

INDIA'S MAIDEN CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL HELD IN CITY



The much awaited Cherry Blossom Festival, India's first ever kick-started on November 14 in the city with Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurating the festival at the Polo Grounds in the presence of Forest & Environment Minister, Shri. Clement Marak, MLA Shri. David Nongrum, Chief Secretary, Shri. K. S Kropha, Director, Institute of Bio-resources & Sustainable Development (IBSD), Government of India, Prof. Dinabandhu Sahoo, Government officials and functionaries, tourists, civil society members, students and others.

Organised by the Government of Meghalaya in association with the Institute of Bio-resources & Sustainable Development (IBSD), Government of India, the four-day festival seeks to promote Meghalaya as a favoured tourist destination to many a domestic and international tourists.

Hailing the maiden Cherry Blossom Festival to have ever been organised in the country, the Chief Minister said that the festival is a humble yet wonderful

initiative, representing one added flavour that does justice to the beauty of the wonderful state of Meghalaya.

Showing his deep appreciation for the organic look that the festival wore, Dr. Sangma said that the festival was beautifully conceptualised and also expressed his shared sense of optimism as the State celebrated the country's first ever festival of its kind.

Recalling the recent accolade of Meghalaya bagging pole position amongst States (Small States) on Environment at the India Today State of the States Conclave held at New Delhi, the Chief Minister took the occasion to applaud all the stakeholders including the public, for being instrumental in realising the feat that the State has achieved, while also stressing that the Government is trying to convince the people to connect livelihood with nature conservation and that with the unique, exclusive resources in our own backyard, the Government shall continue to strive towards achieving sustainable livelihood and prosperity for the people of the state.

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39TH 100 DRUMS WANGALA FESTIVAL HELD AMIDST FANFARE



The 39th Annual Hundred Drums Wangala Festival was inaugurated on November 11 at Asananggre, West Garo Hills, near Tura by the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri. V. Shanmuganathan.

It may be mentioned that the Wangala is the most significant post harvest festival of the Garos generally held in the second week of November every year. It is a Thanksgiving ceremony to Misi Saljong also known as Pattigipa Rarongipa (The Great Giver) for having blessed the people with rich harvest of the season.

In his inaugural address, the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri V. Shanmuganathan stated that India right from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanya Kumari comprises of vibrant, colorful and multi-cultural festivals and Wangala festival being one of these festivals.

Observing that the Garo people are agrarian in nature, the Governor appealed

to the people of the area especially those belonging to the agrarian sector including the members of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council and government officials to plan and work together to make the agricultural sector more attractive where more people can earn their living independently.

Moreover, the Governor also lauded the unique and wonderful community life of the Garos in which they help each other both in times of family crisis and also during happy occasions like marriages when the whole clan helps in kind and cash.

Earlier in the programme, Tug of War and Garo indigenous musical instrument like Chigring, Adil, etc., competitions were organized as part of the wangala festival. The inaugural ceremony was followed by Rugala Ceremony which is performed by the Nokma.

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39TH 100 DRUMS WANGALA FESTIVAL HELD AMIDST FANFARE



(Contd. from Pg. 1)

Following three days of festivities, the festival concluded on a high note on November 12 where Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma attended as Chief Guest.

Addressing a large gathering, Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma said that people from all different parts of the region have gathered together to preserve the age old traditions of the forefathers. While congratulating the founding and present members of the committee he said that such festivals not only preserve but also promote the culture of the people to the rest of the world, thus it is the responsibility of everyone to make such festivals bigger and grander, he added.

The Chief Minister also said that Wangala depicts the way of life of our ancestors that is deeply rooted to their land, nature

and environment and it is the endeavor of the government to make development initiatives that will ensure sustainable livelihood for a sustainable ecology. He also informed that tourist flow in the state has increased and the government has initiated schemes to promote Tourism with complete community involvement.

The Chief Minister also released colourful balloons to mark the colourful festival. This year the villages of Bolonggitik, Sasatgre, Wadagre, Buribra, Sadolbra, Dingnabra, Gondenggre, Bolbokgre, Dalanggre and Resanggre took part in the 100 drums festival with the winner of last year Gondenggre emerging as champions once again.

The Chief Minister on the occasion also emphasised that the Cherry Blossom Festival is one component that compliments the other attractions of the state and stated that the festival would help facilitate the branding of the state to the outside world.

The Chief Minister, at the end of the inaugural function visited stalls put up for exhibition and sale by various Government Departments, private groups and agencies and also planted Cherry saplings at the venue of the festival.

A rendition of the famous song "We are the World" by the Serenity Choir, cultural dances performed by Khasi, Garo and Jaintia troupes from among others were the added attractions of the inaugural event.

