



THE MEGHALAYA Chronicle

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12th SOUTH ASIAN GAMES 2016 Shillong





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Meghalaya receives Krishi Karman Award for 2nd consecutive year



Meghalaya, along with eight other states received the Krishi Karman Award 2014-15 for the second consecutive year for best performing state in food grain production instituted by the Union Ministry of Agriculture under National Food Security Mission.

This is the second consecutive year that the State has been conferred with this award. Last year the State has also received the Krishi Karman Award for 2013-2014.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma along with the State officials from Agriculture department received the award, which carries a sum of Rs. 5 crore, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh and Union Ministers of State for Agriculture Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan during the inaugural function of Krishi Unnati Mela which was held at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi from March 19 to 21, 2016.

While Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana and Rajasthan received the Krishi Karman Award for food crop production, Chhattisgarh was awarded for production of pulses, Tamil Nadu for coarse cereals and West Bengal for oilseeds.

The award was also given to individual progressive farmers and two farmers from Meghalaya who received the award

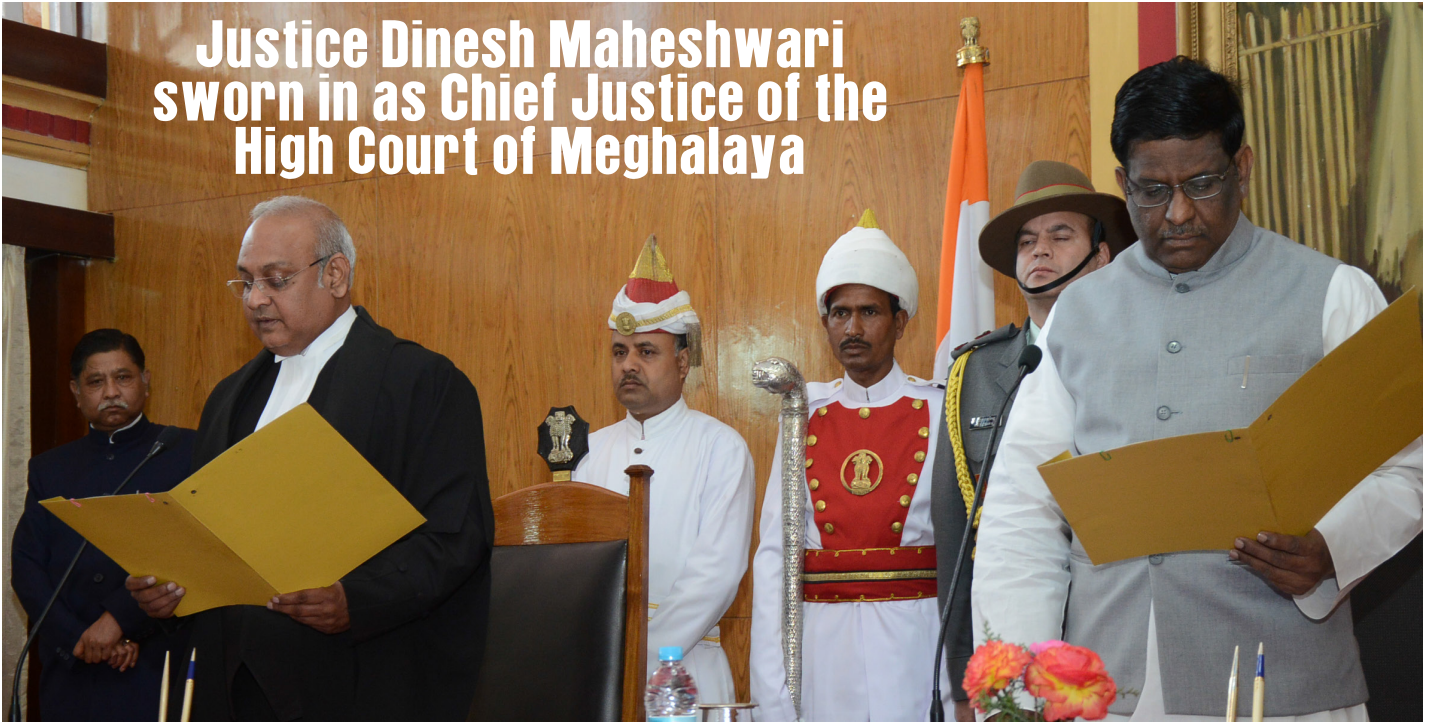
were Willipson A. Sangma from West Garo Hills and Angela Shangoi from West Khasi Hills. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address called upon all stakeholders, including farmers, States and the Union Government to resolve to double farmers' income by 2022. He described the Krishi Unnati Mela as a platform that could rewrite India's destiny. He said India's future had to be built on the growth of agriculture, and the prosperity of its farmers and its villages.

