, Rambor Kurkalang, assistant instructor, tailoring, Aijinghun Kharmalki, assistant instructor, leather & rexene, The awardees are from Roilang Livelihood Academy, Bethany Society, Shillong.

Other programmes to mark the day included an exhibition cum sale of products produced by Persons with Disabilities and a workshop to sensitize the stakeholders.

At Tura, the celebration was held at Rural Tourism Resort, Chandigre nestled at the foothills of Nokrek Peak in West Garo Hills region.

Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest, Mrs. Rojalinda D Shira, Block Development Officer, Rongram C & RD Block emphasized on the importance of promoting tourism in our region by tapping the vast potentialities available



Tura

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adoption of indigenous and creative innovation. She further mentioned about the Aminda Bangso Village under Cambridge & RD Block which gained recognition recently and is attracting tourists far and wide for their impressive wood carving available in the village. Promoting tourism sector is not solely the responsibility of the government but people also have a larger role to play thereby improving the standard of living of the people, she added.

On the occasion, various competitions were also organized for the specially abled students of Monfort Centre of Education, Danakgre near Tura ahead of the world tourism day in cohesion with the theme and the prizes to the winners of these competitions were distributed by the Chief Guest at the function. Other highlights of the day were presentation of songs and spectacular drill display by the specially abled students of Monfort Centre of Education, Tura.

At Ampati, World Tourism Day was a day out for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) of South West Garo Hills district, as they enjoyed boat rides, participated in games and sports and joined in chorus singing during the celebration at Kata Beel in Norgorpara village, one of the most popular tourist spots in the district.



The day-long celebration evoked overwhelming participation of PWDs from across the district and was also participated by various district officials, Church leaders, youth bodies and students of the area. The District Sports Officer, Mr. J.P. Marak also organized games and sports for PWDs, while District Research Officer, Art & Culture dept. Ms. N.G. Momin set up a booth for those interested in learning of Garo musical instruments, as part of the celebration.

A brief but impressive function was held by the lake in the afternoon for prize distribution to the winners in the sports for PWDs and to mark the closing of the day-long celebration. The district administration was represented by EAC, Ampati Ms. D.A. Sangma as the chief guest, who in her address spoke against discrimination of PWDs and highlighted on the importance of promoting their accessibility to all places of tourist interest. All other speakers, including Joint Director, Tourism, Shillong Mr. K.M. Momin and Church leader, Rev. P.M. Sangma, echoed the same while highlighting the importance of and the need to have an inclusive approach of all in the tourism sector. One of the PWDs, Mr. P.T. Sangma, expressed his joy for being included in the celebration and said that he had a field day enjoying the boat rides and participating in the games and sports organized for them.

Meanwhile, at Khliehriat, Smt. R.S. Manners, Additional Deputy Commissioner Chief Guest on the occasion, spoke at length about the benefits of tourism in the district and of the state as a whole. In her speech, she mentioned that tourism is meant for everyone to enjoy, right from parents and families, young children to differently abled people. People must make use of opportunities in tourism to promote social and economic welfare and develop the district as a whole. A drawing and painting competition was held on the occasion and prizes were distributed to the winners.

World Tourism Day was also observed at Baghmara, the head-quarter of South Garo Hills district where Deputy Commissioner, South Garo Hills, Mrs. S N Marak graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



Khliehriat

Bye Election to the KHADC, JHADC on 13th December, 2016

The Commissioner & Secretary, District Council Affairs Department, Government of Meghalaya has informed that the Bye Elections to the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council for the 8 - Nongkrem, 15 - Laban - Mawprem, 22 - Nongspung - Sohiong, 23 - Mairang - Nongkhlaw, 24 - Pariong - Mawthadraisahan and 28 - Rambrai - Jyrngam Constituencies in the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and 1 - War - East Constituency in the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council will be held on 13-12-2016.

He further informed that the date for publication of draft Electoral Roll will be on 10-10-2016, last date of filing claims and objections on 25-10-2016, disposal of claims and objections on 15-11-2016, publication of Final Electoral Roll on 18-11-2016, date for calling the constituencies to elect their Representatives on 21-11-2016, last date for filing of Nomination on 28-11-2016 (before 3:00 PM), date of Scrutiny of Nomination Papers on 28-11-2016 (after 3:00 PM), last date for withdrawal of Nomination Papers on 01-12-2016, date of finalization and publication of valid nomination and allocation of symbol on 03-12-2016, hours of commencement and close of poll from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM and date of counting on 16-12-2016.

Notice

The Superintendent of Police, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh has informed that the admit cards for the candidates who have applied for the various posts in SF-10 will be available from 27th September, 2016 at Police Reserve Nongpoh. All candidates who have submitted their application at Nongpoh are requested to collect the Admit Card and to bring along the temporary Admit Card issued to them at the time of submitting the form and for those candidates who had lost their temporary Admit Card if any, are requested to produce with the police report for claiming the same.

Notification

In compliance with the Order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the Weighbridge of Amsarin near Sohkh Model (Village) Jowai-Dawki Road, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya has been notified to issue weighment certificates to all goods laden vehicles that pass through the weighbridge for a period of one year and until further orders. This was informed by the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Transport Department.