

## Aids & assistive devices distributed to PWDs in Tura 'Celebration of Int'l Day for PWDs a display of true convergence'



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma has stated that the celebration of International Day for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) was a display of true convergence and expressed his deep sense of gratitude to the partners, several government organizations and banks for coming together to aggregate their resources for the cause of differently abled people.

The Chief Minister shared these thoughts while participating in the celebration organized by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under ADIP scheme at Montfort Centre of Education, Tura, on December 3, where 191 beneficiaries from across Garo Hills who had undergone assessment in October last were provided with aids and assistive devices like wheel chairs, smart canes, smart phones, hearing aids, etc

## Springshed Development Initiative launched



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma launched the State-Level Springshed Development Initiative on December 6 at Aminda Rangasgre, Gambagre C & RD Block, West Garo Hills in an impressive function organized by the Department of Soil and Water Conservation and Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), West Garo Hills District. The programme was also attended by Meghalaya Minister incharge, Soil and Water Conservation, Shri Ronnie V Lyngdoh as Guest of Honour.

During his address, Chief minister Dr Mukul Sangma expressed satisfaction at being able to organize the first ever State Level function at the venue which has recently been in the news for achieving Nirmal Gram Puruskar in 2011 and also for its beautiful wood carvings which has attracted people from far and wide. He further stated that the national achievements of Aminda Rangasgre village would be placed on record in the history of Meghalaya.

The Chief Minister informed that there have been issues of water problem everywhere which perhaps are the effects of climate change and ecological imbalance. Such concerns have necessitated congregating and taking resolutions for climate change by creating sustainable development to ensure sustainable ecology for the people, he added.



While mentioning about the encroachment of catchment areas which is one of the main causes for drying up of the water sources, Dr Sangma said that the most important intervention of Springshed Initiative is to map, monitor and recharge all water bodies in the state and to utilize these water resources for development of all.

Referring to the improvement of the agricultural sector in the region, the Chief Minister urged the concerned Departments to enlighten the people of the area regarding the adoption of a scientific approach and the practice of multiple cropping in order to protect and manage the quality of soil for better production. Sharing his views about the progress of the tourism industry in different parts of the state like Cherrapunjee, Mawlynnong, etc, Dr. Sangma spoke of the vast potentialities and job opportunities that the tourism industry can provide while also emphasizing on its role at improving the economic status of the people.

Shri Ronnie V Lyngdoh speaking at the function said that life revolves around water and the timing for the launch of the Springshed Initiative project was apt. Shri. Lyngdoh stated that in the past, spring water was found in abundance. However with the increase in population, spring water has either reduced drastically or is polluted or has dried up completely. Therefore, he urged the people of the region to make serious efforts to protect and preserve the



## Annual State Level Meet of All Meghalaya Adhoc Teachers Association held



The annual State Level Meet 2016 cum Felicitation Programme of All Meghalaya Adhoc Teachers Association was held at St Jerome Higher Sec School, Nongmynsong, Shillong on December 5 where Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma graced the occasion as Chief Guest while Minister in-charge, Education, Smti. Deborah Marak attended the function as Guest of Honor.

Addressing the gathering Dr Mukul M Sangma said that there are many obstacles that students face while trying to make a prospective career therefore as members of the society it is the responsibility of everyone to provide children with the necessary strength and support to overcome such obstacles. He also said that in many cases, most of the children being first generation students do not get the required handholding support from home. Stating that the state still faces the issue of achieving 100 per cent literacy, the Chief Minister said that the task ahead is for all to prepare the young ones so that they have equal opportunities to education and success.

The Chief Minister also said that it is the endeavor of the government to make the state an education hub of the country and that space and opportunities are available in the field of education in government, semi government and non-government sectors. He appealed to the teachers present to mould and motivate their students and to build their careers based on their respective ambitions and dreams. He also said that teachers need to take out time from their routine classes to talk and motivate the children to explore the opportunities available.

