

# the MEGHALAYACHRONICLE

A Publication of the Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Meghalaya





# **inside this issue**

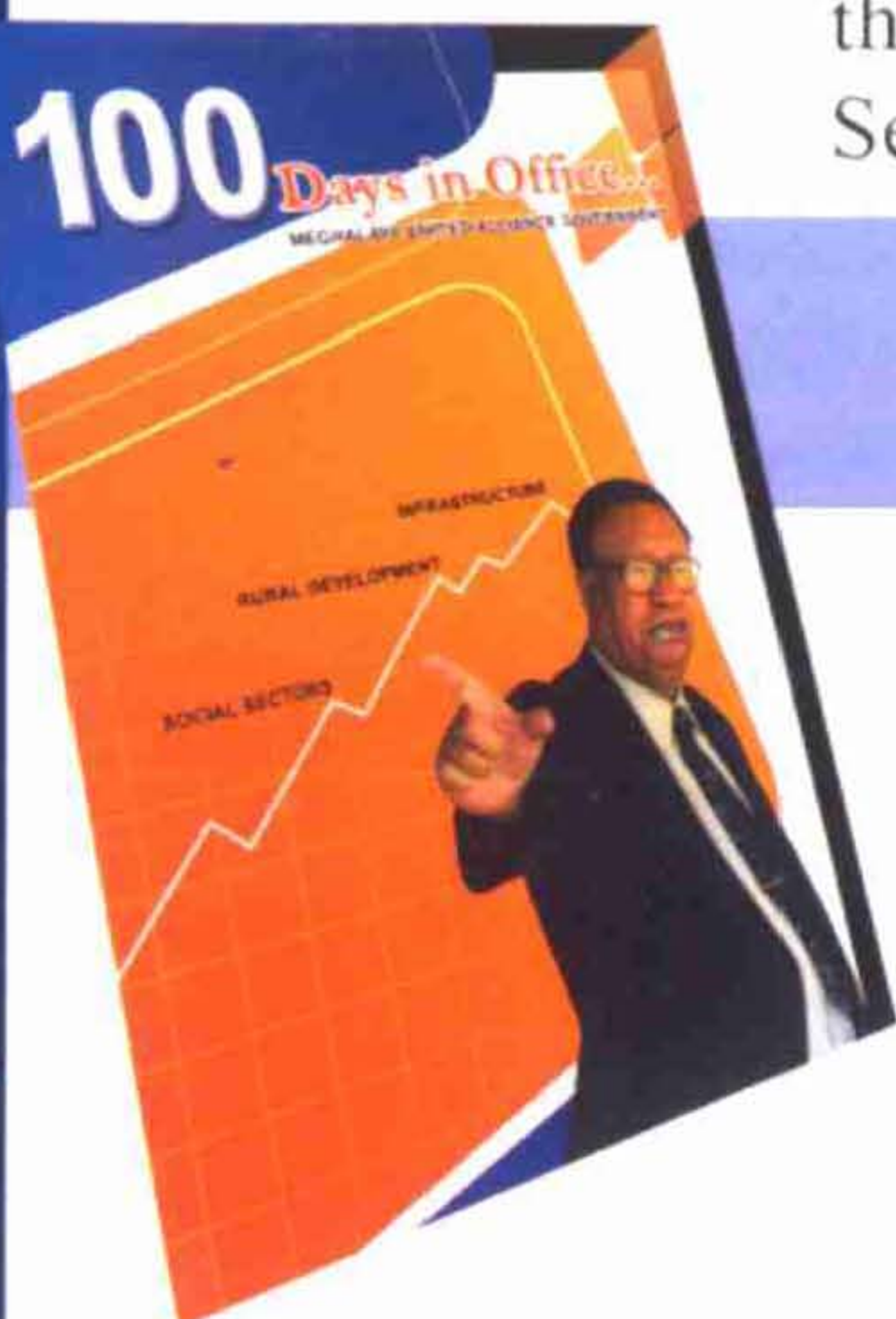
- \* **MUA Completes 100 days in office.**
- \* **US Consulate General calls upon CM**
- \* **UK keen to invest in Meghalaya**
- \* **International Day for Older Persons Observed**
- \* **Foundation Stone for Water Supply Scheme inaugurated**
- \* **MSIC Website launched**
- \* **RTI Week**
- \* **Health Mela organised**
- \* **Women Police Stations in all Districts of the State.**
- \* **Workshops and Seminars held**

## **Newsreel**

- \* **Umden Erl Silk cluster inaugurated**
- \* **Special training on Bokashi Piggery**
- \* **US Astronaut visits the State**
- \* **Bust of Rev Nichols Roy unveiled**
- \* **Medical Tourism - India's Growing Health Sector**
- \* **Teachers Felicitated**



Commemorating its 100 days in office, a booklet highlighting the achievements of the MUA Government was released by the Chief Minister Dr. D. D. Lapang on September 23, 2009 at the Conference Hall of the Yojna Bhavan, Shillong.



## MUA Completes 100 days in office

Releasing the booklet, Dr Lapang said his government had, since it assumed office on May 13 2009, achieved success in different sectors. "This is an occasion to look back on what the government has achieved

and what the government is planning to do in future. I am looking for the journey ahead with a mission. All of us need to put our heads together to achieve the visions of the government," he said Praising the efforts put in by the government employees from the higher to lower ranks towards the achievements of the government, Mr Lapang said, "We wanted to see that there is transparency in implementation of the projects so that development touches the grassroots and to see that every soul in the State benefits from the programmes and policies initiated by the government."

