

Base for greater Ampati water supply scheme laid, handicrafts training programme launched



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma laid the base for the Greater Ampati Water Supply Scheme at the Ampati Public Health Engineering (PHE) Division Complex on November 18. Dr. Sangma also launched the Handicraft Training Programme being organized by the Department of Commerce and Industries for the district. The Chief Minister was accompanied by PHE Minister Shri. Prestone Tynsong and Mahendraganj MLA Smti. Dikkanchi D Shira.

The Greater Ampati Water supply scheme (WSS) is an ambitious project conceptualized by Dr. Sangma to meet the demand of potable water for the people of South West Garo Hills in general and Ampati in particular. The project with an estimate of Rs 139 crores was sanctioned under the Special Plan Assistance (SPA) and work is slated to commence from the month of December this year. The project itself is massive and includes laying of 350 mm thick pipeline for 60 kilometers starting from the tapping base at Balka wari around 5kms from Tura till Banduraja around 7kms from Ampati. The pipeline will cover 74 villages enroute to the storage tanks and will benefit 79 villages altogether.

Addressing the gathering the Chief Minister expressed his happiness at being

able to meet the 'expectations and aspirations' of the people of the region. Speaking on the need for conservation and protection of water catchment areas, Dr. Sangma stated that misuse of resources will negate the initiatives for sustainable development and declared the need for authorities to take care of water resources.

He informed that the Government has undertaken a comprehensive endeavour to harness maximum benefit of water resources and termed the WSS as a green project which will serve as a cornerstone for all other similar projects, to be initiated wherever possible all over the state in the days to come. Speaking on the new initiative of the government to stock water in negative spaces along river basins, Dr. Sangma said that these stocks would be used to irrigate and recharge rivers. He later announced that Rs 300 crores has been sanctioned for a project to restore the Daru river through irrigation.

PHE Minister Shri. Prestone Tynsong while lauding the leadership of Dr. Mukul Sangma, stated that under his guidance the state has seen several major reformative changes. He informed that the scheme would greatly benefit the people of the region.

ASSAM REGIMENTAL CENTRE CELEBRATES PLATINUM JUBILEE



The Assam Regimental Centre celebrated its Platinum Jubilee on November 16 at Raj Bhavan with Meghalaya Governor, Shri V. Shanmuganathan gracing the momentous occasion as Chief Guest.

On the occasion the Governor unveiled a commemorative plaque in the presence of Lieutenant General Subrata Saha and also released the 3rd Volume of the history book titled, The Indomitable Rhino Warriors of India's North-East - History Of The Assam Regiment.



Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn calls upon Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma during her visit to Shillong on November 23.



Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister, Prof. R. C. Laloo administering the National Integration Pledge during the observance of Quami Ekta Week at the Main Secretariat Building premises on November 18.

INDIA'S 1ST CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL ENDS ON A COLOURFUL NOTE



The concluding function of India's First Cherry Blossom Festival, organized by Government of Meghalaya (spearheaded by Forests and Environment Department) in association with Institute of Bioresources & Sustainable Development (IBSD), a National Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India came to an end on November 17 at Polo Ground, Shillong. Meghalaya Minister for Forests & Environment, Shri Clement Marak graced the concluding programme as Chief Guest.

The four day festival, which started on November 14, 2016 coinciding with Children's Day attracted tourists from several countries and different parts of India.

Addressing the gathering, Shri. Clement Marak said that the festival has brought

happiness and joy to nature lovers and has further enhanced the image of the State as a world class tourist destination. He also informed that the festival will be celebrated in a more vibrant and colourful manner in the years to come.

Earlier the Forests & Environment Minister handed over the certificates to the winners of the Photography competition held as part of the festival. Parliamentary Secretary, Shri Sengnam Marak, Additional Chief Secretary, Dr. Shreeranjana, Shri C. P Marak, PCCF (T), Shri C. Budnah, PCCF & HOFF, Shri A. K. Srivastava, Addl PCCF (SF & Env.) & Nodal Officer, Cherry Blossom Festival and senior government officials were also present at the concluding function.

Cultural programmes, performances by Serenity Choir, DJs and different bands also added colour to the programme.

