



Cooperative Summit for development of NER held

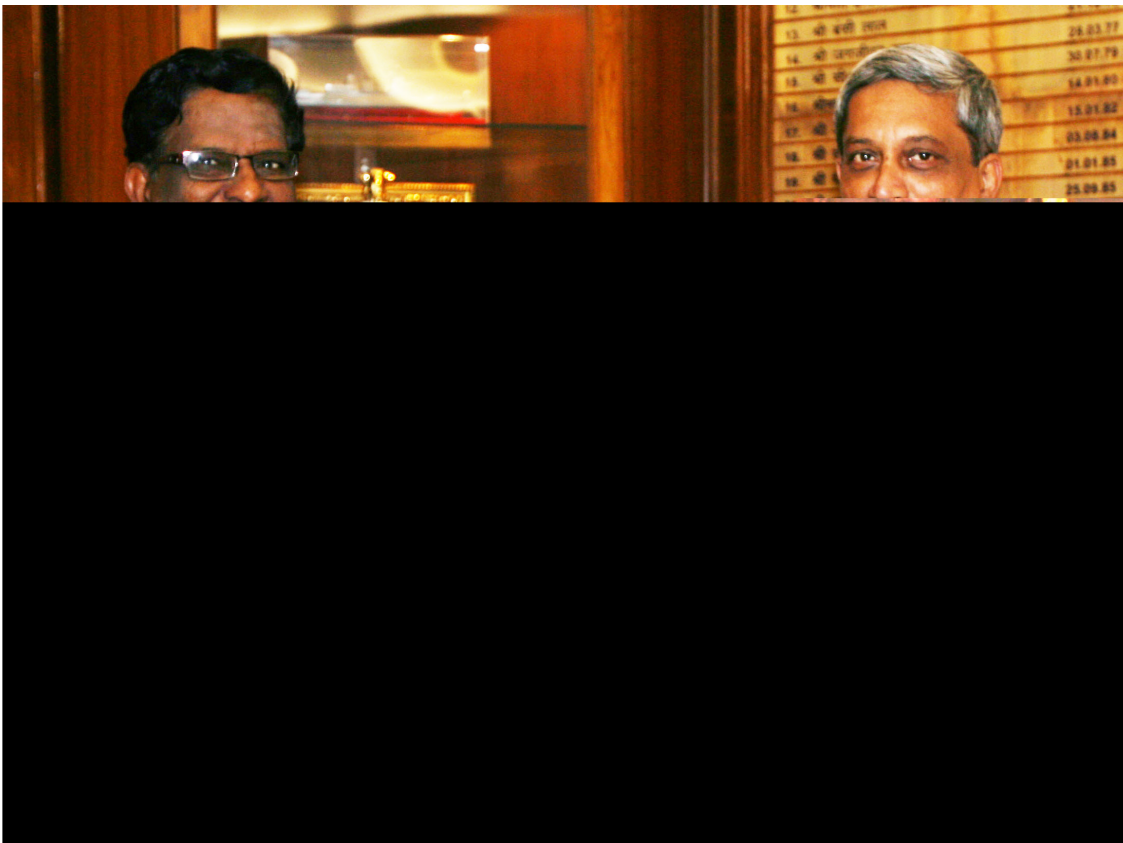


The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma chaired the inaugural function of the Cooperative Summit for the Development of Cooperatives in North Eastern Region, organised by the National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC) on August 21 at the State Convention Centre, Shillong. The function was attended by the Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Cooperation, Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya as the Chief Guest and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju as Guest of Honour.

Others who were present at the inaugural session were Shri H D R Lyngdoh, Shri L Ralte and Shri K Jamatia, Ministers of Cooperation of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura respectively, Adviser, Cooperation, Nagaland, Shri I Sangtan, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser to Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Raghav Chandra.

In his address, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma expressed gratitude to NCDC for organizing the summit in Shillong that is befitting to the expectations and aspirations involving the majority of the people. He said that the momentum of cooperative movement in the state has died down over the years therefore having such summits will enable to have an in depth understanding of complexities faced by the cooperative societies that is also related to the unique challenges that the North East Region face.

(Contd. on Pg. 2)



Shri V. Shanmuganathan,
Governor of Meghalaya
calling on the
Defence Minister
Shri Manohar Parrikar at
New Delhi on 24th August, 2015.

Chief Minister stresses on Investment in NE region at NITI Aayog meeting



Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma attended the final meeting of Draft Report on Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Skill Development at NITI Aayog, Delhi on August 25. The Convenor of the Sub-Group, Chief Minister, Punjab, Shri. Prakash Singh Badal, and Chief Ministers of Assam, Tripura, Chattisgarh, Goa, Minister, Orissa attended the programme while other states were represented by senior officials, Shri. Sindhushree Khullar, CEO, NITI,

Aayog and Shri Alok Kumar, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog and other senior central and state officials.