According to the 20-page booklet titled "100 Days in Office...", there has been remarkable improvement in State law and order due to the decline in the activities of militant groups like HNLC. The government continues to maintain close vigil by carrying out operations to thwart anti-national activities of ULFA, UPDS, DHD (J) and KNV in the State and on the inter-state border with Assam. The police are also taking action against LAEF in Garo Hills. The Congress-led Government has claimed to have improved the power scenario in the State through commissioning of various power projects, electrification of 38 villages and 576 households, completion of 33/11 KV substations at Barato, Ialong, Syndai in Jaintia

Hills, Dalu and Dadengiri in West Garo Hills and Chokpot in South Garo Hills. Seven major road projects and four bridges on the national highway network were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 143 crore. Three projects worth Rs 11.58 crore were sanctioned under the central roads fund (CRF). The government commissioned the Tura Phase-III Water Supply Scheme (WSS), recommended 83 villages for Nirmal Gram Puraskar 2009 and launched the Mawpat WSS. The government also implemented 466 projects under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), constructed 1138 houses under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), formed 343 SHGs under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana and ensured that 575 people were benefited from National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS). On the health sector, the booklet highlighted implementation of Rashtria Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), a health insurance scheme which is aimed at providing health insurance coverage for BPL families in the State, and introduction of ambulances under EMRI Services.

The MUA Government also initiated State-wide sensitisation programmes on combating crime against women in all the district headquarters drawing participants from the police, Health Department and NGOs. Among other achievements of the Lapang Government are the initiative to improve the tourism sector by way of beautification of Umiam Lake and other tourist spots in the State and gold medallist Torak Kharpran who was declared as the best boxer of the AK Mishra International Boxing Championship at Chandigarh and achievements of other sportspersons.





## US CONSULATE GENERAL CALLS ON CM

"Meghalaya can be a role model to the whole world in Forest Conservation", said the US Consulate General, Ms Beth A Payne in her meeting with the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D D Lapang in his office chamber on September 3, 2009. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Chief Ministers, Dr. Mukul Sangma and Mr. Bindo M Lanong, Forest Minister, Dr. R C Laloo, Chief Secretary, Mr Ranjan Chatterjee and other senior officials of the Government.

Ms Payne was on a three day visit to Meghalaya looking for avenues of expanding the Indo-US relationship in different parts of India following the strategic dialogue between the US and India. During the meeting, Ms Payne said that she was impressed with the clean environment and the forest cover that Meghalaya enjoys and felt that the State can be a role model to the world in forest conservation.

Having visited the sacred grove at Mawphlang, Ms. Payne called for declaration of the sacred grove as a world heritage site. She felt that the religious belief held by the people that forests and environment should be preserved might be the answer to climate change.

The US Consul General also said that Meghalaya had a lot of eco-tourism potential and also stressed on the need for more exchange programmes between the educational institutions in the US and Meghalaya. Ms Payne further added that America was always ready to cooperate with Meghalaya in development of the State's tourism sector.

Referring to the Indian-American agreement on civil nuclear cooperation, Ms. Payne said the Indo-US pact was to find alternative and clean source of nuclear energy. She added that Indian and US climate change envoys were working hard to finalise an agreement on climate change before the Copenhagen meeting.

Medical Education and Knowledge based IT were among other sectors wherein close working relations could be worked upon between the two countries, she said.



## **UK KEEN TO INVEST IN MEGHALAYA**

The UK is keen to explore investment opportunities in Meghalaya in various sectors like education, tourism and horticulture, said British Deputy High Commissioner for Eastern India Sanjay Mark Wadvani after arriving in Shillong on October 16, 2009.

The Kolkata-born Wadvani, who took over as the new British Deputy High Commissioner for Eastern India on July 17 replacing Simon Wilson on July 17, said, "After taking over, I am touring various states of the North-East in a bid to acclimatise myself to the political and business environment of the region. My visit to Meghalaya is part of a fact finding mission about the potentials of the State which in turn I would share with companies from Britain who are keen to invest for developing various sectors including education."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister DD Lapang has said the State is keen enough to get potential investors from the UK to come and invest in areas where the State has a huge potential. "We had a brief discussion on certain areas especially on the State potential in the field of tourism and horticulture. We have great varieties of flowers and orchids which will be in huge demand in the international market," Mr Lapang told reporters after his meeting with Mr Wadvani.





## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS OBSERVED

The Department of Social Welfare joined hand with the National and International community in observing International Day of Older Persons on October 1, 2009. On the occasion a number of programmes were organized in all the District Headquarters of the State in coordination with NGOs of the area.

In the State capital, the office of the District Social Welfare Officer, East Khasi Hills District in coordination with NGOs and the office of the District Medical and Health Officer, East Khasi hills, Shillong and the District Resource Centre, Civil Hospital, Shillong organized a free medical health camp followed by a felicitation programme and distribution of Aids and Appliances to the older persons at Mary Our Help Training Centre Belfonte, Lumshyiap, Golflinks.

The Chief Guest at the function was Shri. A L Hek, Chairman, Infrastructure Development, Government of Meghalaya. Mrs. L N Jyrwa, Addl Director of Social Welfare was the guest of Honour

On the day, distinguished senior citizens, Mrs. Sweetymon Rynjah and Mrs Enselina Mary Syiemiong and two centenarians, Mr. Ropesing Kharkongor (109 years) and Mrs. Ceronica Khyriem (103 years) were also felicitated.

