

# **Celebration of World Environment Day**

## **Introduction:-**

The World Environment Day celebration commemorates the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 1972. The Conference had drawn the attention to the need to preserve natural habitats to produce a sustained improvement in living conditions for all and the need for international co-operation to achieve this. The celebration being held every year from 1973 onwards is to emphasize on solving environmental problems under various themes.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP, or UN Environment) annually organizes events for World Environment Day, which encourages worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It is celebrated on 5 June in over 100 countries. In 2019, China is the country to host the global World Environment Day celebrations on the theme, 'Air Pollution'.

## World Environment Day 2019

The Forest and Environment Department, Meghalaya in collaboration with the Dorbar Shnong Golflink, the Shillong Club Ltd., the Shillong Golf Club and the Police Training School, Mawroh celebrated the World Environment Day 2019 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June at Shillong Golf Course. Shri Lahkmen Rymbui, Hon'ble Minister I/C Forests graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Shri A. L. Hek, Hon'ble Minister I/C Health & Family Welfare etc. being the local MLA attended the programme as the Guest of Honour. Shri. Aldous Mawlong IAS, Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Forest & Environment Department chaired the programme. Senior officers and staff of the Forest & Environment Department, officers of Police Training School, Mawroh including trainees led by Shri Vivek Syiem MPS, members of the Shillong Golf Club, Rangbah Shnong (Headman) Golflink and the Executive members, lecturers and students of Post Graduate Training college also took part in the programme. Colonel J. Singh, Director, Shillong Golf Club delivered the welcome address on the occasion.

Shri.C. P Marak, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force in his speech reminded that it is the duty of every citizen to protect and safeguard the environment. He appealed to the participants to join hands in this gigantic mission by planting trees to mark the occasion and resolving to care for the environment so that our place becomes safe to live in. Shri. A. L. Hek, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family welfare, Arts & Culture etc, urged the Forest & Environment Department to work hand in hand with other Departments in combating air pollution so that the greenery of Golf Link which is an area of ecological importance and tourist attraction can be preserved. Shri. Lahkmen Rymbui, Hon'ble Minister I/c Forests, Education etc. encouraged the participants to join hands in

protecting the environment and beat water and air pollution in order to safeguard the future generations from pollution and degradation of forests and environment. Shri R S Gill, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry & Environment offered a vote of thanks at the end of the programme.

About 350 numbers of seedlings were planted in and around the Shillong Golf Club and Golf Link area on that day with active participation of all participants. The office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, East Khasi Hills, Shillong made all necessary arrangements for the plantation programme.

In other areas of East Khasi Hills District, the offices of the Range Officer, Social Forestry, Mawkyntew and Range Officer, Pynursla also celebrated the occasion on that day.

Similar awareness programmes were celebrated on various days in other districts by the Divisional Forest Officers, Social Forestry Divisions, Jowai, Nongpoh, Nongstoin, Tura, Williamnagar and Baghmara to mark the World Environment Day 2019.

The total number of seedlings planted during World Environment Day and subsequent awareness raising programmes in the month of June 2019 by Forest & Environment Department was 2,76,473 and the number of seedlings distributed to various organisations and local community was 2,55,975.

