



Chief Minister attends the 64th Plenary Meeting of North Eastern Council at Delhi

The 64th Plenary Meeting of North Eastern Council (NEC) was held at Scope Auditorium, New Delhi on the 9th and 10th April 2014. The Meeting was attended by Union Minister of State, DoNER & Chairman, NEC, Dr Jitendra Singh, Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Dr Mukul M Sangma besides the governors and chief ministers of the North East region.

Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma placed before the house some of the pressing needs of the state which require funds and proposed that the Ministry of DoNER take the lead in advocating for a separate and distinct corpus for NEC for taking up interventions for the major projects of regional nature.

While welcoming the initiatives taken by the NEC to review and consolidate its policy guidelines paving the way for faster releases

and timely intervention of sanctioned schemes and projects, he stated that it is important that resources keep pace with the ambitions. The Chief Minister also said that the allocation since 2012-2013 has been static at ₹ 770.00 crore reflecting a decline in real terms and in 2014-15, a unilateral budget cut of ₹ 191.00 crores has reduced the plan kitty to ₹ 579.00 crores which has caused a serious setback and delayed implementation of important projects prioritized during 2014-15. Further he said that the change of funding pattern made by the Government of India from this financial year has imposed an additional burden on the state with limited resources. The NEC as a regional planner should be backed by adequate resources so that issues that have inter-state and regional ramifications can be addressed adequately he added. Expressing concern over the present trend in the growth rate, he said that the gap will become wider and the region will never be able to catch up with the rest of the country.

The Chief Minister proposed to resolve to enhance the NEC's annual plan for 2015-2016 to the tune of ₹ 1500.00 crore to meet the requirements for state specific projects. He also suggested that NEC come up with a supplementary budget, indicated well in advance, once a decision in this regard is made by the Ministry of Finance.

Highlighting the unique problem of student migration to the metros in pursuance of professional courses and academic opportunities he said that the

region still needs more institutes of higher learning in technical and professional education and urged NEC to support for the setting up of new institutes of higher education and professional courses. Citing the example of RIMS at Imphal that had been set up with NEC support he said that the house seriously consider recreating such a funding mechanism for new regional institutions in Agriculture, Health, Technology and other professional courses which would provide the skill and professional workforce so as to help attract investment besides mitigating the problem of migration.

The Chief Minister also stressed on the need to strengthen the trade corridor with the neighboring countries of North East and said that the potential of North East must be understood from the geo-political perspective.

He also placed before the house support for new townships, up gradation of interstate roads, new railway network along the southern slope of Meghalaya connecting Jogigopa and Badarpur, setting up of Regional Technology Park, provision of telephone connectivity in rural areas, development of infrastructure for tourist circuits and preservation of Biodiversity and expressed hope that the state government will continue to have a dialogue facilitated by NEC on other issues concerning the state of Meghalaya in particular and the North Eastern Region in general.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES SONGS AND DANCES OF NORTH EAST AT NEW DELHI



A cultural festival, Songs and Dances of North East, presented by Government of Meghalaya and sponsored by North Eastern Council (NEC) held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi on April 11, 2015. The President of India, Shri. Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Festival.

In his Inaugural address, Chief Guest, President, Pranab Mukherjee while congratulating the organizers of the festival said that the North East constitutes a strategic and important part of the country with each state having a distinct rich culture of its own which we can feel proud of. The President also recalled the contributions of the region in the freedom struggle of India's Independence and acknowledged the role of the North East in national activities. He further said that a

visitor to the North East will not only be mesmerized by the scenic beauty of the North East but also with the literature, songs and dances and the hospitality extended by the people of the North East who are sincere, devoted and committed people. He also added that festivals like these would not only help in connecting North East with the rest of the country but would also strengthen the Act East policy of the government of India and help in the economic development of the region.

Earlier in his address, Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma said that the festival is a sincere joint endeavor of the eight sister states of the North East with the NEC under the Ministry of DoNER to showcase the vibrant and unique culture and the way of life of the diverse ethnic groups that constitute the North East. The festival does not revolve around songs and dances only but is designed as a platform to create the much needed connect between the people of the North East and the rest of the country, he added.

He also said that the positive aspects of strong fields of Sports, Tourism, Culture, Education, Industries and

Business Investments are available in abundance but yet to be fully explored by the states of the North East he added. The mesmerizing natural and bountiful resources, the unique way of life, culture and tradition and the willingness to welcome one and all with open arms are no different from any other state or region of this great nation which is blessed with the strength of its unity in diversity he added.