It may be mentioned that the observation of this day began in the year 2004 as there was a felt need to honour the older persons who have contributed so generously to the society. In accordance with the rules framed under the Maintenance and Welfare of Persons and Senior Citizens Act 2007, the Government of Meghalaya, through the Social Welfare Department, supports voluntary organizations to run old age home and also provide assistance for Medical treatment of the aged.

## FOUNDATION STONE FOR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME INAUGURATED

The Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D. D Lapang inaugurated the foundation stone for augmentation of the Mawpat Water Supply Scheme at Mawpat on July 09, 2009: Dr. Lapang was accompanied by the local MLA and Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Mr. Charles Pyngrope and MLA of Pynthorumkhrah, Mr. A.L Hek. Officers of the PHE Department, local headmen and the residents of different localities of Mawpat were also present on the occasion.

The Mawpat Water Supply Scheme was sanctioned on March 2009 at an estimated cost nearly 2.5 crores under the State Plan. The components of the scheme include drilling of five tube wells of which three have been completed; construction of one main reservoir and three zonal reservoirs and laying of the distribution system. Once the scheme is completed it is expected that three localities of Mawpat, covering a population of over 8,000 people, will be benefited.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lapang said that the inauguration of the foundation stone of the Mawpat Water Supply Scheme was the accomplishment of a dream for the people of

Mawpat. While lauding the PHE department and the local MLA for taking necessary initiatives to ensure that the scheme commences, he also urged upon them to work diligently for its successful implementation. He further called upon the local residents to cooperate whole heartily with the concerned authorities. Stressing on the importance of development, Dr. Lapang urged upon the people, particularly the youth to give development a chance by changing their mindset and shunning narrow minded views.

Dr. Lapang further informed the gathering that soon he will lead a team of Ministers to New Delhi to seek assistance from the Central Government to implement the recommendations of the 4th Pay Commission and to address issues concerning the health sector, roads, construction of railway heads and generating employment opportunities in the State.

Other who spoke included the local MLA and Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Mr. Charles Pyngrope, MLA of Pynthorumkhrah, Mr. A.L Hek and the Chief Engineer of PHE, Mr. T. G. Abraham.





The website of the Meghalaya State Information Commission, <http://megsic.gov.in> was launched by the State Chief Information Commissioner, Mr. G P Wahlang at the conference room of the National Informatic Centre (NIC), Shillong. The launching function was attended by Secretary, Meghalaya State Information Commission, Mr. S F Khongwir, Under Secretary, Meghalaya State Information Commission, Mr. P T Rani, State Informatic Officer, NIC, Mr. T Dkhar, Mr. M Syiem, President, Maitshaphrang Movement besides other senior government officials and NGOs.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Wahlang lauded the NIC for its untiring efforts to create the website, which will benefit the general masses in the State and the country as a whole. He also informed that Meghalaya State topped the list of success rates among the States and Centre in providing information to the Right to Information (RTI) applications, adding that according to the findings, Meghalaya with 82 % success rate stood first followed by the Centre with 81 % and the success rates decreased to about 29 % in the case of Karnataka, 23 % in the case of Assam.

“In Meghalaya the number of Appeals and Complaints per 10,000 State populations stood at .3 which is small but perceptible compared to other State like Chattisgarh, Goa, Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam and West Bengal”, informed Mr. Wahlang, adding that there are only three pending cases in Meghalaya compared to Maharashtra with 16,000 pending cases, while 7000 in the case of Central Information Commission. Mr. Wahlang further informed that the waiting time for disposal of Appeals and Complaints by the Information Commissions stood as high as 30 months in the case of Gujarat, 20 months in the case of Maharashtra, 19 months in the case of Chattisgarh, 10 months in the case of Nagaland, 8 months in the case of Manipur, Karnataka and Arunachal Pradesh, while Meghalaya the Appeals and Complaints take about 4 months.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Secretary, Meghalaya State Information Commission, Mr. S F Khongwir, Under Secretary, Meghalaya State Information Commission, Mr. P T Rani, State Informatic Officer, NIC, Mr. T Dkhar.

Later, Mr. Wahlang handed over an award of Rs. 50,000/- to Mr. M Syiem, President, Maitshaphrang Movement for their hardwork and dedication in creating awareness about the Right to Information Act.

## RTI WEEK

To commemorate four years of the implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005, RTI Week was observed in the State along with the rest of the country from 6th to 12th October, 2009.

During the week long observation, the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute conducted various programmes like Workshops in Schools and Colleges, RTI on Wheels at Smit, Skit and slogan writing competition for students and public awareness programme at Pynursla.

The closing function of the RTI Week held at MATI was graced by the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Mr. W M S Pariat as the

Chief Guest. Others present included Mr. A. K. IPS Additional Director General of Police, officials, NGOs, teachers, school and college students.

The highlight of the function was the release of a User Guide on Right of Information in Braille for the visually impaired by the Chief Guest. Other events of the day comprised of Skit performance by students of B K Bajoria Higher Secondary School and St Anthony's Junior School, Shillong who were winners of the Skit Competition which was held on 9th October, 2009.

Prizes were also distributed to the winners of the slogan writing competition and the Skit competition.

*Information is the currency of democracy.*

Thomas Jefferson



# HEALTH MELA ORGANISED

A two day Health Mela was inaugurated by Mr. P Syiem, Parliamentary Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department who is also the local MLA at Madan Seng Khasi, Lawbah village, East Khasi Hills on October 27, 09. The Mela was organized by the office of the District Medical & Health Officer, East Khasi Hills.

In his speech as the chief guest, Mr. Syiem lauded the effort of the District Medical & Health Officer, East Khasi Hills for organizing the Mela in the area. He also said that the health mela will benefit the rural people especially the poor and the needy. He further added that the health of the people is a very important factor and has direct bearing on the development potential of a society.