Expressing a sense of satisfaction that the concerns of the North East Region have been captured in the Draft Report, the Chief Minister stressed on the need of having an Industrial and other Policy measures specifically for North East. He stated that a substantial number of youth have been given skill development training and also placed in various sectors outside the North East region however 80 per cent of these youth have gone back to their home states where there are no spaces available suited to the skill development training they have received. He therefore said that it is necessary for the central government to lay down appropriate policy measures and programmes to promote investment in North East to create demand for jobs within the North East region so that the youth can be locally absorbed, while taking care of various infrastructural gaps so that the region becomes attractive for investment.

It may be mentioned that the Sub-Group of the Chief Ministers on Skill Development was to suggest suitable policy measures for Skill Development efforts in the country. The meeting was also attended by Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment, Labour, Shri. M S Rao and Director, Employment & Craftsmen Training, Shri. B Hajong.

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(Contd. from Pg. 1)

“The idea of strengthening the cooperative movement is to empower the majority of the people who constitute the farming community”, he said. He informed that in Meghalaya there is a need to infuse new enthusiasm amongst people that co-operatives can be another instrument to create sustainable livelihood and Meghalaya Livelihood and Access to Market Projects (LAMP) is designed to create a cluster of cooperative societies by integrating a number of villages to ensure that cooperatives become agencies to create the market linkages for farmers who are being supported with various livelihood options which are on a sustainable basis.

The Chief Minister also highlighted a problem of cooperatives not being able to integrate themselves because of lack of support resulting in dislocation of marketing strategy of their cooperative products. “Connectivity through all weather roads, infrastructure and collection centres in a hub and spoke model for ensuring market access is a challenge,” he added. He stressed on the need to further restructure the approaches to see that the cooperative movement becomes an effective instrument to build up successful entrepreneurship model for the people.

Earlier, Shri Kundariya, in his speech, said that the NCDC has an in-depth understanding on the responsibilities of cooperatives in ensuring inclusive growth and socio-economic development in the lives of small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, rural women and weaker sections of society. Towards achieving this end, the NCDC has been providing services to cooperative section in the form of planning, promotion and financing of programmes for infrastructure in rural areas and improving investment in agriculture sector leading to improvement in agricultural production and productivity, remunerative price for the farmers, value addition and promotion of agro based industries, he said.

Shri Kundariya also said that the NCDC has included programmes such as Tourism, Hospitality, Transportation, Electricity and Energy, Rural Housing, Hospital, Health Care and Education within its fold so that all round development of the country could be ensured.

Shri Kundariya said that the NCDC has taken several initiatives to remove imbalances by providing liberal assistance and attaching priority to the cooperatives working in cooperatively least and under developed States. One such important initiative is Integrated Cooperative Development Project (ICDP)

under which entire district is adopted for the integrated development of cooperatives by using effective contacts and local resources. NCDC has so far implemented this scheme in 300 districts of the country and is looking at possibility of implementing the same in the region. He said that the Government of India, particularly the Agriculture Ministry is giving special attention for agriculture development in North Eastern States as there is a huge potential for development of cooperatives in the region. He hoped that the summit will come out with a concrete and implementable action plan for development of cooperatives in the North East and assured continuous and committed support of the Government of India, particularly the Agriculture Ministry in all such endeavours.

Shri Kiren Rijiju, in his speech, said that Cooperative Movement is a sector which can empower society especially in the context of the NE Region which is geographically bounded by other countries. He said that natural resources and raw materials are found in abundance in the region and we need to develop these resources through cooperatives with financial assistance and support of the Central and State Governments. He also said that the region needs to expand trade relations with neighbouring countries and not confined to our own geographical boundaries so as to raise the standard of living of the rural populace. He expressed confidence that with the NCDC support, the North Eastern Region can be transformed into an economic hub where people can derive direct benefits from trade relations with the neighbours as well as with the rest of the country. He expressed hope that the NCDC will understand the ground position of the region in forging ahead with the cooperative movement and to chalk out plans for the welfare of cooperatives.

Shri H. D. R. Lyngdoh, Meghalaya Cooperation Minister in his speech stressed the importance of setting up a Centre of Cooperative Excellence and Skill at Shillong with Central Government assistance in fulfilling the potential of the State and the North Eastern Region in the Cooperative Sector.

Shri Lyngdoh elaborated that the Centre will promote and strengthen the cooperative movement, offer intensive capacity building, provide market linkage for cooperative societies including value and chain development and improvement of practical skill of members of different cooperative societies of the State in particular and North Eastern Region in general.

Price of onions in East Khasi Hills

Due to the rise of price of onion from the procurement centre and after the meeting with the traders, the Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Khasi Hills District, has informed that the price of onion in the District has been fixed at Rs. 6500-Rs. 6800 per quintal at wholesale rate and Rs. 75-Rs. 80 per kg at retail price. The said price of onion will remain the same till the 28th August, 2015.