One Day Awareness Programme on "Importance of Fish in Diet"

As part of the World Fisheries Day celebration, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research North Eastern Centre for North Eastern Hill Region, Umiam, Department of Fisheries, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong and Office of the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills organised a one day awareness programme on "Importance of Fish in Diet" in the Conference Room, DC's Office, Jowai on November 21.

The function was inaugurated by the Director of Fisheries, Shri Ram Singh who graced the occasion as Chief Guest in the presence of West Jaintia Hills Deputy Commissioner, Shri. Arunkumar Kembhavi and Principal Scientists, Senior Scientist of ICAR Kochi and Umiam, as well as Project Director, DRDA and the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE), among others. The smoked fish farmers from Umladkhur and Thangbuli were also present for the awareness programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Ram Singh, Director of Fisheries reminded the gathering on the importance and significant role of fishery resources, the benefits and nutrients a person

gets from fish which is vital for day to day life. He said seafood proteins are very healthy and can be taken daily to have a healthy body and healthy mind. Later the Chief Guest released the CIFT Publication and distributed fish seedlings to the farmers.

Shri. Arunkumar Kembhavi, Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills in his address, appreciated the CIFT teams from Kochi for bringing modern technology and installing the community Smoking kilns at Umladkhur and Thangbuli and demonstration of smoke-curing of fish in a scientific and hygienic method on November 19, 2016.

During the technical sessions, Dr. Suseela Mathew, gave an overview on the Role Of Fish And Fish-Based Functional Foods In Nutrition, Dr. M. M. Prasad, spoke on Health Hazard Bacteria In Fish And Control Measures while Dr. S. K. Das gave an overview on Traditional Fishing Practices And Advanced Technologies for North Eastern States Of India. Dr. K. K. Asha spoke on Malnourishment and The Importance Of Fortification.

Later, the Director of Fisheries, Shri. Ram Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Shri. Arunkumar Kembhavi and the team from ICAR-CIFT, Kochi released fish seedlings at Thadlaskein Lake.



Public hearing on crime against women & children held



A public hearing on crime against women and children was organized at Ampati by the Meghalaya State Commission for women (MSCW) on November 16. Hundreds of women and students from all over South West Garo Hills came to attend the first ever public hearing held at the Deputy Commissioner's office conference hall.

During the public hearing MSCW Chairperson Smti. T. Phanbuh expressed concern over the escalating instances of crime against women and children in the state. There is an immediate need to assess and determine the cause of this alarming trend she stated. Explaining the aims and objectives of the public hearing, she said that the Commission was established to deal with the complex issues women face in their daily domestic and professional life. In view of the increase in offences against women and children the Commission has adopted training of trainers for women support groups who will in turn weed out ignorance and empower women by educating them of their rights, informed Smti. Phanbuh.

Speaking on various programmes undertaken by the Women's Commission to sensitize the populace on crime against women she urged the participants to lend support to field workers engaged in collecting data at the grass root levels.

South West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Shri. Cyril V. D. Diengdoh during his address highlighted the various interventions undertaken by the district administration in regard to crimes against women and children. He stated that these interventions were taken up to provide equal rights to the underprivileged sections of the society and especially women and children. Shri. Diengdoh informed that a District Level Task Force had been established to expedite cases pertaining to crimes against women and children. An internal complaints committee established to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace has also been set up, he stated. On economic empowerment the Deputy Commissioner said that special trainings for weavers belonging to women groups and SHGs are being given under the Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion programme.

Shri. Diengdoh also informed that mass door to door campaign covering 1600 households was undertaken by the District Legal Services Authority recently to educate the people on their rights. He also opined that there was a need to strengthen the investigative wing of the police department.

Model Code of Conduct

In view of the upcoming Bye-Election, 2016 to the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, the District Council Affairs Department have issued instructions to be strictly followed by all concerned contesting candidates/political parties in the interest of free and fair elections.

The respective Deputy Commissioners and Returning Officers shall regulate the number of vehicles allowed to be utilized by contesting candidates and permission for use of loud speakers/P.A. System etc., by keeping in mind the spirit of the Election Commission of India's Model Code of Conduct on the matter.

