

A success story of IBDLP on convergence



Location:

Chandigre Rural Resort is located in a pristine location of the Nokrek biosphere in the Rongram block of West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya. Chandigre is 13.6km far from its district main city of Tura. It is 165km far from its state capital city of Shillong.

*Pristine
Destination of
Garo Hills
- an
adventurous
exploration of
flora & fauna
of the Nokrek
biosphere
Reserve*



**An Initiative on Convergence-
Basin Development Unit,
West Garo Hills, Tura**

Overview - IBDLP

The Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLP) is the flagship programme launched by the government of Meghalaya for interpreting the public programme and service within the sustainability framework so that the value maximization takes place within the same natural and financial resources.

IBDLP Mission

“To promote optimal and effective development and utilization of basin resources for ensuring livelihood security and inclusive growth, within the framework of sustainable development”

Focus Areas of IBDLP

- ❖ *Knowledge Management:* Integration of modern scientific and traditional knowledge to achieve greater efficiency in development intervention.
- ❖ *Natural Resource Management:* Harnessing of natural resources-water, soil, flora and other biotic resources for creating sustainable livelihood.
- ❖ *Entrepreneurship Promotion:* Handholding and supporting existing and potential entrepreneurs and creating a conducive environment for enterprises to thrive.
- ❖ *Good Governance:* Emphasis on making the governance machinery more broad based through systematic engagement with traditional institution and civil society and bringing in greater sensitivity, accountability and effectiveness in governance.

The Government of Meghalaya has taken the initiative under the banner of ‘Basin’ that aims to neutralize the poverty that still lingers in the rural areas of Meghalaya. It also focus on the employment generation and livelihood provisions, promoting optimal and effective development and utilization of the state’s natural resources for ensuring inclusive growth within the framework of sustainable development and conservation and preservation of natural resources especially water.

The IBDLP includes multiple missions such as Apiculture Mission, Agriculture Mission, Forestry Mission, Horticulture Mission, Aquaculture Mission, Livestock Mission, Water Mission, Energy Mission, and Tourism Mission.

Convergence initiative under the IBDLP state flagship programme has been focussed primarily under all the missions’ components for maximum tangible output. Chandigre Rural Tourism Resort is one of such successful convergence initiative under the programme where in the Horticulture department, the Tourism department and the IBDLP, Basin Development Unit- Tura have work out the best possibility of coming together and have shown a model towards achievement of a common goal and to create infrastructure to promote rural tourism in the region.






Background- Chandigre Rural Tourism Project

The rural tourism project at Chandigre is a project funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India and state flagship programme IBDLP in convergence mode with Tourism and Horticulture department, to promote community based tourism at the village level. The main objective of the project is to promote village life of India to people travelling to the country.

Rural Tourism Project at Chandigre was taken up in view of the proximity of the village to places of interests like Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Rombagre fish sanctuary, Selbalgre Hoolock Gibbon Reserve and also the village of Sasatgre which is the traditional village of Garos. The rural tourism project therefore envisages to promote the local culture and tradition through community participation whereby the benefits goes directly to the villages involved.



The Chandigre rural resort project which is the second Rural Tourism initiative after Ghasura Park at Ampati, which has been worked in convergence model under IBDLP flagship programme. It is one of the success story of convergence initiative and viability gap funding (VGF) fostered by Department of Tourism, Department of Horticulture and the livelihood promotion programme of state IBDLP.

The Chandigre Rural Resort was open to public on 9th January, 2013. The resort was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul M. Sangma. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Dr. Mukul M. Sangma said that as 80% of the population resides in villages it was necessary to create innovative and viable opportunities of livelihood for the lot so as to mitigate urban migration. The rural resort is an example of partnership between the government and the community, he added. He urged the villages to make use of the resort on a sustainable basis. He also informed the Chandigre has been identified for Apiculture Mission under the flagship programme of the government Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme and thus advised the residents of Chandigre to avail it.



