



## Impressive passing out parade of first batch SF- 10 commandos held

The first batch SF-10, including 223 commandos and 115 rangers, took part in an impressive Passing out Parade after completion of six months of their Basic Training and three-and-a half months of Special Commando Counter Insurgency Course at APTC, Mawiong on October 5.

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma took the salute as the chief guest, while four platoons of commandos and two platoons of rangers marched past to the accompaniment of one brass band and one pipe band of 1<sup>st</sup> MLP battalion, in the presence of the Council of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, senior police officials, government officials and family members of the passing out cadets at the 1<sup>st</sup> MLP Battalion Parade Ground. After the parade, they took the oath which was administered by the Commandant of 1<sup>st</sup> MLP Battalion. During the pipping

ceremony, the Chief Minister and respective family members of the commandos also put badges on their uniforms.

Congratulating the young men and women who passed out after months of specialized training, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that they are now ready to take up the most challenging task of serving the state and the nation, saying they were no less than any other forces across the globe. This event is a reminder of the government's commitment to infuse a sense of responsibility among the citizens to be self-regulating and create a system that itself would be a deterrent to perpetration of crimes, he said.

Stating that the whole aspect of governance is invariably linked to the law of the land, the Chief Minister reiterated that self-regulation comes only when the

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan observed

To commemorate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the launch of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the District Administration, East Khasi Hills in collaboration with the Dorbar Syiem Hima Myllem undertook a cleaning drive at Iewduh, Shillong on October 2. The programme was sponsored under the Chief Minister's Youth

for Green Campaign.

The Governor of Meghalaya, Shri V. Shanmuganathan graced the inaugural function as the Chief Guest in the presence of Smti Roshan Warjri, Health and

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## Chief Minister visits Iewduh



Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma, visited Iewduh market, the largest and Coldest traditional market in Meghalaya and the hub of trade and commerce on October 29.

Speaking to the gathering, Dr Mukul M Sangma said that the pride and legacy of Iewduh must be carried forward and all action plans should pave way for the prosperity of the people. He also added that Hima Myllem will be supported by the government to make the market befitting to its legacy.

He also said that all departments of the government will be integrated to make the market not only safe and viable but also attractive but an important tourist destination of the state. He urged upon all to engage with the authorities and to take upon the improvement of Iewduh as a shared objective and responsibility.

Among others who spoke during the occasion was Minister, Urban Affairs, Arts

& Culture etc Shri. R V Lyngdoh who said that the age old market where traders from Khasi, Jaintia and Ri Bhoi Districts converge to carry out their business looked no longer like a market but a slum. He said that the need of the hour is to modernize the market in an environment friendly manner where traders can do business in a healthy and conducive atmosphere.

Also present were Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Higher & Technical Education etc Smti. Roshan Warjri, and senior officials from the district administration and Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Commerce & Industries and Urban Affairs and the Syiem of Hima Myllem and representatives and members of local bodies.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the Fish Stalls and other Stalls at Iewduh and interacted with the traders and vendors.

## CM kicks off final match as Rongkhon Premier League concludes at Tura



“Parents should encourage their children to participate in sports and games from their early age so that they grow up to be fit and productive citizens”, said Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma on the occasion of the final match of the Rongkhon Premier League, 2016 at BTC Playground, Rongkhon, on October 1.

Terming football as the most popular game among the people of the North East, the Chief Minister, however stressed the need to upscale the quality of the game and have such tournaments at various levels so that the State can become a catchment area of football players. He also announced that Mission Football, an initiative of the State Government not only to improve the skill of young football players in the State but also develop facilities and infrastructure required for holding football tournaments, would be launched shortly.

He also called upon the football clubs and other youth organizations to take advantage of the support being given by the Government through the District Sports Promotion Society in all the districts and expressed confidence that by leveraging upon “the strength that we have in sports and our rich cultural heritage we will be able to pass on their benefits to our next generations”.

Local MLA & Parliamentary Secretary, Urban Affairs, etc, Shri. Noverfield R. Marak, in his brief address, said that the special kind of interest that people of Rongkhon have in various sports activities and music, drew him to collaborate with the people of the area for having such a tournament and also informed the gathering about his plan to have a basketball tournament especially for girls from next year.

The premier league football tournament, which was jointly organized by Rongkhon Premier League Association and Rongkhon Sports Association and sponsored by local MLA Shri. Noverfield Marak, drew participation of 16 teams from different localities of Rongkhon area and while eight teams participated in the 35+ football matches.

In the final match, Combined Rongkhon thrashed Real Rongkhon 4 – 1 and emerged winners of the tournament and in the 35+ category played between Rongkhon Agal and Upper Rongkhon the former beat the latter 5 – 4.

The match was witnessed by a large crowd of people from the area and elsewhere, including local leaders as well as senior citizens.





Union Minister of Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri. Ram Vilas Paswan lighting the lamp at the Hindi Salahkar Samiti Baithak held at the State Convention Centre in the city on October 3.



Union Minister of Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri. Ram Vilas Paswan chairing the Hindi Salahkar Samiti Baithak held at the State Convention Centre in the city on October 3.