The Order also states that no fresh release of funds under the MLAs' Local Area Development Fund and MPs' Local Area Development Fund (whether Central or State scheme) shall be made by any Department till the completion of the election process. No work, for which the work orders had been issued but the work has actually not started in the field before the issue of the Notification for calling the constituencies to elect their representatives under Rule 126 (1), should be started. Such work(s) can be started after the completion of the election process. However, if the work has actually started, this can continue.

Ceremonies for laying of foundation stones

and announcement of any new schemes funded under the State Plan in respect of the Districts comprised within the Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills Districts should be kept on hold till the election process is over. Announcement of any new schemes to be implemented by the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council or award of any contract, settlement of any agreement with any party(ies) etc., should be kept on hold till the completion of the Election process.

The above instructions shall be applicable only in the areas falling in the District Council Constituency/Constituencies going for bye-election and not in the entire District(s) in which such constituency(ies) is situated.

Use of Official Government vehicles/official vehicle allotted to CEMs/EMs/Chairman etc., of the KHADC and JHADC by contesting candidates is strictly prohibited during the period after the announcement of the election till the election process is over. Further, it has also been decided that cash money in excess of Rs. 50,000 (Rupees fifty thousand) only to be carried by contesting candidate or their supporters shall be confiscated.

These orders will take effect from 21st November, 2016.

Notice

The Deputy Commissioner (Supply) East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat has directed all shopkeepers and traders not to take advantage of the common man and to sell all essential commodities and medicines to any customer without any conditions imposed on the customers.

The notice has been issued in view of the complaints received from Hima Sutnga, Youth Federation Sutnga that some shopkeepers and traders are taking advantage after the demonetization of currency by the Government. After demonetization, banks have issued new notes and smaller old denomination to the people but it appears that some individual(s) is/are hoarding smaller change preventing circulation in the market and that shopkeepers and traders are creating more problems in spite of the fact that smaller denomination is in short supply which in turn creates more hardship to the common man in the market.

Further, all are instructed to use and accept soiled notes of Rs 100 (Hundred) denominations and below till the supply of new notes are available. Any lapses on the part of the shopkeepers, traders and customers, stern action shall be taken by the Deputy Commissioner (Supply) East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat according to the Law.

Any violations by persons should be reported to the Deputy Commissioner (Supply) East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat immediately without further delay.

Rice under NFSA & AAY released

The Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Khasi Hills has informed the public consumers of East Khasi Hills that Rice under NFSA 2013 for Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has been released and will be distributed through the respective Fair Price Shops for the month of November 2016 for Urban & Rural in the scale and rate of 35 kgs per card @ Rs 3.00/- per kg for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and 5 kgs per head @ Rs 3.00/- per kg for Priority House Holds (PHH).

All Fair Price Shop dealers of the District are hereby requested to lift the allotted quota of rice immediately and to arrange the distribution to the beneficiaries. They are also requested to display the list of AAY beneficiaries in their shop.

Any non supply or overcharging of rate and supply of inferior quality of rice by the Fair Price Shop Dealers should be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Khasi District, Shillong.

Order under Section 144 CrPC

The District Magistrate, East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat has issued an order under Section 144 CrPC prohibiting fresh mining of coal in the entire District until further orders by the Supreme Court/National Green Tribunal. Illegal transportation of coal i.e, all coal laden truck should possess transportation challan, royalty challan and other related documents and rampant dumping of coal on the road side along the National Highway-44 and PWD roads is prohibited.

The Order also prohibits assembly of Persons or Groups of people and carrying of arms and lethal weapons that may likely to cause injury, except for the security forces.

Anyone, if detected or found violating the above stipulated conditions, stern action will be taken against them as per provisions of the Law. (These will include coal mines owners, Laborers, Truck owners, Drivers etc).

The order has been passed in view of the information received that mining of coal is still being carried out in the District and that rampant dumping of coal along the roadside of NH-44 and PWD roads is still continuing.

This Order shall come into force with immediate effect and until further orders.

List of Polling Stations

The Returning Officer & Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills District, has provided and published for 28-Rambrai Jyrngam District Council Constituency of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, the Polling Stations specified in the list appended for the sections and group of voters noted against each.

The list can be inspected in the office of the Returning Officer & Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills District.