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CM inaugurates Kharkutta Police Station



Continuing with the government's policy of bringing administration closer to the people and ensuring better policing services, Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the up-graded Kharkutta Police Station in North Garo Hills on March 25.

Minister for Home (Police), Shri. H. D. R Lyngdoh, Government Chief Whip Shri. W. D. Sangma, Parliamentary Secretaries, Shri. Cherak W. Momin, Shri. Brigady Marak, Shri. Samuel M. Sangma and Shri. Marthon J. Sangma, Chairperson of State Development Reforms Commission, Smti. Bluebell R. Sangma, DGP Dr. S. B. Singh, DIG Western Range Shri. Mukesh Singh, North Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Shri. S. C. Sadhu and Superintendent of Police Shri. Dalton P. Marak were among many other dignitaries and officials present on the occasion.

It may be mentioned that Kharkutta Police Outpost,

established in 1984, has been bifurcated from Mendipathar PS and upgraded to a police station by a government notification on March 24, 2017. The new police station will now cover areas from Wageasi to Adokgre which are far-flung from the district headquarters and will alleviate the problems faced by the people of the area who otherwise had to travel over 40 kms to Mendipathar even for minor cases.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Minister expressed joy in being able to dedicate the police station to the people for better policing and upholding peace and maintaining law & order in the area. "The government for the past several years has been coming up various development projects in the State. However, it has been seen that without peace and law & order all developmental works take a backseat", he said and congratulated the people and their local MLA Shri. Cherak Momin for their persistent efforts in maintaining peace in the region. He exhorted

the new Police Station to create opportunities to the local youths and said that it should also serve as a coaching centre to the job seekers in different security forces. The Chief Minister was also of the view that the police force in the State are working under challenging circumstances and there is bound to be slips, which he said, would be dealt with according to the provisions of the law.

According to the Chief Minister, the government in its continuing efforts to address developmental gaps in various areas across the state has taken steps to create new police stations, blocks and sub-divisions according to priority. "There is still so much left to be done for the people of the state, but we cannot do it overnight", he said adding that he is aware of the needs of the people of the area and assured the people that Kharkutta PHC would also be upgraded to CHC very soon.

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State Level Workshop on Business Opportunities in Food Processing, Packaging & Tourism held



The Department of Commerce & Industries organized a two days State Level Workshop on Business Opportunities in Food Processing, Packaging & Tourism (Under National Mission on Food Processing) on March 27 and 28 at Hotel Pinewood, Shillong.

Attending the Valedictory function as the Chief Guest, Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma, said that the workshop is very important and relevant for the state and for the youth who look at the spaces available in entrepreneurship. He stated that the government has embarked upon a number of initiatives to prevail upon the youth to become entrepreneurs by providing subject specific and opportunity specific support to enable the potential youth to become successful entrepreneurs.

The Chief Minister also said that in the Food Industry, Food Safety is the most important component to brand build the products. "Processing and packaging should conform to stringent food safety requirements and brand building products should revolve around high end products which should be exclusive and unique to the state," he said. He urged the entrepreneurs to look at the

options available in Agriculture, Horticulture, Tourism and Industries and become successful entrepreneurs with dedication, hard work, sincerity and innovation.

Also present as the Guest of Honour was Chairman, MIDC, Shri. A L Hek who during his address said that Meghalaya is home to a number of temperate and sub tropical fruits and vegetables and hence there is immense potential in the food processing sector which would also generate employment in rural areas. He urged the Department of Commerce & Industry to provide the necessary handholding to the unemployed youth of the state to explore the potentials in food industry and tourism.

Promotional Schemes & Policies for Horticultural Products, Management of Food Processing Enterprises, Bamboo as source of Health Food & Nutrition, Food Safety Standards Authority of Indian Act, Exploring the Nature & Traditional Knowledge for Business with focus on Meghalaya, Flexible Packaging Materials, Promotional Schemes and Policies for Development of Tourism in the state and Convergence of Schemes by various resource persons were the subject matters that were discussed during the two days workshop that was attended by entrepreneurs from all over the state.

Training Programme for Para Legal Volunteers inaugurated



A four day Training Programme for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of East Khasi Hills District from March 28 to 31, organized by the Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) was inaugurated on March 28 at Shillong Law College, Shillong by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya, Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, who is also the Patron-in-Chief, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority.