The Prime Minister explained how the reduction of input costs was the first element towards raising farm incomes. He said that the Soil Health Card scheme, and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana are important steps towards reducing input costs.

On the occasion the Prime Minister also launched "Kisan Suvidha" – a mobile application for farmers which will provide information to farmers on subjects such as weather, market prices, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agriculture machinery.

Besides conferences and seminars, an exhibition stalls were put up by various institutions and agriculture entrepreneurs during the three day Mela. The delegation from Meghalaya included the Director, Agriculture & Mission Director (NFSM) Dorothy Syiemiong, Deputy Director & SNO (NFSM) Sankynti Tariang, Assistant Director, Agriculture (Agro) Canning S. Shabong and ADO, Shillong Sengban W.Momin, besides the two award recipients.

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari sworn in as Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya



Meghalaya Governor Shri V. Shanmuganathan administering the oath of office of Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya to Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari at Raj Bhavan on February 24 in the presence of Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya Dr. D. D. Lapang, Deputy Chief Ministers Shri Rowell Lyngdoh and Prof. R. C. Laloo, Speaker Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri A. T. Mondal, Justice S. R. Sen, Judge High Court of Meghalaya, Cabinet Ministers and other dignitaries.

Governor inaugurates National Seminar on Swachh Bharat



“Personal practice of cleanliness is more important than preaching” said Shri. V. Shanmuganathan, the Governor of Meghalaya while inaugurating the National Seminar on Swachh Bharat organized by the Directorate General Assam Rifles, Shillong at Rai Auditorium, Laitkor on March 15. The Governor said that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by the Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi on 2nd October, 2014 aims at achieving clean and hygienic India within a period of five years to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, 2019.

While lauding the initiative taken by the Directorate General Assam

Rifles to organize the National Seminar, the Governor also stressed on the need by the society at large to imbibe purity of thought and sincerity in action so as to place citizens on the path of overall development.

Director General Assam Rifles, Lt. Gen. H.J.S. Sachdev, in his address informed that the Seminar aims to highlight the initiative undertaken by the Directorate General Assam Rifles in propagation of Swachh Bharat Mission under Sharirik or Physical Swachhta, Aarthik or Financial Swachhta and Mansik or Mental Swachhta. The programme was also attended by Major Gen. M. K. Yadav, AD-GAR, officers from BSF, CRPF, ITBP, Army and Air Force.

CM MEETS UNION HOME MINISTER



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh during his maiden visit to the city at Assam Rifles Headquarters at Laitkor on March 21 evening and sought the latter's attention to certain issues concerning the State.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by State Home Minister Roshan Warjri, submitted a memorandum to the Union Home Minister seeking his intervention on issues like Inter-State boundary dispute with Assam, insurgency in Garo Hills region and strengthening of police set up, sanctioning of additional IR battalions, requirement of additional forces for implementing NGT order, creation of SF- 10 and setting up of residential schools in the border areas. Reiterating the nature of problems faced by the State, the Union Home Minister was requested to intervene on these matters on priority in the interest of the people of the State.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister apprised the Union Home Minister that, in view of the NGT order and for effective implementation of the same, though the State Police has been making best efforts to prevent illegal mining and illegal transportation of coal, violations are still taking place due to

lack of adequate forces. Although the State Government had requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide additional 15 companies of CRPF to effectively enforce the ban, the same has not been provided yet.

On the Assam-Meghalaya Inter-State boundary differences, it was informed to the Union Home Minister that as bilateral efforts have failed to bring about a mutually acceptable solution, the Meghalaya State Legislative Assembly had passed a unanimous Resolution urging upon the Centre to constitute a Boundary Commission to define the inter-state boundary between Assam and Meghalaya, having regard to the Constitutional provisions, relevant notifications and maps as well as historical, ethnic and linguistic linkages. The Chief Minister reiterated the request to constitute the Boundary Commission and evolve an institutionalized mechanism to resolve the vexed boundary problem between the two states, adding that the Union Government may consider this seriously considering the sensitivities involved.

In order to contain the menace of insurgency in Garo Hills region, the Union Home Minister was reminded of a proposal for upgradation of po-

lice establishment and infrastructure submitted to the Special Secretary (IS), Union Ministry of Home Affairs in 2012 and that the Ministry had sought an undertaking from the State Government to the effect that the recurring expenditure would be borne by the State from its own resources after the completion of the scheme. The State Government had already conveyed the undertaking to the Ministry in 2013 and the Chief Minister had also been writing to the Union Home Minister on the matter, he was told and requested that the same may be considered and approved on priority.

