

MGNREGS Advance Payment system of Wages for the tribal workers in Wayanad inaugurated



The Advance Payment system of the Wages under MGNREGS for the tribal workers in Wayanad was inaugurated. Shri. C.K Saseendran, MLA inaugurated the Advance Payment system of the Wages under MGNREGS for the tribal workers on 30 October 2018. Muttill, Pulppally and Panamaram are the Panchayaths which are selected in the district for implementing the programme. The Advance payment system is being piloted in the Ward 6 (Karyambadi) of Muttill Panchayath from 22 October 2018.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, MGNREGA), is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'. It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

212 Bala Libraries functioning all across Kerala with a collection of more than 30,000 books

The formation of Bala Libraries under the leadership of Balasabha aiming at developing the inherent talents of children are progressing all across the state. 212 Bala Libraries have been formed across Kerala which have a collection of 31,177 books altogether. The Bala Libraries are functioning either in the house of a Balasabha member which is accessible to everyone, in rented rooms, Anganwadis, Krishi Bhavan, Jana Seva Kendras, Health Centres or any such public spaces.

Even though it was directed to start a minimum of 3 Bala Libraries under a District Mission, many districts have started more than that. Maximum number of Bala Libraries are formed in Palakkad district. A total of 137 Bala Libraries are functioning there. 16 Bala Libraries function in Malappuram, 13 in Ernakulam, 10 in Kozhikode, 5 in Kottayam, 4 in Wayanad and 3 Bala Libraries each function in Idukki and Kasaragode districts.

Formation of Bala Libraries was one of the main activities of Balasabha. It aimed at improving the reading habit of children which would in turn improve their mental growth as well. A registered Bala Library would have a minimum of 300 books. The books were collected through 'Pusthakayathra', a book collection drive organised by the Kudumbashree members, Balasabha members and ward members. The chairs, tables, shelves and almirahs for the Bala Library were found through sponsorship. Kudumbashree Mission



would also extend financial assistance for setting up Bala Libraries. A committee comprising of 3 Balasabha members (President, Vice president, Secretary), ADS representative, ward member, CDS Chairperson/ CDS member and Balasabha Resource Persons would be in charge of the functioning of the Bala Library. A Kudumbashree member would act as a librarian for the Bala Library.

Balasabha is a collective attempt to ensure the participation of children in the democratic space at the local Government level and in their community. Small Learning Groups for experimental and systematic learning, opportunities for understanding democratic process, participation in conserving environment, enabling children to unfold the intricacies of collectivization are the basic focal points of Balasabha. There are 32,878 Balasabhas in the state with 4,30,908 children as members.

Kudumbashree Pothichoru from Kollam of high demand among customers



A group of Kudumbashree women from Kollam are providing fresh, aroma wafting homely meals packed in broiled banana leaves and are whipping up the nostalgia of many. It is the members of Sauhruda Kudumbashree of Pathanapuram CDS who started the 'Nila Pothichoru' unit and serves the mouth watering meal packets. The unit was started during April 2018. The Nila Pothichoru Unit function under the leadership of Mrs. Shibi, who is the secretary of the unit.

Four women of Sauhruda Kudumbashree are working in this group. Two of them have two wheelers and one of them has an auto to disburse the meal packets. A vegetarian meals cost Rs 50 and meals with fish curry cost Rs 60. A Pothichoru consists of rice, chutney, aviyal, fish fry, thoran and egg fry. They are selling an average of 400 pothichoru on regular basis to nearby hospitals, bus stands, hotel, offices etc. Kudumbashree women's homemade food is of high demand among the customers.

Kudumbashree Malappuram District Mission launches 'Network' Short Film



Gender sensitization focuses on the modification of behaviour by raising awareness of gender equality concerns. As part of Gender Self Learning Program, Kudumbashree Mission had launched Neetham campaign which focused Kudumbashree NHGs to think critically about the issues women are currently facing and moulding them to create a child and women friendly local space. In connection with the campaign a short film named 'Network' was produced by Malappuram Kudumbashree Mission in association with Kudumbashree CDS of Perinthalmanna block. It is the first short film to be directed by Kudumbashree Mission as part of the campaign.

The story and direction of the short film is done by Shri. Rakesh.K Nenmini, CDS accountant of Perinthalmanna Municipality. The film tells about the atrocities faced by the women in the contemporary society. It also peeps into the moral blindness of the society that views the situation in a prejudiced mind. The script and dialogues were written by Shri. Soman Vakkathil, Shri. Abin Thomas had done the cinematography and editing. Studio Plus, Edavannapara was the Studio and Ms. Bindu Ajith, Ms. Unnimaya, Ms. Nayana are the actors who had enacted in the Short Film.

The film was launched by Shri. K.V. Pramod, Programme Officer, Kudumbashree Mission in the presence of Smt. Hemalatha C.K, Kudumbashree Malappuram District Mission Coordinator, Shri. Sai Krishnan, Assistant District Mission Coordinator and Shri. Rakesh.K Nenmini at Ritz Residency, Perinthalmanna.

Children's Day celebrated with fun and frolic in BUDS Special Schools



Children's Day was celebrated with fun and frolic in almost all BUDS Special Schools across Kerala. Children's Day is celebrated to pay tribute to the legendary freedom fighter and our First prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. BUDS Special Schools for mentally challenged, under the guidance of Kudumbashree Mission, always strives to emerge out with something new for its students and Children's Day being a day especially for them. This year, BUDS Schools in Kerala celebrated Children's Day with a host of fun filled activities. The children arrived at schools, dressed in colorful clothes and were full of excitement during the special activities conducted in the schools. Many of them dressed like Jawaharlal Nehru and were in great excitement during the whole day. Parents accompanied them to schools to see the performances of their ward. Informative speeches were given by the teachers to the parents and children gathered at BUDS institutions. The students were overwhelmed with the entire effort. They cheered their teachers on as they saw them on dancing and singing

and joined them in singing and dancing. The BUDS institutions were indeed buzzing with excitement and joy.

BUDS Schools are free and open special schools for mentally challenged children of poor families, owned and managed by the Local Self Government Institutions under the support and guidance of Kudumbashree Mission and the community structure. Whereas, BUDS Rehabilitation Centres (BRCs) are day care centres for mentally challenged persons which are intended to fill a gap in the State's existing system for providing care to the mentally challenged that caters only to persons up to 18 years of age. BRCs are meant for those who have already undergone special education through BUDS Schools or other centres. However, centres are also open to mentally challenged children who are unable to attend schools. BRCs are meant to train and support persons with special needs for equipping them with skills that make them employable. There are 114 BRCs and 88 BUDS Schools in Kerala which make a total of 202 BUDS institutions in Kerala.