The inaugural programme was also attended by Hon'ble Justice, Mr. Justice Sudip Ranjan Sen, Judge, High Court of Meghalaya & Hon'ble Executive Chairman, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ved Prakash Vaish, Judge, High Court of Meghalaya & Hon'ble Judge-in-Charge, High Court Mediation Committee, Shri. W. Khyllap, Secretary, Law Department, Shri. W. Diengdoh, Member Secretary, MSLSA, Principal, Lecturers and students of Shillong Law College among others.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya, Mr. Justice Dinesh Maheshwari lauded the MSLSA for conducting the training to impart basic knowledge about legal subjects to Para Legal Volunteers.

He also stressed on the importance of sensitizing the people, especially at the grassroots level not only about their rights and duties but also their responsibilities as citizens of the country. Para-Legal Volunteers being the first point of contact to facilitate people seeking legal aid, plays an important role in educating the people about their various rights, said the Chief Justice adding that they also act as intermediaries between the common people and legal services institutions for removing barriers of access to justice.

The Chief Justice also urged the Judges, Lawyers and Government Officials to take part in the training and share their experiences to further enlighten and equip the Para Legal Volunteers to deal with various types of legal advices.

CM inaugurates Kharkutta Police Station

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Stating that Kharkutta is one of the largest constituencies in the state, the Chief Minister informed that the government's policy was to look at such areas where developmental gap is more, particularly those areas along the Assam-Meghalaya border and came up with a scheme called Inter-State Border Area Development Programme (ISBADP) through which a number of developmental works are being taken up in the area. In the social sector, he informed that the government has come up with a new scheme for opening Community Colleges to be run by the community themselves and that the government would provide sufficient funds so that communities can run these institutions with a sense of ownership. He also announced an "Attendance linked Assistance" of Rs. 5000 each for students undergoing higher studies on condition that they fulfil a minimum of 80 percent attendance to prevent dropout. He also said that a Corpus Fund has been created for the Education department to make advance payment to students whose scholarships are delayed. He informed that during this Budget Session, a highest ever allocation of Rs.1700 crore has been made for Community Development so as to enable the people in the area to have proper income source through various schemes.

Understanding the connectivity problems of the people in the area, the Chief Minister referred to the PMGSY road at Dokongsi in North Garo Hills which had been abandoned half way and asked the PWD officials to submit a proposal for completion of the road saying that the government would grant Rs.80 lakh under convergence mode of investment to support this road project. He also informed about the creation of a Forest Protection Force under department of Forest & Environment which would provide job opportunities for hundreds of youths.

The Chief Minister and other dignitaries also gave away laptops to 10 candidates who passed in the first division in the last SSLC and HSSLC exams.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Meets Union Minister On MHIS Phase III



Smti. Roshan Warjri, Health and Family Welfare, Govt of Meghalaya, met the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri. J.P. Nadda, in his Office Chamber on March 27 in New Delhi to apprise him of the urgent need for consideration and approval of the Phase III of Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) by the Government of India.

The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri. J. P. Nadda, has assured to look into the matter at the earliest. Smti. Warjri also impressed upon the Union Minister for consideration of the Burn and Trauma Center at Shillong Civil Hospital and Tura Civil Hospital including commissioning of the Amrit Pharmacy in the premises of the Shillong Civil Hospital.

Exhibition on Renewable Energy held



With a view to popularise non-conventional energy among the citizens of the State, the Meghalaya New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (MNREDA) organised an Exhibition on Renewable Energy in its office premises near BSF Camp, Mawpat, Shillong on March 28. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Meghalaya Minister for Power, etc, Shri. Sniawbhalang Dhar in the presence of Principal Secretary, Power, etc, Shri. M. S. Rao and Director MNREDA, Shri. U. N. Madan. Also present on the occasion were the teachers and students of various schools of the city.

In his speech as the Chief Guest, Shri. Dhar said that the main concern facing the State today is power deficit which has greatly affected the economy of the State. A great deal of thrust has been given towards non-conventional energy which is sustainable as well as eco-friendly. "No doubt non-renewable energy is needed in our day to day life, but usage of renewable energy side by side can reduce power consumption to

(Contd. in Pg. 3)

Feature

MENDIPATHAR MULTIPURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY (MMCS)



The Mendipathar Multipurpose Co-operative Society (MMCS) was registered in 1998, with its headquarters at Mendipathar, East Garo Hills, to empower marginal farmers through information, education, knowledge, and skills training; generate economic empowerment through agriculture, farming and marketing. Marketing of farm produce like rubber, black pepper, corn, turmeric, and others by MMCS has freed people from the manipulation of money lenders and middle men. All items in their consumer shop are sold at less than MRP. All the farm produce are bought at price a fair and reasonable to farmers. Thrift-saving is encouraged and the co-operative received Rs. 57.5 lakh in deposits in 2010-11.

