

CM visits Kilkra plantation in Garo Hills, interacts with Agri officials



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma undertook a visit to Kilkra plantation at Chibra-Agal, Rongram near Tura and also interacted with the officials of the Agriculture department at Rongram Horti Hub on September 3.

It may be mentioned that Kilkra plantation was launched in the State last year as part of the Government's Green Economy concept to promote sustainable livelihood to the local farmers as well as to address the environmental concerns. Kilkra (*Boehmeria Nivea*) is a fibre plant indigenous to Garo Hills, more commonly known as the Chinese Nettle and is said to be one of the strongest natural fibres. Kilkra fibre has been used for over 5000 years in China, India and Indonesia and is older than cotton. Its fabric is more absorbent than cotton and breathes well and thus makes for comfortable clothing for warm and humid climate.

During interaction with the officials, the Chief Minister sought to know the problems and challenges faced by the officials while undertaking Kilkra plantation in the area. So far, there is only an Indian made Kilkra processing machine is

available in the district, so the department officials suggested the need to procure Chinese made machine which can generate higher quantity of fibre out of the plant. The Chief Minister asked the district officials to identify entrepreneurs who can procure and run the machine in convergence with IBDLP. It is also felt that there is a need for creating more awareness to the farmers to take up Kilkra cultivation as there is ready market. It may be mentioned that Kilkra fibre is being imported from China for textile industries in India.

The Chief Minister also inspected the tea plantation adjacent to the Rongram Horti Hub and urged the officials to plant black peppers in between the tea plantations so as to use the existing trees more profitably. He particularly stressed on planting the Panniyur variety of black pepper, which is said to be the highest yielding variety and can bring a turnaround in the State's economy. He also urged the department officials to take up terrace plantation in the areas that are lying unused within the tea plantation premises which would also help to improve its aesthetic view.

Mother Teresa International Film Festival underway in city



Fitting to the celebration of Mother Teresa's Sainthood, the Mother Teresa International Film Festival (MTIFF) 2016, a Four Day Film Festival highlighting the life and work of Mother Teresa got underway at U Soso Tham Auditorium in the city today.

The Festival was inaugurated by Meghalaya Governor, V. Shanmuganathan in the presence of Principal Secretary to the Governor, M.S Rao, East Khasi Hills Deputy Commissioner P.S Dkhar, Shillong Arch Diocese Arch Bishop, Most Rev Dominic Jala, SDB, London based Photographer and Film Maker Gautam Lewis, North East India MTIFF 2016 Festival Director, Father Francis Stephen, Festival Co-ordinator, Sister Lipika of Missionaries of Charity, Shillong and other dignitaries and officials.

Addressing the inaugural function, the Governor stated that Mother Teresa represents the message of love, peace, enduring strength, hope and service to the world at large. Underlining that understanding the pain of others is no easy a task, the Governor stated that Mother Teresa understood the pain of acute poverty. "She served the destitute, lepers, abandoned children, old people, the poorest of the poor and the downtrodden. Because she understood their pain, she was a solace, a helping hand and a source of comfort to them" he further stated.

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Teachers' Day Celebration



As part of the Teachers' Day celebration, an interaction programme with the Principals of colleges and schools and school students was held on September 3 at Raj Bhavan, Shillong.

Speaking on the occasion, Meghalaya Governor, Shri V. Shanmuganathan said that "teachers are a great source of inspiration, and on this occasion we remember and dedicate our teachers throughout the country who are actively engaged in building and strengthening the intellectual and ethical foundations of our children". A teacher plays a key role in shaping the future of the students, treat them as their own children and make them learn from their experiences. "They are the torch-bearers of our society and to imagine a society without teachers is impossible", he added. While highlighting the importance of controlling the emotions, the Governor said that the highest level of achievement can be found in a person who has learnt to conquer

himself. A teacher who is able to instil the confidence and evoke the spirit of a student, that student can develop into a great mind with a great heart. Good teaching inspires, motivates and guides the students for self learning. "I believe that more than ever, today we need inspired teachers to instil in our children the values of sacrifice, tolerance, plurality, understanding and compassion, and the responsibility of producing conscious and intellectual citizens who build the future of our Nation lies with our teachers" he added.

During the programme, the Governor interacted with the University and College teachers and also handed over the prizes to the winners of the 'Teachers' Day Essay Competition'. Shubhankar Choudhury of Laban Bengalee Boys' Higher Sec. School bagged the 1st prize while Lydia Grace Sawian of Pine Mount School and Banteilang Hahshah of Pearly Dew Higher Sec. School bagged the 2nd and 3rd Prize respectively. The Governor also distributed Commendation Certificates to 20 school students and Mementos to the teachers.

MEGHALAYA CELEBRATES 55TH TEACHERS DAY



Together with the rest of the nation, the 55th Teachers' Day was also celebrated in a befitting manner across Meghalaya on September 5. In Shillong, the official function was organized at U Soso Tham Auditorium, where the Minister for School Education & Literacy Smti. Deborah Marak graced the function as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Smti. Deborah Marak on Monday pledged to take up the challenge of restoring the lost glory of Shillong, which was once popularly known as an educational hub. "I promise I will take it as a challenge. Let us bring back that glory let us make Shillong, an educational hub again," Marak said while appealing to the teachers to take their jobs as a challenge to achieve this goal.

