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New Meghalaya Chief Minister Felicitated

The people of Garo Hills in general and Tura in particular welcomed Dr. Mukul Sangma, the new Chief Minister of Meghalaya into their midst with a grand felicitation programme organized by the District Congress Committee at the Tura District Auditorium, Tura, West Garo Hills District on May 1, 2010.

Dr. Mukul Sangma is the second youngest and the fourth among the Garos to have attained the coveted seat of the State's highest office, the Chief Minister's office and that too within a short span of his political career. Dr. Mukul Sangma was accompanied to the felicitation programme by his wife Mrs. Dikkanchi D Shira as well as his entourage of Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. Among them were Mr. Augustine D Marak, Minister i/c Food and Supply, Mr. A. T. Mondal, Minister i/c Power etc, Mr. Abdus Saleh, Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Limison Sangma, Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Samuel Sangma, Parliamentary Secretary and Mr. Saleng A Sangma, Parliamentary Secretary. The felicitation programme was presided over by Mr Zenith Sangma.

Dr. Mukul Sangma in his address to the gathering stressed that it was imperative to bring change into the state and create avenues for the younger generation enabling them to achieve their cherished dreams. He said that on the first day of the formation of his Government the first thing he did was address the affairs of the State with his ministers and said "I have spelt out the commitments of the Government...and it will be carried out with utmost sincerity". He informed that the Government would stress on certain pertinent issues like women's empowerment, education, socio-cultural issues, infrastructure, etc by practising inclusive politics. Inclusive politics, Dr. Sangma said, implied that the government would include popular poll and not only politicians in the Government's day to day affairs so as to bridge the gap between the people and their government. "I think if we cannot bring happiness to the different sections of the society we are not adequately responding to them" said the Chief Minister and added that it was where inclusive politics would come into play in understanding the grievances and needs of the people of the State.

On the issue of proposed Uranium mining in Garo Hills, he said that he would see that popular poll is taken into consideration without which he assured no concrete steps would be taken. Lastly he urged the people of Meghalaya to maintain a conducive atmosphere for

uninterrupted development and sought ceaseless and humble cooperation from all sections of the society. He also remarked that there was certain skepticism among the people that the government would not last but assured the people that he had ample trust in his ministers and with the people's cooperation would bring in the much wanted change in the State.

Others who briefly spoke words of felicitation at the programme were Mrs. Arlene M. N. Sangma, President, DCC, West Garo Hills Tura, Mr. Semford B. Sangma, Secretary, MPCC, Mr. U R Dutta, retired Lecturer, Tura Government College, Mrs. Lepmoni C. Sangma, Former President, Mother's Union, Mr. Skylance G Momin, President, Nokma Council, Mr. I K Sangma, Former Secretary, MBOSE and Mrs. Miriam D Shira, former Minister. A similar felicitation programme was also held at Ampati mini Stadium on May 3, 2010. The people of Ampati overjoyed at the fact that one of their sons, overcoming all odds, after a colorful career in politics, has become the Chief Minister of Meghalaya welcomed Dr. Mukul M Sangma with utmost admiration and respect.

Dr. Mukul Sangma while addressing the gathering expressed delight and happiness at being received at his birth place and later his constituency with such adoration and admiration. He said "I accept all these felicitation and honor that you have given me with a humble and grateful heart. I am so happy that you all have supported for all these four years to look after your welfare and address the grievances of our people". Dr. Mukul Sangma stressing on the need to look at things in new light said that the Government is initiating new ideas, initiatives to improve the implementation of government schemes/projects in the state. He said that for the past four years he had been able to grasp opportunities enabling him to address and formulate strategies to tackle the grievances of the people of the state in general and Ampati in particular.

Stressing on the need to harness the energy and vibrancy of the youth of today he said "I have thought of new initiatives for all our potential youth". He said that since independence the Government had introduced many schemes and projects to uplift the lifestyle of the general populace and that the region had witnessed many such schemes but due to inefficient administration the schemes did no bear fruit. Dr. Mukul Sangma called upon all the officers of the state to work in tandem so as to enable uniform growth in the spheres of development in the State. He further stressed on popular inclusion and said that all decisions regarding implementation of schemes/projects etc would include that of the people of the region.



REVIEW MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES HELD

The Review Meeting of the National Commission For Scheduled Tribes headed by the Vice Chairperson Mr. Maurice Kajur was held with the State Government represented by the Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Mr. W M S Pariat and senior government officials at the conference room of the Main Secretariat building on March 20, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to review the implementation of schemes funded both by the Central and State governments for the benefit of the Scheduled Tribes in the State. The meeting was convened by the Social Welfare Department.



To give an overall picture of the developmental initiatives undertaken in the State, Mr. P B Warjri, Additional Chief Secretary gave a power point presentation highlighting programmes and schemes implemented under the Education sector, Health, PHE, Forest, Agriculture, NREGA schemes, Agriculture and Horticulture, etc.

Following the presentation and brief interaction

between the members of the Commission and the different department heads, the Vice Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Maurice Kajur pointed out that, the literacy rate in the State is promising. He stressed on the need for qualitative education so as to enable the students of the State to compete at the all India level. In order to achieve this end, he highlighted the importance of securing professional level of Adhoc teachers with attractive packages. Furthermore to tackle the problems of growing unemployment, vocational and job oriented courses are vital, he added.

In the health sector, Mr. Kajur lamented the shortage of good doctors and specialists in the State and said that the State Government should take serious note of the matter and find out ways and means to attract quality health care facilities in the State in consultation with the Ministry.

Other issues discussed included systematic distribution of BPL Cards, forest villages and schemes to rehabilitate them and the functioning of district councils in the State.

The members of the Commission also referred to the National goal of drinking water for all by 2011-2012. Lauding the State for its 60 percent coverage in this regard, he urged upon the concerned department to work with greater dedication to achieve the said target.

