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## CM visits Ramie demonstration unit, interacts with farmers in NGH



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma visited the Ramie Demonstration Unit and Nursery at Bolmedang village, near Kharkutta in North Garo Hills and also interacted with the local farmers on February 17.

On his arrival, the Chief Minister was received by local MLA & Parliamentary Secretary, PWD (Roads) Shri. Cherak W. Momin, North Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Shri. S.C. Sadhu, State Consultant, Ramie Project, Smti.

Mira Marak, Assistant Director, Agriculture, Smti. Merrill N. Sangma, District Horticulture Officer, Smti. Susanna Marak and other officials at the Unit.

Ramie (*Boehmeria Nivea*), commonly known as China grass, is a fibre crop indigenous to Garo Hills and grows wild in the jungles even though the crop is being grown for fibre in China, Brazil, Taiwan and other countries. Known as "Kilkra" in Garo, it is said to be the strongest known natural fibre. While its fibres can be made into various kinds of fabrics for clothing and other uses, its leaves and stalks can be used as fodder for livestock.

It may be recalled that the State Government under the Chief Minister's leadership had launched a scheme for introducing Ramie cultivation in the State in 2015 not only to give a boost to State's economy and create livelihood opportunities to the farmers, but also to create sustainable ecology.

Besides the farmers, hundreds of people from the nearby villages gathered at the unit to meet Dr. Mukul Sangma as he is the first Chief Minister to visit the area till date.

In his interaction with the local people, the Chief Minister highlighted on the various uses of Ramie and its huge potential as a cash crop. He also explained about the anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties present in Ramie fabric, which makes it the most sought after fabric for use as linen in hospitals. He said that plantations of ramie, agar and bamboo having huge business scopes were being taken up across the State so that the farmers can have sustainable livelihood opportunities in their own backyard. He also urged upon the department officials to organize workshops to the farmers in the area so that they can get optimum benefit from the scheme.

Earlier, the Assistant Director, Agriculture, Smt. M.N. Sangma explained to the farmers on the methods of ramie cultivation and harvesting, besides its uses and economic value.

## CM inaugurates Multi-Facility Centre, stresses on training of youths

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Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma on February 20 inaugurated a new Multi-Facility Centre (MFC) besides handing over a medicine truck as well as an ambulance to the PHC under Border Area Development Programmes at Darong Adu, Purakhasia in South West Garo Hills District.

It may be mentioned that a number of infrastructures are created under various schemes through the Department of Border Areas Development to bridge the gaps in development in both the international and inter-state border areas. The construction of the MFC at Darong Adu was sponsored by SPA 2012-13, while the medicine truck and the ambulance were donated to the PHC under Border Area Development Programme (BADP). As the name suggests, the infrastructure at the multi-facility centre can be used for wide-ranging activities and trainings

under various government programmes and also for social activities in the area.

To mark the occasion, an impressive function was organized by the Department which was also attended by the Government Chief Whip & local MLA Shri. W. D. Sangma, Deputy Commissioners of West and South West Garo Hills, Shri. Pravin Bakshi and Shri. C.V.D. Diengdoh, local MDC R. N. Sangma, other government officials, local leaders, teachers and students of various schools of the area.

Dedicating the assets to the people of the area, the Chief Minister said that creation of such infrastructure was aimed at uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people. "If we are able to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people, everything else will fall in line, he said and informed the gathering that the State Government would be making more investments in the Border Area Development sector.



## CM hands over ambulance to SHG cluster centre at Mendal



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma said that the true spirit of democracy is to fulfil the promises made to the people. He was addressing a large gathering after officially handing over an ambulance to the Self-Help Group Cluster Centre at Mendal on February 21. The ambulance was donated under Chief Minister's Special Rural Development Fund 2012-13 and the Chief Minister expressed his hope that the ambulance would help in providing emergency medical services to the people of the area.

During the day, the Chief Minister also unveiled the foundation stone for construction of community Multi Facility Centre at Gokolgre under Inter-state Border Area Development Programme and the foundation stone for construction of bridges and culverts on the Bajengdoba – Jangrapara PWD Road under RIDF (State Plan 2016-17).

Dwelling on the dynamics of rural economy, the Chief Minister said that there has been a lot of developmental disparities particularly in the rural areas and that his Government has been working hard to correct such disparities. "Our agenda should be to mitigate the problems of the people. We can see that our State is now on a healing process and we must allow it to recover fully", he said. Speaking of the ambitious agenda of the Government to

make Meghalaya the most liveable State, the Chief Minister said that there is a need to reverse the trend of development in all areas, particularly in education and health sectors.