The festival which if the first edition of the few such initiatives of DoNER would be subsequently hosted by all the states of the North East on a rotational basis in different parts of the country. This initiative is one of the outcomes of the recommendations of M P Bezbaruah committee, set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to work out modalities for building strong bond between people of North East and rest of the country. The inaugural function was followed by a grand cultural bonanza showcasing the dance, music and culture of the region. The day long fest continued with a marathon cultural show of melodious folk songs, sensational and vigorous cultural dances and rocking performances put up by renowned artists from the North East like Shillong Chamber Choir, Girish and

the Chronicles, Tetseo Sisters, Soulmate, Alobo Naga, Restless Desire, Ahowee, Moniraj Hazarika, PhuNing Ding, Silman Marak, Folk Borthers to name a few who enthralled the crowd.

A food court was also set up at the venue where authentic and indigenous food of the North East was available. The festival took North East and its heritage outside the northeast for the first time in such a big and multidimensional way to the capital of India and in a sense to the rest of the world.

The goal of the festival is to deliver, engage and exhibit the best of North East in a creative and exciting atmosphere to attract tourists, film makers and holiday seekers and is a positive step in bridging the gap between the North East and the rest of the country.

The festival was also attended by the governors of the North Eastern States, Union Minister, DoNER, Dr Jitendra Sharma, Minister, Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya, Clement Marak, hosts of senior officials from the eight states of North East.

CM INAUGURATES MAHATMA GANDHI PARK IN TURA



Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurated the developed and beautified Mahatma Gandhi Park in the presence of Chief Executive Member, GHADC, Alphonse A. Sangma, Chairman Purno K. Sangma and Executive Member in-charge Tourism O. R Marak in an impressive function held at Tura in the Park premises in Council Colony, Hawakhana on April 7

The Park was left unattended for many years and had become an eyesore like a patch of jungle in the heart of Tura town. It was only on July 4, 2013 that a foundation stone was laid for its development and beautification by CEM, GHADC Alphonse A. Sangma. This park now consists of among other features, an amphitheatre, play stations, a swimming pool, a cafeteria and a museum attracting hoards of visitors every day.

Dedicating the Park to the people of the region, the Chief Minister expressed his happiness to see the park in its "new form" and congratulated the GHADC team for their bold decision to create this asset not only for the District Council but also for the people with little expenditure. Stating that there is a history linked to the park, Dr. Sangma asked the District Council authorities to maintain proper documentation on its history and background for the benefit of the people who visit the park.

Stressing on the need for proper management of assets available in order to generate revenue, the Chief Minister said most of the markets and haats under the control of GHADC have shrunk

due to lack of demarcation. Referring to a number of encroachments that have taken place in many government lands due to poor management, he said that it becomes a painful thing when the government of the day has to resort to eviction drives. "We must learn from our past mistakes. We need to think futuristically and evaluate our assets. When we create such assets, we generate revenue and also create opportunities for our people", he added.

The Chief Minister also reminded the District Council on the need for codification of laws. "When laws are not codified, we cannot regulate the people and will end up in conflict", he said. He also sought to clarify people's doubts on extension of GHADC term, saying the government has no malafide intention in extending the term the District Council. "It is only to fulfill the constitutional commitment given to the people", he said.

Dr. Sangma also assured the employees of the District Council, who had not received their salaries since November last, that some amount has already been released which would be used for payment of salaries and pensions on priority basis. In this connection he said that there has been unprecedented drop in revenue realization in the GHADC as fallout of NGT ban on mining due to which it has not been able to pay the salaries. As such he also urged upon the District Council to look at alternative sources of revenue generation that are available within our reach.

18 ANGANWADI CENTRES INAUGURATED IN SOUTH WEST GARO HILLS CM CALLS FOR LINKING ICDS WITH ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma has called for linking nutritional programmes under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) with entrepreneurship development programmes for successful implementation of ICDS programmes as well as to motivate and promote local entrepreneurs.

The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering during the inauguration of 18 Anganwadi centres under South West Garo Hills at Ampati in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner Ram Singh, Director of Social Welfare H M Shangpliang, other officials of the department and the district and the newly appointed Anganwadi workers.

