

## Chief Minister inaugurates Integrated Craft Complex



Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma on October 27 inaugurated the Integrated Craft Complex and Craft Based Resource Centre and Raw Material Bank at Nongrim Hills, Shillong.

The Integrated Craft Complex is a combination of Craft Complex, Craft Based Resource Centre and Raw Material Bank and has been set up through collaboration between the Office of the Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Ministry of Textile, Government of India and the Department

of Commerce & Industries, Government of Meghalaya with the MIDC as the Implementing Agency.

During his Inaugural Address, the Chief Minister said that having the facility in the urban centre will help to optimally realize the potential of the craftsmen while providing an enabling environment of integrating the traditional knowledge of craftsmanship with modern scientific knowledge. The traditional skills should be blended with innovation and new concepts that will generate demand for

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## British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata calls on the Governor

The British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata, Mr. Bruce Bucknell, called on the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri. V Shanmuganathan at Raj Bhavan, Shillong on October 28 to discuss on various issues ranging from trade and commerce to education and job opportunities with special focus on Meghalaya.



## Skill Development Training for disbanded & surrendered cadres culminates in Tura



Five hundred cadres, including those from the disbanded ANVC, UALA and surrendered GNLA cadres, are all set to start their new lives as the three-month long Skill Development Programme culminated with an impressive valedictory programme at SMLC Building in Tura on October 29.

The “chief architect” of this training programme, Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma attended the function as chief guest in the presence of the Parliamentary Secretaries, Shri. Noverfield Marak and Shri. Ashahel D. Shira, South Tura Legislator Shri. John Leslee K. Sangma, Mahendraganj Legislator Smti. Dikkanchi D. Shira and Tura MDC Shri. Rupert M. Sangma and gave away the Skill Development course completion certificates to the cadres.

The team of senior police officials who have been taking care of the cadres, spiritual counselors and officials of the line departments who had been giving them training on various trades were also present and were honoured with appreciation certificates by the Chief Minister and other dignitaries.

The Chief Minister in his address termed the process a breakthrough that had been alluding us for a long time and said that it was the outcome of the sincere collective endeavour of all concerned who desired the restoration of sustainable peace in the region.

Stating that a number of contentious issues had led to many youths taking up arms, Dr. Sangma said that there was a need to address and narrow down the gap of the disparity in accessing various services in the social sector, adding that if contentious issues were not resolved “we will slip back and more problems will arise in future”.

He congratulated the cadres, particularly those who surrendered, for having the courage to “withdraw” from their respective organizations and instilled words of hope to them saying that this training programme was just a tip of the iceberg of many good things that would happen to them. He advised the cadres to use the rehabilitation package that would be given to them as “seed” money for starting their entrepreneurial ventures and called upon them to be partners with the government and send positive message to those who are still in the jungles through their success.

“When we look at opportunities available in our backyard there is no room to be poverty stricken”, the Chief Minister said adding that there is enough space available for everyone in the State and there should be no reason to go outside in search of opportunities. The Chief Minister also spoke against those people with “holier than thou” attitude who criticized the government for this initiative saying “every saint has a past and every sinner has a future”. He said the training programme was conceptualized so that these cadres can assimilate themselves in the society as productive and effective citizens and called upon the cadres to disconnect themselves with the past, become successful entrepreneurs and be a model for others.

The first of its kind in the country, the skill training programme was given to the cadres in different modules in three different designated locations and simultaneously were also given intensive sessions of psychological and spiritual counselling so as to facilitate a meaningful and worthwhile rehabilitation. The training was facilitated by IBDLP team who would continue to give these cadres a hand-holding support in their future endeavours.

## Integrated Craft Complex Inaugurated

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such products, he added. “Cane and Bamboo was not recognized as a natural resource giving remunerative returns therefore there is a need to scientifically utilize the resources available in our backyard for the optimal growth and prosperity of the state”, he said.

The Chief Minister also said that the complex will not only be a centre for training and production but also be a part of the tourism circuit where products of artisans can be displayed, as craftsmanship and tourism supplement each other. He also informed that such centres for potential partners who have the skill and creativity will be created across the state. “A single master craftsman in a village can turn the entire village into a destination, therefore such partners need to be given due importance and value by giving them the right kind of space to captivate others”, he added.

