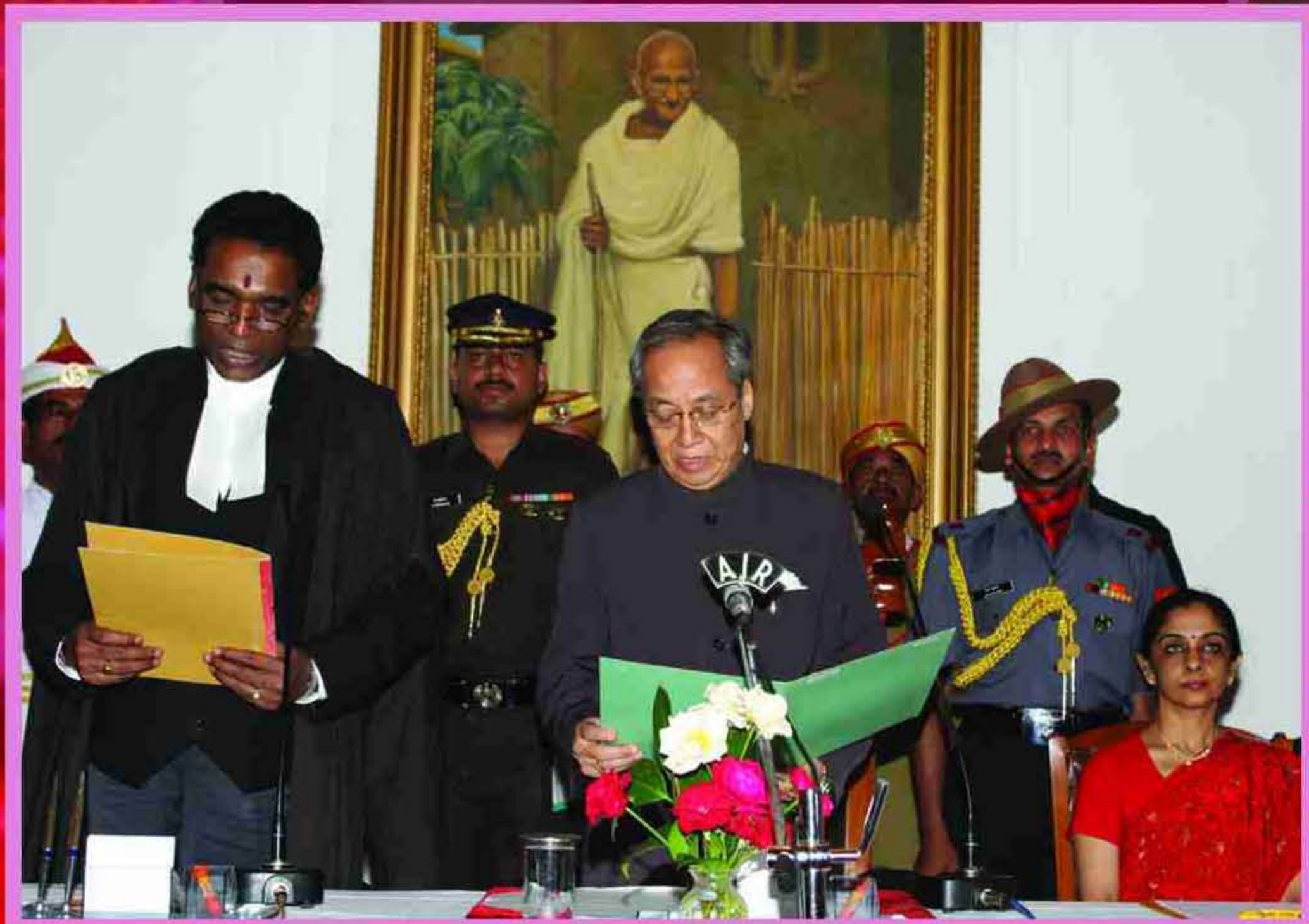




the MEGHALAYACHRONICLE

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



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Contributing about 22% of the GDP, Agriculture assumes a vital role in the overall socio-economic development of Meghalaya. While the State has been faring well in traditional crops like rice, maize, oilseeds etc, it is its latest foray into the cultivation of high value low volume crops such as strawberry and commercial floriculture like Rose, Lilioms, Anthuriums , Carnations which is very promising.

Therefore, besides other happenings in the State, this issue of the Meghalaya Chronicle brings to you a special focus on anthurium cultivation in Garo Hills.

I hope that this volume of the Magazine is to your liking.