Any overcharging of the price by the traders/retailers should be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, immediately.

SDRC Chairman Appointed

The Government of Meghalaya has approved the appointment of Smti. Bluebell R Sangma, MLA, as Chairman of the Meghalaya State Development Reforms Commission (SDRC) with effect from the date of assumption of charge and until further orders under Category A+. This was informed by the Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Programme Implementation & Evaluation Department.

Organic Plantation of Agar and Bamboo launched for Ri Bhoi District



Organic Plantation of Agar and Bamboo was launched on August 20 for Ri Bhoi district by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr Mukul M Sangma, at the Office of the Block Development Officer, Umling.

Launching the programme for the farmers of Ri Bhoi district, Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma said that the initiative can be a game changer for two obvious aspects. He added that the programme is a response to the challenge of mitigating the issues of climate change and it will also ensure sustainable livelihood while promoting sustainable ecology. Remarking that Agar is indigenous to the state, Meghalaya can rightly be called the 'Gene Bag of Agar'. Stating that Agar is an endangered species, the Chief Minister said it is imperative for the government to cultivate the crop in sync with the laws of the land by regulating the plantation, felling and export to ultimately benefit the farmers. He also said that farmers need to understand the high remunerative value of Agar and the areas along the Meghalaya-Assam and Meghalaya-Bangladesh are conducive for the plantation of Agar.

Referring to bamboo as 'Wonder Grass' the Chief Minister said that bamboo plantation can also be an alternative

source of livelihood. He added that bamboo has various alternative applications and help in conserving soil and moisture. Adding that it is the endeavor of the government to initiate economic and viable projects he urged the farmers to drive the programme jointly and expressed hope that there will be active participation from the farmers as the initiative has already generated a lot of interest and enthusiasm.

Principal Secretary, Shri. P Kharkongor, Agriculture, also attended the function as the Guest of Honor. Speaking on the occasion he said that both agar and bamboo will give farmers livelihood on a sustainable basis while taking care of the ecology.

Earlier, delivering the Key Note Address, Director, Horticulture, Shri. Michael Syiem, informed that the concept is to ensure value added plantation while addressing the twin issues of economic and ecological development.

Later, the Chief Minister distributed Agar and Bamboo saplings to the registered farmers and also planted Agar sapling in the office premises.

Draft Publication of Electoral Rolls, 2015 for GDC Elections

The Deputy Commissioner (Election) North Garo Hills District, Resubelpara has informed that in accordance with the Assam Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules 1951 (Amended) the Draft Electoral Rolls for the 23-Rongrong GDC, 24-Bolsong GDC, 25- Damas GDC and 26-Kharkutta GDC Constituencies has been prepared in accordance with Rule 129 (4) of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council Rule 1951 (Amended). Copies are available for inspection in the office of the Deputy Commissioner (Election) North Garo Hills District, Resubelpara during office hours.

If with reference to the qualifying date for the preparation of the electoral roll, ie., is 12.09.2015, there by any claim for the inclusion of a name in the roll or any objection to the inclusion of name or any objection to particulars in any entry, it should be lodged between the period of 12.08.2015 to 27.08.2015 in Form 6, 7, or 8 as may be appropriate.

Every such claim or objection should either be presented in the not later than the aforesaid date to the Block Development Office/ Deputy Commissioner, North Garo Hills, Resubelpara or sent by post to the Electoral Registration Officers 23-Rongrong GDC, 24-Bolsong GDC, 25- Damas GDC and 26-Kharkutta GDC, North Garo Hills District, Resubelpara.

MHIS 2 Launched for Ri Bhoi District



Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr Mukul M Sangma, launched the Megha Health Insurance Scheme 2 (MHIS 2) for Ri Bhoi District at Umsning Auditorium, Umsning on August 20. Chief Advisor to the Government of Meghalaya, Dr D D Lapang and Minister, Health & Family Welfare, A L Hek also attended the function as Special Guests.

Delivering his speech, Dr Mukul M Sangma said that MHIS is one of the most inclusive programmes of the government that is extended for all within the state. Stating that the success of a programme can be measured on implementation of the programme for which it is meant he stressed on the need

of the awareness of the people of availability of such schemes with the government. He said that such programmes open up a lot of opportunities for private sectors as well to make health care delivery system efficient and sustainable.

The Chief Minister also stressed that tertiary referral centers should be government institutions and this practice should be adopted by doctors in PHCs and CHCs as access to health care facilities are confined to the privileged few and often the less fortunate surrender to a disease on failure of meeting the expenses of a treatment. He further said that the government is looking at establishing a Super Speciality Hospital in Ri Bhoi on a PPP mode. He also added that the successful implementation of such programmes depend on the government agencies, he urged all concerned officials including the traditional institutions that the actions of all driving the programme should not be perceived as discriminatory and ensure that the last family is not left out from enrollment.