Earlier, Special Guest Invitee, Director of School Education, Shri. Ambrose Marak during his address said that the government has considered the proposal for the enhancement of salary of Adhoc Secondary and Higher Secondary teachers.

Smt. B. Kharumnuid, President, All Meghalaya Adhoc Teachers Association also presented a Memorandum to the Chief Minister on the occasion.

## Springshed Development Initiative launched

environment or face the adverse effects of nature in the years to come.

In his keynote address, PCCF and Dy. CEO, MBDA, Dr. S Ashutosh said that the project was a statewide initiative for rejuvenating water sources and catchment areas by creating sustainable livelihood for the people of the state. He further informed that the survey conducted by the Department on climate change in the recent years revealed rapid depletion of ground water level and water sources everywhere. Therefore, the main objective of this initiative is to ensure water security by mainstreaming scientific approaches to sustainable spring protection and management and also for rejuvenating the impaired springs, he added.

Earlier in the function, the Chief Minister also released a Booklet on Springshed Development Initiative Programme.

The two day Farmers Agriculture and Rural Products Expo (FARPE) was also inaugurated by the Chief Guest after launching of the Springshed Development Initiative program. It may be mentioned that FARPE is an innovative and interactive "Mini Industrial Exhibition cum Buyers Sellers Meet" which serves as a platform to display local agricultural and rural products, exchange skills and expertise among the producers and entrepreneurs.

## International Day for PWDs Observed at Pynursla



The International Day for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) 2016 was observed by the Office of the District Social Welfare Officer, East Khasi Hills District at the Community Hall of Pynursla Neng Gate, Pynursla CR&D Block.

The programme was attended by Shri. Prestone Tynsong, Minister in charge Administrative Reforms, Border Areas Development, PHE etc as Chief Guest in the presence of Shri. H. M Shangpliang, Secretary & Director, Social Welfare, senior officers, headmen, village elders, teachers and students.

During his address, Shri. Tynsong stated that the International Day for Persons with Disabilities is special in that it is one of the few days in the calendar declared as an International Day.

Stating that humans, being special creations of God are born with special talents and abilities and cited many instances where differently-abled persons found their way to the pinnacles of success through sheer grit and determination. The

Minister urged upon all gathered to not be discouraged while also assuring that the government will extend its co-operation and assistance to the PWDs in accessing government schemes.

Two women from the Block, namely, Smti. H. Khongwar and Smti. V. Khongkliam who have excelled in their business endeavours despite their disability were felicitated by the Minister on the occasion. Shri. Tynsong also distributed gifts, aids and assistive devices to the PWDs in attendance at the programme.

Also speaking on the occasion, Social Welfare Secretary & Director, Shri. H. M Shangpliang, highlighted the different schemes that the PWDs can access through the Social Welfare Department like the Chief Minister's Social Assistance Scheme while also impressing upon them to ensure that they procure the Disability Certificate from PHCs and CHCs before applying for such government schemes.



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### 'Celebration of Int'l Day for PWDs a display of true convergence'

(Contd. from Pg. 1)

worth Rs. 16 lakh free of cost. The Chief Minister said that these aids and assistive devices were meant to physically empower physically challenged people and called upon all agencies and partners concerned to work harder so that the devices reach to the last of the targeted population. As such, he was of the view that even as Government makes several schemes to empower the neglected sections of the society, there was a need for greater mobilization, because when the targeted people are not enlightened they would never be able to enjoy the benefits of such programmes. He also made an earnest appeal to the partners to take advantage of the Chief Minister's Career Guidance & Counseling Programme which is inclusive, diverse and flexible, for skilling the PWDs, adding that "when these people are empowered they will no longer require any support from the government".

The Chief Minister also expressed concern over high incidents of congenital defects among tribals, saying there was a need to find the actual cause and scientific answer to deal with such physical defects. He was of the view that these birth defects may invariably be caused due to rampant use of un-prescribed over the counter medications during pregnancy and called for aggressive awareness campaign by medical practitioners discouraging such practices.