## National Seminar on “Crime against Tribal Women”



The Department of Political Science, Nongstoin College organized a two-day National Seminar on “Crime against Tribal Women” at Nongstoin College, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin on September 27-28. Dr. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh, IPR Minister graced the inaugural function as Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lyngdoh lauded the managing body of the college for holding the seminar with a view to create awareness about crime against women. She said that often crime against women is linked with illiteracy and poverty although there are many factors. Dr. Lyngdoh urged the gathering to stand and reach out to the victims who are in distress and in need of help and support.

Amongst others who spoke on the occasion were Shri. D. Jyndiang, Local MLA, Shri. S. Kharlyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills District, Shri. B. K. Laitphlang, Principal, Nongstoin College.

Resource persons for the seminar included Dr. Neelam Borwankar, Associate Professor, Deshbandhu College and Professor S. Patil, Director, Lifelong and Extension Education, Mumbai University.

Headmen, NGO's, Seng Longkmie, Police personnels and college students of West Khasi Hills and South West Khasi Hills District attended the seminar.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan observed

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Family Welfare Minister, Shri R.V. Lyngdoh, Urban Affairs Minister, Shri H. Lyngdoh, MDC, Shri Y. Tsering, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri P. S. Dkhar, Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, Shri H. M. Shangpliang, Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Shri M. Kharkrang, SP, East Khasi Hills, Paitem Ricky Nelson Syiem, Syiem Hima Myllem among others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor exhorted the efforts of individuals and various organizations who came together to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Clean India. He further said that Gandhi's life symbolized simplicity, honesty and dedication which needs to be inculcated in our day to day life. He also said that clean body, clean mind and clean surroundings are imperative for a society to progress.

The Governor said that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a mission to clean India's cities and villages launched by the Prime Minister of India inspires every section of society in every nook and corner of the country to take up cleanliness drive as a national mission.

Cleanliness is an ongoing process, therefore, he appealed to all the people involved in the day to day business at Iewduh to join hands with the Hima Myllem and the District Administration in their endeavour of keeping the market area clean.

Later, the Governor led the cleaning drive at the market which saw the active participation of all the dignitaries, NCC, Bharat Scout and Guides, NSS and students.

The highlights of the day included lighting of the lamp, paying of floral tribute to the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, Swachhta Pledge taking ceremony administered by the Governor, and a song presentation by Shri B. Kharkongor.

Earlier, Shri H. Marwein, Additional Chief Secretary along with the Commissioner and Secretaries Shri D. P. Wahlang, Shri E. P. Kharbhih and Shri T. Dkhar led the State in paying floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Main Secretariat building premises.

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citizens have knowledge of and respect for the law and expressed hope that the passing out of the first batch of SF-10 would further strengthen the police organization to live up to the expectations of the people.

Speaking about multiple challenges in dealing with the law & order situation, the Chief Minister emphasized on continuous trainings to the police forces using new and advanced technologies even after completion of their courses so that they are competent and equipped to take on new age criminals, but also the challenges of law & order situations. “There will be more inductions of similar batches of men and women to ensure that our security apparatus is one of the best”, he added.

Emotionally-charged by the occasion, the Chief Minister also expressed a deep sense of gratitude to the parents and families of the young cadets for their support and motivation and exhorted upon all to pray for these young men and women as they carry out the most challenging task of fighting the inimical forces that wage war against the country. He painfully recalled some members of the police who deserted the organization saying they were not able to insulate themselves from the designs of the evil forces. He wished that “all the angels of God Almighty” would be with the commandos as they take on their assignments and also urged upon all the citizens to be self-regulating to create a civilized society and place Meghalaya on the highest pedestal as the most civilized state in the country.

The Chief Minister also flagged off 30 SF-10 vehicles and distributed prizes to the 10 best commandos in different disciplines. The commandos also staged an ambush and counter-ambush demonstration on the occasion.

It may be mentioned that SF-10 was created as there was a need for the State to have its own specialized force to deal with counter-insurgency operations, crowd control and management during law and order situations. The counter insurgency training for the first batch personnel was coordinated by Brigadier (Retd.) W.B.J Sturgeon and were trained in armed and unarmed combats as well as other tactics for survival in both urban and jungle warfare scenarios by instructors of Army Special Forces and the Meghalaya Police.

The commandos will be deployed for anti-militancy operations while those selected for law & order would further undergo specialized training on Riot & Crowd Control to be imparted by the Rapid Action Force of the CRPF.



## Laitmysaw declared ODF village



Shri. R. V. Lyngdoh, Urban Affairs Minister and Local MLA on October 3 declared Laitmysaw as Open Defecation Free (ODF) village during the celebration of Gram Panchayat Day 2016 covering Laitmysaw, Nongpiur and Myrkhan villages at Laitmysaw village, Upper Shillong.