Among others who spoke at the awareness and mass mobilization drive were special guests, Chief Advisor to the Government of Meghalaya, Dr D D Lapang and Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Shri. A L Hek. Both the speakers urged the people to register themselves under scheme as MHIS 2 is an enhanced version of MHIS that covers an insurance of Rs 2 lakhs per card and also includes a number of tertiary packages.

Dr C Lyngdoh, Parliamentary Secretary, Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Pooja Pandey and senior officials from the Health Department and the district administration also attended the programme besides representatives from Umsning Town Dorbar and the beneficiaries.

Sadbhavana Diwas observed



Meghalaya observed the Sadbhavana Diwas on August 20, 2015 at the Main Secretariat conference room, Shillong. The Sadbhavana pledge was administered by the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma in the presence of Meghalaya Home Minister, Mrs. R Warjri, Minister for PWD, Mr. S Dhar and other senior government officials. The pledge taking ceremony was chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mr. Y Tsering

Before administering the pledge, Dr. Sangma in his speech recalled the various initiatives taken by the late Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for all round development of the country especially in the fields of Science and Technology and Human Resource Development. He also informed that the Sadbhavana Diwas was observed to promote good will, national integrity and communal harmony among the people of India irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications in standard form are invited for 1(one) post of Chowkidar and 1(one) post of Process Server in the office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Lower Lachumiere, Temple Road, Shillong in the scale of pay of Rs.6500-160-7620-EB-210-9510-290-12700/- p.m.

ELIGIBILITY :

1. Must be a citizen of India.
2. Age 18-27 relaxable by 5 years in case of SC/ST.
3. Educational Qualification – Class VIII passed.

Applications along with the supporting documents should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 14th September, 2015.

Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities,
Meghalaya, Shillong.

Stree Shakti Puraskar/ Nari Shakti Puraskar

The Director, Sports & Youth Affairs, Meghalaya has informed that the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India has invited applications for “Stree Shakti Puraskar”/“Nari Shakti Puraskar” from individuals and institutions rendering distinguished service to the cause of women especially belonging to the vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society in the field of sports and games.

The Puraskars will be conferred on 8th March, 2016 on the occasion of International Women's Day. The Award will carry a certificate and cash award.

Detailed information of awards and application form can be obtained from the office of the Director, Sports & Youth Affairs, Meghalaya, Shillong during office hours.

The last date of submission of application is on or before the 1st September, 2015.

Chief Minister holds meeting to discuss Meghalaya Building Bye Laws



Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma met the delegation led by Shri. Ardent Basaiwmoit as a follow up to the meeting held on 6th August with Home Minister, Smti. Roshan Warjri on certain issues raised by Shri. Ardent Basaiwmoit on the application of Building Bye Laws Regulation to the Greater Shillong master plan area. The delegation consisted of MDCs, Rangbah Shnongs, Headmen and representatives of various NGOs. The meeting was held on August 21.

Later briefing media persons, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri. K S Krophah, informed that the operation of Building Bye Laws will be restricted to areas which are recognized as urban centers as per the 2011 census. He said that the areas which are classified as rural areas as per the 2011 census; Building Bye Laws will not be applicable to those areas as of now. A clarification to this effect by the government will be issued, he added. It was also informed that for the areas beyond the urban classification a new and separate

legislation will be attempted.

The Additional Chief Secretary also informed that the delegation led by Shri. Ardent Basaiwmoit were very receptive to having building regulatory laws that extended to the entire state in the greater safety and interest of the people given the fact that the state lies in earthquake prone zone but the concern was only the Building Bye Laws does not extend to the rural areas which would cause difficulties in terms of getting access to basic amenities like water and electricity. He also said that the existing bye laws require many improvements which will be examined and the government would like to have Building Bye Laws extending to the entire state and the draft legislation will be put up in public domain for suggestions and consultations before it is adopted. He added that the benchmarks and standards for urban and rural areas are different which necessitates the need for having separate bye laws for different areas.

District Health Adalat held



The District Administration, West Jaintia Hills District organized a Health Adalat on August 25 at Jowai Civil Hospital, Ialong.

Deputy Commissioner, Shri Arunkumar Khembhavi informed that the purpose of organizing Health Adalat was to address the health issues and grievances faced by the public and also in providing opportunities to the public in offer-

ing suggestions to improve the overall conditions and functioning of the District Hospital and Health Centres.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the hospital and interacted with the patients along with the District Medical & Health Officer, Dr. I. Tongper, Additional DM & HO, Dr. M. Talang and the Superintendent of Civil Hospital, Dr. A. E. Paswett.

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