Objective of the Chandigre Rural Tourism Project



The idea behind the whole project is to involve the local community to promote their culture, way of life, tradition, livelihood, etc. by hosting tourist and visitors to the rural tourism village thereby promoting their culture etc. earning a livelihood through tourism and also preserving and protecting their way of life. Nestled amid orange

orchard, tea and coffee plantation the objective of the rural resort is to showcase the lifestyle of the rural Garos to the tourist while generating means of income.

Chandigre is an ideal place for a rural resort because of its close proximity to the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Hoolock Gibbon Reserve at Selbalgre and the Rombagre Falls distinctive for its fish sanctuary.



Concept of VGF

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) means a grant one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability. The lack of financial viability usually arises from long gestation periods and the inability to increase user charges to commercial levels. Infrastructure projects also involve externalities that are not adequately captured in direct financial returns to the project sponsor. Through the provision of a catalytic grant assistance of the capital costs, several projects may become bankable and help mobilise private investment in infrastructure.

Resort Dimensions:

The resort has:

Two Nok A•chiks (typical house of the Garos),
Nokpante(dormitory cum training centre for boys),
Chu Nok(Brewery), Chidik(water tank) and
Nok kidik(toilet).



A view of the resort from the front end



Layout of the Chandigre Rural Resort



A view of Chandigre resort from the courtyard end



A view of the kitchen infrastructure (left) & Nokpante' (right)



Resort Dimensions

The resort has two *Nok A'chiks* (typical house of the Garos), *Nokpante* (dormitory cum training centre for boys), *Chu Nok* (Brewery), *Chidik* (water tank and *Nok kidik* (toilet)). The tourism department has provided capacity building training to the villagers to run the resort and had converge with the department of Horticulture for the aesthetic beautification of the resort.

Hardware & Software components of Chandigre Rural Tourism Project

The rural tourism project has focussed on two components. The one is the hardware component which focuses into infrastructure, plan layout, renovation, site development etc. and the other is the software component which deals with training and capacity building activities, exposures and marketing skill development initiatives.

B. Hardware Component

- ❖ Crafts shop
- ❖ *Nok A'chik*-typical Garo house
- ❖ *Chu nok*-Brewery
- ❖ *Nokpante*-Bachelor's dormitory
- ❖ *Nokchidik*-Toilet
- ❖ Furnishing Materials
- ❖ Site Development

A. Software Component

- ❖ Training and workshop on Financial Management
- ❖ Training to revive traditional weaving
- ❖ Awareness programme on the history and culture of the area, oral tradition and custom
- ❖ Training on Hospitality and tourist handling skills
- ❖ Tourism event to create awareness among school students and NGO's
- ❖ Exposure Trip
- ❖ Training on Catering and food Production
- ❖ Marketing Support activities

The People



The habitants in and around Chandigre are A'chik. The people are very cordial and humble.

A'chik is the general title used for the various groups of people after the division of the race. The title is used to denote different groups such as the Ambeng, Atong, Akawe (or Awe), Matchi, Chibok, Chisak Megam or Lyngngam, Ruga, Gara-Ganching who inhabit the greater portion of the present Garo Hills District. But the name applies also to the groups of Garos scattered at the neighbouring places in Assam, Tripura, Nagaland and Mymensing in Bangladesh.

The Culture & Festival

The common and regular festivals are those connected with agricultural operations. Greatest among Garo festivals is the 'Wangala', which is no more a celebration of thank-giving after harvest in which *Saljong*, the god who provides mankind with Nature's bounties and ensures their prosperity, is honoured. There is no fixed date for the celebration, this varies from village to village, but



usually, the Wangala is celebrated in October/ November. The *Nokma* (the owner of A'kingland or Clan-land) of the village takes the responsibility to see that all arrangements are in order. A large quantity of food and rice-beer must be prepared well ahead. The climax of the celebrations is the colourful Wangala dance in which men and women take part in their best clothes. Lines are formed by males and females separately and to the rhythmic beat of drums and gongs and blowing of horns

by the males, both groups shuffle forward in parallel lines.

Other dance forms are 'Ajima roa', 'Mi Su'a', 'Chambil mpa', 'Do'kru-Sua', 'Kambe toa', 'Gaewang roa', 'Napsepgrika' and many others.