It may be mentioned that the four-day festival, held across different venues in the capital city, in addition to the exhibition cum sale and food stalls, also witnessed drawing and painting competitions, food fest, story - telling sessions, archery, traditional and western music shows, marathon and many more.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATED AT RAJ BHAVAN



Along with the rest of the country Children's Day was celebrated at Raj Bhavan on November 14. The celebration was organized by Raj Bhavan, Shillong in collaboration with the East Khasi Hills District Administration with the support from State Bank of India, Singhania Printing Press, Round Table India, Delhi Mistan and Madras Cafe, Shillong.

Meghalaya Governor, Shri. V Shanmuganathan graced the momentous occasion as Chief Guest.

In his speech, Shri. Shanmuganathan welcomed the students to the historic Raj Bhavan, stating that Raj Bhavan, Shillong is over a century old and is located amidst lush greenery. He also informed the gathering that Children's Day is celebrated on the Birth Anniversary of the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Governor also took the occasion to appeal to all parents and teachers present to strive to be role models to their wards, adding that their

every word and action has a direct influence in the lives of the children. He also urged upon the parents and teachers to give time, care, love, affection and to raise their children in such a manner that they grow up to become responsible citizens of this great nation.

Songs and dances presented by the students of K J P Girls' Higher Secondary School, Sein Jaintia Secondary School, Garo Union Secondary School, and a one act play performed by ICCR and Department of Arts & Culture, Government of Meghalaya were some of the other highlights of the celebration.

Later, Shri. Shanmuganathan also distributed trophies and certificates to the winners of the different schools who participated in the Raj Bhavan Sprint Meet, Raj Bhavan Painting Competition, Raj Bhavan Essay Competition and Raj Bhavan Speech Competition which was held on the 25th to 27th October, 2016 at J N Stadium and at U Soso Tham Auditorium premises, Shillong.



MEGHALAYA PAVILION AT IITF-2016 INAUGURATED



Meghalaya Minister for Information and Public Relations, Dr. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh inaugurated the Meghalaya Pavilion at the 36th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2016 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on November 14 in the presence of Smti. M.H.K. Marak, Commissioner and Secretary, Information & Public Relations Department, Smti M. N. Nampui, Director of Information & Public Relations, Smti S. R. Marak, JRC, Meghalaya House, New Delhi, officials from different departments and entrepreneurs participating in the IITF-2016.

Earlier, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the fortnight long Fair held from 14th to 27th November, 2016 organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) at a function held at Hamsadhwani Theatre, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Dr. Lyngdoh while inspecting the various stalls of the State Pavilion expressed her happiness to observe that the look of the Meghalaya pavilion worked well as per the theme of IITF 2016 which is "Digital India".

The Departments representing Meghalaya at the IITF includes Agriculture, Horticulture, Commerce & Industries, Tourism, Cooperative Societies, Sericulture and Weaving, Information Technology and Communication, MHHDC, MKVIB and Directorate of Information and Public Relations as the nodal Department. Apart from Government Departments, 17 units sponsored by different departments drawn from various parts of the State also participated in the Fair for promotion and display of their indigenous products.

THE 63RD ALL INDIA COOPERATIVE WEEK CELEBRATION



The 63rd All India Cooperative Week Celebration under the theme "Role of Cooperatives for Sustainable Development and Growth" was inaugurated by Smti Roshan Warjri, Meghalaya Minister for Cooperation in presence of Shri D. Jyndiang, local MLA on November 14, at New Nongstoin Playground, Nongstoin.

The week-long programme is being organised by the Cooperation Department, Government of Meghalaya along with the State Level Cooperative Federation.

Addressing the inaugural function, Smti Warjri said that hard work, understanding among members and cooperation are the main keys to success in any cooperative society. She added that the week-long celebration is an ideal occasion to showcase the success stories of cooperatives both at the national

and state level. She also said that the cooperative model is based on a strong rural based model where cooperatives are strengthening the rural economy and providing a strong base for production of goods based on local technologies.

Other highlights of the day included release of booklets and brochures on cooperatives, launching of Seven Integrated Village Cooperative Societies and handing over of Certificates of Registration and cheques to Seven Integrated Village Cooperative Societies and handing over of the vehicle under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to Shri S. Rashier, Headman, New Nongstoin. Later in the day, the Cooperation Minister also inaugurated the District Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centre, a collaborative entity set up by MIE and cooperation department under the aegis of IBDLP.

PWD MINISTER VISITS VELLORE MEGHALAYA HOUSE



Minister for PWD (Buildings) etc, Dr. M. Ampareen Lyngdoh accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary, Shri. Brigady N. Marak and officials of the department visited the Meghalaya House – Spring of Hope Apartments at Vellore on November 12.