The Union Home Minister was also reminded about the proposal submitted to the Ministry for extending a one-time assistance for creation of a specialized commando force SF-10. Informing that the first phase of recruitment process has been completed, the State urged upon the Ministry to consider the proposal on a priority basis so that the unit can be made operational without delay. Later, the Chief Minister along with Home Minister Roshan Warjri gave company to the Union Home Minister in attending the cultural programme organized by Assam Rifles as part of its Raising Day.

CM INAUGURATES WILLIAMNAGAR BRIDGE OVER SIMSANG RIVER FOUNDATIONS FOR ROAD PROJECT & ADB-FUNDED SCHOOL BUILDING UNVEILED



The much awaited bridge over Simsang river located at Williamnagar town finally saw the light of day when the bridge was inaugurated with much fanfare by Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma in the presence of PWD Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar and Social Welfare Minister and local MLA Debora Marak on April 4.

The bridge spans a total of 203.29 metres, making it the longest bridge in Meghalaya to be constructed by the State PWD, which was initially sanctioned at Rs. 1.4365 crore on March 25, 1986. The construction process dragged on for 30 years due to several reasons. However, despite many hurdles and inclement weather during the working season, the bridge was finally completed in March this year.

The construction of the bridge is significant as it is the only connecting link for several villages across the Simsang river. The bridge is also a connecting link from Williamnagar to Chokpot in South Garo Hills. It is in this connection that a foundation stone for a new road project from Williamnagar

to Chokpot via Cherangre was also laid by the Chief Minister on the occasion. Simultaneously, the Chief Minister also unveiled the foundation for ADB sponsored building of Green Yard Secondary School, under "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya" project.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister while recalling the "unpleasant" past history of the bridge and the untold hardships that the people on the other side of river had to face, expressed his happiness to share the joy of the people of the area. He lauded the team of engineers from the Department for their "out of the box" approach to ensure the completion of the bridge.

Highlighting on the number of programmes being initiated by the State Government for promoting sustainable livelihood among the people, including Bamboo, Agar and Ramie Plantations, the Chief Minister stressed on the importance of connectivity with allweather roads for the success of these programmes.

He also urged appealed to the people to be generous in donating lands for construction of roads so that there would be no unnecessary delay in completing road projects in the process of acquisition of lands.

The Chief Minister also expressed his concern and questioned as to why the area remained the "hot bed of militancy", despite the Government's efforts to stop militancy and repeated calls to the militants to come for dialogue. He also appealed to the people to come together as community and extend their support to the Government in bringing them back to the mainstream. Later, the Chief Minister also visited Greenyard Secondary School to inspect the site for construction of new building funded by ADB.

PWD Minister S. Dhar, who attended as a guest of honour along with Social Welfare Minister Debora Marak, in his brief address expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for his tremendous support in ensuring the completion of the project and said that completion of the bridge would enhance business and other social activities in the region.

Common Facility Centre-cum- Handloom production unit at Selsella inaugurated

Chief minister Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the Common Facility Centre cum Handloom Production Unit at Selsella in West Garo Hills in the presence of local MLA and Power Minister Clement Marak on February 18.

It may be mentioned that the Government has embarked upon a programme to establish such production units in different parts of the state to promote handloom production. The Common Facility Centre cum Handloom Production Unit enables and empowers the weavers to set up their own enterprise. This programme was launched in 2013-14 and till date 10 such units have been established in the State out of which, six are in Garo Hills.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that although weaving is linked to tradition, there is a huge gap between demand and supply and as such it is a great opportunity for livelihood. He therefore reiterated the State Government's commitment to provide a viable opportunity for the women weavers with technology and skill up-gradation.

The Chief Minister recalled that in 2013 the Union Ministry of Textiles had approved a special project for the promotion of weavers in the State which was later adopted for the whole nation. "This was a programme conceptualized to empower women weavers in the State, however, the Union

mote rural areas.

He also urged upon the all interested weavers to avail skill upgradation training being given by the government so that it can be taken as a means of livelihood.

The Chief Minister also informed the gathering that the State Government is coming up with a scheme to produce yarn from Ramie fibre, which is grown indigenously in Garo Hills and known as "Kilkra" in local language. Ramie fibre can be used for various apparel and garment production and infused with latest design, he said adding that there is a huge demand for handloom products locally as well as globally.

Power Minister Minister Clement Marak in his brief address said that the Unit would not only help to improve quality of weaving but also provide job opportunities to the people.

Director, Sericulture and Weaving, Bakul Ch. Hajong in his keynote address said that in order to promote weavers, the department has established 72 handloom clusters, of which nine clusters are in Garo Hills. The target is to ensure that our weavers earn a minimum of Rs 5000 per month by the end of 2017- 18, he said, adding that the programme is aimed at raising the earning capabilities of the weavers and provide technology and design facilities.