The Chief Minister said that there is no other mode of travel in the state besides road transport and that all economic activities depended on roads. Therefore up-gradation of road connectivity is the most common demand by all constituencies, he said, adding that development of roads and bridges was one of the main focuses of the government.

Highlighting on infrastructure development in rural areas, the Chief Minister said that the Multi Facility Centres were being constructed in almost every village to facilitate capacity building and skill development training for the youth and other social activities. As such he asked the District Administration to utilize the MFCs to conduct skill development programmes to the workforce involved in construction works and also to give coaching classes for students.

Local MLA Shri. Brigady Marak highlighted on a number of development projects coming up in the area and also informed the gathering that a new C&RD block at Bajengdoba would be inaugurated soon after the Budget Session.

## CM inaugurates Multi-Facility Centre, stresses on training of youths

(Contd. in Pg. 2)

The Chief Minister highlighted on the huge investments being made in the education and health sectors and exhorted the people to make concerted efforts to ensure that the Government's agenda of making Meghalaya a hub of education and health becomes a reality. Stating that there are number of business opportunities waiting in our backyard, the Chief Minister stressed on the need to give training programmes to empower the youth for taking up entrepreneurship and also for training in many other fields. He called on the people of the area to make full use of the infrastructure for such trainings so as to gain optimum benefits of all Government schemes and programmes. "Let us create positive stories about the area by training our young people", he said. He also stressed on the dignity of labour, taking the occasion to call upon the youth not to shun manual labour.

While calling upon the local leaders to make use of the MFC also for coaching the students of classes 8, 9 and 10 to ensure good results, Dr. Sangma informed the gathering that the Chief Minister's Career Guidance Programme was being made demand-driven to ensure positive results.

Later, the Chief Minister along with other dignitaries also distributed jerseys and sports kit to the schools and clubs of the area under Border Area Development Programme.

Speaking as the guest of honour, Government Chief Whip Shri. W.D. Sangma also said that the MFC could be used for various purposes including it being used as temporary shelter during natural calamities as well as a venue for other community programmes. He highlighted on the "visible signs of development" taking place in the area adding that Rs.4.80 crore has already been sanctioned for the new irrigation project in the area and also requested the Chief Minister for sanction of the construction of the remaining 7 kms of road connecting Purakhasia with the district headquarters.

## Senior journalists from Trivandrum call on Chief Minister



Senior journalists from Trivandrum, Kerala during their Press Tour to Meghalaya called upon the Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma at his office chamber on February 22. During the meeting the journalists had a brief interactive session with the Chief Minister. Also present on the occasion was the Director IP&R, Meghalaya Smti. M.N. Nampui.



## Specialised Training on Mass Casualties and Hospital Management inaugurated



A three day training programme on Specialised Training on Mass Casualties and Hospital Management during Disaster including Fire Safety organised by State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) in collaboration with North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) was inaugurated on

February 20 by Prof. R.C. Laloo, Deputy Chief Minister in-charge Revenue and Disaster Management at NEIGRIHMS, Shillong.

The inaugural programme was also attended by Smti I. Mawlong, Executive Officer, SDMA, Prof. (Dr) P. Bhattacharya, Director NEIGRIHMS, Prof. Chandan

Ghosh from National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Laloo said that hospitals being an important institution which provides health care services, training for medical and paramedical staff on disaster preparedness is very crucial for effective response in time of need.

Prof Laloo also urged the hospitals authorities to coordinate with the State Disaster Management Authority in preparing disaster preparedness plans and to conduct disaster drills regularly in hospitals to evaluate the effectiveness of emergency plans.

The three day training programme will be attended by doctors and paramedical staff from Government and private hospitals besides officials from the Indian Red Cross Society. For wider coverage and dissemination of the training, all the districts headquarter were linked via teleconferencing.

Resource persons for the training included Prof. Chandan Ghosh and Dr. Surya Prakash from NIDM, New Delhi, Prof. Jayanta Pathak, Assam Engineering College, Dr. Utpal Kimar Tamuli, Guwahati Medical Hospital, Devesh Walia from NEHU and doctors from NEIGRIHMS. The training will also link with the best experts in the country via teleconferencing.