The Managing Committee

Chandigre Rural Resort is a community managed resort. The rural resort is responsibly managed by a well accepted committee members chosen by the community of the village itself. The committee has been trained in soft skills, hospitality & tourist handling skills, catering, financial management and some entrepreneurial skills to support the resort.

The Way Forward

The rural tourism project at Chandigre is of its kind in the state where the local community is encourage to be participative together in the promotion of their local way of life through village stay, trekking, culture & traditional display, cuisine etc, to visitors and tourists alike.

The Rural tourism project at Chandigre has great promise because of the hospitality of the people, their local knowledge of the area and most of all the closeness of the area to the world famous Nokrek Biosphere and other places of Interest. The rural tourism project therefore envisages to promote the local culture and tradition through community participation whereby the benefits goes directly to the villages involved.

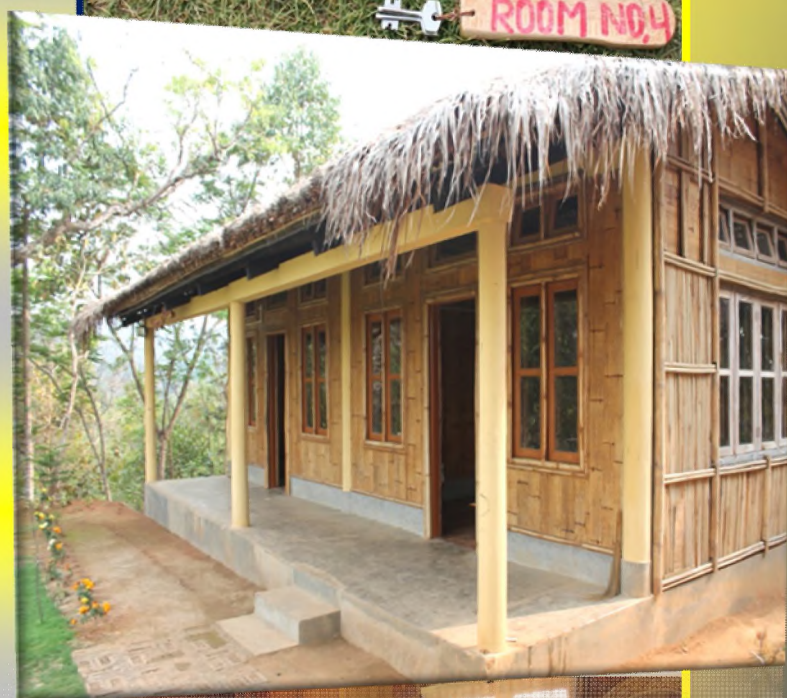


Keys to Resort Mansion



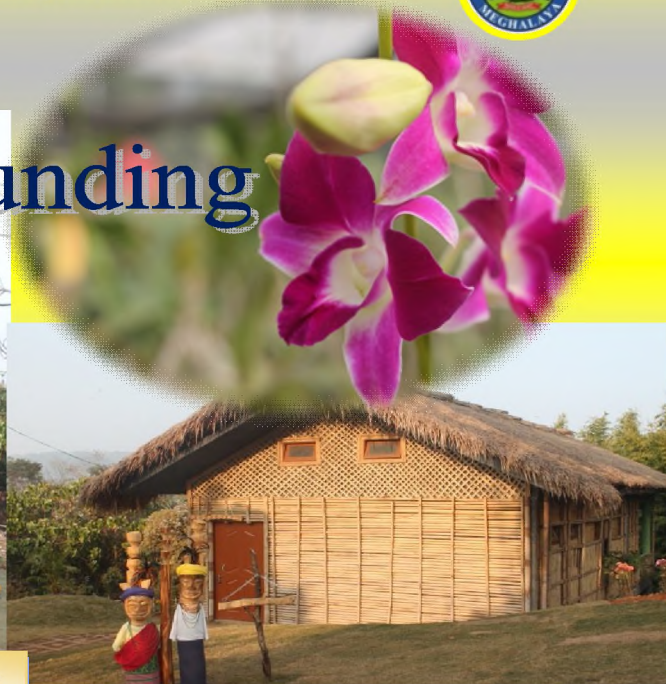
Cordials & Facilities

- ♣ Accommodation in a scenic location ideal for rest and relaxation.
- ♣ Comfortable rooms
- ♣ Attached bathroom
- ♣ Spacious sitting room
- ♣ Well lighted and electrified rooms & surroundings
- ♣ Extravagant & lavish lawn
- ♣ Indigenous slow food and hygienic food available
- ♣ One day workshop and meeting facilities available
- ♣ Parking space
- ♣ Helipad space available
- ♣ Availability of hand woven products, handicrafts & bamboo products skilfully made by the rural youths and women SHGs
- ♣ Sightseeing
- ♣ Exposure to various interventions, orange orchards, coffee plantation, tea garden etc.
- ♣ Perfect place for meditation, self evaluation and inner peace





Interiors & Surrounding



Cottages for staying



Places of Tourist Interest

All destinations are from the Chandigre Rural Resort

Name of Destination	Distance by Road	Approximate Time Taken	Suggested Route
Nokrek Peak	22.1 km	45 min	NH 127 B/ SH1
Tura Peak	43.3 km	1:10 min	NH 127 B
Rombagre	7.7 km	15 min	NH 127 B/SH 1
Pelga Falls	53.4 km	1:30 min	NH 127 B
Balpakram National Park	150 km	2:45 min	NH 127 B/NH 62
Dachi Lake	50 km	1:30 min	NH 51

Nokrek Biosphere Reserve