The co-operative collaborates closely in implementing government schemes like Community Led Total Sanitation and social audit of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. MMCS has also implemented IFAD and NABARD projects, especially in creating Self-Help Groups. They have formed 153 SHGS.

MMCS is conscious of climate-change, the need to protect the environment, and careful use of nonrenewable energy. People are encouraged to engage in the practice of organic farming, bio-gas use, recycling of waste, and judicious water and electricity use. They have a model farm at Jampara village where people given exposure, and training.

The co-operative has dealt in essential commodities like consumer goods, stationery, utensils, clothes and the like since 2000. They started poultry farming in 2003. In 2008, the co-operative started dairy farming with the objective to provide pure milk at cheaper rates than the market, to educate people in eco-friendly and organic farming, recycling of waste water, and production of biogas.

They provide fax, computer print, photocopy, lamination, color passport photography, atta chakki, and rice mill services. They also rent out their community hall, plastic chairs, water pumps, vehicles and power tiller at reasonable rates.



(Source: www.megcooperation.gov.in)

3-Day State Level Seminar on Yoga and Naturopathy held



A Three-Day State Level Seminar on Yoga and Naturopathy organised by the Meghalaya State Ayush Society and sponsored by the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy got underway at Aurobindo Institute of Indian Culture, Bivar Road, Shillong on March 28.

Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya Cum Chairman, Meghalaya State Ayush Society, Shri Y. Tsering graced the inaugural programme as Chief Guest. Dr. R. O. Budnah, Director of Health Services (MI) and officials from the State health department were also present during the inaugural programme.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest said that participants can benefit a lot and can actually leverage upon the learning from the seminar and pass them on to the masses. Terming yoga and naturopathy as an ancient form of technique used in preventing and curing diseases, Shri. Tsering said that one can regain a healthy life by maintaining a healthy lifestyle. He also stressed on the need to have active participation on the part of the general public in such seminars so that they can actually benefit from it.

Exhibition on Renewable Energy held

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a large extent", he said while also stating that the Government is aware about the importance of development of renewable energy sources to provide the State with a sustainable amount of energy, and is committed to extend all support to the on-going programs of the MNREDA in the development and promotion of renewable energy.

Shri. M. S. Rao, in his speech, said that till date, the State is largely dependent on power from hydel projects and other source of energy like coal, fossil fuel and others. Such power generation has not only taken a toll on the environment but it gets exhaustive at a certain period of time, he added. Globally, importance has been given to clean and sustainable energy which does not depend on exhaustible resources. This includes drawing power from the sun, wind, bio-gas, bio-mass and others. To make the State power efficient, we need to create awareness among the masses about the advantages of renewable energy, he said, adding that it not only cost effective but also sustainable. Shri. M. S. Rao, further stated that such exhibits and demonstration allow students to get first-hand knowledge about the usage of renewable energy and gave them an opportunity to contribute in the development of renewable sources of energy. He called on the students to carry on the message to the community on the growing need for energy conservation by adopting renewable sources of power.

Entrepreneurial conclave on Apiculture Mission held at Damalgre



In an effort to create awareness on various assistance available for bee keepers under Apiculture Mission of IBDLP, the Basin Development Unit of South West Garo Hills, conducted an Entrepreneurial Conclave cum Registration Drive at Upper Damalgre Community Hall for the Bee Keepers of Upper Damalgre Bee Keeping Cluster under Betasing C&RD Block on March 25.

Over 50 percent of the target group attended the day-long programme during which, resource persons drawn from various line departments highlighted the different kinds of assistance available for bee keepers under the Mission and informed them on how to avail them. The programme was conducted under the leadership of Shri. W. R. G. Momin, EAC & Nodal Officer, BDU, Ampati.

Industrial Promotion Officer, South West Garo Hills, Shri. Manju Hajong spoke about the different types of assistance the Bee Keepers may avail under DCIC and the departmental norms and the procedures involved. He also informed the participants about loan provisions, including PMEGP among others.

Programme Associate, Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship, Tura, Shri. Pradeep M Sangma briefed the participants about the entrepreneurial concept with special focus on Apiculture for income generation as well as its benefits to the environment. He also spoke at length about various capacity

building programmes like trainings and exposure visits the partners are being given under IBDLP.

Assistant Manager (ED & EFC Co-ordinator), Basin Development Unit, SWGH, Ampati Smti. Venecia N Sangma, spoke about the working system of IBDLP focusing on its 11 Missions and the 11 accompanying measures. She also drew focus on the co-relation between MBDA and the government line departments and the different ways in which the partners are linked with them.