P. S. Dkhar
Director,
Information and Public Relations.

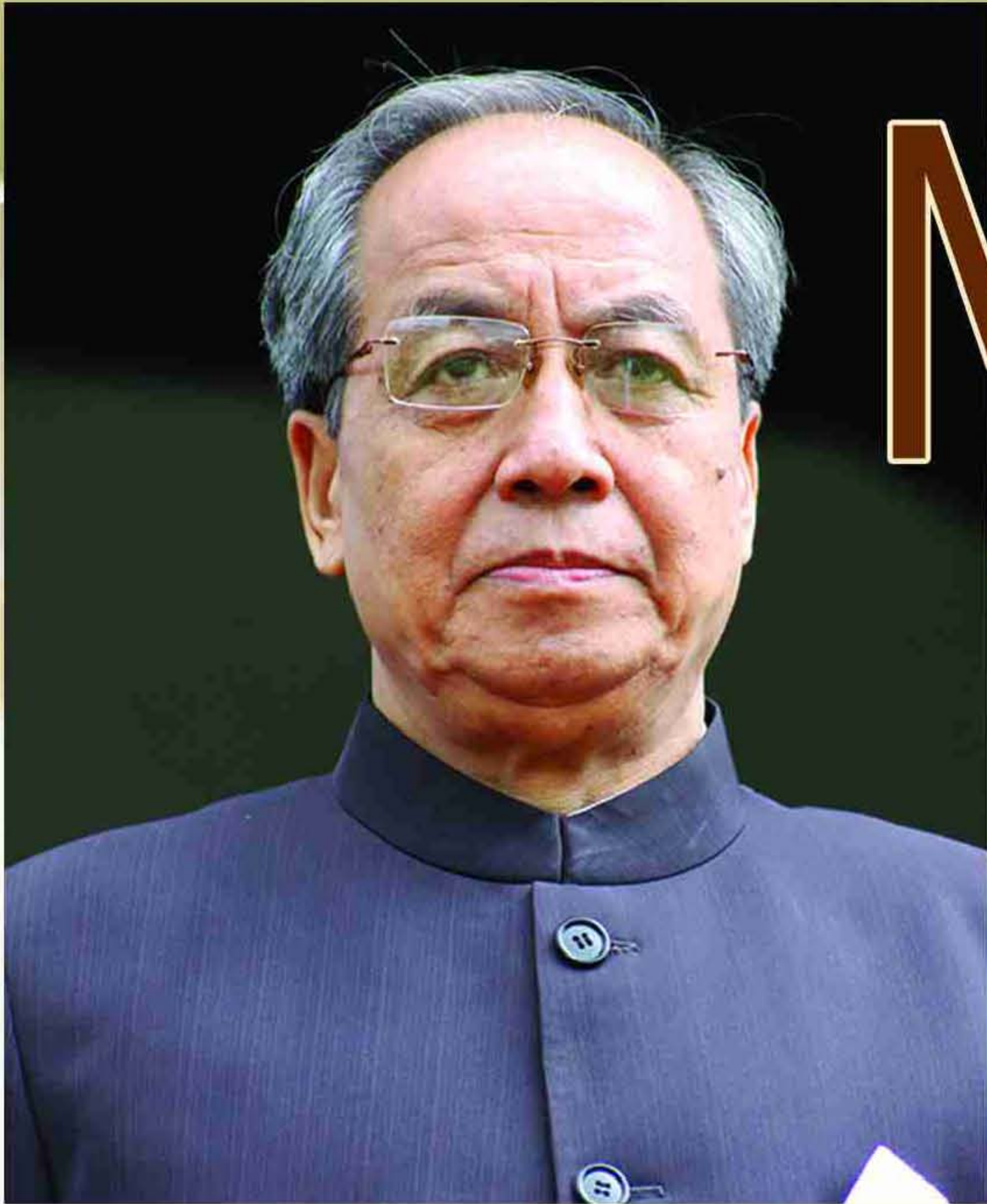
From the Desk of the
Commissioner & Secretary,
Information & Public Relations

Bringing to you various happenings and developments in the State, the latest issue of the Meghalaya Chronicle is now ready.

I hope that the issues presented in the Magazine makes for interesting reading. As we continue with our efforts to improve the Magazine, we look forward to your suggestions and contributions to make this magazine a dynamic one.

Bye for now.

A. Som



Mooshahary

sworn in as new Governor

Former BSF DGP, Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary, was sworn in as the 16th Governor of Meghalaya on July 1, 2008 at Raj Bhavan, Shillong. The Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court Justice Jasti Chelameswar administered the oath in the presence of the Deputy Chief Ministers Hoping Stone Lyngdoh and Timothy D Shira, Cabinet Ministers, GOC of 101 Area K S Sethi, Officer Commanding-in-Chief Air Marshal S K Bhan and other senior government officials.

Mr. Mooshahary, who was appointed as the Governor of Meghalaya by President Pratibha Patil on June 26, 08 succeeded Dr S. S. Sidhu, who held the post as acting Governor ever since Banwari Lal Joshi was transferred to Uttarkand last year.

A glimpse into the illustrious past of Mr. Mooshahary reveals a life exemplified with grit, determination and perseverance.

Born at Odalguri- a backward village Gossaigaon in Assam- to a Bodo family steeped in poverty and want, very early in life, Mooshahary faced lots of hardships including poverty but he struggled hard to make it to top posts in several government establishments.

He studied in his village primary school and matriculated from Gossaigaon High School in 1961, did his Pre-University course from the Union Christian College, Barapani and graduated from St Anthony's College night shift section with honours in Political Science. He was the first matriculate and the first graduate in his village and got in to IPS in the very first attempt in 1976 as the youngest in his batch.

He has the distinction of being the first Bodo IPS officer and the first man from the Northeast to be posted as the Director General of Police in Central government establishments.

In his illustrious career spanning nearly 39 years he earned much goodwill and recognition due to his competence, honesty and dedication. He worked in Kerala-his cadre state-for many years, but he was not confined there. His zeal to explore and learn took him to the length and breadth of the country including J&K in a wide range of assignments and that broadened his perspective and enriched his caliber.

He was sworn in as the first State Chief Information Commissioner of Assam on March 1, 2006 and is the only person in the country from police background to have held that position. The Assam Information Commission under his stewardship soon emerged as a catalyst for good governance through transparency and accountability as envisioned in the RTI Act, 2005.

He is erudite and articulate with incisive analytical ability, clarity of thought and loyalty to the cause. He writes articles and his fortnightly column Third Eye-appears in the Sentinel on Thursdays. He is deeply interested in public administration, development economics, contemporary politics, history, philosophy and literature. A man of initiative and dynamism, he has a flair for conflict conciliation through trust and tolerance.