Stating that the use of nomenclature for the PWDs remains an issue of debate and discussion, Dr. Sangma said he preferred to call these special-category people as "special friends" and said that this celebration reminded all leaders of their duty to respond to the needs of these special category people. The message from Rajya Sabha MP, Wansuk Syiem, who has been instrumental in driving this scheme in the State was read out by her Liaison Officer, Smti. L.N. Jyrwa on the occasion.

Befitting to the celebration, the specially abled children during the programme also enthralled the audience with their colourful dances and lively numbers.

## JNNURM Buses Released



Chief Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya, Dr. D. D. Lapang on December 6 released two buses under JNNURM at the Playground of Raid Nonglyngdoh, Pahambirlum, Ri Bhoi District. The JNNURM buses will be operated by the Nongkrah Nonglyngdoh Women Organization for the benefit of school children and the people of the area at large.

Lauding the initiatives taken by the women organization to ease the hardships of the people particularly school children of around eight villages of the area, Dr Lapang stated that the Government has provided many schemes and projects including transport facilities for the benefit of people, hence it is the responsibility of the people to find out ways on how to utilize and manage the various schemes provided by the Government.

## World Soil Day observed



South West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Shri. Cyril S. D. Diengdoh on December 5 distributed Soil Health Cards to farmers as part of the observance of World Soil Day at Ampati Multi Facility Centre, Ampati. The Soil Health Cards were issued to determine the status of micro nutrient and mineral content of the soil sampled from the lands of respective farmers after scientifically testing them at the state run laboratories.

Organized by the Office of the District Agriculture Officer, the programme was attended by the District Agriculture Officer Shri. A. G. Momin, District Horticulture Officer Shri. B. R. Marak, Superintendent of Fisheries Shri. George W. Momin and Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Shri. B. C. Momin among others. Hundreds of farmers of the District took part in the programme.

Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, Shri. Diengdoh stated that the celebration was significant for the district as a majority of the populace was engaged in agrarian practices

for its livelihood. Emphasizing on the need to keep the soil healthy, the Deputy Commissioner spoke on the State's Mission Green initiative whereby an aggressive effort was being taken up by the government to make the region a chemical free zone through the introduction of organic supplements for agriculture. Rampant use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers is playing havoc with the health of people who consume it. Shri. Diengdoh stated and urged the people to use organic fertilizers manufactured in their own backyards such as vermi-composts etc.

Speaking on minimizing the use of non-biodegradable substances such as plastics, the Deputy Commissioner informed that he had met with all the market committee members of the district and sorted out a plan to minimise the use of polythene bags. Urging farmers to practice alternate cropping by planting pulses and beans after harvesting paddy, Shri. Diengdoh stated that the district administration was encouraging farmers to build composting pits in their backyards in order to be able to use them as fertilizers for



## World Soil Day observed



their crops. The Deputy Commissioner later urged the people of the region to constitute a committee for the disposal of plastic wastes like bottles by creating a depot and selling the waste to vendors or recyclers.

Meanwhile, at Mawkyrwat, World Soil Day was observed on by the Office of the District Agriculture Officer, South West Khasi Hills District with Smti. S. Mihsil, District Agriculture Officer gracing the occasion as Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Smti. Mihsil informed that World Soil Day was observed since 2012 with a view to make people aware of the importance of soil and its benefits to mankind. Stating that soil is a natural wealth, Smti. Mihsil encouraged the farmers to grow pulses as pulses increase the fertility of the soil. Stressing upon the need of preserving and protecting soil from erosion, she urged upon the farmers to take care of the soil in order to make it sustainable for the future generation.

During the programme, Soil Health Cards were distributed to the farmers within the District.

