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## Pynursla Civil Sub-Division inaugurated by the Chief Minister



Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma on February 15 inaugurated Pynursla Civil Sub Division at U.U.P Sports Club Stadium, Pynursla in the presence of Shri. P Tynsong, Local MLA & Minister PHE etc.

Addressing the gathering in his Inaugural Speech, the Chief Minister while congratulating the people of Pynursla said that the creation of new Civil Sub-Divisions, C & RD Blocks, police outposts and many other establishments in the state bears witness that the Government of the day has been able to respond to the aspirations of the people and generate hope amongst them. He also stated that with the creation of new civil sub divisions associated developmental programmes of the Government will be delivered to the doorstep of the people and better administration is thereby ensured.

The Chief Minister also said that the Government with its various developmental programmes has set a new benchmark to ensure that everything falls in line for growth and prosperity of the state. Stating that collective community action has created positive stories to connect with the rest of the world, the Chief Minister urged upon all to come together to help promote the state as a destination. He also called upon all concerned to extend their cooperation and participation in all the developmental programmes of the state to ensure a self reliant and prosperous Meghalaya for the future generations.

Among others who spoke at the Inaugural Function were Minister, Home (Police), Shri. HDR Lyngdoh, Minister, PHE, DCA etc and Local MLA, Shri. P Tynsong and Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, Shri. P S Dkhar.

The newly inaugurated Pynursla Civil Sub Division has 171 villages under it with its headquarters at Pynursla.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also unveiled the commemorative plaque of the inauguration at the permanent office site of the sub division and also inaugurated the Office of the SDO (Civil).

Minister, C & RD, Shri. S Dhar, Parliamentary Secretary, Mining & Geology etc Shri. Coming One Ymbon, Parliamentary Secretary, Tourism etc Shri. Kennedy Khyriem, MLA, Sutnga-Saipung, Shri. Hopeful Bamon, MLA, Sohra, Shri. Titosstarwell Chyne, MLA Chokpot, Smti. Bluebell R Sangma, Chief Secretary, Shri. K S Kropha, Principal Secretary Shri. M S Rao, Principal Secretary, Smt. R V Suchiang and other senior officers of the Government were among others who attended the inauguration of the civil sub division.

## CM inaugurates Mukdangra Secondary School building

(Contd. in Pg. 2)

On February 13, Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the new school building of Mukdangra Secondary School in South West Garo Hills District, which was sponsored under the Inter-State Border Area Development Programme (ISBADP) 2014-15 through the Border Area Development Department. The school was established in February, 1980 and the construction of the school building was completed last year at a total cost of Rs. 30 lakhs only.

An impressive function was held at the school premises, near Garobadha to mark the occasion which was attended by the local MLA of Rangsakona constituency and Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Minister, etc. Shri. Zenith Sangma as Guest of Honour, besides Government Chief Shri. Whip

W.D. Sangma, MDC of Dengnakpara Shri. S.R.M. Sangma, Deputy Commissioners of West and South West Garo Hills, Shri. Pravin Bakshi and Shri. C.V.D. Diengdoh, officials of various departments, School Managing Committee members, teachers & students of the school.

In his address on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed his joy to dedicate the school building to the people of the area which would become a permanent asset in the education sector and urged upon the local residents and the SMC members to take ownership of the school and take it to a higher level to attract more students of the area to join it.

Highlighting on the challenges of creating developmental schemes and





## CM distributes treadle pumps, incentives to farmers



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma on February 13 launched the Treadle Pumps for farmers under Agriculture Department and distributed them to selected beneficiaries of South West Garo Hills District. He also distributed cheques as incentives to the farmers who have successfully taken up Agar and Bamboo plantation in the past one year.