According to her, the state needs to revisit the past and find out the reasons as to why the educational hub tag have been hijacked by other states. "We need to find out where we have gone wrong and why nobody wants to come and study in our state. Is it because the education system is going down or is it because of the teachers or officials," she said. The Minister also informed that there many things which have been planned to streamline the department adding that this can be achieved only with the cooperation of all concerns.

Agreeing that there is a strong need to reconstruct the educational system especially one that includes teacher's welfare, Smti. Marak said, "I know your (teachers) problems and the problem is chronic. We have diagnosed and will give medicine but it will take time to heal."

Lauding the department for working tirelessly to integrate the many demands towards development of education in the state, she said, "I can assure you that the department is working tirelessly round the clock to balance the needs of

the teachers." She also emphasized the need to upgrade the teaching profession equivalent to technical professional with an argument that teachers are dealing with young vulnerable minds that if left to an untrained hands can lead to destruction of not only their future but the future of this country.

Further, the minister also informed that the state government is making an effort to introduce Information Communication Technology (ICT) in all the schools to enhance teaching learning with the help of technology. "This is a wonderful initiative for modern education, however let it be known that the ICT is not a replacement to a good human being – the teacher. It is only in a skillful and competent teacher that the benefit of technology could be accomplished," she asserted.

Later, the Minister also presented the State Award, District Award and Special Award to over 20 teachers from different districts of the state as a mark of recognition for their selfless dedication and services.

Earlier in his speech, Commissioner and Secretary in-charge Education Shri. DP Wahlang said that information is power and it is easily available in this present digital world but knowledge and learning is lacking. Stating that innovation is the name of the game, he said that it is important for the teachers to update their teaching skills adding they should not end only with classroom teachings but inculcate life lesson to the students.

Teachers' day was also celebrated in various districts and civil sub-divisions by the government while students of private and government-aided schools honoured their teachers in the respective schools.

Breast Feeding Promotion Programme Launched



MAA-Mother's Absolute Protection, a Breast Feeding Promotion Programme to ensure that adequate awareness is generated among the masses, especially mothers on the benefits of breastfeeding was launched in the State by Meghalaya Health and Family Welfare Minister, Roshan Warjri at a function held at Ganesh Das Hospital on September 2. This Flagship Programme of the Union Government was first launched in the country on 5th August 2016 at New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Roshan Warjri emphasised to all concerned, on the importance of mother's milk to the growth and wellbeing of a child. "Mother's milk is God's most precious gift to a child" she said while reiterating on the fact how mother's milk offers full protection and immunity to a child since birth and until he/she grows up.

The Minister also stated that a nutritious diet and proper rest are pre-requisites towards ensuring that a healthy baby is given birth to. She also stressed on the need for a good Family Support System before pregnancy, during it and after the baby is delivered. "The husband as well as relatives must lend their

full physical, emotional and most importantly spiritual support to an expecting mother" she further added.

Meanwhile, Senior Paediatrician at Ganesh Das Hospital Dr. Y. Shabong had earlier in the programme stated that mother's milk is the first inoculation in the life of a person further adding that it offers immunity against diseases like diarrhoea, pneumonia, asthma, skin diseases like eczema and others, post delivery.

Meghalaya e-SamikSha web portal launched



Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Shri K. S. Kropha launched the Meghalaya e-SamikSha at the Conference Room, State Secretariat, Shillong in the presence of Dr. Shreeranjana and Shri H. Marwein, Additional Chief Secretaries, Shri R.M. Mishra and Smti R.V. Suchiang, Principal Secretaries, and other senior government officials on August 31.

The e-SamikSha is a web portal developed by NIC and is designed for monitoring and compliance mechanism to fast track the compliance of Action-Points/proposals/issues/projects/schemes/target etc pending with various implementing departments of the State Government. The system will enhance efficiency, bring transparency, reduce the need of protracted correspondence and improve the communication between government to government (G2G). To familiarize the working of the portal, a Presentation on e-SamikSha online system is given by Dr. Shubhag Chand, Director, Cabinet Secretariat, Informatics Division, New Delhi.

Mother Teresa International Film Festival underway in city

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Showing his admiration for Mother Teresa for identifying herself with her love for the Almighty, the Governor said that in a world where people identify themselves by the power they hold, or the money they possess, what truly marks Mother Teresa's greatness is her identification of herself with her love of God.

Applauding the great works and selfless services of Mother Theresa's followers the Governor further stated that their work must extend to all places.

Arch Bishop Jala meanwhile in his speech said that for a multifaceted person like Mother Teresa no one film or book could totally capture who she was and what she did. "We in the society today long for many things. There are many social evils amidst us; there's corruption, injustice, human rights violations" he said, further adding that "it is up to us to carry forward her legacy and that we need to recognise the dignity of life in this selfish individualistic world".