He was listed as one of the ten persons who made Assam proud in 2007 by a magazine for his war on corruption. At sixty-two, he enjoys robust health and youthful energy with enormous capacity for hard work. He is open hearted, considerate and caring with a passion for human equity and work ethic.

He is married to Rema Menon from Kerala. They have a son, Ranjay and a daughter, Tamanna.

CM LAUNCHED 'SFURTI' AT MOOKYNDENG VILLAGE

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Donkupar Royt formally launched the programme of "Scheme of Fund Regeneration of Traditional Industries" (SFURTI) in the form of Village Industries Cluster on Cane and Bamboo at Mookyndeng village, Jaintia Hills District on June 23, 08.

The scheme is sponsored by the Government of India through the Ministry of MSME and implemented by the Women's Group of Mookyndeng and the Handicraft Multi-purpose Cooperative Society, Mookyndeng with the aim of economically uplifting the society by self employment through handicraft works. The launching programme was attended by the local MLA, Mr Comingone Ymbon, Chairman KVIB, Mr P M Syiem, Parliamentary Secretary, Education, Mrs Ampareen Lyngdoh, CEM JHADC, Mr Hambertus Suchiang and the Chairperson of the KVIC, Government of India, Mrs S Kumud Joshi, as the guest of honour.

SFURTI launched by the Government of India in 2005 is set with the objective of strengthening traditional industries and build innovative and traditional skills and also facilitating the marketing aspect of the scheme. It also provides innovative and modern tools to the local artisans to improve and boost production, uplift the economy and generate good income through their cane and bamboo products. It may be mentioned that in the State of Meghalaya, Mookyndeng village is the first to be identified for the implementation of SFURTI. Mookyndeng is known to have skillful artisans in cane and bamboo products making and it also has a good record of having effective and innovative cooperative societies.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Roy said that the launching of the SFURTI at Mookyndeng village is a historic occasion in the District and he lauded the Women's group for taking initiative in forming the cooperative society with the main objective to promote the handicraft skills of the local people of the



area. He said that through the SFURTI the people of the village will develop economically.

He pointed out that Cooperative movement is very popular in the village and the people are aware of the benefits of working in cooperation. He hoped that the women's group will also be consistent in its approach and not disappear in only a short time. He reminded the people about Mahatma Gandhi who revolutionized the economic development strategy in the rural areas.

Dr Roy said that in many villages of the State there are many skillful and talented artisans whose talents could be tapped and encouraged them to form cooperative societies in which the State Government could provide financial assistance. He opined that if the products are of good quality, it will find a good market value and perhaps even the State Government could purchase the relevant products for use in Government offices. He however stressed on the need of having a ready source of raw materials like cane and bamboo. He said that growing or farming of cane and bamboo is the most important aspect of the industry to make it sustainable.

Dr Roy said that cooperative societies in the State should be strengthened and he assured that the State Government will provide all possible assistance to encourage the people in this direction for economic development of the State as a whole.

Chairperson of the KVIC, Government of India, Mrs S Kumud Joshi in her brief speech said that the Government of India is making all efforts to provide financial assistance to uplift the economy of the rural masses by promoting the market and production of their products.

Local MLA, Mr. Comingone Ymbon and Chairman KVIB, Mr. P M Syiem also spoke on the occasion.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 2008



Marking the success story of the State's Horticulture sector, hundreds of people thronged to the annual Strawberry Festival 2008 held at the premises of the State Central Library, Shillong on April 19, 2008.

Organized by the Ri Bhoi Strawberry Growers' Association in collaboration with the office of the District Horticulture Officer, Ri Bhoi District, Nongpoh, the festival witnessed a number of stalls selling luscious strawberries, home made wine, exotic vegetables and delectable dishes. Two new products, Strawberry Chocolates and Dehydrated Strawberry were also introduced in the festival.

Inaugurating the Festival, Horticulture Minister, Dr. Adviser Pariong, stressed measures to further enhance strawberry production, considering the growing demand for strawberry produced in Meghalaya outside the State. The Minister also urged upon the North Eastern Council (NEC) to give special attention to this horticulture produce so as to promote the farming community in the State. According to Dr. Pariong, the festival has been organized in keeping with the Agriculture Department's objective to showcase the varied achievements of strawberry farmers specially those from Ri Bhoi District. At present, there are 396 farmers engaged in strawberry cultivation in 24.75 hectares of land in Ri Bhoi District. Dewlieh village with 67 farmers is one of the hubs of strawberry cultivation in the district, he pointed out.

To add to the fun quotient of the festival, games stalls for children, scratch cards, stage games and a live band entertained the crowd.

FIRST OF A KIND 50 KW BIOMASS GASIFIER AT NONGKANIANG

The people of Nongkaniang village have a lot to look forward to with the commissioning of the 50KW Biomass Gasifier Plant (Renewable Energy) of the Meghalaya Non - Conventional and Rural Energy Development Agency (MNREDA). This Village seems to have suddenly gone past age old forms of entertainment as they are suddenly swept away by bollywood music and television programmes.

Constructed at the cost of Rs. 24.17 lakhs, this project, which is the first of its kind in the District, was inaugurated on 23.04.2008 by the local MDC of Nongstoin Constituency, Mr. N. Nongdkhar, who is also the Deputy Chairman of KHADC in presence of the MNREDA's Director Mr. R C Agarwal and the Project Manager of IFAD, Mr. J Kharkongor.

The Renewable Energy project aims at developing and promoting commercialization of technology on Biomass Gasifier for usages in rural areas where electricity is not feasible due to remoteness.

This Biomass Gasifier is a device that converts solid biomass materials such as wood, agriculture and agro-industrial waste into producer gas through thermo-chemical gasification process. This producer gas could either be burnt directly for thermal application or by using Diesel oil in fuel engines for mechanical and electrical application and hence a drastic cut in green house emissions.