Stating that nutrition is an important aspect for our existence, the Chief Minister said "if people cannot feed themselves and their children, they cannot think of anything else because food is one of the basic human needs. But the food that we take should be nutritionally balanced", he said. That is why the Government of India has started this very important initiative for children, mothers and pregnant women under ICDS Project, he said.

He also said that there are a number of Anganwadi centres in





the State and the foods for these centres come from certain manufacturers but we don't know what kind of food they supply. So he urged upon departments concerned to look for alternative opportunities and link this programme with entrepreneurship development, wherein SHGs or prospective entrepreneurs can set up at least one food production unit in each of the ICDS Projects. This will not only help inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship among our citizens, but also ensure food safety, he added.

It may be mentioned that in keeping with its commitment, the Government has created 108 new Anganwadi centres in the State out of which eight AWCs are under Zikzak ICDS Project and 10 under Betasing ICDS Project.

CHIEF MINISTER LAUNCHES A BOOK ON MEGHALAYA

The Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr Mukul M Sangma launched the book titled 'Meghalaya on the Paths to Prosperity' authored by Prof Bibek Debroy at an impressive function held at the India Habitat Centre, Delhi on April 10, 2015.

Speaking at the function, Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul M Sangma said that the humble transformative efforts of the government have been captured in the form of storytelling to disseminate information to the people. He informed the gathering at the launch that biggest challenge of any policy maker is to deal with the expectations of the new generation in providing employment opportunities and livelihood

for the youth. Highlighting the aspects and objectives of the flagship program of the state government, Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Program (IBDLP) which forms the core of the book, the Chief Minister said that IBDLP is designed to promote sustainable livelihood through partnership and to promote entrepreneurship. He further mentioned that the book is in itself is a motivation for all to deliver the best for the state of Meghalaya.

It may be mentioned that the book is authored by Prof Bibek Debroy who was born in Shillong and spent the first ten years of his life in Shillong. Giving a brief

synopsis of the book, Prof Debroy said that the book is the story of entrepreneurship in Meghalaya giving a flavor of the state while triggering an interest in the minds of the reader.

The book is about Meghalaya's governance and human development and about the role of the government, institutions and private enterprise in embarking on those paths to prosperity.

Also present at the book launch were Chief Secretary, P. O. B. Warjri, Dr. Phrang Roy, retd IAS and Slow Food activist, Principal Secretary, Planning, P Jain and R M Mishra, IAS, CEO, IBDLP.



MISSION INDRADHANUSH LAUNCHED



The ambitious Mission Indradhanush which aims is to immunize all children in the country against seven vaccine preventable diseases namely diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B by 2020 was launched in 3 district of Meghalaya between April 2-7, 2015.

In West Khasi Hills District, the Mission was launched by Meghalaya Health Minister, Shri A.L. Hek on April 2. Launching the Mission, Shri. Hek urged upon the headman, NGO's, local youth and local people as a whole to extend coordination with the Government in implementing this programme. He further called upon the parents to get their children immunized through this mission in the various PHCs and CHCs set up by the State Government. Later, Shri. A.L. Hek also flagged off 2 vaccine vans for South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat, in a formal programme organised by the office of the District Medical & Health Officer, Mawkyrwat South West Khasi Hills, on April 02, at the Multipurpose Hall, DC Office.

In East Khasi Hills District, Mission Indradhanush was launched by the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, Mr. Sanjay Goyal at Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong on April 7. The program was organized by the Department of Health and Family Welfare under the aegis of National Health Mission, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong.

While addressing the gathering Mr. Sanjay Goyal expressed his concern about the 40 per cent partially vaccinated or unvaccinated children due to the ignorance of their parents. Stressing on the rights and importance of Child Health Care system, he said that it is the utmost duty of the parents to ensure right immunization at the right time for their children. He further urged upon the medical officers and staff to ensure that the partially vaccinated or unvaccinated children are fully immunized and also advised the people to take full advantage of this special immunization program.

In her address, Dr. R M Lamare, District Medical & Health Officer stated that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have launched Mission Indradhanush with the objective of reaching out to these unreached children and pregnant women through targeted interventions. The mission focuses its efforts in high risk areas like urban/peri-urban slums, brick kilns, construction sites, areas with measles and diphtheria outbreaks and other with weak routine immunization coverage identified through pulse polio program, surveillance, concurrent monitoring etc. additionally, areas where regular routine immunization sessions are not being held either because they are hard to reach or the sub-centres have been vacant or ANM has been on long leave will be focus upon, she stated.