NATIONAL CENSUS ENUMERATION BEGINS IN MEGHALAYA

Along with the rest of the country, the largest census exercise ever to be attempted in the history of mankind, also kick-started in Meghalaya on April 1, 2010, with the enumeration of Governor R S Mooshahary and the former Chief Minister Dr. D D Lapang in their residences at Raj Bhavan and Sherwood Bunglow respectively.

"There is a special importance to the Census this time as it will help in developing the National Population Register which is linked to the Unique Identification Number (UID) to be issued to all citizens of the country," said the Governor, the first to be enumerated in the state.

"Initially we will be doing the house-listing. The exercise will continue till May 15. The actual headcount will be done from February 9 to February 28 next year, followed by a five-day revision," informed the Director Census Operations, Meghalaya Mr. K L Tariang.

The enumerators for the first time will collect information like ownership of mobile phones, computers, internet, having treated or untreated drinking water facility and obtain finger prints and photographs which will help government formulate



plans and strengthen the country's security.

Later, a National Population Register (NPR) will be created in which the government will have the entire population of the country under one database.

The enumeration was conducted in the presence of the State Nodal Officer, Census Operations, Meghalaya, Mr P W Ingty and Principal Census Officer, East Khasi Hills District, Mr. J Lyngdoh.

MEGHALAYA LAUNCHES ROKO CANCER CAMPAIGN

The first mobile mammography van to detect cancer in the rural areas of the Meghalaya was launched on 15th April 2010 at Civil Hospital, Shillong by Meghalaya Parliamentary Secretary, incharge Health and Family Welfare Mr. Pynshngain Syiem. Meghalaya is the first Indian State to launch a cancer screening campaign for the entire state.

ROKO CANCER CAMPAIGN is an initiative of MKC Trust UK. The project is a partnership between Health and Family Welfare Department of Meghalaya and Roko Cancer Charitable Trust, India. The trust is launching two mobile units in Meghalaya as part of the Public Private Partnership for screening of Breast, Cervix and Oral Cancer. The first unit will cover the Khasi region and the second unit will be launched after five months which will cover the Garo region. A team of doctors and volunteers will travel with the unit providing free detection facilities and further investigation test to the people at their doorstep. Immediately after the launching programme free cancer detection camp will be organized at the inaugural site at Civil Hospital Shillong. This facility can be availed by all free of cost. The MKC Roko Cancer Trust had covered eight Indian states so far that include Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa.



"This new venture will benefit the rural masses," Parliamentary Secretary Pynshngain Syiem said, while launching the mobile unit.

He said the mobile cancer detection unit stationed at Shillong and Tura, would traverse across the state for early detection of three types of cancer – breast, cervical and oral. He further stated that this programme will help create awareness among the general public regarding the benefits of screening and early detection, giving them a chance to get timely treatment when needed.

"There is now growing recognition of the need for early diagnosis through screening through social mobilisation initiative with community as critical stakeholders to contain cancer," Chairman of MKC Roko Trust APS Chawla said.

With Cancer prevalence high in the State, the State government is also working out details to provide free medical treatment for cancer patients under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) scheme.

GOVERNOR FLAG OFF RED HORNS BICYCLE RALLY 2010

As part of the Awareness Campaign cum Disaster Prone Area Mapping, a Bicycle Rally under the aegis of Red Horns Division was flagged off on March 18, 2010 by the Meghalaya Governor Mr. Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary from Raj Bhavan Gate amid a civil military ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mooshahary said that the bicycle rally aimed at reaching out to the unemployed youth of rural Meghalaya and spread awareness among them regarding the various opportunities, ways and means of getting recruited in all ranks in the Army. This noble act of the Army has provide a platform for direct and close interaction between the Army and the local population to attract the youths to join the armed forces which is one step towards solving the problem of unemployment in Meghalaya.

The team members will also carry out mapping of the hilly terrain areas for effective disaster management as they travels through the most remote and interior localities of East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, and Ri-Bhoi District, informed Mr. Mooshahary.

It may be mentioned that the 20 members Red Horns Bicycle Rally team led by Capt Gopala Krishnan will cover an arduous journey of 445 Kilometers in seven days. The team reached Mairang and there after proceed to Nongstoin on 19th March, Riango on 20th March, Patharkhmah on 21st March, Nongpoh on 22nd March, Umsning on 23rd March and finally return to Shillong on 26th March, where it will be flagged-in in a grand civil military ceremony.

The Rally team members also interacted with ex-servicemen and war widows in Meghalaya and will address their concerns regarding the entitlements and benefits due to them in the 6th Central Pay Commission.





TURA GETS A 50-BEDDED MATERNITY HOSPITAL

The newly constructed 50-bedded Maternity and Child Hospital at the old Civil Hospital complex, Tura was inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister i/c Health & Family Welfare, Mr. Rowell Lyngdoh, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Mr. Augustine D. Marak and other dignitaries on June 12, 2010 at Tura.

The Hospital, which is the first of its kind in Garo Hills and second in the State, was constructed at a cost of over Rs. 9 crore and would cater exclusively for women and children, particularly, the reproductive health of women and immunization of children. Initially, the hospital would function only with the OPD, but the indoor wards would also start functioning soon.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Mukul said that the hospital was the outcome of the project conceived at the DPDC meeting. He, however, admitted that there were some anomalies in the construction and certain facilities were yet to be in place in order to make it functional to the optimum level. He therefore said that there should be proper coordination while planning important projects like this.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Sanjay Goyal had, on behalf of the district Health department requested the Chief Minister to provide the required man-power to run the hospital to its fullest capacity, to which Dr. Sangma assured that necessary steps would be taken to make it fully functional without further delay. He however, spoke about the constraints of getting doctors with PG degree, but added that the government is trying its best to ensure that all doctors get capacity building trainings. Dr. Sangma also stressed on the need to build up man-power as health sector was one of the largest job providers in the State. As such, he informed that the government was planning to set up two Medical colleges in the State, one in Shillong to be run on a PPP mode and the other one would be somewhere near Tura. He also said that First Referral Units (FRUs) for treatment of cancer would be started in the State sometime in the month of July. Reiterating the need to have some kind of mechanism to coordinate PHCs, CHCs and Referral centres while referring patients to hospitals, Dr. Sangma said if need arises, the government is willing to sanction one or more posts just to address the problem in the referral centres.

Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Rowell Lyngdoh, while congratulating his department for the achievement, expressed hope that the hospital would provide effective health delivery system for the people of Garo Hills and help to overcome one of the three enemies diseases, illiteracy and poverty, which the State had been fighting for a long time.

200 BEDDED ANNEXE BUILDING OF THE SHILLONG CIVIL HOSPITAL INAUGURATED

The endeavors of Civil Hospital, Shillong to improve and upgrade its delivery services to the people of the State was given a fillip with the inauguration of the 200 bedded Annexe Building at the hospital premises on March 27, 2010. The Annex building constructed at an estimated cost of Rs.7.32 Crores, was inaugurated by the then Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr D D Lapang.

The growth in terms of population and urbanization where the rural populace is migrating to the urban areas has put an immediate imperative on the Government to upgrade the health facilities in the urban centres particularly Shillong Civil Hospital. To augment in catering to the needs of the growing city, the Government through the National Rural Health Mission has been able to set up 18 urban Health centres in the whole State among which 12 of them are in Shillong.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Lapang said that the Government is making all efforts to ensure that the people of the State get easy access to health care facilities both in the rural and urban areas.

Dr Lapang was impressed with the modernity and excellence of the Shillong Civil Hospital which has been dedicatedly serving the people of greater Shillong with selflessness in providing health care service to all especially the poor and the improve-

rished. He urged upon the Health Department to ensure that adequate stock of quality medicines are provided along with all the modern equipments to ensure an efficient health delivery system. "Hospitals must meet the needs of all segments of the society. They must respond to the felt needs of the community at the grassroots level", he added.



Dr Lapang said that it is a matter of happiness that the Shillong Civil Hospital has been empanelled with the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) which is the health insurance scheme for the poor and this will help them generate more funds to the Hospital Management Society in which the Hospital itself can be self sustaining.

Dr Lapang also said that Medical and Para medical personnel must be imbued with commitment to ensure the welfare of the community they serve. Health care is an essential part of the Government's commitment to the people. The NRHM is one of the programmes of the Government to close the health gap among the people and it is being accorded top priority in order to succeed in building a genuinely free, fair and equitable society. Dr Lapang said that the State should equip itself to meet the challenges confronting the people in the form of diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and also diabetes,

hypertension, cancer and HIV. He appeals to all to work together and devise imaginative ways and means to tackle the maladies.

The then Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma in his speech said that the department is making all efforts to improve the health delivery mechanism in the State by providing the hospitals in the State with adequate facilities. While stating that the State is having constraints in terms of man power, Dr Mukul said that there is a need for the State to explore the possibility of having at least 2 Medical colleges in the State which he felt would meet the man power requirement. He also informed that the Government has recently approved the setting up of 2 nursing schools one at Tura and another at Jowai. Dr Mukul also launched the official website of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Meghalaya <http://meghealth.gov.in> during the function.

World Blood Donor Day 2010 observed

As part of the observance of and to provide impetus to the ongoing National Voluntary Blood Donation Programme, the Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, the Meghalaya State Blood Transfusion Council and all the licensed Blood Banks of Meghalaya organized campaigns on Voluntary Blood Donation on June 14, 2010. The theme for this year's campaign was "New Blood for the World."

To mark this occasion, a State level programme was held at U Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on June 14, 2010 wherein Fr. J Celia, SDB, Director, Don Bosco Youth Centre, Shillong was the Chief Guest and Prof. M E Yeolekar, Director NEIGRIHMS was the Guest of Honour.

Further, awareness campaigns on Voluntary Blood Donation was conducted in the six licensed Blood Banks

of the State, namely, Regional Blood Bank, Pasteur Institute, Shillong, KJP Synod Hospital, Shillong, Nazareth Hospital, Shillong, Blood Bank Tura Civil Hospital, Tura Blood Bank, NEIGRIHMS, Mawdiangdiang, Military Hospital, Shillong.

In its efforts to spread awareness of making safe blood available for transfusion, Meghalaya AIDS Control Society and the Meghalaya State Blood Transfusion Council regularly reaches out to various groups and motivate them to donate blood regularly and voluntarily. Youth are encouraged to regularly volunteer for blood donation and carry forward the torch of selfless service towards achieving total voluntary blood donation.



20TH FOUNDATION DAY OF SAN-KER CELEBRATED

"The secret of longevity of an individual is to have a sound mind and a sound body, but the most important is the mind because if you can mind the mind, the body will mind itself," said the Governor of Meghalaya, Mr. R S Mooshahary, while speaking as the Chief Guest at the Thanksgiving Function to celebrate the 20th Foundation Day of SAN-KER at Mawlai Mawroh, Shillong on 9th June, 2010.

While commending on the humanitarian service that the management and staff of SAN-KER has rendered to persons with mental illness, the Governor said that 20 years of selfless service rendered by the institution speaks volume of the strong foundation and a farsighted vision and mission of Dr. S Syiem and his team who have propelled the institution to its present status. While wishing all those who have devoted their lives to the treatment and care of those who suffer from mental illness and who work daily in this valuable and important cause, Mr. Mooshahary called upon every responsible citizens to assist and help the patients in coping with their environment, whether directly or indirectly, because persons with mental illness do better when they have healthy supportive relationships.