The programme, organized by the Office of the Block Development Officer, Myllem C&RD Block under the Chief Minister's Youth for Green Campaign was also attended by Shri. P. T. Passah, BDO, Myllem, C&RD Block, Shri. A. Langstieh, Rangbah Shnong Laitmysaw village, village elders from Laitmysaw, Nongpiur and Myrkhan villages, teachers and students.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Lyngdoh congratulated the residents of Laitmysaw village for receiving the status of ODF village which is a recognition of the tremendous efforts and cooperation of Laitmysaw and C&RD Block, Myllem in achieving this target. He also urged the people of the locality to restrain from using plastic bags and encouraged them to go back to the habit of carrying shopping bags made from cloth or jute.

The Chief Guest also administered the Swachhta Pledge to the newly formed Eco-Club comprising of school students under Myllem C&RD Block.

## Awareness on child rights and child protection held



Children in Meghalaya as compared to those in other states are still insulated from abuse and exploitation but however they are nonetheless susceptible to it without a proper safeguarding mechanism. This was stated by Salmanpara MLA & Government Chief Whip Shri. W D Sangma at a District level awareness programme on Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and Child Rights organized by the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights at Ampati on September 30. The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner in charge ADC Smti. Hazel D B Sangma, Superintendent of Police, Shri. Ramesh Singh, officers from the Police, Social Welfare Department, CDPO's, DCPO's and stakeholders from the NGOs and citizens.

Shri. Sangma who spoke as the Chief Guest emphasized on the need to educate the masses on the subject. Shri. Sangma stated that it was imperative for all stakeholders to know the new and amended Juvenile Justice Act 2015. Speaking on the Right to Education (RTE) Act, Shri. Sangma said that proper education should be ensured to every child because education is the foremost factor that can penetrate all barriers.

There is special concern when dealing with juvenile delinquents, Shri. Sangma stated and said that there was a need to identify and declare safe homes to keep them while they were being processed. He also emphasized that education for these delinquents be continued in these special homes as directed by the government. He later urged the participants to learn from the programme and utilize it to make the district a safer place for children.

NCPCR Member Shri. Yashwant Jain who also spoke at the occasion stated that it was their duty to spread awareness right down to the grass root level on laws that have been passed by the government of India for the protection of child rights. Elaborating on the amended Juvenile Justice Act 2015, Child Protection & Child Rights, Shri. Jain informed that it was mandatory to

## Open Shelter - 24 hours Crisis Management Centre Inaugurated



On September 30, Shri H. M. Shangpliang, Director and Secretary Social Welfare Department inaugurated the Open Shelter - A 24 hours Crisis Management Center for children in need of care and protection, a project run by an NGO, Reach Shillong Ministries at Nongmensong, Shillong. The programme was also attended by Shri Vivek Syiem, SP, City, Rev. R. G. Laloo, President Reach Shillong Ministries, officials from Social Welfare Department, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Shangpliang appreciated the social services rendered by Reach Shillong Ministries for the welfare of the children who are in need of care and protection which includes run- away children, street children and children in crisis who are the most vulnerable sections of society exposed to all kinds of social evil.

Shri Shangpliang expressed hope that the Center functioning 24 hours will provide immediate assistance to children who need help and will also serve as a place for the children to engage in meaningful activities that will enhance their wellbeing.

He also assured that the Social Welfare Department would extend all possible assistance and support to the Center while also appealing to the NGOs in the State to voluntary come forward to help the children in need of care and protection.

Rev. R.G. Laloo while highlighting the objectives said that the Center will provide 24 hour emergency services to children in need of care and protection, shelter from the rain and cold to homeless children living on the streets, space for children for bathing and a change of clothing, primary health care such as first aid and also to monitor the children's medication and opportunities for education and develop their potential and talent.

The Center will try to wean these children away from vulnerable situations by sustained interventions and to guide the children away from high risk and socially deviant behaviours. It will also enhance life-skills and reduce their vulnerabilities to exploitation and will reintegrate these children into families, alternative care and community.

He also added that the Center through the professional help from SANKER and other organizations will cater to individual specific needs like substance abuse, behavioural problems and socially deviant behaviours.

keep any child who has committed a heinous crime in a safe home identified and declared by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). Running such homes without prior notification to the JJB or Child Welfare Committee (CWC) is a punishable offence, he stated. Stressing on the need for parents to motivate their children in order to boost their self confidence and enable them to speak out for themselves, Shri. Jain urged all the participants to work together to create a safe and conducive atmosphere for children to thrive and flourish.

Later while visiting the Girls Shelter Home at Ampati and Boys Shelter Home at Bolsalgre near here, Shri. Jain urged the staff to dedicate their spare time and to utilize these infrastructures as centres for learning and for spreading awareness on the subject since the inmates housed there are few and far between.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were SCPCR Chairperson Smti. M Kharkongor SCPCR, Member Smti. Henriata R Marak and District Social Welfare Officer Smti. Linda J Sangma.

The resource persons for the daylong awareness session were Legal cum Probation Officer, DCPU, Ampati, Smti. Tanya Derrinchi Marak, DCPO, East Garo Hills, Williamnagar, Smti. Junnichi K Marak, SCPCR Chairperson Smti. M Kharkongor, Labour Inspector Zikzak Development Block Shri. D Hajong, Rtd Jt Director of School Education & Literacy, Williamnagar Shri. Gautam Barman and SDM&HO, Ampati, Dr. Calvaryn R Sangma.