The inaugural function was further adorned by colourful by song and dance performances exhibited by students of city schools, each performance depicting the life and work of Mother Teresa through her years.

It may be mentioned that MTIFF 2016 celebrates the Canonisation of Mother Teresa and the festival will be a Four Day affair in Shillong from September 6-9 with the Festival moving to Jowai on September 14-17. Twenty Films, Documentaries and Short films showcasing the life and work of Mother Teresa would be screened at the Festival and similar festivals would be held in different cities in India and in about 50 countries around the world.

In Shillong, the Festival opened with the Film "Mother Teresa and Me" made by noted Photographer and Film Maker Gautam Lewis who was raised by Mother Teresa after his parents abandoned him while he was a young infant in Kolkata.

New Chairman of MSERC Appointed



Shri W.M.S. Pariat, IAS (Retd) being administered the oath of office as Chairman, Meghalaya State Electricity Regulatory Commission (MSERC) by the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Shri K. S. Kropha at his Office Chamber on 6th September, 2016.

The Oath taking ceremony was attended by Additional Chief Secretaries Shri Y. Tsering, Shri P. S. Thangkhiew, Dr. Shreeranjana, Shri H. Marwein and senior Government officials.

National Nutrition Week



As part of the National Nutrition Week celebration 2016, Shri H. M. Shangpliang, Director of Social Welfare today inaugurated the State Level Workshop on the theme "Life Cycle Approach for Better Nutrition" at Don Bosco Youth Centre, Shillong on September 1.

The programme was organized by the Community Food & Nutrition Extension Unit (CFNEU), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shillong in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare, Government of Meghalaya.

The programme was also attended by Dr. A. S. Guha, Regional Director, IG-NOU, Shillong, Shri S. Bihari Singh, Demonstration Officer, CFNEU, Shillong, Shri L. M. Momin, Assistant Director, Social Welfare, officers from Social Welfare and Health department, Lady supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, teachers and students from various colleges.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Shangpliang said that the main objective of the celebration is to make people aware about the importance of nutrition for health which has an impact on devel-

opment, productivity and economic growth.

To reduce malnutrition, Shri Shangpliang said the Social Welfare department through 5896 Anganwadi Centres, which is a community based outreach programmes provides supplementary nutrition to children and pregnant and nursing mothers and adolescent girls of low income group to improve health and nutritional status.

He also urged the field workers to be pro active and take extra care for the malnourished child who tends to have lower IQ and impaired cognitive ability thus affecting their performance in school and productivity in their later life.

The day long programme includes presentation on the topics "Life Cycle Approach for Better Nutrition", "Role of Education, Prevention, Control and the Management of Life Style Diseases for Better Nutrition" and "Importance and the Significance of Nutritional Intervention Approaches and Techniques During Early Childhood and Late Childhood".

OFFICE SHIFTED

The office of the District Public Relations Officer, East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar has been shifted to a building (2nd Floor) near Children's Home at Warimagre locality, Williamnagar. All future correspondence to the office should be sent to the new address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat has informed the general public that all beneficiaries who possess NFSA Family Identity Cards are entitled to receive 5kgs of rice per head per month at the rate of Rs. 3.00/- only per Kg. Therefore, all card holders are instructed to ensure that they will not be deprived of their rights and entitlement towards this allotted quantity of rice.

Any non-supply or overcharging of rate by the Fair Price Shop dealers should be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner (Supply), East Jaintia Hills District, Khliehriat or they can directly complain through toll free helpline No. 1967.

DC CAUTIONS AGAINST ANIMAL SLAUGHTER DURING BAKRID

The Deputy Commissioner and Chairman District Society for Prevention of Cruelty of Animals, East Khasi Hills District has cautioned against cruelty to animals in connection with Bakrid festival on 12th September, 2016.

The Deputy Commissioner has issued an advisory in view of a report received that during transportation of animals, the Transport of Animals Rules are not complied with subjecting them to unnecessary cruelty and dead.

He has stated that the Act prohibit slaughter of pregnant animal with offspring less than 3 months old and slaughtering of animal within the Municipal area are permissible only under the mandate of recognized authority

He has further informed that slaughtering of animals other than Ovines, Caprines, Suillines (Hog family) and Bovines and poultry and fish, is not permissible under the Food Safety and Standards Act and Regulation.

Any unscrupulous persons carrying out illegal slaughter are in violation of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, and rules made there under, local Municipal Acts and Rules, Transport of Animals Rules 1978, Amendment Rules 2001, Slaughter House Rules 2001, Municipal Laws and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Deputy Commissioner (Supply), West Jaintia Hills District has informed that AAY and NFSA (PHH) quota of rice for the month of August, 2016 has been released.

Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) quota of rice will be distributed at the scale of 35 Kgs per AAY FI Card at the rate of Rs.3/- per Kg for both Rural and Town areas.

Priority House Hold (PHH) quota of rice will be distributed at the scale of 5 kgs per head per month at the rate of Rs. 3/- per kg.