An impressive function in this connection was organized by the District Agriculture & Horticulture Department at Malchapara Centre of Excellence near Betasing C&RD Block Headquarters, which was also attended by Parliamentary Secretary Shri. Noverfield R. Marak, Government Chief Whip Shri. W.D. Sangma, Deputy Commissioner Shri. C.V.D. Diengdoh, Superintendent of Police Shri. Ramesh Singh, officials, local leaders and farmers.

It may mentioned here that Xylem Water Solutions India Pvt. Ltd, Noida (UP) has chosen Meghalaya as first core area in the North East to provide its services to farmers through its Saaji Treadle Pump in rice growing areas of West and South West Garo Hills. The pump is specially designed for abstracting water from wells, ponds, streams and canals with effective suction and delivery head of 20 ft each with water output of 2000 Litres per hour.

It may also be recalled that Agar and Bamboo plantation was launched in the district in 2015 by

the Chief Minister with an objective of attaining sustainable livelihood and sustainable ecology. Incentives in the form of cheques are being given to farmers for successful plantation of agar and bamboo plants.

Addressing the gathering after distributing the treadle pumps to the beneficiaries and cheques to farmers for agar and bamboo plantation, the Chief Minister said that the adverse effects of global warming have resulted in erratic climatic conditions due to which farmers, who invariably depended on monsoon rains for their crops, have to face a lot of difficulties for irrigation. He expressed hope that the difficulties of farmers would be greatly reduced as these pumps would help provide them with alternative means of irrigation.

Dwelling at length on the Mission Organic programme of the Government, the Chief Minister called upon the farmers to not only strive for achieving food security but also nutritional security for overall health of the people in the state. Highlighting on the immense value of agar and bamboo and their multiple uses, he said that the state government has taken the initiative to regulate and promote organic plantation of agar and bamboo in private farms and informed the gathering that it has been decided that an incentive would be provided to farmers by paying them Rs. 20 for every live plant out of their plantations.

## CM inaugurates Mukdangra Secondary School building

(Contd. from Pg. 1)

then allotting them to different areas according to priority, the Chief Minister said that ISBADP was launched in 2012 to bridge the critical gaps in development along the inter-state border areas because the difficulties faced by people in these areas were similar to those in the international borders. "It is a State programme which is not found in other states across the country", he said.

Reiterating on the need to have trained teachers to impart quality education, Dr. Sangma spoke of the Government's initiative to open more teacher training schools and to give a scholarship of Rs.5000/- so that the youths who aspire to become teachers can avail the benefit. He also informed the gathering that community colleges would be set up across the State which would be managed by communities themselves and which would not be confined to only the State capital or district headquarters.

The Chief Minister also spelt out a number of developmental projects coming up across the State as well as in the area, including the national highway projects being funded by JICA. Stating that IMR & MMR rate was highest in the region, he said that more maternity & child hospitals would be established in the State and one of them would be located between Garobadha and Mukdangra. Referring to the memorandum submitted by the Mukdangra SMC, he assured the gathering that the approach road from the main highway to the school and beyond would be sanctioned in March this year and that additional fund for extension of the school building would also be sanctioned soon. "There is a momentum of growth and development in the State" he said and appealed to the people not to stop this momentum of growth because once it stops it would be difficult to get back that momentum.

Sports & Youth Affairs Minister & local MLA, Shri. Zenith Sangma meanwhile briefed on his visits to all the secondary schools under his constituency during which he had listed out the schools that required building infrastructure, including Mukdangra Secondary School which was functioning in a small dilapidated building. He informed that number of school buildings were being constructed under various schemes like ISBADP and ADB-funded Human Capital Development project, among others.

Government Chief Whip Shri. W.D. Sangma and Deputy Commissioner West Garo Hills, Shri. Pravin Bakshi were among others who also spoke on the occasion.

## House hold Waste Bins distributed

As part of the implementation of Solid Waste Management Project under Swachh Bharat Mission in Tura, Parliamentary Secretary, in charge Urban Affairs, Shri. Noverfield R Marak distributed household waste bins at Akonggre Secondary School, Tura on February 14 in the presence of Chairman, Tura Municipal Board (TMB), Shri. Donbosh Sangma, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), TMB, Smt. S. B Marak, Nokma of Akonggre, Shri. Rakkan Sangma, officials of various departments, teachers, students and people of the area.

Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest, Shri. Noverfield R Marak said that it is the duty and responsibility of every

citizen to keep the houses, surroundings and towns clean. Moreover, he advised the people to make the environment greener so as to be protected from the harmful effects of global warming which the world is facing today.

While enlightening the people about his earlier association with the group working for preservation of the environment Shri. Marak said that cleanliness is a collective responsibility and seeks the cooperation of the people in order to ensure a clean and healthy environment for the citizens as well as future generations.

During the programme, Shri. Silchi





R Marak, Architect who is pursuing masters in Urban Designing at College of Architecture, Guwahati, Assam explained in detail about the importance of Community Participation in Segregation of Waste which should start from one's own family while Shri. Paul Lokho, Community Development Specialist, Consultant to State Investment Programme Management and Implementation Unit (SIPMIU) gave a power point presentation on the "Best Practices of Solid Waste Management: Segregation at Source".

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), TMB, Smt. S. B Marak said that the Government has initiated steps for improving the Solid Waste Management practices in Tura town for which the general public should assist to help the town achieve the desired goal.

For management of solid waste, two waste bins – the green ones meant for bio-degradable and the blue ones meant for non bio-degradable waste were also distributed to each of the households of Akonggre locality by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries present at the function.

## Feature

# THE TALE OF AN INTEGRATED FARMER



Shri. Jakarius Sangma is a practitioner of "Integrated farming". Hailing from a moderately well to do background, Shri Sangma's family had traditionally been engaged in paddy cultivation. He himself had learned about paddy cultivation methods from his parents. Shri Sangma owns 13 bigas of land in addition to the land that he utilises as paddy fields. His wife works with him at farming their fields. Very hard working and driven, she is the one to take the lead in contacting government offices for any kind of assistance or training under various schemes. The couple have four children of which three are in school and the eldest one is in college. While the paddy cultivation initially allowed Shri Sangma and his wife to support their family, over time it became apparent that engaging in a single livelihood activity would not provide adequate income for the growing needs of their household.

Shri Sangma gradually started learning more about ways in which he could introduce other food and cash crops into his existing farm. In around 2011 or 2012, he started becoming serious about the practice of integrated farming. Right from the beginning, he decided never to take a loan to start these new activities but to manage with whatever resources he already had.

He started integrated farming by initiating a cashew nut plantation. He started growing pineapples, arecanut and local varieties of jackfruits and citrus fruits soon after this but his key target for income generation were to start and scale his cashew nut harvest and sales. He knew he would have to be patient, because these crops yielded harvests only after a few years. So he put in the effort and waited. He had to wait for 7 to 8 years for harvests from his cashew and arecanut crops. Pineapples were easier, and took just over 3 years. Now that this expanded farming venture has stabilised, he has also ventured into livestock. More recently he has also bought cows, pigs, ducks, and kroiler chickens from the profits of his integrated farming or "Multi Cropping".

### CASHEW NUT PLANTATION

Shri Sangma first got interested in the cashew sub-sector when he started hearing from people about how highly in-demand it was. He did not have much knowledge of how to go about taking care of his cashew plantation and there were no government interventions that he knew of. Luckily he came across IFAD representatives and got to know about some of their training programmes. As a result he got the chance to attend cashew nut "binding" training for a week at Tura.

### PINEAPPLE

Shri Sangma initially grew pineapple mainly for his household consumption but slowly started expanding his pineapple farm through interventions carried out under the Horticulture Mission. Manpower is required for working on this farm as well, and Shri Sangma typically hires 10 - 15 people to tend to the farm. While working on the pineapple farm is very time consuming, pineapples yield lower profits for Shri Sangma who sells it at the nearest market or to traders and vendors from Tura at about Rs 10 to Rs 15 each (the prices depend on an individual fruit's size).