The Nokrek National Park is about 45 kms via Asananggre and Sasatgre but just about 2 kms from Tura Peak in West Garo Hills, provided you are an avid trekker. Nokrek is the highest peak in Garo Hills and has been declared a National Biosphere under the control and management of the state forest department. The peak is teeming with very rare plants and animals deep inside the thick jungle. The park is also home to a very rare species of *citrus-indica* endemic to this place which the locals call *me.mang narang* which when literally translated means the 'orange of the spirits'. This discovery led to the establishment of the National Citrus Gene Sanctuary-cum-Biosphere Reserve at Nokrek which covers an area of about 47 sq.km.

Almost all of the important rivers and streams of the Garo Hills region originates from the Nokrek range, of which the *Simsang* river known as *Someshwari* when it enters Bangladesh at Baghmara is the most magnificent and most prominent. Abundant wildlife including herds of wild elephants, animal species like leopard, pangolin, hoolock gibbon, python, hornbill, besides rare orchids abound in the sa

Tura Peak

A majestic hill stands on the eastern flank of Tura, the largest town in the Garo Hills region of the State. It peaks eight hundred and seventy two metres above sea level over looking Tura. Local legend has it that the peak provides a sacred abode for the Gods and claims that it was traditionally known as Dura but the British mistook it for Tura, before it came to be known as such. Since the Tura hill and its peak constitute the water catchments area of Tura town, the whole Tura-range has been declared as a reserve-forest.

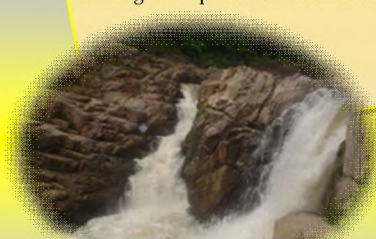
A Tourist Bungalow, an Observatory and a Cinchona plantation are located at Tura Peak and its environs. A magnificent view of the lower Brahmaputra Valley as well as the golden yellow plains of Bangladesh is available all year round to viewers on Tura Peak.

During the British regime, the Deputy Commissioner of Garo Hills, used to reside during summer, in a cottage located at the peak and commute down to Tura each day on elephant-back. A decent foot track developed for the Deputy Commissioner's use is still in existence. It facilitates tourists and adventurers reaching Tura peak with ease and comfort



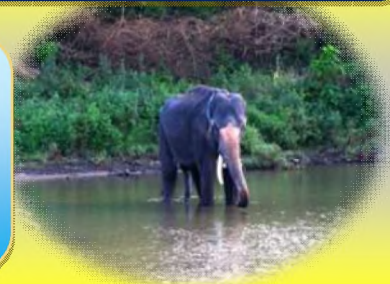
Pelga Falls

Pelga fall just located at the distance of 7 kms from Tura has become increasingly hot spot for anglers and picnickers in recent years. The tourism developed this place by constructing a footpath and view point. A typical traditional Garo bamboo bridge constructed over Ganol river is another added attraction.