The topics for the training programme include among others, "Disaster management scenarios in hospital", "Disaster in North East Region-A vulnerability check for health systems", "Damage and loss assessment-hospital safety issues", "Disaster safety guidelines for hospitals in hilly areas", "Structural and non-structural measures for hospital safety", "Mass causality", "Disaster management for hospitals", "Hazard hunts for hospital system-campus inspection", "Earthquake and fire drills-case studies for hospitals", "Hospital safety guideline preparedness and exercise" and "Way forward for hospital emergency and incident command system".



## Nonglwai Orchid Conservation Society

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2015, 'Nonglwai Orchid Conservation Society' was conferred with a prestigious state award for their tremendous environmental services through the conservation of indigenous orchids. The driving force behind this society is Charles Tympuin.

It all began when Shri. Charles, who is a school teacher in Jaidoh, decided that he wanted to make the most out of the time he has outside of teaching. He felt that he had the potential to do more for himself and his society but he just could not find an avenue to start something. One day as he was taking a walk to his friend's house he decided to take a short cut through the forest. As he was walking, he realized that the forest had an abundant number of wild orchids growing all over. He took a few of the flowers to the market just to see what they would fetch. He was surprised by the response of the people. There was a huge demand for indigenous orchids yet there were hardly any sellers there.

So began his search for indigenous orchids in the forest to sell in the market. A number of people in his village also started collecting wild orchids, following in the footsteps of Mr. Charles. It became a source of livelihood for many and an additional source of income for Charles. He would make anywhere between Rs. 1000 - 1500 per day by selling orchids. It was a very good source of revenue for him. In fact he was finally even able to make long due repairs to his house using the money he earned from selling wild orchids.

This activity continued for many years until one day when Shri. Charles realized that the orchids are beginning to disappear. He realized that simply harvesting

wild orchids to sell in the markets was unsustainable, both for the local environment and for the sellers. He had to do something to preserve this source of livelihood. This was when he decided to grow and preserve these indigenous orchids in his own garden. He also encouraged his friends to do the same. In 2011, he mobilized these friends to form 'The Nonglwai Orchid Conservation Society' and took on his present role of general secretary.

As demand increased, the members decided they required formal training to better manage their orchid production. They approached the IBDLP Basin Development Unit (BDU) at West Khasi Hills for assistance. Soon after registration, the BDU provided them with training on pest management and in-situ cultivation. The BDU also facilitated an exposure visit for society members to the National Research Centre for Orchids in Sikkim. There they received training and capacity building for identification and further propagation of the species.

Today, the society that Shri. Charles started has conserved more than 3,000 plantlets of indigenous orchids. Experts from the Bio-Resources Development Centre (BRDC) in Shillong, a research and development institution under IBDLP, have already identified 70 species conserved by this society. Additionally, the society also grows hybrid species in large numbers which are sold as cut flowers. Shri. Charles and his friends hope that their efforts create awareness about the importance of preserving the indigenous species of Meghalaya and also provide a strong example for how the rich biodiversity resources of Meghalaya can be sustainably leveraged to create profitable livelihoods for people as well.

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



## MBSG celebrates Founder's Day



Meghalaya Bharat Scouts and Guides (MBSG) celebrated Founder's Day at its State Headquarters, Shillong, to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of the founder of the Movement, Lord Baden Powell and 128<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Lady Baden Powell on February 22. The theme for this year's celebration is 'Grow' and '#extraGoodturn'.

The celebration was attended by the Meghalaya Chief Secretary and President of the Movement in the State, Shri. K S Kropha as the Chief Guest and other officials including the Commissioner & Secretary, IT Department, etc, Shri. D P Wahlang, Chief Electoral Officer, Meghalaya, and outgoing State Chief Commissioner MBSG, Shri F R Kharkongor, Director, School Education and Literacy, Shri. Ambrose Ch. Marak and senior Vice President MBSG, Shri. W R Marbaniang.

In his speech, the Chief Guest said that the vision of the founder of Scouts and

Guides was inspiring and praise-worthy because the movement prepares young boys and girls to take on the responsibility to serve the society in a selfless manner. He said that this year's theme is appropriate in today's context because we need to co-exist and grow together for a better and brighter future. He expressed hope that the principles laid down by its founder is inculcated in our daily life so that we can be role models to the society at large.