While highlighting on child trafficking which is the theme of this year's Souvenir, the Governor said that child trafficking is a most heinous crime and it impacts the mentality of a child leading them to an unstable mind. He added that it not only affects the psyche of the children but leaves them emotionally shattered which in turn leads to listlessness and depression. Therefore he called upon every responsible citizens to work together to address this issue which is prevalent across the globe even in the State of Meghalaya.

Padma Shree Queenie Rynjah, while speaking as the Guest of Honour, congratulated Dr. Syiem for his daring enterprise to venture to such a noble cause and to contribute to the society through selfless service. She lauded the management of staff of SAN-KER for their vision of thoughts to help those who succumb to the evils of substance abuse and others and to transform

them into productive members of the family and the society as a whole. Lamenting on the prevalence of child trafficking, she said that it is our duty as citizens to offer help and encourage the people especially the youth to shun evil deeds and be part of a civilized society and she also called upon the people to help in the endeavour of SAN-KER in creating awareness on the ill effects of child trafficking and how to eradicate this menace.

The Managing Trustee, SAN-KER Charitable Trust, in his welcome speech, said that the institution is and continues to remain a place where love and compassion is foremost and where the patient is of prime importance as has been reflected in the institution's motto "- by love, serve one another."

He informed the gathering that since humanitarian considerations are foremost, the management realised that it cannot become a commercial organisation and this resulted in the creation of the SAN-KER Charitable Trust recently to manage SAN-KER as a not-for-profit Institution. Dr. Syiem also informed the gathering that for the last 20 years, SAN-KER has provided treatment to about 8000 in-patients where during the last two years alone, that is ending 2009, there are 426 in-patients and out of this 246 are psychiatric patients and 180 are patients suffering from substance abuse disorders. Till ending 2009, there are 15600 out-patients and 34 who attended the day care facility.

Later, a souvenir on the theme "Child Trafficking" was released by the Governor. Earlier, a thanksgiving function was held wherein Rev. Dr. J F Jyrwa, Senior Executive Secretary, Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Assembly led the gathering in prayer and after the end of the function, Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop Shillong Archdiocese offered the benediction.

In recognition to their selfless and noble service, the Governor also presented awards to the staff who have work with the institution for more than 10 years. A song presented by the inmates of the institution was the other highlight of the day .

"Selfless service alone gives the needed strength and courage to awaken the sleeping humanity in one's heart."

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."

Douglas Adams

"We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other. If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you."

Jeff Warner



Meghalaya CM, Dr Mukul Sangma unveiling the plaque to mark the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Sngap Syiem College



Meghalaya Governor Shri Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary, inspecting the painting exhibited during the 7th National Art Festival held on April 27, 2010 at All Saints'



The Cancer Detection Mobile Bus in Shillong



Meghalaya Governor Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary giving away awards to life time members of the Rotary Club on the occasion of World Red Cross Day held at Raj Bhavan, Shillong



Litrary Campaign held on May 1, 2010 at DCIC, Shillong



Meghalaya Deputy CM, Shri B. M Lanong administering the Oath on the occasion of World Anti-Terrorism Day at Rilang Building in Shillong on May 21, 2010



Meghalaya Health Minister, Shri Rowell Lyngdoh inspecting Civil Hospital, Shillong on May 6, 2010



Dr. Mukul Sangma being sworn in as Meghalaya Chief Minister on 20.4.2010



Shri B. M. Lanong being sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister on 20.4.2010



Shri A. T. Mondal being sworn in as Minister on 20.4.2010



Shri R.C. Laloo being sworn in as Minister on 24.4.2010



Shri F.W. Momin being sworn in as Minister on 24.4.2010



Shri Augustine D. Marak being sworn in as Minister on 24.4.2010



Shri Rowell Lyngdoh being sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister on 24.4.2010



Shri J. A. Lyngdoh being sworn in as Minister on 20.4.2010



Shri Prestone Tynsong being sworn in as Minister on 24.4.2010



Shri H.D.R. Lyngdoh being sworn in as Minister on 24.4.2010



Smti M. Ampareen Lyngdoh being sworn in as Minister on 24.4.2010



Shri Founder Cajee being sworn in as Minister on 24.4.2010

Press Conducted Tour *organised by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Meghalaya*



Poly houses at the Horticulture Hub in Jaintia Hills District.



A local fish vendor at Nongstoin market, West Khasi Hills District.



NREGS Card holder.

Small scale weaving unit in West Khasi Hills District.

Achievements under Mathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Meghalaya



Construction of CC Dam at Asim Agal, Rongjeng Block, East Garo Hills

With this project taken up at Asim Agal VEC under Rongjeng Development Block, more than 308 bighas (approximately 40 hectares) of land was brought under irrigation, which was earlier left barren due to scarcity of water. The adjoining 3 VECs namely the Nongbak Daram, Nongbak Rengkil, Nongbak Agalgre VEC have also benefited from this project which commenced on 5.2.09 and completed on 16.09.09. The cost of the Project was Rs. 3,77,360/- with a break-up of Rs. 2,25,700 as wage component and Rs. 1,51,660 as material component. The mandays generated from this Project was 3224. The implementation of this Project has improved the economic condition of the villagers by way of increasing the area of cultivation and increase in productivity of food grains. The beneficiaries are grateful with the introduction of NREGS to the extent that they ask for more.

Motorable Road at Laitsohpliah, East Khasi Hills.

The Project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 4, 93, 000/- and was implemented by Laitsohpliah VEC through NREGS 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. Work commenced on 14th January 2008 and was completed in May 21, 2009 with the active participation of all the registered households. The motorable road serves as a good means of communication for transportation of agriculture and horticulture products. Before the road was constructed, people had to walk for over an hour from their respective village to the main road, carrying their products manually and it took more time for them to deliver their products to the market. However the construction of the Motorable Road has come as a blessing to the whole village, especially the farmers and also for the sick and infirmed.