Reiterating the fact that healthy people will usher in better development, while higher incidence of illness will lead to loss of productive man days and thus reduce the level of development, Mr. Syiem also stated that the mela will help to create awareness among the people of the State in the field of health sector. He also informed that Meghalaya has a high diversity of medicinal plants and a rich tradition of local health care system with the number of medicinal plants species growing in Meghalaya is known to be 834. He further asserted that this sector also holds promise for poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas through production of quality planting material, cultivation, processing, value addition and marketing either through grassroots level institutions or through entrepreneurship development.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr A Marwein, DM & HO, East Khasi Hills, Dr. D R Dkhar, Deputy Director, DHS, Mr. E Wankhar, Headman, Lawbah village and Dr. W K Dkhar, Additional DM & HO, East Khasi Hills.

## WOMEN POLICE STATIONS IN ALL DISTRICTS OF THE STATE

With the aim of tackling the increasing cases of crime against women and children with great sensitivity and efficacy, all seven districts of the state will be equipped with a women police station. The existing women police cells functioning in the all the Districts will now be functioning as women police stations and will work under the jurisdiction of the concerned Superintendent of Police.

The Crimes Against Women (CAW) Cell in the CID will monitor the work of the Women Police Station and the Superintendents of Police shall send regular monthly reports, as specified by the CAW Cell.

Cases shall be initially register with the local Police Station having jurisdiction in the place occurrences and the concerned Police Station shall take all the necessary preliminary steps after which such cases shall subsequently be transferred to the concerned Women Police Station for investigation and persecution if they fall under the categories of rape, molestation, kidnapping/abduction, eve teasing, murder for dowry by burning or by other means, attempt to suicide, importing for girls below 18 years or between 18 and 21 years, Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, indecent representation of women (as per provisions of Women Prohibition Act) and cases of missing children.



*To accomplish great things, we must dream as well as act.*

**Anatole France**



## WORKSHOP HELD

A five day Regional Workshop on State Income, District Income and Related Macro Aggregates was inaugurated by the Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mr. P B O Warjri at Hotel Assembly, Shillong. The Workshop was organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, National Accounts Division, Central Statistical Organization, Government of India with the support of the Planning Commission and UNDP. The State Directorate of Economics and Statistics hosted the regional workshop which was attended by the field officers from various parts of the region including Sikkim.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Warjri said that in today's information society the media pays more attention to economic indicators than ever before and planners spend more time on statistical and econometric models, trying to interpret and forecast economic trends. He further said that nowadays officials' statistics has become a powerful tool for the common man to participate in public scrutiny of Government and facilitates in talking about success and failures of Government. Mr. Warjri also hoped that the workshop will contribute a lot in capacity building exercise of the State Statistical system of Meghalaya as other North Eastern States participating in the workshop. He also lauded the efforts of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in taking the initiatives to provide training to the state statistical personnel and help in strengthening the statistical system at the State level.

Others who spoke at the inaugural function included Director, Economics and Statistics, Government of Meghalaya, Mr. A Marbaniang, Dr. S Sharma, DDG, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, National Accounts Division, Central Statistical Organization, Government of India while the vote of thanks was offered by Mr. G S N Murthy, Director Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, National Accounts Division, Central Statistical Organization, Government of India.

## SEMINAR ON ARCHERY ORGANISED

Archery occupies an important place and position as a cultural symbol and as a sport in many tribal societies of the North East. The Hynniewtrep people also have a long historical association with archery in their cultural, religious and sporting life. However with the passage of time the knowledge base of this important aspect of our culture is dwindling particularly among the youth. Recognizing this fact, a Seminar on Archery, an Indigenous Sport Cum Inter College Indigenous Archery Competition was organized by the Seminar Committee of Sankar Dev College on October 20, 2009. The main objective of the Seminar was to find ways and means to preserve, promote, protect as well as to popularize archery as sport.

The Seminar was co-sponsored by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Meghalaya. Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister, i/c Sports and Youth Affairs, Mr. Bindo M Lanong was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Also present was the local MLA, Manas Chaudhuri, Principal of Sankar Dev College Miss D. Dkhar besides the teaching staff and students drawn from different colleges.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Lanong lauded the efforts made by the Seminar Committee of Sankar Dev College to draw focus on the subject and opined that it will go along way in opening up the minds of the youth to be aware of their rich cultural heritage. Dwelling on the economic aspect of Archery, Mr Lanong said that the traditional arrows used in archery are manufactured only in a few places in Khasi Hills and thus if the game of archery can be further popularized, arrow making can become a source of sustainable livelihood for many.

Mr Lanong also stressed that since the State has a potential in producing talents in the Archery, the youth should come forward and groom themselves to participate in national as well as international levels. Through dint of hard work and dedication, Mr Lanong expressed confidence that the archers will shine and bring laurels to the State in particular and the country as a whole.



# NewsREEL

*Farewell  
get together for outgoing  
Chief Secretary,  
Shri R Chaterjee held on  
October 28 & 29, 2009*





# NewsREEL



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr D D Lapang laying the foundation stone of the Common Facility Centre for Vanya Silk at Umsawnongbri, Ri Bhoi District on September 3, 2009



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D. D. Lapang inaugurating the Administrative Building at the Police Reserve, East Khasi Hills D.E.F on July 3, 2009



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D D Lapang handing over the key to the driver of the Ambulance of EMRI, 108 when it was launched at Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi District, on Sept 10, 2009



Meghalaya CM Dr. D D Lapang while inaugurating the newly constructed SP office building at Jowai on August 22, 2009



The Governor of Meghalaya, Mr. R. S. Mooshahary inaugurating the Raj Bhavan Water Supply Scheme on August 25, 2009 at the premises of the Raj Bhavan, Shillong.