## 7<sup>th</sup> State level Painting Competition on Water Conservation held



The 7<sup>th</sup> State Level Painting Competition under the theme: “Save Water, Save Earth” was organised by the Central Ground Water Board, State Unit Office, Shillong on December 3 at All Saint’s Hall, IGP, Shillong. Chief Engineer, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri P. M. Scott graced the prize distribution ceremony as Chief Guest and Shri G. C. Saha, Adviser, Meghalaya Water Development Agency (MeWDA) attended the programme as the Guest of Honour.

It may be mentioned that the School Level Painting Competition was open for students of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> standards and was conducted by various schools of Meghalaya during the month of October-November, 2016. A total of 4612 students from 121 schools from all over Meghalaya participated in the School Level Painting Competition out of which fifty best paintings were selected from the School level competition and these students have been called for participating in the State Level Painting Competition.

Deepanjali Das of St. Margaret Higher Secondary School, Shillong, Soumishta Das of Kendriya Vidyalaya, EAC Upper Shillong and Harydson Kharmawphlang of Eden Academy School, Shillong bagged the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes respectively. The winner will be competing at the National level competition to be held at New Delhi.

### TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

The Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong has informed that the internal road which connects the Tri Junction near the Office of the Ministry of Forest and Environment, North Eastern Region at Lumbatngen (Law-u-sib) to Pohkse Children Hospital Junction is hereby made one way. Vehicles from Pohkse can come up. However, vehicles from Sawlad cannot go down through the road. “No Entry” is placed about 100 (hundred) meters from the Tri Junction inside the internal road.

In view of the necessity and in the interest of public safety and convenience, the traffic restriction on the above mentioned areas has been imposed with immediate effect.

### PAID HOLIDAY

The Under Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, General Administration (A) Department has informed that all State Government Offices and Educational Institutions falling under 8 Nongkrem, 15 Laban-Mawprem, 22 Nongspung-Sohiong Constituencies under East Khasi Hills District, 23 Mairang-Nongkhaw, 24 Pariong-Mawthadraishan, 28 Rambrai-Jyrngam Constituencies under West Khasi Hills District and 1 War-East Constituency under West Jaintia Hills District shall remain closed on the December 13, 2016 in order to enable voters to exercise their franchise in connection with the Bye-Election, 2016 to the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council.

According to the Order issued, every person employed in any trade, industrial undertaking or any of the establishment governed by N. I. Act, 1881 and a daily wage, casual worker including those working outside the Constituency who are voters under the above Constituencies shall be entitled to the benefit of a Paid Holiday.

### NOMINATION OF GOVT NOMINEES/AGENTS IN PDS

The Sub-Divisional Officer (Supply), Amlarem Sub-Division invites applications from interested persons/co-operative societies/self help groups including existing Government Nominees/Agents in PDS for appointment of Government Nominees/Agents in PDS for the year 2017 in the wholesale centres of Amlarem, Nongtalang, Dawki and Muktapur.

Application in prescribed forms which are available in the office of the SDO (Supply) Amlarem Sub-Division along with details of requirements should be submitted on or before December 14, 2016.

### NOMINATION OF GOVT NOMINEES/AGENTS IN PDS

The East Garo Hills District Administration in collaboration with Arts & Culture and Tourism Departments will be organizing a three-day Simsang Festival, 2016 at Rongrenggre Govt. Higher Secondary School Playground, Williamnagar and Tasek Lake, Songsak from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

The highlights of the festival will be Simsang Carnival, Singing and Dancing competitions, beach volleyball, flower and fashion shows, Simsang man-hunt, beauty contest, cross-country cycle race, marathon, baby show, slow food competition, indigenous games, kids’ fancy dress competition, song kristan competition and inter-school Wangala competition.

The festival will conclude with a rock concert in the evening on December 16, 2016.

### DRY DAY DECLARED

The District Magistrate of West Jaintia Hills has declared December 13 and 16, 2016 as Dry Day in the entire area of West Jaintia Hills District on account of “Bye Election” to the 1-War East Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council.

All IMFL licensed premises (wholesale and retail sale) Bars, Canteens, Country spirit shops including out still shall remain closed on the mentioned dates.