Balpakram National Park is situated in the South Garo Hills District and covers an area of around 220 sq. km. It was established in 1987, at an altitude of 3,000 ft above sea level. There are many animals inhabiting the national park, including the wild cow, elephant, wild bison and tiger.

Exotic species of herbs and plants, having medicinal value, are also found in this national park. The ideal time to visit Balpakram National Park is between the months of April and June, when colourful wild flowers and exotic butterflies can be spotted



Dachi Lake is a beautiful lake on the Tura Guwahati Road. Now promoted as a tourist destination, many have visited for good recreational venue. The place has got a lovely walking park, a fish sanctuary, boating facilities, view points, eateries etc.in the premises of the lake area.



Financial Outlay of the Rural Tourism Project

Cost of the Project:

FOR LANDSCAPING & DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM PROJECT AT CHANDIGRE

A) Material and Development works

1. Cleaning of weeds and unwanted plants	=	20,000/- (L.S)
2. Preparation of moulds and hills	=	1,00,000/- (L.S)
3. Chemicals and fertilizers	=	30,000/- (L.S)
4. Vermi compost -5 MT @ 30,000/- MT	=	1,50,000/-
5. Coco pit -3 MT @ 30,000/-MT	=	90,000/-
6. Pebbles & rocks	=	50,000/- (L.S)
7. Boulders	=	50,000/- (L.S)
8. Artificial waterfall preparation	=	3,00,000/- (L.S)
9. Terracotta garden statues, bird bath etc	=	1,00,000/- (L.S)
10. Garden lightings (Decorative)	=	1,00,000/- (L.S)
11. Labour wages for different development works (planting, turfing, media preparation, construction etc.)	=	2,00,000/-
12. Transportation Charges	=	60,000/-
13. Miscellaneous expenditure (signboards, waste bins , ticket counter booth etc.)	=	2,46,000/-

TOTAL (A) = Rs.14,96,000/-

(Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand) only

(B) Planting Materials

S.No.	Particulars	Units	Rate	Amt. in INR
1.	Junifer	- 100 nos @	500	= 50,000/-
2.	Conifer	- 100 nos @	450	= 45,000/-
3.	Pine Tree	- 20 nos @	600	= 12,000/-
4.	Golden Cyprus	- 50 nos @	400	= 20,000/-
5.	Green Dwarf bamboo	- 100 m @	600	= 60,000/-
6.	Golden Bamboo	- 20 m @	600	= 12,000/-
7.	Black Bamboo	- 20 m @	700	= 14,000/-
8.	Buddha Bamboo	- 20 m @	700	= 14,000/-
9.	Plumeriya alboha	- 50 m @	400	= 20,000/-
10.	Phyprasous	- 20 m @	600	= 12,000/-
11.	Zinneus	- 20 m @	500	= 10,000/-
12.	Azaliyas	- 200 m @	400	= 80,000/-
13.	Variegated ferns (Golden)-	100 m @	200	= 20,000/-
14.	Hydrangea	- 200 m @	400	= 80,000/-
15.	Spathyphylhum	- 200 m @	300	= 60,000/-
16.	Scutflera	- 100 m @	300	= 30,000/-
17.	Fycus benjamina(White)	- 50 nos @	400	= 12,000/-
18.	Euphorbia	- 50 nos @	400	= 20,000/-
19.	Dracaena reflexa	- 100 nos @	400	= 40,000/-
20.	Peperonia	- 100 nos @	300	= 30,000/-
21.	All types of grass varieties-			= 1,00,000/-
22.	Aranides	- 200 nos @	300	= 60,000/-
23.	Phinolopis	- 200 m @	200	= 40,000/-
24.	Nest ferns	- 20 m @	300	= 15,000/-
25.	Gap filling	- L.S		= 1,48,000/-

