

# 66<sup>TH</sup> ALL INDIA COOPERATIVE WEEK CELEBRATION

## - A REPORT -

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Like the rest of the Country, the Office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong in collaboration with the Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. (MCAB Ltd.) along with all the State Level Cooperative Federations



kick start with the celebration of the 66<sup>th</sup> All India Cooperative Week on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at the State capital, Shillong. During the opening day of the week-long celebration, the inaugural function alongside with an exhibition-cum-sale of the rich indigenous products of the participating cooperative societies was inaugurated by Dr. D. Vijay Kumar (IAS), Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya

I/c Cooperation Department etc. as the Chief Guest in the august presence of Shri. Y.K. Rao, General Manager, NABARD, Shillong, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Meghalaya, Shillong,

Chairman and Managing Director of MCAB Ltd., government officials, veteran co-operators, members of cooperative societies among others. The Chief Guest in his inaugural address applauds the Department as well as the MCAB Ltd. in organising such a grand function and exhibition so as to showcase the rich indigenous products of the primary cooperatives. He then stressed on the need on the part of MCAB to reach out to those villages which



are still un-bankable by any other banks and laid emphasis on the need to adopt the new-era cooperatives, that is, the Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCSs) in credit linkages. He



further reiterated that in the present scenario of business competitiveness, besides the meddling of the middle men, the Department should stay focus on these three activities of which members of cooperative societies can play an active role in eradicating poverty and sustaining their daily economic livelihoods, such as Credit dispensing amongst the members, Marketing of members' produce through cooperative societies

and promotion of Rural Tourism. During the programme, the Chief Guest on behalf of the Department of Cooperation also felicitated the Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. on achieving the most coveted *Schedule Bank* status from the Reserve Bank of India, the second among the State

Cooperative Banks in the NE region. Furthermore, four cooperative societies viz., Jingjaw Umbarit Agro-based Food Products Cooperative Society Ltd., Urlong Tea Integrated Village Cooperative Society Ltd., Women Group Handicraft & Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. and East Khasi Hills District Cooperative Milk Union Ltd. were also being felicitated during the function for bringing laurels to the State on being achieved the Award of Excellence for Exemplary Performance at the India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) organised by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) during 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at New Delhi. Furthermore, as part of the celebration, the Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. donated an Ambulance to the New Hope De-addiction-cum-Counselling Centre, Shillong.



From 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, the week-long programme was also celebrated at each Districts and Sub-Divisions of the State with deliberations on the main theme and day-to-day topic by all concerned officials and was attended by guests from various line Departments, veteran co-operators of the respective District/Sub-Division, members of various cooperative societies and SHGs. These different programmes were being held at all District and Sub-Divisional Head Quarters. At each and every programme, stress is being emphasised by the resource person(s) from the Department itself on the need to mobilise people to form IVCSs in order to leverage credit linkages through financial inclusion in rural Meghalaya or through Rural Tourism Cooperative Societies with a view to make use of the vast natural resources of the State for uplifting of the economic condition and sustainable livelihood of the rural masses.



On the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, being the last day of the week-long programme, the celebration was held at the Police Parade Ground, Tura, West Garo Hills District in which the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in the august presence of Dr.D. Vijay Kumar (IAS), Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya I/c Cooperation etc., Shri. Ram Singh (IAS), District Deputy Commissioner, officials of the Department and MCAB Ltd. among others. A mini Exhibition-cum-Sale of the cooperatives' products was simultaneously organised during the day to show case the rich indigenous products of the Garo Hills region. The Chief Minister during his address to the gatherings told that --- Cooperative Societies

played an important role in uplifting the economy of the Country by providing livelihood economic activities to the people of the region. Seeing the commitment of the people of the region who are



ready to face challenges in order to change their lifestyle, the Government is also keen to support their various activities through these cooperative societies. He also urged the concerned officials to identify committed cooperative members and document and highlight their success and achievement which will help to motivate others as well as strengthen the cooperative movement in the Country in general and the State in

particular. Further, the Chief Minister informed that the State has received Rs.700 (Seven hundred) Crore from World Bank to start a new Tourism Cooperative Society which will cover about 200 (two hundred) villages in the State and out of which half the amount will be spent for other infrastructure while the remaining amount will be spent for the development of the cooperative societies in rural areas.

During the day, the Chief Minister also felicitates the Garo Hills Cooperative Cotton Ginning and Oil Mills Ltd. on being among one of the cooperatives from the State who had participated at recently concluded India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF), 2019 organised by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) during 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at New Delhi of which the State of Meghalaya has achieved the Award of Excellence for Exemplary Performance. Moreover, the



Chief Minister on this day has also launched the ATM mobile vans of the MCAB Ltd. one each for East Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills and West Garo Hills District.

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