Government has modified the programme and designed it in such a way that will not work", he lamented and asserted that in order to make handloom sector survive we need to have small production centres in the re-



Shillong successfully hosts 12th South Asian Games



After the spectacular opening of 12th South Asian Games at Guwahati on February 5, the Shillong phase of the Games was launched with a grand ceremony held at J.N. Stadium, Polo on February 6, which was attended by Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma as chief guest.

The event started with the theme song “Ei Prithvi ek Krirangan” playing to the accompaniment of Assamese, Khasi and Garo dancers and joined by the Games mascot Tikhon on stage. This was followed by the procession of contingents from eight South Asian nations - Afghanistan with 94 athletes, Bangladesh with 137, Bhutan with 155, Maldives with 38, Nepal with 128, Pakistan with 85, Sri Lanka with and India with 141 - each contingent led by young women representing the eight tribes from Meghalaya.

The highlight of the evening was a spectacular presentation on formation of Mawlynnong, the cleanest village in Asia which was followed with the electrifying performance by the Shillong Chamber Choir as the children carrying umbrellas of various hues and others dressed as sportspersons formed into a figure “SAG 2016”, while fireworks and balloons were displayed to mark the culmination of the inaugural event.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that North East had come a long way to be able to host an event of such a magnitude. “As for Shillong, this is the second international event after the Indigenous Terra Madre, 2015”, he said, adding that Shillong being able to co-host the Games has been due to the concerted endeavour of all concerned.

“It is a great opportunity for the people of the State to see the flags of eight nations flying in this Stadium”, he added.

Union Minister of State for Sports and Chairman, Organizing Committee, Sarbananda Sonowal, Meghalaya Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs and Vice-Chairman, Zenith Sangma and President of Indian Olympic Association, N Ramachandran also addressed the audience on the occasion, which was also attended by other dignitaries and officials of the Olympic associations from some of the South Asian nations.

The dances from the tribes of Meghalaya and from the tribes of the eight Northeastern states and performances by actor-singer Mayang Chang and Venetia Wanshong also enthralled the audience during the inaugural programme.





New power substation inaugurated at Mendipathar Ganol project to be commissioned in 2017, says CM



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the 132/33, 2x20 MVA Substation at Mendipathar in North Garo Hills on December 22, 2015.

The project was funded by North Eastern Council with a total cost of Rs. 14.5 crore and is one of the most important sub-stations in the State. It is the third substation in Garo Hills after Nongalbibra and Rongkhon substations.

Dedicating the substation to the people of the region after inaugurating and switching on the transformer breaker and 33 KV feeder breakers, the Chief Minister said that the project is a comprehensive effort of all concerned and an offshoot of the design of the Government to address the issues of backwardness and poverty and respond to the needs of the people as per the demands of time. The Chief Minister also informed that this year

out of RIDF fund Rs.112 crore has been earmarked for Ganol hydro project “because we want to complete it on time”, saying if we delay the completion of project due to lack of fund flow, we end up losing lot of money in interests, which he said is “bad economics”. Therefore when we start projects, “do it fast, complete it and reap returns”, he said quoting from the scripture Isaiah 65:21. Regarding the long talked about Transmission Line from Agia to Nongalbibra, he said Rs. 43 crore was invested for the project, because without it the Mendipathar substation would not have been possible.

Recalling the frequent power failures in Garo Hills because of the fault somewhere in the transmission line from Mawlai to Nongalbibra he said that this transmission line was so over-aged that it could no longer respond to the demands of time, but it could

not be renovated because there was no alternative line. “But today because of the investment that we have made gives us the luxury of having options and we will only improve the overall power scenario”, he added.

He also said that with uninterrupted fund flow, Ganol project is expected to be completed by 2017, adding that this will be fastest power project in the country as far as hydro power project is concerned. “After investing so much of money Ganol project has to be sustainable and to make it sustainable we have to involve a lot of people in dialogue process to preserve all the vegetative coverage”, he added saying that in order to have a sustained power supply we need to ensure sustained sources of water and highlighted on the Government’s programme of sustainable livelihood through sustainable ecology.

Winners of 20th Nat'l Games for Hearing Impaired 2016 feted

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma on February 17 felicitated 17 students from Montfort Centre of Education, Tura, who bagged 32 medals during the 20th National Games for the Hearing Impaired, 2016 held at Hyderabad from January 4 to 8, last.

The 17-member team from Montfort represented the State of Meghalaya at the National Games. This is the second time the school has represented the State. In the 2015 Games, the

in a manner that commensurate to their potentialities.

