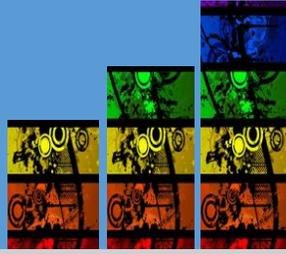


Orchid



ADB's Supporting Human Capital Development Project, Meghalaya, INDIA MONTHLY NEWS LETTER 2014 OCTOBER ISSUE

CommunicationsDesk

“Supporting Human Capital

Development in Meghalaya”, a project of the Asian Development Bank, ADB, in assisting the state government of Meghalaya is (by design) a multi-agency project that needs a lot of inter-agency conversation. One of the key purposes of ‘Orchid’ is to draw various stakeholders as well as individual and group consultants closer to the project.

Because of the need to be on the same page, this newsletter will help members of the group consultants work in tandem to ensure that the Government of Meghalaya gets the support they need

‘Orchid’, therefore, will feature monthly news update, stories, development buzz etc that are relevant to the planning of activities and implementation of the project. The list starts from education news, HR development, field deployment updates, key meetings to political & economic angles, social events, weather, transport updates etcetera.

Should corporate consultants feel the need to inform for the benefit of running the project, they may do so by liaising with the PMC Communication Specialist, attached with Accenture.

For more information:

Kit Shangpliang, Comm. Specialist
Email: Kitkumar.shangpliang@gmail.com
Phone: +91 98630 27061



SHILLONG: Max: 25°C - Min: 10°C
Humidity: 83%, Wind Speed: 1km/h SE

Record rainfall on September 23:

The city registered a record rain fall of 205. 2 mm, which also brought devastation in many parts of the city. Still pleasant in the day time, but getting chillier at night. It is time to take those jackets out. Meghalaya will experience drizzles with occasional full-blown rain.

Edu@Buzz

Irani hails Meghalaya's maths learning initiative at primary

school: While the Education Department has drawn flak in its handling of higher education problems some initiative have been taken at the primary school level to address the problems of learning Mathematics. This initiative was taken note of by the new Union Minister for Human Resources Development, Smriti Irani soon after assuming office.

An NCERT survey, on Mathematics teaching-learning in Meghalaya ranked a lowly 18th while a National Achievement Survey (NAS) revealed that children performed below national average on all arithmetical operations, except for data handling and applicative operations like calculation related to money transactions.

In a letter addressed to Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, Irani observed, “During my review of the sectoral programmes, I have found that Meghalaya has taken up innovative programmes for Maths learning in early primary grades. This is a feature that we will commend to other states as well”.

Govt. calls for upgrading skills of

Teachers: Principal Secretary, Education, PK Srivastava, has asked the students to take part in co-curricular activities and urged the teachers to constantly upgrade themselves keeping pace with the changing times and highlighted the need for in service training for teachers.

US Language Office to help train 120 teachers in Shillong:

Regional English Language Office (RELO) in India will support two English language specialists to train 120 secondary school teachers cum master trainers in Shillong over a period of three weeks as part of a collaborative endeavour with Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Meghalaya.

US Consulate General, Kolkata, on Thursday said that during the visit of U.S. Consul General Helen LaFave to Meghalaya from September 15-18, she met top Education officials of the State to discuss the possibilities of collaborating with RELO for capacity building and strengthening of English Language teaching.

DEVELOPMENT TRAIL

Youth for Change' prog in city:

Campaign, the Partners of Pla lew Club in collaboration with the Office of The Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, organised a 'Youth for Change: Health and Environmental IEC programme 2014' under the Chief Minister Youth Development Scheme (CMYDS 2012-2013) at the Golf Links Community Hall, Pynthorumkhrh, on Friday September 19, 2014. Minister for Health and IT, A.L. Hek, graced the programme as chief guest

State launched its own green campaign on Oct 2:

Along with the launch of the nationwide Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign), the State witnessed the launch of its own Clean and Green Meghalaya Campaign on October 2. Chief Minister Mukul Sangma launched the campaign along with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at Dakopgre in Tura on October 2.

Inter-School Science Exhibition A

student explains his model to visitors during the Inter-School Science Exhibition Cum Competition organised by Rilbong PN Chaudhuri H.S.School, in the city on 29 Sep



Workshop on opportunities, difficulties faced by craftsmen:

A one-day workshop was organised by the Directorate of Commerce & Industries recently for craft persons of the State. In a free and open discussion conducted by the design faculty from IIT Guwahati and Mumbai, the audience was invited to share opinion covering the opportunities and difficulties faced by the craft persons in meeting challenges of marketing the craft and its journey from the village to the consumers.