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr D D Lapang laying the foundation stone of the Mawpat Water Supply Scheme at MAwpat on July 9, 2009.



# NewsREEL



Meghalaya Education Task Force in its meeting held at the Chief Minister's chamber on October 14, 2009.



Delegates of the North East DGP's Conference held on October 31, 2009 along with the Governor of Meghalaya at the Raj Bhavan, Shillong.



Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Bindo Lanong lighting the lamp to mark the inauguration of the seminar on Archery held on October 20, 09 at Sankardev College.



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D D Lapang handing over the laptop to one of the meritorious student at U Soso Tham Auditorium on July 1, 2009.



The newly appointed Chief Secretary, Mr. W. M. S. Pariat and Principal Secretary, Education, Mr. P S Thangkhiew being inducted as the President and Vice President of the Meghalaya Bharat Scouts and Guides at the premises of Raj Bhvan, Shillong on November 11, 2009



The Governor of Meghalaya doing the round at the North East Cultural Festival held at the State Central Library, Shillong on October 14, 2009.



# NewsREEL

*Civil Service Day  
observed on  
September 16, 2009  
at Yojna Bhavan*





## UMDEN ERI SILK CLUSTER INAUGURATED

The Umden Eri Silk Cluster implemented by the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) an organization under the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises MSME, Government of India Cluster was formally launched on 11th September, 2009 by Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Dr. DD Lapang. The project is sponsored by the office of Development Commissioner, MSME, Govt of India for the Soft intervention

In this Cluster development programme, various interventions in the form of providing handholding supports to the indigenous artisans, setting up a Common Facility Centre, Workshed, Financial Linkages, Product diversification through Designers' intervention, Market Linkages, skill up gradation and Training Programmes for the Eri Cultivators etc will be made as deemed required.

IIE through its Regional Resource Centre on Cluster Development has plunged into Cluster Development in a big way since the last two years. The Institute has 24 clusters throughout the eight states of North East. In Meghalaya, the Institute identified an Eri Silk Cluster in Umden which has

great potential to be converted to an Eri Hub of Meghalaya. So far it has formed 25 Self Help Groups and has been successful in providing financial linkages to these SHGs.

IIE has also formed a Cluster Development Coordination Group (CDCG) under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Ri- Bhoi who will closely monitor the cluster activities and will also act as an advisory body to the cluster.

Umden Eri silk cluster is one of the 24 clusters under the Regional Resources Centre on Cluster Development, IIE. The unique characteristic of this cluster which makes it different from the rest is the availability of skilled artisans and age old traditional methods of weaving and natural dyeing.



### Special training on Bokashi Piggery

Forty members belonging to Cooperative Societies of East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and Ri Bhoi District took part in the two day special training on Bokashi Piggery organized by the office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Meghalaya, Shillong in collaboration with Bethany Society, Shillong on October 30 and 31, 2009. The training programme was inaugurated by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Meghalaya, Mr. F R Kharkongor.

It may be mentioned that Bokashi is a revolutionary and breakthrough technique aimed at bringing about qualitative improvement in the piggery sector. 'Bokashi' is actually a Japanese word meaning 'fermented organic matter', which uses IMO to promote growth and management of healthy pigs. Benefits of IMO includes suppressing of offensive smell of manure, prevention of flies in the pen, reduction of fatty layers under the skin leading to production of robust pigs which do not need inoculation of antibiotics and which also results in improvement of digestive system amongst pigs.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Kharkongor explained about the immense qualitative benefits of Piggery Farming through Bokashi technology. He emphasized that with this technology, the pigs will be healthier and robust, where minimum weight would go up to 80 kgs in a period of merely 8 months compared with the traditional method which takes about a year. He further explained about the need to adopt proper construction techniques for the Pig shed, where control of moisture, proper feeding, proper management of floor and air circulation is vital so as to ensure an odorless environment for healthy pigs to breed.

Mr. Kharkongor encouraged the members of the Cooperative Societies to adopt the Bokashi technology in the fields of pig rearing and hoped that the training would pave the way for setting up of demonstration centre in the 4 districts.

Amongst those who spoke were Mr. C Noronha, Director Bethany Society, officials of Cooperative Department, resource persons who have been trained in Japan and officials of the Veterinary Department. A field visit was also organized at Sacred Heart, Mawlai to enable the participants to gain a first hand insight into the implementation of Bokashi Technology.



# US ASTRONAUT VISITS THE STATE

Noted US Astronaut Edward Michael Fincke was on a two day visit to the State capital on September 8 and 9, 09. Fincke who is married to an Assamese American, Renita, an engineer with NASA, was here on invitation from the Friends of Assam and Seven Sisters, a non-governmental organization.

Michael Fincke was the commander of Expedition 18 which was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan on board the Soyuz TMA -13 spacecraft on October 12, 2008. Fincke was in space for 365 days, 21 hours and 32 minutes. As the International Space Station (ISS) Commander, Fincke and his three member crew helped prepare the station for a future 6 person-crew.

During his maiden visit, Fincke met the Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. D. D. Lapang and some of his cabinet colleagues on his office chamber on September 7. The following day, Fincke met the Governor, Mr. R. S. Mooshahary at Raj Bhavan and also visited St. Anthony's College, where a formal programme was organized to welcome him. Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Education Minister, senior government officials and over 1000 students from different schools and colleges of the city were also present on the occasion.