Master Trainer & Secretary, Upper Damalgre Bee Keeping Cluster Shri. Modison M Sangma, who is also the Master Bee Keeper with the maximum number of live bee boxes in the area, shared his experiences during the programme, where he found out different benefits of bee keeping and usage of honey. As an encouragement to others, he also said that bee keeping is not a tedious job and does not require much labour.

Nokma of Upper Damalgre, Shri. Huberth R. Marak and Programme Associate, EFC Betasing, Shri. Ritcheng A. Sangma, were among others who also addressed the participants.

The programme was followed by a Registration Drive on the next day where a good number of people registered themselves as partners under IBDLP.

MOBILE APP MPARIVAHAN LAUNCHED

The Commissioner of Transport, Meghalaya, has informed that the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has recently launched the mobile app mParivahan which provides Transport Service access to citizens through a mobile based application. This app empowers citizen with instant access to various information, services and utilities related to the Transport Sector.

The app has a number of important functionalities like Virtual RC/DL, Encrypted QR Code, Information Services, DL/RC search, Road Offence Reporting, Road Accident Reporting, Transport Notification to the citizens and DTO/ Traffic Office Locations. This app is already available for download by citizens from Google Playstore.

RELEASE OF AAY, PHH RICE & SUGAR

The Deputy Commissioner (Supply), West Garo Hills, Tura, informed that AAY, PHH rice for the month of March 2017 and sugar for the month of September 2016 has been released for all the NFSA beneficiaries under Tura urban and Rural based Fair Price Shop Dealers.

COACHING FOR SCHEDULE TRIBE/SCHEDULE CASTE TO BE HELD FREE OF COST

The District Employment Exchange, Tura will be organizing coaching/training for Schedule Tribe/ Schedule Caste candidates free of cost for those who have applied for the upcoming Probationary Officer recruitment examination at State Bank of India. The coaching will mainly focus on the upcoming preliminary examination and not the Main examination which will be starting from 3rd April, 2017 to 28th April, 2017 excluding Saturdays and Sundays.

Competent and highly experienced resource persons will give lectures on subjects relating to various banking examinations including General English, Arithmetic and Reasoning.

Candidates willing to attend the said coaching programme may visit the District Employment Exchange, Tura for further details.

MEGHALAYA BOARD OF WAKF RECONSTITUTED

The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Social Welfare Department has issued a notification to reconstitute the Meghalaya Board of WAKF with immediate effect.

The members of the Board includes Jb. A.T. Mondal, MLA, Jb. Abu Saleh, Ex-MLA, Jb. Asad Yousuf, Member of Meghalaya State Board of Waqf in 2001, Ms. Shanaaz Abbas, Advocate, Shillong Bar Association, Jb. Ahmed Hossain, Mutawalli, Md. Zaheer, Secretary, Muslim Socio Cultural & Educational Association, Mrs. Noorun Mehraj Warjri, Life Member of Shillong Muslim Union, Dr. Md. Shah Noorur Rahman, (M.A. Gold Medalist) Ph.D in Islamic History & Culture, Jb. Sajjad Uddin Ahmed (Retd) Secretary, PWD, Government of Meghalaya and Jb. Mosfique Uddin Ahmed, Executive Engineer, Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. Shillong, Meghalaya.

The members shall elect one from amongst themselves to be the Chairperson of the Board and shall hold office for five years.

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

The Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Shillong, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi, will hold the National Lok Adalat for all relevant matters on April 8 in the High Court of Meghalaya, all District Courts, all District Council Courts and all Sub-Divisional Courts. Any person or party receiving the Lok Adalat Notice may appear personally before the Lok Adalat benches for settlement of their dispute amicably.

DLCC MEETING ON CRIME AGAINST WOMEN HELD AT TURA



The District Level Co-ordination Committee (DLCC) on Crime against Women, West Garo Hills, Tura met at the Office Chamber of the Deputy Commissioner, Shri. Pravin Bakshi, on March 25 to discuss various issues relating to crimes against women in the district.

As mentioned by the Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of DLCC, Tura Shri. Pravin Bakshi, the function of the committee is to review report on cases arising out of crimes against women in the district, to send report on cases pertaining to crimes against women, to ensure effective coordination between officers concerned on programmes and measures to combat crimes against women

and also to support all stakeholders for sensitizing the people about crimes against women in the district. He also informed that a One Stop Crisis Centre would be functional very soon in the district which would provide necessary medical care, monitoring and counseling to victims of violence, etc.

During the meeting, the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) and representative from the Police department, Tura informed that cases pertaining to crime against women were less when compared to other districts and so far, three cases of crime against women have been settled in West Garo Hills district although, there may be many more unreported cases.