TOTAL (B) = 10,04,000/-

Total (A + B) = 14,96,000/- +Rs. 10,04,000/-= Rs. 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs) only as VGF and convergence funded by IBDLP, implemented through Horticulture Dept. West Garo Hills

C. Financial Expenditure

Funds received from Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India

Hardware + Software (Rs.30,79,000/- + Rs.16,00,000/-) = Rs.46,79,000/-

❖ Money transferred to Tura A/c of Rural Tourism Project

S.No	Date	Amount in INR
1.	18/07/2007	500000.00
2.	23/05/2008	3100000.00
3.	03/11/2010	1079000.00
Total		Rs. 46,79,000.00

❖ Expenditure incurred for construction, training, etc

S.No	Name	Date	Amount in INR
1.	Nikseng & Sushil	22-12-08	708574.00
2.	Nikseng & Sushil	03-06-09	397900.00
3.	Nikseng & Sushil	14-07-09	222710.00
4.	Nikseng & Sushil	26-11-09	204397.00
5.	Nikseng & Sushil	09-03-11	430000.00
6.	Cane & Bamboo Tech, Ghy	09-03-11	500000.00
7.	Cane & Bamboo Tech, Ghy	20-10-11	252000.00
8.	Silchi R Marak	10-01-11	150000.00
9.	Silchi R Marak	08-02-11	250000.00
10.	Silchi R Marak	09-03-11	250000.00
11.	Silchi R Marak	16-08-11	130000.00
12.	Silchi R Marak	26-08-11	300000.00
13.	Silchi R Marak (Zonun Ply)	16-08-11	48000.00
Total			Rs. 3843581.00

❖ CBSP Training

S.No	CBSP Training	Amount in INR
1	Training for different components, handicrafts, exposure visit, hospitality, etc.	830959.00
Total		Rs. 830959.00

Hardware amount + Software amount by

(Rs.3843581 + Rs.830959) = Rs. 46,74,540.00

Balance in A/c + interest = Rs. 1,86,155.00

Total = Rs. 48,60,695.00

Financial sanction from state fund

1. For external electrification amount of Rs. 2,70,314/- (chq no. 207607 dated 04-08-2011) received from Tourism Department and deposited with MeECL for electrification connection.
2. Also for additional work detailed estimate submitted by Silchi R. Marak amounting to Rs. 10,63,670/-, an amount of Rs. 5,00,000/- has been released by Tourism Department through cheque no. 207633 dt. 6-9-2011 and deposited with Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills, Tura.

Bookings & Other Important contact Details

Chandigre Rural Tourism Resort is open to all public, tourists and visitors, researchers, scholars, individuals etc. to visit and stay at the resort. There is nominal charges for visits and stay made at the resort. The advance booking of rooms and vicinity at the resort can be made with the contact details as given below. Slowfood menus and hygienic food is also available at the resort.

+ Booking at the venue:

Shri. Joresh A. Sangma, President of the Chandigre Rural Resort Committee

Shri. Sarkline T. Sangma, Secretary of the Chandigre Rural Resort Committee

Contact No.: +91-98626-82257

+ Booking from the City end:

Basin Development Unit, West Garo Hills, Tura

Contact No.: +91- 94367-69557

Email: bdutura@gmail.com

District Tourism Officer, Tura

Contact No.: +91- 94361-13337

Email: tridab@gmail.com

+ Other Important Contact Details:

DC Office	: 03651-223835
Tura Civil Hospital	: 03651-223871/232951
Tura Christian Hospital	: 03651-223855
Tura Holy Cross Hospital	: 03651-232242
Williamnagar Civil Hospital	: 03658-220326
Baghmara Civil Hospital	: 03639-222221

Road Transport/Bus/Sumo Services:

Garro Hills Travel	: +91-87949-01454
Ambeng Travels	: +91-90898-27573
A'chik Travels	: +91-94363-22301
Ashirwad Travels	: +91-94363-22845
Ria Travels	: +91-3651-221025
MTC	: +91-3651-222220

Air/ Chopper Services : +91-96153-09193

(Air Services available from Dobasipara BSF Camp, Tura on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays only to Shillong via Guwahati)