Addressing the gathering, Fincke said that he was enthusiastic about breaking new barriers in the field of space science. Describing the North East as one of the most enchanting places on earth, he said the North East was seen as a patch of green from the ISS. Expressing high regards for Indian astronauts like (late) Kalpana Chawla, Sunita Williams and Rakesh Sharma, the NASA Astronaut said Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was a pride of India as NASA was to the USA.

Referring to Indian's maiden moon mission Chandrayaan 1, Fincke said that the mission should not be looked upon as a failure. "Investment in space research is not a wasteful expenditure if you look at the future returns". Citing the example of Russia, Fincke said that the country is already getting returns from space research investment giving the example of space tourism.

Stating that the mind is the only natural resource that man possesses, Fincke urged upon the people of North East to use their minds constantly for the betterment of mankind.

On the occasion, Fincke also held an interactive session wherein he answered questions relating to his moon mission and space science.







## Bust of Rev Nichols Roy Unveiled

A bust of Rev James Roy, credited with drafting the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India was unveiled on the KHADC premises on September 11, 2009, 50 years after his death.

The bust was unveiled by KHADC Chief Mansturdy Nongrem in the presence of veteran State leaders, including Hoping Stone Lyngdoh and P R Kyndiah besides former MP Jurlie E Taraing, former and present MDCs and other dignitaries.

The granite bust of the late leader was made in Orissa at the cost of Rs. 4 lakhs.

### Commemorative Stamp On Rev Roy Released

The Postal Department released a commemorative stamp on Late Rev James Joy Mohan Roy, at the U Soso Tham auditorium, Shillong on June 12, 2009. The commemorative stamp honouring Late Rev Roy was released by Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D. D. Lapang. Rev Nichols Roy is the third personality from Meghalaya to have a postage stamp released in his name after freedom fighters U Tirot Sing and U Kiang Nangbah.

Born on June 12, 1884 at Mawsyiarwait, Shella confederacy, Late Rev Nichols Roy is remembered as a political leader who dedicated his life-time to serving the cause of the tribal people in all spheres of human activities and who was a friend of the poor, a great patriot and a God-fearing man.

“Rev Nichols Roy was a true nationalist, a compassionate leader and missionary. With his vision, the Sixth Schedule was framed to safeguard and give special status to indigenous tribes of the Northeast through autonomous district councils,” Mr Kyndiah former Union tribal Affairs Minister and a close associate of Rev Nichols Roy, said while addressing the function.

Mr. Kyndiah recalled the contribution of Rev Nichols towards the hill state movement and his opposition to the British Government’s move to make Shillong the capital of East Pakistan during the Partition of India.

Mr. Nongrem, Leader of Opposition in KHADC, Teinwell Dkhar, Rev B R Sohkhia from Church of God and relatives of Rev Nichols threw light on the life and achievement of the late leader of the State. Rev Nichols Roy was the grandnephew of freedom fighter U Tirot Sing and worked together with B R Ambedkar to help draft the Sixth Schedule as a member of the Constituent Assembly.

## 1st Rev. J J M Nichols Roy Memorial Inter-College Debate

The 1st Rev. J J M Nichols Roy Memorial Inter-College Debate Competition, organized by the Shillong Commerce College was held on October 16, 09 at the college auditorium. 12 students from 6 city colleges participated to debate on the motion “TV Network Channels Create Cultural Erosion Which Is Harmful to Society”.

The Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Mr. Ranjan Chatterjee, in his speech as the Chief Guest, said that in this era of science and technology and globalization, the young generation should not be ignorant but instead they should keep tap of what is happening around the world. Thus by watching television with a degree of interest, one can keep their faculties alert and improve their ability to judge what is right and wrong. Reiterating the need for convergence of positive thoughts to help the State

move forward in the right direction, he called upon the youth to deliberate on issues that will enrich the State.

After a hard fought battle of wit and excellent speeches both from the Treasury and Opposition Bench, the 1st J J M Nichols Roy Memorial Inter-College Debate Trophy was bagged by St. Mary’s College represented by Jenny Laldinthari and Caroline Tage. St. Anthony’s College represented by Edelbert Jyrwa and Priyanku K Sarma was declared Runners-up. The trophy for Best Speakers went to Eboton Kharkongor of Shillong Commerce College and Caroline Tage of St. Mary’s College who bagged the 1st and 2nd prize respectively. The trophy for the Most Humorous Speaker went to Eboton Kharkongor of Shillong Commerce College.



# Medical Tourism

## *India's Growing Health Sector*



India's fast growing health care sector known for its state-of-the-art medicare facilities and highly qualified doctors and medical professionals conversant with the latest in the surgical procedures and treatment regimen, is quietly and efficiently gearing to replicate the Indian success story in the IT sector. As projected now the medical tourism in India that has for long exported successful doctors and nurses, is lastest to become US\$3billion enterprise by 2012.

One of the largest service sectors of the Indian economy, the well endowed Indian medicare set up employing around 4 million people has turn India into a major destination for global health tourists on the look out for a cost effective and efficacious treatment.

As envisaged now, the health tourism or medical tourism which is expected to grow at the rate of 30 per cent per year has all the necessary ingredients to become the sunrise sector of the Indian economy. Though right at the moment, India lags behind Thailand, Singapore and Israel in terms of the number of health tourists, with some fine tuning improved coordination and better image building, India could very well emerge as the numero-uno destination of health tourists in Asia-Pacific region.