Also present on the occasion was Dr. Jemino Mawthoh, MLA, Nongthymmai who stated that the handicraft sector is one of the sectors that involve one of the oldest activities in the state of Meghalaya and is also a productive sector. He added that there is a need to capitalize on the traditional skills, practices and resources of the State. The infrastructure will help to provide gainful employment to the people of Meghalaya and also give value addition to the products of the artisans, he added.

The Chief Minister also distributed the State Award for Handicraft Artisans to Five artisans of the state. It may be mentioned that this is the first State Award Scheme for Handicraft Artisans which has been implemented for the year 2015-2016, with the aim for recognizing the outstanding achievement of the master craftsman towards the skill, technique, innovative ideas, quality meant exclusively for the handicraft products of the state.

Through this scheme it is emphasized that in a long way it will have an impact in giving inspiration to handicraft artisans of the state to make them more competitive, creative, innovative and to take the trade as a means of livelihood, by enhancing the volume of the products and thereby generate employment opportunities. The State Award Awardees will also be eligible for schemes from the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textile. Altogether 29 artisans in various crafts ranging from cane and bamboo, wood carving, water hyacinth, flower crafts etc from different districts participated for the State Awards and Five were selected as the final winners.

Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce & Industries, Shri. P W Ingty, Director, Commerce & Industries, Smti. M B Roy, Local Headman, Nongrim Hills, officials from Commerce & Industry and artisans were also present during the inaugural function.



## Ambassador of Thailand calls on CM

His Excellency Mr. Chalit Manityakul, Ambassador of Thailand to the Republic of India meeting the Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma at the latter's residence on October . Mr. Chalit Manityakul was accompanied by Mrs. Saranya Paleewongse, Minister Counsellor, Royal Thai Embassy.



# National Disaster Risk Reduction Day observed



Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister, in-charge Revenue and Disaster Management, Prof. R. C. Laloo graced the closing function of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Day 2016 as Chief Guest. The programme was organized by the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) at Yojana Bhavan, Main Secretariat, Shillong on October 29.

The programme was also attended by Shri. P. W. Ingty, Additional Chief Secretary, in charge Revenue and Disaster Management department, Shri. R. Awasthi, Director General, Civil Defence and Home Guard, Shri. P. S. Dkhar, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, DDMA, East Khasi Hills, Smti I. Mawlong, Jt. Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management and Executive Officer, SDMA, Government Officials, students and teachers from various schools and colleges of Shillong.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Laloo said that the various activities conducted across the State by the Districts and State Disaster Management Authorities for

schools and colleges will help to educate students in particular and also create public awareness on disaster risk reduction and increase their preparedness for such situations.

Prof. Laloo urged the students to lead and encourage fellow students to promote risk awareness and natural disaster reduction to every individual to take part in building more disaster resilient communities.

As part of the observation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Day 2016 various events were conducted across the State by the District and State Disaster Management Authorities for schools and colleges students such as logo competition for State Disaster Management Authority, rally, mock drills, drawing, painting, quiz, extempore speech, placard and banner competitions.

Later the Chief Guest and other dignitaries distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions organized by SDMA.

## Rashtriya Sankalp Diwas & Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Observed



Deputy Chief Minister, Prof. R. C. Laloo administering the pledge on the occasion of Rashtriya Sankalp Diwas (National Re-Dedication Day) and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) on October 31 at Rilang Building, Main Secretariat Shillong.

## Dates for Hearing of Claims and Objections

The Deputy Commissioner (Election), East Khasi Hills District, Shillong has notified the dates for hearing of Claims and Objections for Special Summary Revision with reference to 01.01.2017 as qualifying date for the following Assembly Constituencies.

For 13-Mawryngkneng (ST), the programme for hearing of Claims and Objections will be from 3.11.2016 to 15.11.2016, 14-Pynthorumkrah (GEN) from 3.11.2016 to 10.11.2016, 15-Mawlai (ST) from 3.11.2016 to 15.11.2016, 16-East Shillong (ST) from 1.11.2016 to 15.11.2016, 17-North Shillong (ST) from 4.11.2016 to 15.11.2016, 18-West Shillong (GEN) from 3.11.2016 to 9.11.2016, 19-South Shillong (GEN) from 4.11.2016 to 9.11.2016, 20-Mylliem (ST) from 4.11.2016 to 9.11.2016, 21-Nongthymmai (ST) from 3.11.2016 to 14.11.2016, 22-Nongkrem (ST) from 4.11.2016 to 14.11.2016, 23-Sohiong (ST) from 1.11.2016 to 15.11.2016, 24-Mawphlang (ST) from 4.11.2016 to 14.11.2016, 25-Mawsynram (ST) from 1.11.2016 to 15.11.2016, 27-Pynursla (ST) from 1.11.2016 to 10.11.2016 and 29-Mawkyntse (ST) from 3.11.2016 to 15.11.2016.