The contribution of beneficiaries at a nominal rate is necessary of which 50% will be given to the village committee for maintenance of the plant whereas 50% will be deposited into the account of the Office for maintenance of the equipments, said the Director of Meghalaya Non - Conventional & Rural Energy Development Agency Mr. R C Agarwal. He also stated that other source of energy such as sun energy and wind energy could be easily harnessed with today's technology. Further more, "an energy plantation is also being proposed for fast growing trees to sustain the plant as well as to maintain the ecological balance", he added.

Caving in the Abode of Clouds

The fourteenth International Caving Expedition, organized by the Meghalaya Adventurer's Association, under the project "Caving in the Abode of the Clouds" was a tremendous success in more ways than one.

During the 24 days (3rd to 27th February 2008) expedition in the Jaintia Hills District in Meghalaya the International team focused on the caving areas of Shnongrim Ridge in the Nongkhlieh Elaka, the Litien valley to the east and in the Semmasi area to the north east of the Ridge. 44 cavers from UK, Ireland, Switzerland, Denmark, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Sweden, Iran and members of the MAA took part.

During this time a total of 37 caves were explored, mapped and photographed to discover 3,987 kilo-meters of new cave passage. Of the 37 caves mapped, 17 of these were entirely new caves with the rest being extensions to systems that were partially explored in previous years.

Key achievements from this year's exploration include:

- The linking of the Liat Prah Cave System to Krem Labbit (Moolestgni) via a 3m sump free dive and the connection of two of the potholes into the system of 30.957 km in length. This firmly established this system as the longest cave known to date in the Indian Sub-continent and more significantly made it the first Indian Sub-Continent cave to exceed 30 kms in length.

- The extension of Krem Tyngheng in the Semmasi area from 9.866 km to 12.960 km in length via some long swims to make it India's 5th longest cave.

- The surveying of two other caves in the Semmasi area; Krem Labbit Kseh at 883m in length and Krem Bliat at 613m in length. Both of which are ongoing.

- The pushing of many side passages and climbs in a bid to link together cave systems on the ridge. One aven of over 30m height was climbed in Krem Umthloo, which with other extensions made this system 18.181 km in length maintaining it as the third longest cave in the Indian Sub-Continent.

- The extension of several existing caves in the area included **Umsngad River Sink** that was extended from 1.25 km to 2.15 km in length and is still ongoing; **Krem Kdong Thloo** that was extended from 1.18 km to 1.58 kms. In **Krem Um Manong** a bolt climb gained a high level passage taking the cave from 105m to 922m in length; **Krem Synrang Ngap** was extended from 4.15 km to 4.92 km in length and **Krem Mawshun** from 3.33 to 3.624 kms.

- The discovery and exploration of several new caves in the previously blank N.E Section of the Ridge near to the Liat Prah system including Krem Lumthymme that is 1.1Kmin length but unfortunately failed to connect into the Liat Prah System.

- The discovery and exploration of two new caves on the south flank of the ridge, that are likely to connect and form part of a larger system in what was previously a blank area in the Shnongrim Ridge map. Both containing large sections of trunk passage and Krem Thapbalong Sim is currently 351.6m in length and ongoing and Krem Shynrong Shrieh is 1,390m in length and is also ongoing.

- The discovery and exploration of new caves that have, once again, increased the total length of cave passage explored and surveyed on the Shnongrim Ridge from 139kms and 148.3kms in total. This being the greatest concentration of cave passage in one place within the Indian Sub-Continent.

- The completion of the surface mapping project of the main area of the ridge and Litein valley, which in combination with the cave mapping gives a clearer picture of the geomorphology and hydrology of the area. This exercise alone has played a significant role in unlocking the secrets of the Ridge, contributing to the locating and exploring of additional significant cave systems as detailed above and giving a much better understanding of how the caves on the Ridge were formed.



In addition to the caves exploration, an International Conference entitled “Discover Meghalaya the Caving Experience” was held at the Pinewood Hotel in Shillong on the 22nd and 23rd February. The Government of Meghalaya Tourism Department and the MAA (Meghalaya Adventurer’s Association) hosted this with a significant input being made by the European team members. The conference was attended by some members of the expedition, the MAA and over 60 delegates drawn from the Meghalaya Government and its various departments along with representatives from the coal and limestone extraction industry and Adventurer Travel Agencies from across India and Bangladesh.

The aim of the conference was to raise awareness of the great caves resources within Meghalaya; highlighting the threats to the caves posed by the recent

increase in the limestone and coal extraction industries and to try to identify ways of addressing this issue and to develop strategies to promote the use of caves for tourism and local economic development. The conference was a great success and was followed by a field visit into Liat Prah System for 18 of the delegates that gave them the chance to experience the underground caving environment first hand.

To date the whereabouts of over 1,150 caves are known in Meghalaya of which 669 have been explored to yield in excess of 324 kilometers of surveyed cave passage, with much more still waiting to be discovered. Much of the caves that have been found to date are impressive rare caves mixed with huge fossil passages that create cave systems equal in size and beauty to any found elsewhere in the world, putting Meghalaya firmly on the world - caving map as a significant caving region.



ICDS

Amlarem

The ICDS Amlarem was bifurcated from Thadlaskein ICDS Project of the Social Welfare Department in December 1990. Established with the aim to develop the overall well being of children, the project is implemented through the Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers at the Anganwadi Centers with the assistance and cooperation of the Village Level Coordination Committee of each village.