Admitting the fact that the State had not been able to create that kind of conducive environment to enable our children to unleash their potentialities, he said it was time now to realize our mistake and take mid-course correction. Speaking about the impact of the kind of leadership shown by the Principal, how just one person can be instrumental



students of Montfort had won three bronze medals. This year, the students have put up an outstanding performance bagging 32 medals, including 12 Gold medals.

The felicitation programme was held at Tura Circuit House organized by the District Administration and was participated by local leaders, district officials, teachers and students of Montfort School, among others.

Congratulating the school and the medal winners, the Chief Minister remarked how God has enabled these children differently and how they can actually be an inspiration and motivation to many other children. "There is a need to ensure that the hope of the people is not dislocated and dare to dream big which is crucial to bring out the best in each of us", he said.

"The wonderful story created by these children should not go unnoticed," the Chief Minister said and expressed a deep sense of gratitude on behalf of the government, the State and the people to the team of Montfort under the dynamic leadership of its Director-Principal Bro K.J. Jose for making the State proud, adding that now it was time to think of the way forward in articulating the strength of all these children

in creating a turnaround and generating this kind of hope in children, the Chief Minister asked Montfort Centre to submit a proposal to the State government within a week to fructify its objectives, saying "let good things emanate from here and spread to other parts of the State and the country".

The Chief Minister also handed over sports kits to the school and interacted with the students in a sign language.

The Chief Minister was elated after successfully co-hosting the 12th South Asian Games and announced that the State would make a bid for hosting the National Games in 2022.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Pravin Bakshi briefly highlighted how Montfort was the only team to represent the entire State during the games and this, he said, had been done on their own with minimum support. Director, Montfort, Bro. Jose also expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for taking time to spend with the less privileged children and the support being extended to the centre.

Later, the Chief Minister also reviewed the performance of the district in the implementation of Women's Economic Empowerment through Financial Inclusion. The scheme was launched in the year 2011.



3rd Act East Business Show held

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma on February 26 inaugurated the 3rd Act East Business Show, 2016 under the theme “Strengthening South East Asia with NE India” in the presence of representatives and delegates from South East Asian nations, at the State Central Library premises in the city.

The three-day programme was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in collaboration with the Department of Commerce & Industries, Government of Meghalaya which is being attended by the FBCCI business delegation from Bangladesh and representatives from Nepal, Laos PDR and Thailand among others. Round table discussions on sectors, themes and issues are also being held in the concurrent sessions spreading across two days.

Delivering the inaugural address, Dr. Sangma looked back on how the persistent efforts and engagement of the North eastern states with the Government of India had set the ball rolling for strengthening trade and business ties across the borders and expressed his gratitude to the Indian Chamber of Commerce for giving the platform for taking forward this initiative to a higher level. “The signing of BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement is a result of this effort”, he said.

While dwelling on the huge business opportunities for investment in the region, the Chief Minister stressed on the need for multi-mode connectivity across the region and for tapping its resources in a more comprehensive manner. Dr. Sangma was upbeat about the positive response from the Government of India after the NE states had taken up with it for increased connectivity in the region, as a result of which a number of National Highways are coming up, he said. The Central Government has also identified potential rivers of North East for National Inland Waterways and five of such rivers are in Meghalaya alone, he added, saying, “Five years from now any area in the region that has business potential will be well connected” he said.

The Chief Minister said that there was a lot of potentiality in

the region but we have not been able to create an enabling environment to bring out those potentialities and urged upon the business summit to include the possibilities of using bamboo and biomass as alternative energy sources and also to capture Meghalaya’s potentiality in wind and solar energy during their discussions. He also called for having sector-wise summit and discussions on country-specific opportunities.

On issues that create barriers in business across the borders as brought up by the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Abdul Matlub Ahmad, the Chief Minister assured that such issues would be taken up collectively so as to have a natural system of dismantling the barriers. He also thanked Bangladesh for driving the approach of opening up borders for trade and commerce and people to people contact more aggressively.

Mr Ahmad in his address expressed keenness to invest in many sectors in Meghalaya and had sought Chief Minister’s intervention for having more than one entry point to the State and for having a testing laboratory at Dawki as Bangladesh would want to export its food products to the State. He also called for declaring Shillong and Sylhet as twin cities for forging stronger friendship between Meghalaya and Bangladesh.

Nepal Ambassador in India Deep Kumar Upadhyay, Ambassador of Laos PDR, Southam Sakonhnhnom, Second Director, Thai SME Association Ms. Anong Intharak were among other representatives who addressed the inaugural session, while the Member of NEC, C. K. Das delivered the keynote address during which he had said that before going ahead with Act East policy in a big way there is a need to ensure that NE should have its own absorptive capacity and ensure that it does not become a dumping ground of Chinese goods.

ICC President Shiv Siddhant Kaul and Director General, ICC, Dr. Rajeev Singh also spoke on the occasion.