### ARECANUT

As with pineapple, Shri Sangma already had arecanut plants on his farm primarily for his household consumption. But now he has slowly expanded arecanut production as well and currently sells at the rate of Rs 25 per kilo.

### VERMI COMPOST PRODUCTION

Shri Sangma received training and exposure about vermi-composting methods from a Block Development Officer about 5 or 6 years ago. In fact it was not Shri Sangma but his wife, Smt Esta S Sangma who went for vermi-

compost production training at Guwahati for a week with the support of an IFAD intervention. The couple have a vermi-compost pit on their farm into which they regularly deposit all the dry leaves and waste organic material from his pineapple, arecanut, cashew and other plantations. The vermi-compost takes about 3 months to form after which the couple package it in a simple plastic packet and sell it for Rs 10 per packet.

### RICE MILL

A few years ago, Shri Sangma purchased a rice milling machine from Mankachar, a town close to Tura. The idea of procuring a rice mill occurred to him and his wife when they thought about how difficult it was to take their paddy harvests to a far off village for milling. Now they not only meet their own milling needs but also get some extra income by doing this business. For example on market days and during the harvest seasons he easily earns Rs 1000 at the very least. He charges Rs 20 per tin or Rs 80 per 4 tins (i.e. 1 quintal). Shri Sangma runs the machine himself so no extra cost is incurred by hiring manpower for the work.

### PIGGERY

At the time that Shri Sangma first acquired pigs – around the year 2012 – he lost 3 out of 5 pigs to disease as he did not know much about pig rearing at the time. As his experience increased, so did his knowledge. Today even without having received formal piggery training, Shri Sangma rears enough pigs to sell and generate a fair income. Of course as he himself notes, pig rearing is a traditional livelihood activity in a Garo community which is why he naturally took it up and which is also why he found support for his piggery activities and a ready market for his pigs in the local region. Today Shri Sangma sells a 2 year old pig from his farm at Rs 8000 - Rs 9000, and his piglets for Rs. 1000 or sometimes more.

### COWS

Shri Sangma also breeds cows to sell. Once a cow has given birth and is large enough, he sells it for around Rs 7000; the price can be higher during the festive season.

### DUCKERY

In addition to rearing pigs, cows (and even goats), Shri Sangma and his wife also keep a few ducks on their farm, though this is for household consumption and not for the market.

### CHALLENGES & LOOKING AHEAD

In his conversation with members of the Knowledge Management Unit under IBDLP, Shri Sangma admitted that it had been very difficult to start multi-cropping and that it was still a night and day struggle. Owning land was not sufficient to feed the entire family adequately, and it took time for them to understand how to viably utilise the land that they owned. Shri Sangma discussed that while they had always been prepared to work hard, lack of knowledge and exposure to new ideas for farming had a lot to do with their initial struggles, perhaps even more so than finance.

Despite these challenges, Shri Sangma remains positive and optimistic about the future of his farm. He is happy that his cashew, pineapple, and arecanut plantations are doing well and he intends to strengthen these areas first. He thinks of himself as an entrepreneur, but is not very keen on identifying a business partner at present. It is just him and his wife who are in this farming business for now, and he sees them becoming even more successful in the near future. Very enterprising, very hard working, and full of grace, Shri Sangma and his wife are leading the way for more success stories out of the Garo Hills in the future.

(Source : [www.mbdba.gov.in](http://www.mbdba.gov.in))



Chief Secy visits project sites in South West Garo Hills



Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Shri. K. S. Kropha along with Principal Secretary, Planning, Programme Implementation & Evaluation, Shri. R.M. Mishra visited and inspected a few of the developmental project sites in South West Garo Hills, including the recently inaugurated Apparel & Garment Making Centre at Hatisil, Ampati and the tourism development site at Chenga-Benga Lake near Garobadha on February 10.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Shri. C.V.D. Diengdoh, District SP Shri. Ramesh Singh and a team of officials from MBDA, Shillong.

