

February 16, 2004

Press Release No. 122/04

ON-LINE CENTRE FOR EPIC IN RI-BHOI

Shillong February 16, 2004: The Deputy Commissioner (Election), Ri-Bhoi District Nongpoh has informed that an On-line Centre has been set up in his office at Nongpoh with effect from February 16, 2004 to March 12, 2004 on all working days during office hours for the purpose of taking Photograph of Voters whose names have appeared in the Electoral Role but have not been photographed.

Therefore non-EPIC Voters are requested to avail the facility, bringing all necessary documents and EPIC will be issued on the same day.

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RANK AND BOLT AWARD

Shillong, February 16, 2004: As part of a nation-wide campaign to promote excellence in the sphere of academics, Air India has tied up with The Shillong Times in Meghalaya to recognise talented students under The Shillong Times-Air India Race for Awareness and Knowledge (RANK) Award and accomplished teachers under The Shillong Times-Air India Broad Outlook Learner Teacher (BOLT) Award for 2004.

This is an open competition designed to promote "Responsible and Active Citizenship" and teachers and students from all district of Meghalaya are invited to participate, there is no entry fee.

During the year 2003-2004, Air India has extended this award scheme to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and now Meghalaya.

Under the norms, there are District level awards with a winner and a runner up in both RANK and BOLT categories. A State level winner will be adjudged from among the district level winners of both, RANK and BOLT Awards. While the district level winners will receive certificates, the State level winners in both categories will travel to Singapore as Air India guests.

Award winners will be selected by a distinguished national level panel of judges and the State level winners will travel to Singapore on an ambassadorial trip, as guests of Air India. During their all expense paid trip to Singapore, teachers and students from Meghalaya will join other winners from other parts of India in interacting with student and teacher communities of Singapore. A highlight of the trip will be a dinner with the India Ambassador to Singapore.

The contest requires the filling of prescribed forms, available at the city office of The Shillong Times, 1-A MTC Building, Police Bazar, Shillong –793001.

MINES SAFETY WEEK CONCLUDED

Shillong, February 16, 2004: A week long *Mines Safety Week* organised by the MCCL and Kommorah Limestone Company in collaboration with the Directorate General of Mines Safety, Government of India concluded today at Shillong Club where the Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Donkumar Roy was the Chief Guest. Altogether 10 mining companies from different parts of the North East participated in the celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Donkumar Roy expressed gratitude to the organizers and hoped that the programme would generate awareness about incorporating sound safety measures in the day to day work of mine workers, especially in our State, where mining is still an unorganized sector, Saying that Meghalaya is blessed with rich mineral deposits namely coal and limestone, besides exploiting these resources for economic development, he also felt the need to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the mine workers.

Mr S S Gupta, Commissioner and Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Mining and Geology, speaking on the occasion informed that although major accidents have not been recorded in the State yet, the Government has taken measures to promote precautionary measures to ensure the safety of mine workers.

Others speaking on the occasion were Mr. A K Jain, Director of Mines Safety, Government of India, Mr. J Myrboh, MD, MCCI and Mr C B Prasad, Deputy Director of mines Safety, Government of India.

BANKING OMBUDSMAN SCHEME 2002

Shillong, February 16, 2004: The Secretary to the Office of the Banking Ombudsman, North Eastern region has informed that the Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2002 has been formulated by the Reserve Bank of India, for the convenience of the general public in the field of bank customer service. In the event of deficiency of service, the scheme provides for a quick and inexpensive method of redressal of grievances. All public sector and private sector, commercial Banks as well as Regional Rural Banks are covered under this scheme.

Lamenting upon the fact that although this scheme has gathered momentum by attracting a large number of complaints elsewhere in India, the same cannot be said of the North Eastern States, particularly Meghalaya.

Therefore members of the public who have grievances but are unaware of this Schemes, can now take this opportunity to submit their grievances in writing to the Office of the Banking Ombudsman, North Eastern Region, Reserve Bank of India Building, 3rd Floor, Station Road, Guwahati – 781001 or fax at 2510054.

COMPUTER AWARENESS PROGRAMME INAUGURATED

Shillong, February 16, 2004: Impulse NGO Network, a Child Right Organisation, in collaboration with Aptech India, today launched a Computer Awareness Workshop for Child Labour at Sunshine Drop-In Centre at Riatsamthiah Community Hall. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Mr. S S Gupta, Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Social Welfare Department, while Mr. Avijit Ghosh, Senior Area Head, Aptech, Kolkata, was the Guest of Honour.

While lauding the Impulse NGO for taking such an innovative step, Mr. Gupta, in his speech, said that Impulse NGO has played a very important role in looking after the welfare, nutrition and education of street children. He added that if given proper education and guidance, these children, most of who are school drop-outs, can become pillars of the society.

Mr. Gupta also congratulated Aptech for helping the Impulse NGO in this noble cause and hoped that with their help, the future of the children participating in the programme will have a silver lining.

Sharing his views, Mr. Avijit Ghosh, said that the bold initiative taken by Impulse NGO to help these children grasp the knowledge of Information Technology is indeed commendable and hoped that this awareness, will bridge the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.

It may be mentioned that altogether 40 children will have the opportunity to gain basic computer knowledge in this ten days awareness programme, which is the first of its kind in the North East.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Mrs. Hasina Kharbhih, President Impulse NGO, Mr. Balambok, Aptech, Shillong. The welcome speech was delivered by Mr. B Sangma of Impulse NGO, while the vote of thanks was delivered by Tina Chakraborty.