Tearful farewell to Purno Sangma



The mortal remains of Late Purno A. Sangma, Tura MP, former Speaker of Lok Sabha and former Chief Minister of Meghalaya, was accorded State funeral at the Dikki Bandi Stadium, Dakopgre, before being laid to rest at the Catholic Church Cemetery, on March 7.

Dignitaries of various political hues from across the State and beyond and thousands of people, young and old, came together to pay their last respects and bid farewell to the departed leader during the State funeral.

Floral wreaths were laid by the dignitaries at the casket bearing Late P A Sangma's mortal remains draped with the Tricolor, while the Meghalaya Police accorded a 21-gun salute as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Among the dignitaries who paid floral tributes were the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma, Deputy Chief Minister Dr. R. C. Laloo, Chief Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya, D.D. Lapang, former Chief Minister and State Planning Board Chairman Salseng C. Marak, MP and former Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio, former Chief Minister of Manipur, R B Koijam, former Union Minister and Working President, NPP, Arvind Netam, Meghalaya Assembly Speaker, A T Mondal, Leader of the Opposition & former Chief Minister,

Dr. Donkumar, Speaker of Nagaland Assembly, Chotisuh Sazo, Cabinet ministers Prestone Tynsong, Debora C. Marak, A. L. Hek, Zenith Sangma, Roshan Warjri, Clement Marak and Ampareen Lyngdoh, while floral wreath on behalf of the Assam Governor P B Acharya was laid by Shillong MP Vincent Pala and on behalf of Meghalaya Governor V. Shanmuganathan the wreath was placed by his ADC Dy Comdt. Trideep Sangma.

Paying tributes to the late leader, Chief Minister Dr. Sangma said Late P A Sangma was instrumental in connecting Meghalaya, in general and Garo Hills, in particular with the rest of the world, adding "God has been kind to us to have given us a leader of such a stature". During his long innings as the leader of the people he has touched the lives of many, he said and recalled how he had motivated many a youth to join politics. He also said that like P A Sangma, all politicians should learn to acclimatize themselves to the push and pulls of being a politician. "He was loved by all – his political comrades and opponents alike", he added.

All other dignitaries who spoke at the State funeral recalled Late Sangma's contribution to the State, to the region and the country as a whole.

They paid glowing tributes to the Late leader, spoke of his conviction and commitment and the irreparable loss and vacuum that has been created by his sudden demise.

Condolence messages received from across the country, including the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee and AICC President Sonia Gandhi, were also read out during the programme.

Speaking on behalf of the bereaved family, Late Sangma's youngest daughter and former Union Minister of State, Agatha K. Sangma extended a note of gratitude for all the support they received during their moment of loss and also expressed her gratitude to the Almighty "for giving us a father like P.A. Sangma".

Later, the mortal remains of the Late leader was carried by guard of honour and handed over to the family for funeral service at the Cathedral and later for the burial at the Catholic Church Cemetery.

While the mortal remains were being carried to his final resting place, the 7-odd km road leading from the Stadium to the Cathedral and the cemetery was crowded with people on both sides waiting to have the last glimpse of the leader.

GOVT TO INTRODUCE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS TAKING UP SCIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION: CM



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma has expressed his concern over the decline in the number of students taking up science in higher studies and announced that the State Government has taken a decision to introduce scholarships to encourage and support students to take up the subject in the higher levels of education.

The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering as the chief guest at the closing function of the two-day celebration of National Science Day & a Decade of Journey of Shillong Science Centre at NEHU Campus, Shillong on February 27. The celebration, jointly organized by SCSTE, Shillong Science Centre, NEHU, MBDA and North Eastern Council on the theme "Science for Development", witnessed various activities aimed at creating scientific awareness, including science exhibition, theme-based wall painting competition, display of technologies, science talk and interactions, marathon run and placard rally during the two day celebrations.

Stating that the decline of students pursuing science in higher education was a challenge for the government

today as "we are losing potential students who could otherwise have made useful contributions to the State", the Chief Minister stressed the need to make learning science more attractive so that we can bring out young men and women who can ideate and innovate great things for mankind.

The Chief Minister who visited the stalls at the science exhibition, was impressed by "the levels of innovation that can emanate from the young students" and stressed on the need to integrate our scientific knowledge, particularly as policy makers and leverage upon the advancement of science for the benefit of the next generations. He congratulated the Shillong Science Centre for its achievement and also called for creation of such centres on a hub and spoke model in every district to imbibe scientific temper among the students. He also informed the students about the career counselling centres under the Chief Minister's Career Guidance & Counselling programme and urged upon the students to take advantage of the opportunities being offered under the programme.

The Chief Minister along with other dignitaries also distributed prizes to winners of various competitions organized during the two-day celebrations.