Dr. Lamare further reiterated that as part of the mission four Intensified Routine Immunization phases are recommended every month between April, 2015 and July, 2015 involving all Health Workers particularly ANMs for a period of 7 days to ensure high coverage.

CYCLONE HITS VILLAGES IN SOUTH WEST GARO HILLS



Over a hundred villages in the district of South West Garo Hills have been affected by cyclone that hit the region on Saturday night. Strong winds accompanied by rains bearing hailstones damaged houses and some crops in the two villages in the district.

South West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner, Shri. Ram Singh said that the district administration is taking stock of the situation and necessary measures being taken to provide relief to the affected households.

As per initial reports, around twenty villages under Betasing block, including New Chondonpara, Chondon Nokat, Godalgre and Arenggre had been fully damaged. But after actual assessment of the ground situation, Betasing BDO Albert Marak informed that altogether 139 villages were only partially damaged and that total number affected households is 247. Most of these households had their rooftops blown away by the strong winds, he said.

Meanwhile, the BDO of Zikzak, Reuben Ch. Momin reported that Salmanpara, Dinapara, Nachilpara, Banangpara and Chapahati villages under his block were partially damaged by the cyclone. However, the extent of damages and affected villages may increase after detailed survey, he added.

APPLICATIONS INVITED

Nomination for Kabir Puraskar

Applications are invited from individuals from East Khasi Hills District who desire their names to be recommended to the Government for conferring of the Kabir Puraskar, a national award instituted by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs. The award is for honouring persons who show physical/moral courage in saving life and property of members of another community, caste or ethnic group.

The awards is given in three Grades and carries a cash amount of ₹ 2, 00,000/-, ₹ 1, 00,000/- and ₹ 50,000/- for Grade I, Grade II and Grade III respectively along with a citation.

Intending individuals can send their nomination to the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong on or before 30th April, 2015.

Detailed information may be downloaded from the District Website <http://eastkhasihills.gov.in>.

WORLD HOMOEOPATHIC DAY OBSERVED IN CITY



World Homoeopathic Day was observed today at Ayush Building, 2nd Floor, Civil Hospital, Shillong wherein the Meghalaya Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Mr. A L Hek was the Chief Guest. The day also marks the 260th Birth Anniversary of Late Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of the Homeopathy medicine.

The Minister, in his speech, said that the Central Government has been focusing on the development and popularizing the practice of Ayush medicine which is a part of the traditional Indian system of medicine. He further added that countries like Germany, France and USA have already recognized the practice of Homoeopathy whereas in India this system of medical practice traditional practice of medicine is yet to be widely popularized. "We will have our own Directorate for this system of medicine which has zero side effects", he said.

The Homoeopathy system of medicine was first introduced in the State Health Services in the year 1979, three years after the Government have promulgated "The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973". Thereafter a Homoeopathic Dispensary was opened and commissioned in 1976 by the State Government, Health and Family Welfare Department in the old Civil Hospital Building at Police Bazar, Shillong and which at present has

been accommodated in the new building of Civil Hospital, Shillong. The homoeopathic system of medicines and treatment has now been introduced in all the 11 (eleven) Districts of the State.

It is also worth mentioning that the Ayurvedic system of medicine was first introduced by the Government of Meghalaya in the year 2002 and was implemented as an Out Patient Department (OPD) at Khliehshnong in Sohra under East Khasi Hills District. The Ayurvedic treatment has now been introduced in all the Districts Hospitals of the State. And in the year, 2005-2006, the State Government through the Central Sponsored Schemes has set up the 10 Bedded Homoeopathic Hospitals in the 7 (Seven) Districts and 3 (Three) Ayurvedic Wings but could not function till date due to shortage of manpower.

Hahnemanian Oath was also administered to the BHMS Doctors by the Registrar, Meghalaya Homoeopathic Board of Medicine and Registration Certificates was handed over by the Health Minister to the passed out BHMS Doctors.

Others who were present on the occasion are Dr. W. Kharkrang, Joint DHS (MI), Dr. Barthakur, Civil Surgeon, Civil Hospital, Dr. (Mrs) D. K. Raswai, Dr. (Mrs) P. Rani and Dr. (Mrs) S. I. Kharshandi.