Dr. Lyngdoh and Shri. Marak formally opened the newly constructed kitchens and also inspected the apartments with a view to develop them to suit the needs of the occupants, most of them who come for treatment at C.M.C. Hospital, Vellore.

Dr. Ampareen Lyngdoh said that the department would be working on improving all the Meghalaya Houses in all the metropolitan cities, including New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and added that Vellore Meghalaya House was particularly important as it was a home away from home for the patients coming from the State. She further informed about her plan of setting up a vertical building to accommodate more patients and relatives coming to Vellore. She also interacted with some of the occupants and requested them to send in suggestions on which areas of the apartments and services required attention and improvement.

36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MPA HELD



The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Meghalaya Pensioners Association (MPA) was held on November 15 at the Seminar Hall, State Central Library, Shillong. Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Y. Tsering graced the inaugural programme as Chief Guest.

The Additional Chief Secretary, while congratulating the initiatives taken up by the MPA for the active role in organising awareness campaigns and seminars on the hazards of drugs, HIV/AIDS and other social evils, said that senior citizens are the most respected people of the society, a role model in nation building and an inspiration for the younger generation. Shri Tsering also informed that the Pensioners Adalat will be organised in collaboration with the MPA to address various issues faced by the pensioners and

also for the speedy settlement of the pension cases.

Earlier the General Secretary, MPA, Shri G. W. Syngai presented the annual report of the MPA. Working President, MPA, Shri T. D. Khonglah delivered the welcome address while Vice-President, MPA, Shri H. S. Sohlang proposed the vote of thanks. Members of the Meghalaya Pensioners Association from other Districts of the State were also present at the meeting.

Presentation of the Accounts and Budget of the MPA by the Treasurer, MPA, presentation of replies to the Questionnaire and Memorandum to the Fifth Meghalaya Pay Commission 2016, election of new office Bearers for 2017-2018 and obituary references were the other highlights of the Business Session that followed the inaugural programme.

GOVERNMENT TAKES STOCK ON EFFECTS OF DEMONETISATION

The Chief Secretary of Meghalaya Shri. K. S. Krophia convened a meeting on November 14 with the officers of RBI, all the major banks and the Postal Department to review the position of remittance/funds received by various Banks in the State and the measures they are taking to ensure adequate availability of money in the state for smooth functioning of the economy.

During the meeting, it was informed that the State has received adequate amount in the denomination of rupee 2000 notes. The state government will further take up the matter with the Government of India to ensure that the smaller denomination notes are sufficiently available so that the common public does not face hardship. The Banks also informed that the pressure at the exchange counters has eased substantially and the situation should stabilize over the next few days. They also assured that they will try to keep maximum number of ATMs functional.

The Post Master General has been advised to utilize the existing network of 68 numbers of Sub Offices in the state particularly to cater to the rural areas. The State Bank of India (SBI) was advised to ensure adequate availability of funds to the Department of Post for the purpose.

The Chief Secretary also advised the Banks to explore the possibility of having Mobile Units for distribution/exchange of money. The Banks were asked to tie up with the Office of the Deputy Commissioner(s) for disbursement/ exchange of money in the rural areas especially on the market days. Adequate security will be provided to the Banks for the purpose by the state Govt.

The Chief Secretary further informed that the Government is taking all possible measures to ensure that the public is not put to any inconvenience during this transition period.

HIGH COURT ORDER ON HAWKERS

The Deputy Commissioner East Khasi Hills District has informed that in compliance with the Judgment and Order dated 11/11/2016 of the Hon'ble High Court passed in WP(C). No. 229/2015, the District Administration, East Khasi Hills District and the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Shillong Municipal Board, Shillong shall depute Magistrates, Police & Officials to oversee that footpaths and main roads are free from hawking business. It is therefore advised that hawkers shall immediately vacate the footpaths and main roads, failing which legal proceedings shall be initiated.

E-ADMIT CARD FOR THE POST LDA-CUM -TYPIST

The Deputy Commissioner & Chairman, District Selection Committee, West Jaintia Hills has informed that the District Selection Committee will conduct the Written Examination for the Post of LDA-cum-Typist on 26th November, 2016. It is further informed that call letters via post office will not be issued to the candidates. Instead E-admit cards will be made available to the candidates and they are to download the same from the [website: www.westjaintiahills.gov.in/dsc.html](http://www.westjaintiahills.gov.in/dsc.html).

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MANAGING YOURSELF AND LEADING OTHERS CONCLUDES



Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Shri F. R. Kharkongor handing over a certificate to one of the participants of a workshop during the valedictory function of a two-day National Workshop on "Managing Yourself and Leading Others" organised by the Department of Management, Shillong College on November 10 at the Conference Hall, Shillong College, Shillong.