Under the scheme all children in the age group of 0-6 years, prenatal and postnatal mothers having babies below 6 months old, adolescence girls in the age group of 11 – 18 years coming from economically deficient families and school dropouts are eligible to benefit from the ICDS project.

The aims and objectives of the scheme are to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0 to 6 years; to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; to reduce the incident of mortality, morbidity and mal-nutrition and school dropouts; to achieve effective coordination policy and its implementation among the various Government departments in promoting child development; to enhance the capacity of the mother in looking after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through awareness programmes on nutrition and health education.

In spite of the some drawbacks such as difficulty in

transportation of foodstuffs to remote Anganwadi centers which do not have motorable connectivity especially during monsoon and the acute problems faced by lady supervisors in supervising the far-flung villages, the Project has been able to achieve some major targets. Some of these are

1. Majority of mal-nourished children have attained normal weight and body structure as per monthly monitoring and health check-up;
2. Reducing to a considerable extent the premature and early marriage among young girls
3. Reducing the number of school dropouts; Immunizations of all infants below the age of 1(one) year
4. The majority of women folks have acquired sufficient knowledge of nutrition and health education
5. Infant mortality rate has dropped significantly and maternal mortality rate is practically nil
6. The Anganwadi workers and helpers of this project received District and State awards respectively. This indicates the sincerity and dedication of the workers under ICDS Amlarem Project.

As of now the man power structure includes a Child Development Project Officer at the Project Level, three lady Supervisors at the Sectoral Level, 65 Anganwadi Workers and 65 Anganwadi Helpers at the village level.



MPA GOVERNMENT SWORN IN

The Meghalaya Progressive Alliance led by leader of the United Democratic Party (UDP), Dr. Donkupar Roy was sworn in as the 13th Government of Meghalaya on March 19, 2008 at Raj Bhavan, Shillong. Besides Dr. Roy who took oath as the Chief Minister, six ministers were sworn in by Governor Dr. S. S. Sidhu in the presence of former Chief Minister Dr. Lapang and several legislators. The six ministers of the Donkupar Cabinet are Dr. Adviser Pariong (HSPDP), Conrad K Sangma (NCP), A.L. Hek (BJP), Paul Lyngdoh (KHNAME), Manas Choudhury (Ind) and Donkupar Massar (Ind).

On March 20, the Cabinet was expanded to include Hoping Stone Lyngdoh (HSPDP), and Timothy D. Shira (NCP) who were sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers, while Nimarson Momin (UDP), John Anthony Lyngdoh (UDP), and EC Boniface Bamon (NCP) took oath as ministers. Mr. Bindo M Lanong (UDP) was elected uncontested as Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly on the same day.

Who's Who in the Cabinet

Dr. Donkupar Roy - Planning Personnel and others

Hoping Stone Lyngdoh - Home (Police) and PWD (Roads)

Timothy D Shira - Community and Rural Development, Art and Culture, Information Technology and Printing and Stationery

Paul Lyngdoh - Urban Affairs, Municipal, Sports and Youth Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs.

John A Lyngdoh - Taxation, PWD (Building), Food and Civil Supplies and Secretariat Administration Department

A L Hek - PHE, Communication Home (Passport), Relief and Rehabilitation.

Conrad Sangma - Finance, Power, Housing, Tourism and General Administration Department (GAD)

Manas Choudhury - Higher and Technical Education, Information and Public Relations, (IPR), Stamps and Registration.

E C Bamon - Agriculture, Minor Irrigation, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Revenue.

Nimarson Momin - Social Welfare, Transport, Soil and Water Conservation, Civil Defence and Home Guard.

Dr. Adviser Pariong - Health and Family Welfare, Horticulture, Reorganizations and Elections.

Donkupar Massar - Mining and Geology, Excise, Weights and Measures and Border Trade.

NEWSREEL



(Left) Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Donkumar Roy speaking at the inauguration of the Rajiv Gandhi IIM, Shillong on July 4, 08 at NEC Auditorium
(Right) Oath taking of the first batch of PG programmes of the Rajiv Gandhi IIM, Shillong



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Donkumar Roy accompanied by Finance Minister etc, Mr. Conrad Sangma presenting laptops to meritorious students at the Meghalaya IT Awards ceremony held at the Soso Tham Auditorium, Shillong on July 8, 2008.



Meghalaya Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Shri. Manas Chaudhuri speaking at the launch of EDUSAT Network at ICAR, Umiam on June 30, 08. The Minister was also accompanied by Mrs Ampareen Lyngdoh, Parliamentary Secretary, Elementary and Mass Education and Parliamentary Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Mr. James K. Sangma.

NEWSREEL

Swearing



Dr. Donkumar Roy
Chief Minister



Hoping Stone Lyngdoh
Deputy Chief Minister



Timothy D. Shira
Deputy Chief Minister



Conrad Sangma
Finance Minister etc.



John Anthony Lyngdoh
Taxation Minister etc.



Manas Choudhury
I&PR Minister etc.

in of the MPA Government



E. C Bamon
Agriculture Minister etc.



Nimarson Momin
Social Welfare Minister etc.



A. L. Hek
PHE Minister etc.



Dr Adviser Pariong
Health Minister etc.



Paul Lyngdoh
Urban Affairs Minister etc.



Donkupar Massar
Mining & Geology Minister etc.

NEWSREEL



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Donkumar Roy after laying the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Public Health, Shillong at Mawdiangdiang.



Mr. J. A. Lyngdoh, local MLA and Minister of Food and Civil Supplies etc, while speaking at the inauguration of the IGNOU Study centre at St. Paul's Higher Secondary School Marbisu.



Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr Donkumar Roy presenting a memento to the former Governor of Meghalaya, Shri. S. S. Sidhu during the latter's farewell function held at Pinewood Hotel, Shillong.