Photo Gallery

Photos of the Inaugural Day of the Resort –
Resort was inaugurated on 9th January, 2013 by Dr. Mukul M. Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya



(Left) Entrance gate of the Chandigre Resort. (Right) Arrival Chief Minister Dr. Mukul M. Sangma during the inaugural event of the resort



Chief Minister Dr. Mukul M. Sangma cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque during the opening day of the Chandigre Rural Tourism Project on 9th January, 2013



(Left) Presentation of the bouquet to Director, Tourism Dept. Govt. of Meghalaya. (Right) – Dr. Mukul M. Sangma, CM- Meghalaya handing over the keys of the resort to the President of the Chandigre Rural Resort Committee on 9th January, 2013



Top Left- Honorable Chief Minister, Meghalaya Dr. Mukul M. Sangma addressing during the occasion. Top (Right) Shri. P.K. Sangma, CEM, GHADC-Tura delivering speech. Below (left) Shri. Savio Chisim Sangma, DHO- Tura sharing of convergence initiative during the inaugural event. Below (Right) Shri. K.M. Momin, Dy. Director Tourism congratulating the people on having such an innovative resort



(Top left) Shri. Ambrosh Ch. Marak, ADC & PD DRDA, Tura and (Top right) Smt. Trida B. Sangma, Tourism Officer, Tura addressing the crowd during the occasion on 9th January, 2013. (Below left) An elderly woman presenting a folk song and (below right) Shri. Jorosh A. Sangma, President of the Committee speaking during the inaugural event of the Chandigre Rural Tourism Project





(Top)View of the public gathering during the inaugural event of the Chandigre Rural Tourism Project on 9th January, 2013 at Chandigre village.

(Below) Interiors and surroundings of the Chandigre Rural Resort



Press Coverage

Rural Tourism Resort Project inaugurated in GH

By Our Reporter

TURA: The second Rural

rural resort is to showcase the lifestyle of the rural Garos to the tourists while the resort has two Nok A'chiks (typical house of Garos), Nok



CM Dr. Mukul Sangma inaugurates the Rural Tourism Resort at Chandigre under Rongram Block on Wednesday. (ST)

Tourism Resort Project of the state was inaugurated here at Chandigre, near Tura by the Chief Minister, Dr Mukul M Sangma on Wednesday.

Nestled amid orange orchards, tea and coffee plantations the objective of the

generating a means of income. Chandigre is an ideal place for a rural resort because of its close proximity to the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Hoolock Gibbon Reserve at Selbagre and the Rombagre falls distinctive for its fish sanctuary.

Pante (Dormitory cum training center for boys), Chu Nok (Brewery), Chidik (water tank) and Nok Kidik (toilets). The tourism department has provided capacity building training to the villagers to run the resort and had (Contd on P-10)

Rural Tourism Resort...

(Contd from P-1) converged with the Department of Horticulture for the aesthetic beautification of the resort. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Dr Mukul M Sangma said that as 80 per cent of the population resides in villages it was necessary to create innovative and viable opportunities of livelihood for the lot so as to mitigate urban migration. The rural resort is an example of partnership between the government and the community, he added. He urged the villagers to make use of the resort on a sustainable basis. He also informed that Chandigre has been identified for Apiculture mission under the flagship programme of the government Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Programme and thus advised the residents of Chandigre to avail it.

The Chief Minister later handed over the keys of the resort to the President of Chandigre Rural Tourism Society. Also present at the function were CEM, GHADC, P K Sangma, Billykid A Sangma, Former MLA, Noverfield R Marak, Director, Tourism, R C Sohkhlet, ADM & PD, DRDA, Ambrose C Marak, District Horticultural Officer, A B Savio Chisim and officials from the tourism department.

Earlier in the morning, the Chief Minister, while inaugurating the Nongalbibra Police Station at Jadigittim in South Garo Hills, stressed the need for police to maintain law and order especially in a coal belt area like Nongalbibra. Stating that the police stations sanctioned by the government so far were not adequate, he informed that 34 new outposts were yet to be created in the near future.