NEHU Vice Chancellor Prof. S. K. Srivastava in his address as the guest of honour, expressed his view that higher secondary education should not be compartmentalized saying science should be made accessible to all and should be able to reach out to the society. He said that Science Centre was open for all students to visit and learn, adding that NEHU would be ever ready to contribute anything that would be expected by the State from the University.

Earlier, Development Commissioner, R. M. Mishra in his brief address said that science should be able to tune the youths for entrepreneurship and expressed hope that Shillong Science Centre would continue to be a centre of transformation for the people of the State, while the Secretary, Planning, Dr. B.D.R. Tiwari in his welcome address spoke of the vision of turning Shillong Science Centre into a "Science Village", which drew whole hearted support from the NEC.

44th Anniversary of MEGHALAYA STATEHOOD celebrated



The 44th Anniversary of Meghalaya Statehood was celebrated on January 21 amid much fervor at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong which was attended by Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma as the Chief Guest in the presence of Shri. A L Hek, Minister, Health & Family Welfare, IT & IPR etc., Minister, Home, Smti. Roshan Warjri, Parliamentary Secretary, Tourism, Arts & Culture, Shri. Kennedy Khyriem, MLA and Chairperson, Meghalaya Resources & Employment Generation Council, Smti. Dikkanchi D Shira and MLA, Chokpot, Smti. Bluebell Sangma, Chief Secretary, Shri. P B O Warjri, senior officials, heads of departments, distinguished leaders and various government officials.

Speaking to the gathering, Dr Mukul M Sangma said that the celebration is a momentous occasion as it enables every citizen of the state to reconnect to the glorious past of having achieved the beautiful state. Recollecting the history in the manner which the state was achieved, he said that the statehood of Meghalaya is the culmination of a peaceful movement of selfless but determined movement initiated by the

leaders who wanted to have a state of their own. "It is also a time to remind ourselves and others that violence, bloodshed and inflicting misery on our own people cannot be means to achieve issues and agendas and aspirations can be fulfilled through peaceful and democratic means", he said.

The Chief Minister also said that while paying tribute to the leaders who have shown the way forward through peaceful means the day is also befitting for all to revisit the objectives for which the state was created so that people have hope and security and move ahead with optimism. Stating that there has been a substantial progress in addressing the contentious issues, the state has been able to take care of its fiscal health which has led to an increase in externally aided projects.

He reminded the government functionaries to direct their efforts to make lives better for the less privileged and resolve to share the benefit of growth and prosperity among all the people by driving the programmes with selflessness and dedication.

The Chief Minister also conferred

the Meghalaya Day Excellence Award to 15 government employees from across the state in recognition of the government servants who excel in their performance highlighting their exemplary and outstanding achievements and devotion to duty. The award carried a citation with a cash award of Rupees 20,000/- only for each awardee.

e-District Services under East Khasi Hills was also launched by the Chief Minister during the celebration. e-District is one of the 31 Mission Mode Projects under NeGP, with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India (GoI). This Mission Mode Project aims at electronic delivery of identified high volume citizen-centric services, at district and Sub-Divisional level.

Prizes were distributed to the winners of cultural programmes on the occasion of Meghalaya Day. Other highlights of the day included Seasonal Flower Show, mimi carnival for children, food festival, Rock Concert for Peace and a colourful fireworks display in the evening.

CM INSPIRES YOUTHS FOR JOINING ARMY, SELF-EMPLOYMENT



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma on February 18 delivered a motivating, inspirational talk before thousands of youths who had gathered for the massive awareness and outreach programme organized to create awareness for recruitment to Armed forces and State Police at Shyamnagar near Phulbari in West Garo Hills.

The programme was organized by the District Administration under the Chief Minister's Career Guidance Scheme and Chief Minister's Youth Development Scheme to prepare the youths for the Army Recruitment Rally to be held in Tura sometime in the month of April and police recruitment rally to be organized in the following months this year. It was also aimed at creating awareness on self-employment through skill development initiatives of the government.

Motivated by the success of Army recruitment rally last year in Tura where 100 youths, including 64 from Garo Hills had qualified, the district administration is hopeful of mobilizing more and more youths to pursue their careers in the Army or the State Police.

The Chief Minister in his address said, "There is so much joy and satisfaction in serving the nation and in protecting our people and our society," and called

on the youth to enrol themselves as there is no ceiling in vacancies for the Army. He asked the youths to avail maximum benefits as the Government has been able to convince the Army to recruits youths from the State in various posts like Soldier General Duty, Soldier Clerk, Soldier Technical, Soldier Tradesman, etc. He informed the youths who have completed their 10+2 in science stream, technical vacancies were open under a special cut-off marks for candidates from the State. As online registration for joining the Army has been made mandatory, facilitation centres and help desks would be set up in every block for the youth to enroll themselves.