Clearly and apparently, the concept of health tourism based on the collaboration of medical services and tourism industry to provide cost effective and timely medical treatment for the foreigners who are either not in a position to afford the stiff cost of treatment back home or cannot wait in the long queue to get the kind of treatment they

need, Similarly, patients who cannot get the right type of treatment in their home countries go to one of the countries offering health care services to 'foreign guests' at an affordable price.

As it is, the package of health care offered by the corporate hospitals in India is substantially inexpensive than those available in the developed countries. Today more than 30 well equipped private sector hospitals in India provide world class treatment to health tourists at one third of the price charged by hospitals in West Europe and North America.

At the moment more than thirty hospitals in New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkatta, Kochi, Coimbatore and Thiruvananthapuram provide high quality medical services to the health tourists. A couple of years, a majority of those availing the benefit of the Indian health care system were patients from West Asia and African countries along with the Non-Resident Indians from the USA and the UK. However, now patients from the USA, UK, New Zealand, Australia, Germany and Belgium make a beeline to the Indian corporate hospitals for the treatment at an affordable price.

Last year, the New Delhi Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre (EHIRC) treated around 1500 foreign patients and amajority of them were outside the South Asia region. Similarly, New Delhi's Indraprastha Apollo Hospital which is counted among the best healthcare facilities in the world, regularly gets patients from the USA, the UK and Canda. In fact, the satisfied customers are





the best publicity media for the Indian health care service.

Because, cosmetic surgical procedures which are not formally covered under the health insurance scheme, many of medical travelers are flocking to India for "plastic and reconstruction surgery".

The added attraction is that the cost of plastic surgery in India is dirt cheap compared to the price tag carried by such surgical procedures in the western health establishments.

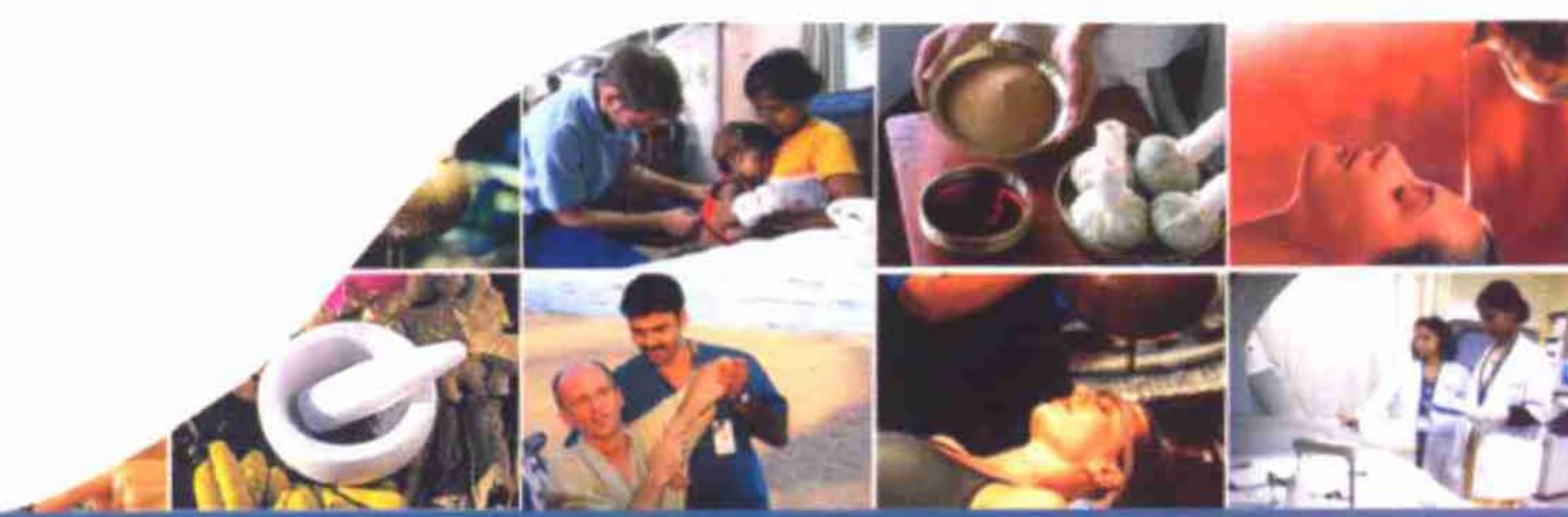
The most alluring feature of the Indian health care package is that in distinct contrast to the other health care tourism destinations, where the thrust is on the physical well-being through surgeries and medication, the orientation of the Indian health care tourism industry is towards combining physical wellness with rejuvenation therapies based on

traditional ayurvedic system making for the holistic treatment of both the mind and the body.

In fact, the South Indian state of Kerala has been attracting high value medical tourists from the West keen on trying Ayurvedic remedies for more than one decade now. In fact Ayurvedic tourism brought to Kerala Rs.6000 crores last year. A number of tourist agencies based in West Asia regularly organize trips to Ayurvedic destinations in Kerala Tourism through chartered air services.

Meanwhile, the Government of India is planning to set up a task force on medical tourism to suggest ways and means to promote India as the ultimate health care tourism destination.

*Radhakrishna Rao (INFAA)*



## **Riangdo CHC Inaugurated**

The newly constructed building of the Riangdo Community Health Centre (CHC) was inaugurated on October 28, 2009 by the Meghalaya Deputy Chief incharge Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mukul Sangma. Among others present at the inauguration were the Meghalaya Minister for PWD, Mr. M M Danggo, Chairman of MIDC, Mr. Rowell Lyngdoh, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. F P R Sangma who is also the local MLA of Mawthengkut constituency, Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills, District, Mr. M R Synrem, Superintendent of Police, West Khasi Hills, Mr. M Kharkrang and former MLA Mrs. M War. The inauguration function was chaired by the Director of Health Services (MCH & FW), Dr. A S Kynjing.