The Chief Secretary was apprised of the project being implemented in convergence by the Tourism, Fisheries, C&RD, Soil & Water Conservation departments and the local committee to develop the Chenga-Benga lake.

Later at Ampati Circuit House, the Chief Secretary briefly met the district heads of line departments, who highlighted their problems and requirements. He also inquired about the status of Ampati Civil Hospital which is expected to be inaugurated very soon.

Workshop on Project Planning & Management



A three day workshop on “Project Planning and Management” organised by the Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya and conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, was inaugurated on February 13 by Shri R. M. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Planning Department and Development Commissioner at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong.

The aim of the workshop was to sensitise the state government officials about different areas of project implementation, to enhance their skill and efficiency and to expose them in making decisive role in properly managing the projects.

“For any developmental activity, planning is a must; an idea not backed by aspiration, motivation and proper planning, will never fructify” said Shri R. M. Mishra in his inaugural address as Chief Guest. He also urged the participants to take full advantage of the workshop and enhance their skill and knowledge on the whole process of project planning and management.

Earlier, Director, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, Shri D. K. Ojha in his keynote address said that poor information and insufficient planning, lack of efficiency in quality control procedures and bad communication led to drawbacks in successfully implementing the projects.

Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Planning Department, Dr. B. D. R. Tiwari, Director, MATI, Smti Sarika Aggarwal Synrem and Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Planning Department, Smti A. Mawrie were also present at the inaugural programme.

The three day workshop covered topics like ‘Pre-Project Activity & Concept of Project Cycle’, ‘Preparation of Feasibility Report’, ‘Project Management Tools and Techniques’, ‘Project Risk Management’, ‘Project Financing Management’ and ‘Project Monitoring & OCMS’.

Sit and Draw Competition



As part of the Digi Dhan Mela celebration, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills, Shillong in collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Shillong conducted a Sit and Draw competition for children in the age groups 6-11 years and 12-16 years at Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Shillong on February 4.

In the age group 6-11 years, the 1<sup>st</sup> prize was bagged by Jayanta Nath from Polo Hills, Shillong, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize by Hima Pariyar from Umsning and the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize was won by Sneha Das from Jail Road, Shillong.

In the 12-16 years category, Ashmita Dey from Oakland, Shillong bagged the 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Rajdeep Bardhan from Nongmensong, Shillong bagged the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, and Doralyne Lyngdoh from Wahingdoh and Anived Dey from Oakland, Shillong jointly shared the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

Mock Drill Conducted

As part of its disaster management programme, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in collaboration with the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and the Secretariat Administration on February 15 carried out a mock drill simulating an earthquake to promote disaster preparedness, mitigation and response at the Main and Additional Secretariat buildings, Shillong.

The whole exercise of evacuation, search and rescue of persons trapped inside the buildings and providing first aid treatment and triage before being shifted by ambulances to hospitals, saw an active participation from the officers and staff of the Meghalaya Secretariat, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Civil Defence, MPRO, Police, Health, Fire and Emergency Services, MeECL, PWD, EMRI 108, volunteers from NCC, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Indian Red Cross Society and other line departments.

After the exercise, a de-briefing meeting was held at Yojana Bhavan which was attended by Shri P.W. Ingty, Additional Chief Secretary, in-charge Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Smti I. Mawlong, Executive Director, SDMA, Smti I.Majaw, CEO, DDMA and observers drawn from various departments which included NDRF, Civil Defence, NEIGRIHMS, Military Hospital, BSF and PWD.

During the de-briefing meeting, all the observers stressed on the need to carry out the drill regularly in the Secretariat buildings so as to inculcate a culture of preparedness and response among the officers and staff and also to improve the coordination between various line departments in the search and rescue exercise.