FLOOD UPDATE

Relief pouring in for flood, landslide survivors in GH:

Support from the general public and local groups and NGOs for the victims of last week's tragedy has been overwhelming as members of the public including young school children answering to the distress call and stepping forward to help.

Govt asks public to donate for floods, landslides victims:

The Government has appealed to the general public to come forward in contributing clothing items, schools and college text-books, blankets or any useful household items for distribution of the same to the flood-affected people. Givers have been requested to contribute generously towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Rajnath assessed flood situation:

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh visited Garo Hills to assess the situation on Wednesday 1st October. During the last week of September, the Union Minister of state for Home Kiren Rijiju visited Garo Hills and assessed the damage due to the natural calamity. The state government has sought Rs 2000 crore to tide over the situation.

Police beef up CM's security after 'threat rumour'

The State police have decided to increase the security cover of Chief Minister Mukul Sangma following a 'rumour about possible attack on him.' Confirming this, a senior police official on Thursday said, "Police department has decided to increase the security cover of the Chief Minister following the rumour."

"We have taken this decision as a precautionary measure. So far, we have no confirmed inputs about possible threat to his (the Chief Minister) life" a senior police officials said.

Meanwhile, official sources said that this threat against Chief Minister might be due to his decision to go ahead with the signing of peace pact with Garo rebel groups -ANVC and ANVC (B) as well as the government's strong stand on the demand for implementation of inner line permit (ILP).

Featured District West Jaintia Hills

Area	3,819 Sq.km
Population	2,95,692
District Headquarter	Jowai
Language	Pnar



People

The people living in Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya are ethno linguistic group of people and are believed to be of Indo-Mongoloid race although speaking a distinct Austric language belonging to the Mon-Khmer group.

The vast majority of population include Scheduled Tribe: 210558, Scheduled Caste: 747 and remaining others.

The people residing in the central region of Jaintia Hills are called "Pnars" by those living in the southern and northern regions and who are in turn called as "Wars" and "Bhois" respectively by the Pnar. All three are collectively known by the generic name : Jaintias" or "Synteng"

Community mobilization is comparatively easier here. The need to skill and reskills young people is key in the coal belt/ villages of the district.



Religion

The Pnar or the Jaintia people maintained their unique culture and religion called Niamtre. The British paramountcy during the seventeenth century brought about the winds of change in many aspects of the Jaintia society, a good percentage of the people are embracing Christianity as their religion.



Administrative Units

The district comprise of three Community & Rural development Blocks namely, Thadlaskein C&RD Block, Laskein C&RD Block and Amlarem C&RD Block

General Administration: Deputy Commissioner is the head of the District administration. The Deputy Commissioner is the executive head as well as judicial head of the district.

Revenue: In revenue matter the DC is assisted by ADC i/c of Revenue and other Revenue and Enforcement staff. There is constitutionally recognised Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council in Jowai. Hence all types of revenue collection are directly dealt by Dist. Council,

Edu@RELATED WEBSITES

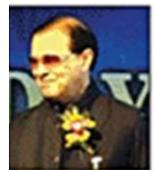
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- www.meghalayaeducation.net
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Joint effort needed for 100% literacy rate: Laloo

Shillong: In order to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the state, all stakeholders must work in tandem to achieve the desired goal, observed deputy CM in-charge education, RC Laloo while speaking at the World Literacy Day celebration today at St. Paul Higher Secondary School, Marbisu, Shillong.

With this year's theme being 'Making Education a Reality', the function was organised by the office of the State Education Mission Authority of Meghalaya (SEMAM). Addressing the gathering, Laloo reminded that the main objective of the programme is to mobilise school children to attend regular classes and also make parents and the community conscious of the importance of education.

Unless school dropout children are brought back to school, we will not be able to give a literacy mandate"



- RC Laloo, Deputy CM

"Unless students who have left schools are again brought back, we will never be able to give a literacy mandate," Laloo stressed adding, "In 2011, the literacy rate in Meghalaya was 74.43 per cent and it will not be impossible to achieve 100 per cent literacy rate by 2014."

Power-packed conference on India-ASEAN Connectivity in city:

A two-day conference on India-ASEAN Connectivity: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region kick-started on Sep 29th evening at Pine Wood Hotel, Shillong.

Organised jointly by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) New Delhi, the Indian Chamber of Commerce and North Eastern Council this conference has brought together the ambassadors of Myanmar, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, amongst others.

Roopen Roy, President Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) informed the gathering that a special cell – the Look East Council in the ICC is working tirelessly to come up with actionable strategies for connecting North East India to ASEAN. "ICC has been working on the theme –Development through Connectivity and we believe in digital leapfrogging as a way forward," Roy said.