On this day, a Health Mela of the National Rural Health Mission was also inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister.

In his inaugural speech, Dr. Sangma said that the policy of the Government was to ensure that

health delivery system reaches the people in the rural areas and therefore he stressed that this CHC would be made fully functional for the benefit of the people of Riangdo and its adjoining areas. Referring to the objective of the National Rural Health Mission of the Government of India, Dr. Sangma underlined that this Health Mission aims to improve health delivery system to the poor and the needy in the rural areas.

He therefore, urged upon all the stakeholders to come together and participate so as to make the Mela a grand success. He also informed that a universal health insurance programme for the BPL families is in the offing adding that the Government is trying hard to ensure the affordable health delivery system which would also bring an improvement to the economy of the people living in the rural areas.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also released the EMRI vehicle.

*To insure good health: eat lightly, breathe deeply, live moderately,  
cultivate cheerfulness, and maintain an interest in life.*

William Londen





# TEACHERS *Felicitated*

In commemoration of the birth anniversary of noted philosopher, educationist and former President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education observed Teachers' Day with much pomp and grandeur at the Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on September 5, 2009. Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Minister of Education and Mr. Abdus Saleh, Parliamentary Secretary, Elementary and Mass Education graced the function as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively.

In recognition of the influencing role that teacher's play in the life of a student, nine teachers were honoured with the State Award and twenty others with District Award, on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh said the government is taking steps on improving the quality of education in the State. Lauding the teaching community for the vital role they play in moulding the youth into better citizens, Mrs Lyngdoh said without the active support and participation of teachers, the full potential of this great country cannot be realized.

The Minister urged upon the stake holders in education, parents, teachers, students and members of the community to actively participate and be sensitized towards the issue of quality improvement in the education sector.

While rejecting the Planning Commission's data that there are more than 80 per cent drop outs in the State, Mrs. Lyngdoh said that NEHU has been instructed to conduct a survey by employing the latest scientific tools and methods so as to enable to ascertain the actual extent of the problem and to arrive at an accurate and dependable figure.

The State awardees who were felicitated on the day included Bertha Dkhar, Principal of Jyoti Sroat School, Kaberi Dutta of St. Mary's HSS, Shillong, Pratap Singh Bhattacharjee of Tirot Sing Memorial HSS, Nongkhlaw, Aiom Pyngngad Bamon of Government UPS, Jowai, Racheborn Myrboh of Mynken UPS Bhoirymbong, Bethshida Ch. Momin of Christian Girls HSS Tura, Lonish R. Sangma of Hawakana Government LP School, Krish Ch Marak of Rongsakre UPS, Rongsak and Nargish M Sangma of Rangku Memorial Girls SS.

## Meghalaya Government signs MoU With Microsoft

Meghalaya Government has signed an MoU with Microsoft to impart computer training to teachers and students of the state.

Karan Bajwa, General Manager of the company said that as per the MoU, the IT giant would train teachers at all levels in the State. Stating that initially 300 teachers would be imparted training he said that the programme would also be 8 hours a day and 12 days in a month for the whole year.

"Basic knowledge of computers will be given to the teaching community who can use the same for teaching and preparing school curriculum." Mr. Bajwa said

For computer training students and teachers are coming to far off places of Meghalaya to Delhi. Once this facility is available at their door steps they can utilise the same without much difficulties," he said

Microsoft entered India in 1990 and has since been working closely with the Government, IT industry, academia and local developer community for ushering in some of the early successes in the realm of IT.

Increasingly Microsoft is becoming a key IT partner to the Indian government and the industry. Since its advent, Microsoft has been supporting and fueling the growth of the local IT industry through various programmes



# TRIVIA



## Masterpiece-Replicas Out of Sliced Salami

Creating art out of food is not always easy, and if that food happens to be sliced salami, well, we'd say you'd have your work cut out for you. But someone managed to create replicas of masterpieces like The Mona Lisa, using only different kinds of salami and baloney, and it turned out pretty good. Food art is all about imagination, and this food-artist has a very rich one, that's for sure.

## Huge Cigarette Butt

A 30-foot-tall (9-meter-tall) cigarette butt sits in the middle of Trafalgar Square. The Keep Britain Tidy campaign, run by the charity ENCAMS, installed the structure to remind citizens that cigarette litter dirties 78 percent of streets in the United Kingdom. The problem has skyrocketed since July 2007, when Britain's ban on smoking in public places was put in place, campaign head Phil Barton said on the ENCAMS Web site.



## Ice Rain China

This is what happened after a rain in southern China. The water froze on the grass, leaves and flowers encasing them in beautiful, transparent ice.

## World Longest Bridge

World's longest sea bridge from Shanghai to industrial city Ningbo is open now for traffic. It is a 36Km long bridge on Hangzhou Bay and was built at the cost of 500 million pound. The bridge was built within a period of 5 years and it has a projected life span of 100 years. Around 2000 vehicle passed on first day itself. It will save 120 km of traveling.



# TRIVIA



*Simsang River originates from the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve located in the western part of Meghalaya. The river flows through the East Garo Hills and South Garo Hills Districts. It has a vast plain land along the bank, where the Garos made their last major resistance to the British intrusion into Garo Hills, during the year 1837. Other notable attractions nearby on the banks of this river include Sisobibra, Siju Caves, Baghmara, Ronrenggiri Coalfield and Naphak Lake.*



# *Simsang River*