Meghalaya Minister of Information and Public Relations, Shri. Manas Chaudhuri talking with members of the Press during the Interactive Session at Pinewood Hotel, Shillong.



Meghalaya Urban Affairs Minister, Mr. Paul Lyngdoh speaking at the launch of the "Clean Shillong Campaign" at Motphran, Shillong.



Commissioner & Secretary, Government of Meghalaya Shri. A. Som inaugurating the 25th District Level Industrial Exhibition 2008 at All Saints Cathedral Hall, Shillong.



Battling the Malaria Menace

Malaria continues to be a major public health problem in India, despite 60 years of continuous efforts to control it. Statistics show that annually Malaria incidence in the country is about 2 million cases with 1000 deaths annually. Closer to home, in Meghalaya, as reported in 2007, there were 33,979 positive cases, and Pf percentage was 82.9 % with 237 deaths in the State. Most of the reported deaths were from West Garo Hills at 117 nos.

Meghalaya offers congenial climatic conditions for malaria transmission which mostly occurs in remote and rural areas, forest, hills and development project sites, changing life styles, rapid urbanization and developmental activities, newer human settlements, inadequate water management systems and population migration has led to the increase risk of malaria in urban areas.

In order to tackle the problem, the State Government under the aegis of the Central Government has taken up a number of Anti-malarial programmes in different parts of the State stressing on early diagnosis and prompt treatment, integrated vector management, information, education and communication, epidemic preparedness and rapid response and capacity building. In spite of these initiatives, the problem persists but the fight continues.

Every year prior to the onset of monsoon, Anti Malaria month is observed in the month of June, as during this period the risk of malaria increases on account of increased breeding of vector mosquitoes, responsible for spreading malaria. In observance of Anti Malaria Month 2008, a State Advocacy Meeting was held at the Conference Hall of the Main Secretariat building wherein the Chief Minister Dr. Donkumar Roy was the Chief Guest.

On the occasion, various speakers highlighted the problems caused by Malaria and stressed on ways to prevent deaths due to malaria in the state.

To fight against malaria the government needs collaborative effort from all angles. The active involvement of NGOs, local representatives,

Rangbah Shnong, community volunteers and other government department is very vital for the success of the programme. The role played by MLAs or local representative is very crucial to make community aware of the facilities available in the rural areas. Frequent visits by the MLA to the respective CHC/PHC to take stock of the malaria situation in area will make a great difference in improving the quality of health care in the CHC/PHC in the rural area.

The Anti Malaria month campaign is launch for prevention and control of malaria through Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) which entails enhanced awareness regarding source and transmission, risk reduction, treatment and availability of services at different levels. Promotion of altitudinal and value changes among target audiences, stimulation of increased and sustained demand for quality prevention, care services and optimal utilization of available health care sources, building support for the programme across inter-sectoral partner, influential sectors of society and health care service providers and elicit commitment for action also falls within the ambit of the Campaign.

Under the Campaign, the strategy adopted for social mobilization includes bringing together all inter sectoral partners, health care providers and the community to determine felt needs and raise awareness of and demand for social development objective. Partnership with NGO's, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Local Self Government (Panchayat) is envisaged under NVBDCP. The objective is to provide uniformity in diagnosis, treatment and monitoring through a wider programme base to maximize access to anti malaria treatment and appropriate and locally applicable vector control measures. Such collaboration is also expected to initiate effective and sustained efforts towards community mobilization and initiation of behaviour change. NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, Panchayat would complement and supplement the Government efforts to make a significant dent in the malaria burden and bring about betterment of overall health and economic condition of the population in the endemic areas for malaria.

ANTHU

The Garo

Anthuriums are some of the most dramatic and striking flowers that one can use in arrangements in the house, especially in the drawing or sitting room where they are sure to draw the attention of the visitors and invariably become the focal point of conversation.

Anthurium is a tropical plant having showy spathe, long vase life, bold effect and attractive myriad colours grown for cut flower. Anthurium andreanum belongs to the family of Araceae. Its name is derived from the Greek word anthos-flower referring to the spathe and aura referring to the spadix-tail. It has mainly two important species-an anthurium andreanum commonly known as the Painter's palette which is commercial anthurium and anthurium schezerianum known as the Flamingo flower.

An evergreen plant of up to 45 cm with many tough, deep green, oblong cordate leaves on long green stems and waxy palette shaped flower spathes each with a protruding white or coloured spadix.

In anthurium, the flower is actually an inflorescence called 'spadix' with a slender floral axis and bearing a large number of small sessile flower. It is covered by a modified leaf or bract which is often ornamental and bright coloured called the "spathe".



The spathe is the most attractive part of the floral type of anthuriums. Spathe colour varies from white, pink, coral orange, brown, red crimson to deep maroon. Some varieties have spathes of two to three colours or may produce doubled coloured spathes called obkai type.

The ideal anthurium spadix with a high market value has a long straight stalk with a firm neck holding the spadix up above the leafy canopy, large heart shaped spathe with symmetrical halves, shallow and deep blisters and overlapping basal lobes, short candle curling towards the top of the spathe and held at an angle of less than 45 degrees.