Construction of dug out pond under Thangbuli, Amlarem C&RD Block Jaintia Hills.

The construction of a dug out pond under Thangbuli

village under Amlarem C&RD Block under NREGS measuring 3810.87 cumts. was earmarked for Rs. 5.71 lakhs during 2008-09. As per the guidelines NREGA out of the total amount of Rs. 5.71 lakhs allotted for the project, 60% (amounting to Rs. 3.43 lakhs) constituted wage components and Rs. 2.28 lakhs material components.

The Village Dorbar Of Thangbuli village had constructed two Community Ponds for pisciculture and fish rearing way back in 1960s-1970s with a view to generate income for sustaining the school run by the village to provide education to the children. These two ponds had generated a lot of income to sustain the Upper Primary School till the school got recognition by the Government as a Deficit Upper Primary School. Subsequently the village community then set up another school, viz: the Amwi Secondary School in 1983 with the same source of income from the two ponds. However, due to heavy monsoon rain, one of these ponds got filled up with silt deposit which made the pond unsuitable for fish rearing and required complete de-siltation and reconstruction. In the year 2002, the Village Dorbar passed a resolution to renovate the pond, however due to the size of the pond and huge deposits of silt the same could not be achieved. A boon to the village came with the introduction of the NREGS and de-silting of this pond was selected by the VEC as the top most priority project.

The project has brought back the community property to its past productivity. There is a sense of satisfaction especially among the elders to see this almost lost asset of the community being renovated and revived to its full potential.

The pond after full capacity of fish rearing would be able to produce 10,000 kg of fish per cycle. The village community looks forward to this, as this would help the village in its service to the betterment of the society. Convergence with Fishery Department is under process for supply of seedling free of cost, which will contribute more economics income to the village.

This project has provided 4900 man days of unskilled labour which include 3131 man days for woman and it has helped a lot of villagers in their time of employment crisis. Apart from the unskilled labour this project has also provided 300 skilled and unskilled labor.

Afforestation and Tree Plantation at Umkoi, Jaintia Hills

Afforestation and Tree Plantation at Umkoi VEC was taken up by the VEC at an area covering 12.77 hect. Plantation of Arecanut at an estimated amount of Rs. 1.75 lakhs i.e wages component of Rs. 1.05 lakhs for 1500 Mandays and materials component for fencing including barbed wire for Rs. 0.70 lakhs.

This area was a traditional forest kept under the custody of the Village Council since time immemorial. The village got this area in its custody after the settlement arrived with the HYNRIAM since this area falls

settlement arrived with the HYNRIAM since this area falls under the Khyrim Syiemship.

In the past, the village council had taken up 50 % cultivation of arecanut plantation in that plot of land. In the past, the Village Dorbar made it compulsory for every male member of the village of 18 years and above to volunteer and plant arecanut trees and any one who fails to do so were punished with a fine equal to a day's wage of that time.

In the past the sale from this area was only around Rs.20, 000 to 25,000/- annually as there are only about 950 to 1000 arecanut trees. Moreover some of these trees were not fruitful due to shortage of fund for maintenance and planting more trees. Now through NREGS, maintenance, fencing and more plantations has been done by the village and the village is now expected to generate more income than before.

Government signs MOU for implementation of "Integrated Child Protection Schemes" (ICPS) in the State

The Government of Meghalaya signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development, for implementation of 'Integrated Child Protection Schemes' (ICPS) in the State. The State Government was presented by Shri. Arindam Som, Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare Department.

This newly Centrally sponsored Scheme has been formulated by the Government of India, with the objectives to provide a safe and secure environment to children in the country who are in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law; contribute to the improvement in the well being of children in different circumstances; reduce vulnerabilities to situation and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation. The intervention includes inter alia, financial support for setting up and maintenance of the existing homes for children in need of care and protection and juvenile in conflict with law, setting up of child

protection structure, capacity building, advocacy etc. The Central Government provides substantial financial support to the State Government for implementation of ICPS in the States.

The expenditure sharing ratio between Centre and State Government is 90% Central Share and 10% State share.

The expected outcomes of the scheme are reduced vulnerabilities of children; better child protection services; increased availability and accessibility of a variety of child protection services; less children in need of care and protection; increase in protection of children in family based non institutional care; increase in the protection of children/young people leaving institutional care who are self sufficient and gainfully engaged in productive activity and information/knowledge base of children and family at risk.

Already twenty two States have signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

If You Think You are Beaten

Walter D. Wintle

*If you think you are beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you'd like to win but think you can't,
It's almost certain you won't.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But sooner or later, the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can.*

Jute Fair Held

The Director of Commerce and Industries, Government of Meghalaya, Mr. D. K. Areng inaugurated the 5 day 'Jute Fair' on June 30, 2010 at State Central Library. The event was organised by the National Jute Board (NJB) of India under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India with an aim to promote Indian Jute. The Fair comprised of display cum sale of lifestyle jute products by 26 entrepreneurs from different parts of the country showcasing their environment-friendly jute consumer products like handicrafts, dolls, fancy jute bags and many more.

Other dignitaries present at the inaugural function are Mr. A.K.Ghosh, Consultant, NJB, Mr. T. K. Saha, Market Promotion Officer, NJB and many others.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. D. K Areng highlighted the evolution of jute market and the value of jute products. He also stated the importance of jute fabric in which they are being used in various fields even road constructions, as manure to grow crops and many more. He further said that if these resources can be tapped it can benefit the growers, generate employment and avenues for setting up of small scale industries.



Deputy Commissioner's Library and Archive inaugurated

With an aim to preserve rare manuscripts and other literary works pertaining to the British annexation in Garo Hills, jotted down by Lt. W.J. Williamson and other renowned British Administrators, the West Garo Hills Administration have established the Deputy Commissioner's Library and Archives at the Deputy Commissioner's residential campus in Tura.