He also encouraged them to go for trainings prior to the recruitment rally that would be given free of cost, saying that there is a need for the best candidates to serve the nation. "We are ready to provide all necessary assistance to groom our youths, so that they are absorbed in the Army", he added.

He also said that those youths who do not qualify for the Army should not lose hope but go for other trainings being offered under skill development programme, saying that learning is a continuous process and the more we

learn the more wisdom we get. "If all our youths are trained in various skills we can have a ready workforce for the industries that will be set up in the region", he said, adding, "We need to ensure that no one is left jobless".

The Chief Minister also informed that notification for filling up 2000 vacancies in Meghalaya police would be announced this week.

Power Minister Clement Marak, Parliamentary Secretary, Limison D. Sangma, MDCs and hosts of other leaders and government officials were also present during the outreach programme. The Chief Minister along with other dignitaries also officially released publicity materials and handy booklets on Army on the occasion.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner West Garo Hills Pravin Bakshi highlighted on the objectives of the programme and encouraged the youths to come forward for registration and training for Army recruitment and become the agents of change in their respective societies and communities. He also said that the programme was being organized for generating awareness not only for recruitment but also for revival of self-help groups as National Rural Livelihood Mission was going to be launched shortly.

Laptops distributed to meritorious students

The Information Technology Department, Meghalaya, handed over laptops to meritorious students who excelled in the Class X and Class XII Examinations 2015 of MBOSE, ICSE, ISC and Class XII Examination of the CBSE at Yojana Bhavan, Shillong on January 21. The felicitation ceremony was graced by the presence of the IT Minister, Mr. A L Hek as Chief Guest, Chief Secretary, Mr. P B O Warjri and Commissioner & Secretary, IT, Mr. D P Wahlang.



Mr. Hek in his speech said that it is a proud moment for parents to see that their children have shine in the academic pursuit of merit and it is also a proud moment for him that the Government has taken the initiative to acknowledge the efforts of the young minds in facing the challenges of this competitive world.

In his congratulatory note, the Minister encouraged the meritorious students to continue to strive for excellence and pursue their goals with the same dedication and commitment so that they can contribute towards nation building.

Giving his words of advice, Mr. Warjri said that the laptop is a tool to advance in their studies and called upon the awardees to put it to excellent use.

Mr. D P Wahlang, in his welcome speech, highlighted on the initiative that the Department is undertaking for the welfare and benefit of the students and the people at large.

Road Safety Week, 2016 observed in city



The 27th Road Safety Week, 2016 under the theme: “Road Safety – Time for Action” was observed on the January 18, at U Soso Tham Auditorium where the Minister of Transport, Shri H. D. R. Lyngdoh graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

“We must never forget the very fact that parents has always been a role model for their children, they can instill in them the basics of road safety”, said Shri H. D. R. Lyngdoh while highlighting the importance of following road safety measures in the State. He urged the citizens to follow necessary safety procedures and also to spread the message on road safety to everyone so that deaths due to road accidents can be minimized. Later on, Shri Lyngdoh administered a Pledge on Road Safety. .

After the inaugural programme, the Minister flagged off the rally team. The team covered most parts of the city spreading awareness about road safety.





Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma attending the Bangladesh Investment & Policy Summit 2016 at Bangladesh as a Special Guest on January 24, 2016.



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma attending 'Destination North East-2016', a festival organized by the Union Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Union Ministry of Culture for showcasing the inherent economic, social and cultural strength of the North East region at the national level, at in New Delhi on February 12, 2016.



Smti D. C. Marak, State Social Welfare Minister speaking during the inauguration of the one day Training Programme on Child Rights and Child Protection held at Yojana Bhavan, Main Secretariat, Shillong on January 29, 2016.

The training programme was organized by the State Child Protection Society and Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya to sensitize the target groups on the provision of the law pertaining to children to enable them to function professionally and effectively.

Meghalaya finds place in top 20 world tourist destinations



Meghalaya has found a place in the world tourism map as one of the 20 best tourist destinations in the world and has been ranked sixth best destination by Skyscanner – a global search engine for tours and travels.

This was informed by the Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma while briefing the press persons after the Cabinet meeting on April 13, 2016, who expressed his optimism about the State's potential to grow as one of the best tourist destination in the world.

As per Skyscanner's list of top twenty tourist destinations, Ukraine's Tunnel of Love has been ranked number one followed by Switzerland's Aescher Hotel, Iceland's Thingvallavatn Lake, Provence in France and the Great Blue Hole in Belize. Meghalaya's Living Root Bridge at Mawlynnong comes sixth on the list.