The anthurium's bold effect and myriad colours has at a glance captivated everyone's eyes who pass by it. Introduced recently, this exotic flower has redefined the charm and beauty of floral arrangement in any social function and other celebration of different occasions by making its presence felt. The credit for its popularity goes to the success of the pilot project at the Centre of Excellence for anthurium at Samgong, Williamnagar. The success lies in the fact that from an area of 4000m² which houses about 40,000 number of plants cultivated using the state of art technology produces 800 flowers daily and throughout the year. But at the moment 600 to 650 cut flowers are harvested daily. The cut flowers meet the standard parameters and are being exported to England and Dubai besides being absorbed in the



RUMS

Hills Experience



metropolitan cities like Delhi and Kolkatta. The planting materials of the anthurium flower comprises of 8 varieties viz Tropical, Sirion, Calore, Sunglow, Rosa, Nexia, Savia, President. These planting materials were imported from Anthura company based in Holland. The cut flowers are graded and packed according to size like Jumbo, Extra large, Large, Medium, Small, Mini, Peewee.

The success of the pilot project gives enough confidence to translate it in the farmers field. Therefore, the area expansion for the year 2005 – 2006 was taken up in and around Williamnagar only.

In the farmers' field the varieties comprise of Esmeralda, Chichas, Flame, Salasaga, Emperoe, Ivory, Splendid, Ceasar, Monroe, Grace, Benocito imported from Florist Holland. The other varieties such as New White, Samantha, Joy, Laurentien and New Green imported from Avo Plants based in Holland.

Apart from the plants seedlings farmers are also supplied with other components like Cocopeat, shade net drip irrigation, PP chemicals, fertilizer, etc. The required resources and resource services are extended to the farmers.

MUST KNOW ABOUT ANTHURIUM

Upon receiving your package, open boxes immediately and put flowers in a cool place. Best storing temperature is 500 - 600 F. Unpack the flowers immediately and carefully. Donot crease or fold the heartshaped part of the flower which will cause the injured areas to darken. After removing the wrapping sleeve, refresh blooms with a spray of water mists or you can completely submerge flowers in warm water for ten to fifteen minutes.

Then cut ¼ inch (approximately 1cm) from stems – if possible while the stem is submerged in water. Place the flowers in a clean vase of warm water (800 to 1000 F) and one that contains clean water (with or without floral preservatives).

Avoid storing anthuriums at temperature lower than their ideal 550 F for any length of time. This way you'll reduce the likelihood of a chilling injury, which causes the flower to darken.

Blooms should be kept away from direct sunlight and heat sources. They will last longer at cooler temperatures, but will suffer from cool drafts.

Anthurium will last 4 to 6 weeks as stems and can be used for cut flower arrangements as well as for corsages, boutonnieres and bouquets.

Vase life is 10 to 45 days. When working these flowers, you will cut, dip and place in water. Flower food has no significant benefit to these flowers. Keep vase water clean as anthurium stems are very susceptible to the stem blockage.



NEWS ROUND UP

LAPTOPS FOR BOARD EXAM TOPPERS

With a view to encourage meritorious students and also to ignite a healthy spirit of competition among students in the State, the State Information Technology Department felicitated 96 toppers of SSLC, HSSLC, ICSE and CBSE examinations in a function held at the Soso Tham Auditorium on July 7, 08. Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Donkumar Roy attended the function as the Chief Guest while Higher and Technical Education Minister Mr. Manas Choudhury was the Guest of Honour. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Hopping Stone Lyngdoh, Power Minister Mr. Conrad Sangma, Meghalaya Chief Secretary, Mr. Ranjan Cahtterjee and Parliamentary Secretaries Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh and Mr. James Sangma.

Laptops were awarded to the meritorious students including seven students who scored cent per cent marks in Maths, Science, and Computer Applications. For the first time, a special award was constituted acknowledging the differently abled wherein Gregory Pyngrope, who graduated from San Mer Secondary School Upper Shillong, was also facilitated. Inflicted by polio, Gregory who secured a first division with distinction in five subjects accepted the award from the Chief Minister while being carried by a friend on the back.

While addressing the gathering, Dr. Donkumar Roy, cautioned the achievers never to be complacent as topping the examination was only the beginning and not the end of the road. Stating that many challenges and competitions will be faced by them in the future, Dr Roy urged upon the students to work hard with stronger determination and commitment. Further he rued the absence of students from the State studying at the Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management, Shillong.

Adding his thoughts, Mr. Manas Choudhuri said excelling in studies should not be the sole aim of the students. "You need to be good citizens as well", he told the young minds while reminding them of their responsibilities towards the state and the Nation as a whole.

It maybe mentioned that this is the second time that the government has awarded meritorious students.

STATE TO BE CONNECTED BY RAILHEAD

The Union Railway Minister of State, Mr. R. Velu during his visit to the State informed that Meghalaya together with other states of the North East will soon get railhead connectivity. Addressing a news conference, Mr. R Velu said that two major Railway projects have been sanctioned for Meghalaya, the Azara Byrnihat and Dudnoi Mendipathar railway lines, which he hope will be operational by 2012.

The construction of the proposed 25 Km railway line from Azara Assam to Byrnihat Ri Bhoi was expected to start in November this year. The railway will cover 12 km in Meghalaya and 13 km in Assam. The total cost of the project is Rs 200 crore.

The Union Minister also said that work on the 86 crore project for the 20 km railway line from Dudnoi, Assam to Mendipathar, Garo Hills will likely start in early November. He further said the proposed Byrnihat Shillong railway line project would require huge funds as it would cover a huge terrain.

FIRST IIM OF THE NORTHEAST INAUGURATED

The long-awaited Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RGIIM) was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Dr. Donkumar Roy on July 4, 08, kick starting its first academic session from its temporary campus at Mayur Bhanj, Shillong. RGIIM, the seventh in the country and the first in the North – East, formally starts the first class for PGDBM students on July 5, 08. Sixty four students out of 136 who appeared for the CAT examination qualified to enter the Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management located at Mayur Bhanj, Shillong.