The Deputy Commissioner's Library and Archives was inaugurated on the 12th April 2010 at the modest gathering of eminent personalities and district officials by the Chief Guest, Shri I.K Sangma, retired Secretary, MBOSE in the presence of Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills, Shri. Sanjay Goyal.

This library was envisioned by the former Deputy Commissioner, Shri. P Sampath Kumar, keeping in mind the noble attempt of his predecessor to preserve the

manuscript for future reference and computerization. The present Deputy Commissioner, Shri. Sanjay Goyal has tediously and selflessly worked with seven of his officers and staffs especially chosen for the fruition of the project.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Sanjay Goyal thanked all of his predecessors and also other officers for envisioning the Deputy Commissioner's Library and Archives. He stated that precious manuscripts and documents pertaining to the British annexation of Garo Hills, besides records, diaries, tour diaries and many more authored by various British Officers and Deputy Commissioners over the years since 1864 were lodged in the Library. This, he added, was a treasure trove of information and history of the rich cultural heritage of the Garos and therefore could possibly be used for future reference.

Prestone Inaugurates Mairang Water Supply Scheme

The long awaited Mairang Water Supply Scheme was finally inaugurated on March 18, 2010 by the Meghalaya Minister for Public Health Engineering, Mr. P Tynsong at a function held at Khadsawphra Sports Association Stadium. The local MLA, Mr. Metbah Lyngdoh and other senior officers of the PHE department were also present on the occasion.

The Scheme which started on March 2006 and funded by the Ministry of DONER under the NLCPR Scheme was constructed at a total cost of Rs. 806.61 lakhs. The Water Supply Scheme (WSS) would cater to the water requirement of around 26,500 residents spread around 19 localities under Mairang township.

It comprises of three 100 HP pumps at Kynshi river, water treatment plant and 245 platforms around Mariang. Already 515 households have availed domestic water connection by the scheme.

In his inaugural address as the Chief Guest, Mr. Tynsong lauded the efforts of all concerned for which commissioning of this Scheme was made possible. "Cooperation of the local residents with the Government has made this possible", he said with regard to the donors who parted way with their land for the purpose of the WSS. He urged upon the people to maintain government facilities as their own.

Presiding over the function, local MLA Mr. M Lyngdoh said that it was a memorable day for the people of Mairang and it was one step further towards the all round development of the area.

Others who spoke on the occasion were, Mr. P W Ingty, Commissioner and Secretary PHE Department, Mr. T. G. Abraham, Chief Engineer, PHE and Mr. B Syiemiong, Sadar Pyndengumiong.

Lasubon enthralls



Far from the hum drum of the city, the lush greenery of the Sacred Grooves or ka Law Kyntang at Mawphlang played the perfect host to a tourism Festival with a difference. Held for the first time at this pristine location, the Festival, christened 'Lasubon', which refers to a type of rare golden coloured orchid with an enchanting fragrance found in the deep jungles exclusively in this part of the globe, witnessed participation from enthusiasts all over including foreign tourists. The Festival was inaugurated by the Minister of Tourism, Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh on May 14, 2010.

Held over a period of two days, Lasubon 2010 showcased the rich cultural heritage of the three major tribes of Meghalaya – the Khasis, Jaintias and the Garos. In coherence with the splendor of the surroundings, thatched huts served as stalls where varied handloom, handicraft and indigenous products were put on display and sold. Some of the other major attractions of the carnival were exhibition of pottery, beekeeping, loofah processing, weaves, zorbing and other adventure sports along with the inseparable rock concert integral to merrymaking in Meghalaya.

The lush green meadows overlooking the sacred forest served as a perfect backdrop to cultural events ranging from traditional songs and dance performances. A unique fashion show was also held as part of the festival where models walked the ramp showcasing ethnic costumes much to the delight of the onlookers. A range of ethnic cuisine was also available to savour during the festival.

Guided tours and treks in the thick of the sacred forest including the famous David Scott Trial, were other highlights of the Festival.



7th National Art Festival evokes good response

The 7th National Art Festival which was inaugurated by Meghalaya Governor Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary on April 27, 2010 culminated on May 1, 2010. The Festival witnessed a wide spectrum of artists from across the country displaying their respective themes under one roof. 43 artists from 27 states participated in the festival and enthralled arts lovers with their awe inspiring painting and sculptures.

The Festival was organized by Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA), New Delhi in collaboration with the Art and Culture Department, Government of Meghalaya. The last such art festival was held way back in 2004 in Hotel Pinewood organized solely by LKA and its Governing Council Member and noted city-based painter Jaya Kalra.

CM DISTRIBUTES AGRO-SERVICE MACHINERIES AT AMPATI

Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma handed over the Agro-service machineries to 28 beneficiaries of Betasing and Zikzak blocks under BRGF scheme in an impressive distribution function organized by the Agriculture department at Ampati Mini Stadium on May 3, 2010.

The machineries, including a power-tiller, water pump, SRI marker, weeder, etc are given to joint liability groups at a cost of Rs. 1,85,951 for each set, out of which Rs. 1,30,951 is borne by the government, Rs. 40,000 is bank loan component, while Rs.15,000 is beneficiaries' contribution.

Addressing the gathering, particularly the farmers, on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the government is working on top priority to improve the Agri-Horti sectors with new technologies, adding that these schemes were meant to uplift standard of the farmers. He urged the farmers to take up cultivation of high-value, attractive crops by using these new technologies in farming. "There cannot be a better, more lucrative profession than farming, if technology is well utilized", he added.

Speaking about the financial facilities being given to the farmers, he observed that some banks had a laid back attitude towards the customers and called upon the banks to change their attitude and have a competition amongst themselves.