During the programme, the Chief Guest presented Shri. D P Wahlang with the Warrant of Appointment as the new State Chief Commissioner of the MBSG.

Other highlights of the day included presentation of memento to Shri. F R Kharkongor, outgoing State Chief Commissioner, felicitation of National Awardees 2016 and Rashtrapati Awardees 2016 and entertainment by Scouts and Guides.

## Youth Festival Held

The Directorate of Health Services (MCH&FW), National Health Mission, Meghalaya in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Commission for Women and the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong organised a Youth Festival under the theme: "A smart teenager, for a bright future" on February 18 at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong.

Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Shri F. R. Kharkongor graced the inaugural function as Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, Shri F. R. Kharkongor said that the festival will act as a vital and effective platform for the youth to interact with each other and share issues relating to adolescent health. Stating that India has the largest population of adolescents in the world, Shri. Kharkongor said, "we need to work hard and take advantage of this demographic dividend by way of investing in our young people, not just to make them skilled economic assets, but as confident, healthy well protected persons who can take charge of their own lives as well as of the society".



"But for young citizens to be healthy, responsible and active members of society, we need to ensure that the adolescents transit into adulthood in a protective and enabling environment. As adolescents flourish, so do communities, and all of us have a collective responsibility in ensuring that adolescence does in fact become an age of opportunity", he said. Adding that social media has become a part of everyday activity in everyone's life, Shri Kharkongor also stressed on the need of initiating an aggressive and effective campaign to address

adolescent health issues and problems by means of social media.

Besides open interactions with the experts and counselors, the whole day festival included power point presentations on topics like 'Importance of Nutrition for Adolescents', 'Reproductive and Sexual Health', 'Gender, Rights and Violence among Adolescent' and 'Cyber Crime and Social Media'.

Chairperson, Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Smti M. Kharkongor, Director of Health Services (MI), Dr. R. O. Budnah, Director of Health Services (MCH & FW) cum Joint Mission Director, NHM, Dr. D. Lyngdoh, Joint Director of Health Services (MCH & FW) cum Nodal Officer RKS, Dr. J. Lyngwa, Member, Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Smti N. G. Shylla, stakeholders, NGOs and representatives from various schools and localities were also present during the inaugural programme.

## APPLICATION INVITED FOR PDS

The Deputy Commissioner, (Supply) West Jaintia Hills District, Jowai has invited application for fresh appointment of Government nominees in PDS under Jowai Sardar Sub-Division, West Jaintia Hills District for the year 2017, for the newly approved Sahnsiang Wholesale Centre.

Prescribed application forms are available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner (Supply). Duly filled in applications with required documentary proofs should reach the office of the Deputy Commissioner, West Jaintia Hills District on or before 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017.

## DC ISSUES ADVISORY

The Deputy Commissioner & Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong has issued an advisory to the general public to take extra care during this windy season to avoid incidences especially fire and to get wiring/electricity properly checked.

It is also advised to remove dead branches or dying trees close to the house and to ensure safe keeping of all objects such as lumber piles, loose tin sheets, loose bricks, garbage cans, sign boards etc. which can fly away in strong winds.

## ADMIT CARDS

The Principal, Police Training School, Cum Member Secretary Central Recruitment Board (CRB) Meghalaya, Shillong has informed that the Meghalaya Police will conduct the written examinations for the various posts of SF-10, UB and AB in the last week of March, 2017 and first week of April 2017. Admit Cards will be issued to all candidates who qualified in the Physical Efficiency Test (PET) from the Centres where the candidates submitted their application forms. Candidates are advised to enquire from the respective centres in the first week of March, 2017.

Candidates who have qualified in the PET for the post of Follower will be called for Trade Test which will be announced at a later stage.

## SDRC Meeting held



The State Development Reforms Commission (SDRC) under the Chairmanship of Shri Sengman R. Marak, Ex-MLA reviewed the programmes/activities of the Social Welfare, Health & Family Welfare, Labour and Home (Police) Departments on February 20 in the Conference Room of the Main Secretariat Building, Shillong. Presentations were made by all the Departments.

The interaction, discussion, observations and suggestions made by the members of the SDRC highlighting the core issues reflecting the aspirations of the people especially the rural masses on transparency, publicity and beneficiary driven schemes of each Department was an eye-opener for the officers present.

The next SDRC meeting will be held at South Garo Hills District, Baghmara and West Garo Hills District, Tura from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2017 for all District Head offices.