## Use of polythene bags banned in & around monuments banned

West Garo Hills District Magistrate, Shri. Pravin Bakshi, under section 144 CrPC, has prohibited the use of polythene bags within 300 meters away from the boundaries of historical monuments and archaeological sites in the district with immediate effect.

This order was issued in response to the directions of the Union Ministry of Culture to ensure the areas in and around historical monuments and archaeological sites are "polythene free" zones and to maintain high standards of sanitation around such areas.



## Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme 2016 Concludes



The Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme 2016 organised by the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2016 came to an end on October 31 with the Closing Ceremony which was held at J. N. Stadium, Polo Grounds. Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Shri. K. S. Kropha attended the closing programme as Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Kropha highlighted briefly on the history of our great Country, narrating to the youth the important contributions of prominent personalities such as Sardar Patel and Indira Gandhi in building a great nation like India. He also urged upon the youth of Meghalaya to contribute positively towards the society and the country as a whole. He stressed on the importance of acceptance and tolerance towards people of different religions and backgrounds and to strive towards unity in diversity.

The Meghalaya Youth Exchange Programme 2016, has given a huge opportunity for the youth of Meghalaya representing their respective Districts to learn and gain access to new ideas, perspectives, beliefs, values and new attitudes towards improving the quality of life. Keeping in mind the motto of the programme "Empowering the Youth, Powering the Nation", the youth were exposed to various life skills & career oriented programmes, there were also interactive sessions with many prominent personalities of the State such as actor Kum. Andrea Tiarang, Kum. Bansara Dhar (Archer), Shri. Eugene Niangti (Entrepreneur) etc to name a few. This Youth Exchange Program had given the youth a platform to showcase their various talents in singing, dances, quiz, debates etc.

### National Voluntary Blood Donation Day



Addl. Chief Secretary, Shri. Y Tsering presenting a token of appreciation to Voluntary Blood Donors' Organisations on the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on October 27 at Pasteur Institute, Shillong.

### Principal Secretary holds review meeting at Ampati



Principal Secretary, Planning and Chief Executive Officer, Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, Shri. R. M. Mishra held a review meeting on activities undertaken under the Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion programme (IBDLP) at Ampati Circuit House on October 28.

The Principal Secretary held a daylong interaction with District heads of line Departments including Fisheries, Social Welfare, Forests and Soil and Water Conservation from among others. During the interaction, the line Departments presented their undertakings and achievements through power point presentations and discussed on various issues impeding execution of schemes etc.

South West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Shri. C. V. D. Diengdoh, EAC Shri. D. A. Sangma and EAC Shri. F. Boro were amongst others present at the review meeting.

## Wildlife Week Celebration



The concluding function of the weeklong Wildlife Week celebration organised by the Wildlife Wing of the Forests & Environment Department was held on October 28 at Anton Hall, Laitumkhrah, Shillong. Additional Chief Secretary, Dr. Shreeranjana graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Wildlife Week is celebrated all over the country in the month of October every year with a view to preserve the fauna of India. It was first started in the year 1952 with the aim of saving the life of animals by taking some critical steps and involved planning to save animal extinction. The Government of India has established the Indian Board of Wild Life which works to improve the awareness as well as the consciousness of the Indian people towards preservation of wildlife.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Shreeranjana said that Wildlife Week is observed every year in order to remind us about our roles and responsibilities in protecting and preserving the wildlife and our environment. Lamenting on the fact that human encroachment in forest areas disturbs wildlife habitat and brings about an imbalance in the ecosystem, Dr. Shreeranjana said that valuing and having mutual respect for all living things is an important aspect of life. He urged teachers to inculcate value system to the students so that they can be respectful and compassionate towards each other and also towards nature.

Besides distribution of prizes to the students who took part in various competitions during the weeklong celebration and presentation of Wildlife Samaritan Awards to 57 individuals who were involved in saving animals in distress, the Additional Chief Secretary also presented a 'Clouded Leopard' Gallantry Award, 2016 to Shri. Dan Murphy Nongbri and his team.

A short video featuring the patrolling squad of Nongpoh Wildlife Range, Ri Bhoi District on its endeavour of saving and preserving wildlife and apprehending poachers was also screened during the function.