Parliament Secretary Mr. Abdus Saleh also assisted the Chief Minister in handing over the manuals and the machineries on the occasion.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Sanjay Goyal, while highlighting the purpose of the scheme, urged the joint liability groups to run the machines in a profitable manner and also maintain daily accounts of hire and receipts. He also felt that the mechanization of farming is very low in the state and asked the farmers to take up SRI (System of Rice Intensification) method which can increase production by 60 percent.

The distribution function was attended by the officers of the Agriculture and Horticulture departments, other government officials, public leaders and farmers.

MEGHALAYA CM HOLDS REVIEW MEETING WITH OFFICERS

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Mukul Sangma accompanied by Power Minister, Mr A T Mondal and Food and Civil supplies Minister, Mr A D Marak took a review meeting with the Officers of various Departments in Garo Hills District to review the implementation of the schemes and programmes of the Government. The review meeting held on May 3, 2010 at the Tura Circuit House was held in the presence of

Commissioner of Divisions, Garo Hills, Mr P W Ingty, the Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills District, Mr Sanjay Goyal and the Deputy Commissioner, South Garo Hills District, Mrs H K Marak.

Initiating the discussion, Dr Mukul Sangma said that the intention of the review meeting is to refresh themselves of the focus of the Government on development. He said that they can share their thoughts and ideas on new initiatives and also give feedback to the government on the status of the schemes and programmes being implemented.

Dr Sangma said that the Officers in the field should work with sincerity and should always keep in mind the main concern of the government which is poverty. "We should synchronise our efforts to achieve our goals", he added.

"The need of the day is convergence approach, we should integrate our ideas and adopt a goal oriented approach for good end results for the best interest of the State as a whole", said Dr Sangma.

Dr Sangma also said that the government is making a development calendar for each District and Sub-Division of the State down to the Block level for effective and result oriented approach.

BIOMETRIC CARDS TO BE INTRODUCED IN NORTH EAST

In a bid to check diversion of food grains and ensure corruption-free Public Distribution System, the Centre has decided to introduce biometric ration cards in various States of the North East. This was informed by the Union Food Secretary, Alka Sirohi at the meeting of Food Secretaries of North East States held at Orchid Lake Resort, Umiam on April 12, 2010 which was also attended by the then Meghalaya Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and present Education Minister, Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh, officials of the Food and Civil Supplies Department from various North East States including officials of Food Corporation of India.

Sirohi also said that the introduction of the bio-metric card system would help in maintaining transparency on every food allocation for every State in the region.

Stating that enough food grains were allocated for the North East, Sirohi however informed that the region does not have adequate storage capacity. Therefore, the Centre has decided to construct additional storage capacity of over seven lakh tones in the region and massive construction programmes of godowns would be carried out soon and officials of the FCI would visit the North Eastern States every month to assess the necessity, she added.

During the meeting, the Union Food Secretary also had thorough interaction with officials on the food scenario in the region including inadequate supply of sugar.

It may be mentioned that according to the evaluation study on PDS and AAY by ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi, the diversion of food grains is high in North Eastern States especially Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Meghalaya Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh in her speech expressed concern at the alleged incorrect projection by the Planning Commission over the poverty figures of the State and urged the Centre to consider the figures prepared by respective States of the North East.

MEGHALAYA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD REFORMED

The Government of Meghalaya under the Meghalaya Power Sector Reforms Transfer scheme, 2010 has reformed the Meghalaya Electricity Board, into four bodies namely the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited (MeECL), the Holding Company, Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL), the Distribution Utility, Meghalaya Power Generation Corporation Limited (MePGCL), the Generation Utility and the Meghalaya Power Transmission Corporation Limited (MEPTCL), the Transmission Utility.

This has been done under the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act 2003, to bring about accountability, transparency, competitiveness, reduction of losses and improved performance for better customer satisfaction.

All assets, properties, rights, liabilities, obligations proceedings and personnel of MeECL have been transferred to the above mentioned four bodies. Those under Distribution, Generation and Transmission functions shall stand deputed or transferred to MePDCL, MePGCL and MePTCL respectively. All obligations in respect of pension, gratuity, leave encashment and other retirement benefits provident fund, superannuation and gratuity to the personnel, who have retired from the service of the Board before the effective date of transfer, shall be discharged by MeECL. All transfer of personnel from MeSEB to MeECL shall be provisional for a period of 12 months.

In effect, Meghalaya State Electricity Board, no longer exists w.e.f 1st April 2010. As such all customers paying their electricity bills by cheque or DD are requested to do so in favour of "Principal Account, MeECL" payable at Shillong.

SURVEY TO DEVELOP SCHOOL EDUCATION DATA BASE

The Education Department, Government of Meghalaya is conducting a survey for the collection of School level information and data relating to physical infrastructure, number of students, student's enrolment, etc, in the context of the 8th All India School Education Survey (AISES) launched by the Government of India, Ministry of Human Recourses Development, New Delhi.

The primary objective of the survey is to develop a data base for school education which would be useful for Educational Planning and Administration. The survey data being collected will be used for monitoring the implementation and to assess the impact of various schemes like SSA. This will provide universal access, enrollment, retention and improvement of quality in elementary education and in planning for Universalisation of Secondary Education with the recent launching RMSA through out the country.

2 DAY HEALTH MELA INAUGURATED IN BYRNIHAT

As part of the National Rural Health Mission, a free Health Mela was held at the Byrnihat PHC on March 18 and 19, 2010. The Health Mela organised by the District Health Society Ri Bhoi was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District, Shri Akash Deep. Other dignitaries present at the inaugural were Dr. A. S. Das, DM&HO, Ri Bhoi District Shri. A. Nongbri, State Programme Manager, NRHM, Dr. A.S. Kynjing, Director of Health Services cum Joint Mission Director, HRHM along with large number of local people.

SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT HELD AT TURA

A sensitization workshop on Cluster Development organised by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India was held on 7th April 2010 at the Circuit House, Tura. The workshop was a convergence of District Officials chalking out the best ways to go about in promoting cluster development in the region.

The Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills, Shri. Sanjay Goyal graced the workshop as the Chief Guest while Smt. F. C. A. Sangma, Additional Deputy Commissioner cum project Director, DRDA, West Garo Hills chaired the Workshop. Delegates from IIE comprising of Shri. K. Ahmed, Director, IIE, Dr. Sriparna B. Boruah, Head, Center for Industrial Extension, IIE, Shri. Hemanta Rabha, Research Executive, IIE, besides others deliberated on the importance of Cluster Development to attain higher levels of industrial development in the region.

BIODATA OF **DR. MUKUL SANGMA** CHIEF MINISTER, MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

Dr. Mukul Sangma was born on April 20, 1965 in Chengkompara, Ampati in West Garo Hills District to Binoy Bhushan M Marak and (L) Roshanara M Sangma. On April 20, 2010 he was sworn in as the 21st Chief Minister of Meghalaya.

Dr. Sangma completed schooling and passed out matriculation in 1982 from Government High School, Ampati, West Garo Hills. He studied Pre-University (Sc) in St. Anthony's College, Shillong (1982-1984). From 1984-1990, he studied and completed MBBS from the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal (RIMS), the erstwhile North Eastern Regional Medical College (NERMC), Imphal.

His foray in politics began at an early age as a student where he was an active member of the Youth Congress. Dr Sangma held different positions in the Governing Body of Students Council of the Medical College (RIMS), Imphal and contributed substantially in bringing unity and harmony between the outstation students and the local students of the Medical College and had been involved in getting the Medical College exempted from frequent agitational programmes usually sponsored by Local NGOs.

From January 1990 to May 1991, he practiced as a Private Medical Practitioner at a Private Clinic at Tura. In May, 1991, he joined and served as Medical & Health Officer at Zikzak PHC, West Garo Hills under Government of Meghalaya. Then on January 15th, 1993 Dr. Mukul left Government Service to enter into active politics.

On February, 1993 he got elected as Independent MLA from 58-Ampatigre L.A. Constituency and from February, 1993 till September, 1993, he held the post of Chairman, Meghalaya Transport Corporation (MTC).

Some of the posts held by him included the post of Parliamentary Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya from November, 1996 till February, 1998; Cabinet Minister in charge of departments such as Cooperation, Fisheries, Taxation etc., from 3rd August, 1998 till September, 1999; Cabinet Minister, in-charge of portfolios such as Taxation, IPR, etc. from 8th December, 2001 to 4th March, 2003; Cabinet Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya and looked after Taxation, PWD, Home (P), Education (both Higher & Technical Education and Elementary and Mass Education), Forest & Environment, Information Technology, Election, IPR, etc., Departments from March 5th, 2003 till 10th April, 2005; Deputy Chief Minister, from 11th April, 2005 till 6th October, 2005; Dy. Chief Minister, in-charge of Planning, IPR, Election, PID, Power including Non-Conventional Energy, Re-organization Departments from 11th March, 2007- March 2008.

From May 2009 till April 2010 he served as Deputy Chief



Minister I/C Finance, Power & Non- Conventional Energy, Health & F.W., IPR, Labour, Horticulture, Home (Passport) Administrative Reforms.

He also held various posts of Party functionary of the Indian National Congress in the State of Meghalaya. From the year 1998 - 1999, he held the position of Secretary, District Congress Committee, West Garo Hills. From the year 1999 to September, 2000 he held the position of President, District Congress Committee West Garo Hills. From November 2000 till date, he is holding the position of the General Secretary, Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee, I/C Frontal Wings etc.

Dr Sangma is actively involved in mobilization of Frontal Wings of Indian National Congress in the State of Meghalaya. He actively participates in campaigns and mobilization of Frontal Wings of INC including regular campaign in favour of NSUI during Delhi University Students Union Elections. He actively involves in social work and takes keen interest in mobilization of women for social awareness and socio-economic advancement particularly in the rural areas. Dr Sangma regularly involves himself in various activities of youth development programmes including activities in sports, promotion and preservation of culture and had motivated and supported formation of over 200 Youth Clubs/Societies.

He is personally active in undertaking social work and is the Chief Patron of Ampati Youth Welfare Club which is the premier organization in promoting youth activities in the field of sports and culture in various parts of Garo Hills. He is also a founder member of Mirachel Foundation which is associated with many Social Service Groups and is implementing various welfare programmes and actively associates with traditional institution like Nokma Council in Garo Hills which is the premier organization of the traditional heads of Garos and he is a strong advocate of empowerment of people and traditional institutions.

He contested in the Parliamentary Election in 2004 General Election and in 2006 Bye Election for Tura Lok Sabha seat.

Orchids in Meghalaya



Orchids are highly valued for their fantastic range of variation and long lasting flowers. Of 17,000 species of orchids in the world, about 1,250 occur in India, of which nearly 300 are to be found in Meghalaya. They form a very noticeable element of the vegetation of the State and these hills have been the classical collection centres of many celebrated botanists and horticultural plant-collectors. They are, as a result, becoming scarce and some of the ornamental species are nearing extinction. The orchids of Meghalaya have distributions extending upto Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal, China on one hand and Burma, Malaya, Thailand on the other. Few species are only confined to Meghalaya.

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In Cherrapunjee, the two forests - Mawsmat and Mawmluh contain the highest number of orchid species in the whole region. Sohrarim is another forest on the way to Cherrapunjee which is paradise of Botanists. Conservation of orchids is now a matter of universal concern. There is urgent need to maintain orchid sanctuaries and special efforts must be made to protect the 'Sacred forests' of Meghalaya, hitherto preserved by religious sanction alone. 'Orchid banks' may be created in orchidaria or in forest nurseries by bringing endangered species from their natural habitat and displaying them for the public.