Out of the 64, there are only ten girl students. They are an eclectic group coming mainly from the metros of Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore and Lucknow. Only three students from the North East could make it to the prestigious institute. All three are from Guwahati.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Chief Minister Dr. Donkumar Roy said the Shillong IIM would make valuable contribution towards the growth of careers of local students as well as the development of the State.

He also hoped that the institute would promote work culture and reading habit among people of Meghalaya and improve managerial skills of State bureaucrats through short term courses in the IIM.

"The work culture here is well below the desired standard and people have no reading habit. Hopefully, the IIM would bring some transformation in these areas", Dr. Roy said.

He felt that RGIIM would bolster the image of Shillong as a premier centre of higher education in the North East.

"The State Government has a dream to make Shillong the educational hub of the region. This will be possible only if people come forward to set up different institutions in the city", he said.

The Chief Minister said the government was also encouraging private investors to come and invest in the field of education in the state.

"IIM is a brand name and I am hopeful that IIM, Shillong would be able to retain this brand enquiry", Dr. Roy said.

Referring to the fact that the first batch of students for

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the PG programme in the institute did not include any from the State, he said, "I am confident that the first batch of students of this prestigious institution would serve as role models for local students, besides infusing a sense of enthusiasm among them to become part of the IIM in the near future".

Addressing the first batch of students, he said, "You will be the most remembered batch and the reputation of this institute depends on how you perform".

Dr. Roy observed that inauguration of RGIIM was a dream come true for Meghalaya as it had taken years for the government to convince the Centre to set up the institute in the State.

According to the Chief Minister, the State Government has allotted 50 acres of land for construction of permanent campus of RGIIM in New Shillong. The government is also ready to provide more land if the institute requires it in the coming years.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister TK Nair, who also participated in the function, said in the 11th Five – Year Plan the Centre had quadrupled the amount allocated for education.

"The lion's share of money is being allocated for higher education. Out of the total amount allocated for higher education, there will be huge outflow towards setting up of eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and seven new Indian Institutes of management (IIMS), including one in Shillong, in various parts of the country", Mr Nair said.

He said the IIM, Shillong is a new beginning for the northeastern region which is actually claiming its legitimate due. The Government of India is trying to reach out to remote corners of the country to provide institutes of academic excellence, he said.

Referring to the uneven spread of educational institutes of excellence in the country, Mr. Nair emphasized the need for more such institutes in different regions to unlock the human resource potential and contribute the true emancipation of the human mind.

He also pointed out that an integrated national knowledge network for pooling of knowledge resources, promoting collaborative research and sharing of best practices which would be connected by digital broadband, would soon be in place.

Shillong IIM Director Prof. Ashoke K Dutta said though no local student had made it to the institute this time, he was confident that all the students of the first batch would act as ambassadors of Meghalaya and project the State to the global marketplace once they left RGIIM. Head Strong Inc, USA chairman Arjun Malhotra and IIM, Shillong Board of Governors chairman R.N Dutta also spoke at the function.

On the occasion, the students took their oath to "avoid unethical shortcuts and unfair means even when faced with high degree of competition". The students vowed to prudently use all resources, to follow the rules in force and not to collude with forces inimical to the growth of the institute.

Pioneer of the IT Industry, Arjun Malhotra who flew in from San Hosea read from Tagore's poem "Where the Mind is Without Fear" expounding each line as a morale booster for the students. After you have earned your spurs "Go out and change the world", he urged them.

EDUCATION MINISTER INAUGURATES EDUSAT NETWORK

Education in the State was given a huge fillip with the launch of EDUSAT Network, by the Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Mr. Manas Chaudhuri on June 30, 08. An Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) initiative, the EDUSAT Network was launched in coordination with North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Umiam.

Meghalaya is the second state in the Northeast after Tripura to achieve this technological feat in the field of distant education. Under the EDUSAT Network, the Education Department hopes to improve the method of teaching and learning at different levels of education with 50 interactive terminal satellites. The EDUSAT Network with the Main Hub located at the Head Office of DERT, Shillong is connected via Satellite Interactive Terminals set up in 7 District Institutes of Educational Training, 3 Polytechnics, 4 Colleges of Teacher Education and 36 schools spread all over the State. The new facility is also aimed at bridging the gap between teaching and student communities for quality education in rural and urban areas of Meghalaya.

Speaking on the occasion as the Chief Guest, Mr. Chaudhuri said that the EDUSAT Network would be an effective channel in disseminating education and supplementing the training and learning process by reaching out to the learners through Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs). With the help of this Satellite connectivity it would facilitate teaching and learning at different levels of education in the State and bridging the educational gap, he added.

Mr. Chaudhuri also hoped that the system will act as an instrument in social change by altering the human perspective and transforming the traditional mindset of the teacher and student in particular and the community at large.

Minister appealed to all the teachers and the students to take advantage of the opportunity so as to derive maximum benefit and raise the standard of education in the State and make Meghalaya a model State in the field of Education. He also spelled out the plan and programmes of the Education Department to be implemented in the times to come.

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Mrs Ampareen Lyngdoh, Parliamentary Secretary, Elementary and Mass Education while addressing the gathering said that, with the launching of EDUSAT Network Meghalaya has become at par with the rest of the nation and joined the global village in the field of education. She also hoped this system will sustain, grow and be acceptable to the people of the State. She stressed on the importance to ensure continuity and sustainability of the system for the benefit of the people at large and improve the quality of education with greater coverage and scope to retain more students in schools.

Parliamentary Secretary, Higher and Technical Education Mr. James K. Sangma in his speech said that technology touches and transform our daily life and with the launching of EDUSAT Network, it will accelerate the process of education and that the teachers and students from

different parts of the State will be able to learn and interact via Satellite.

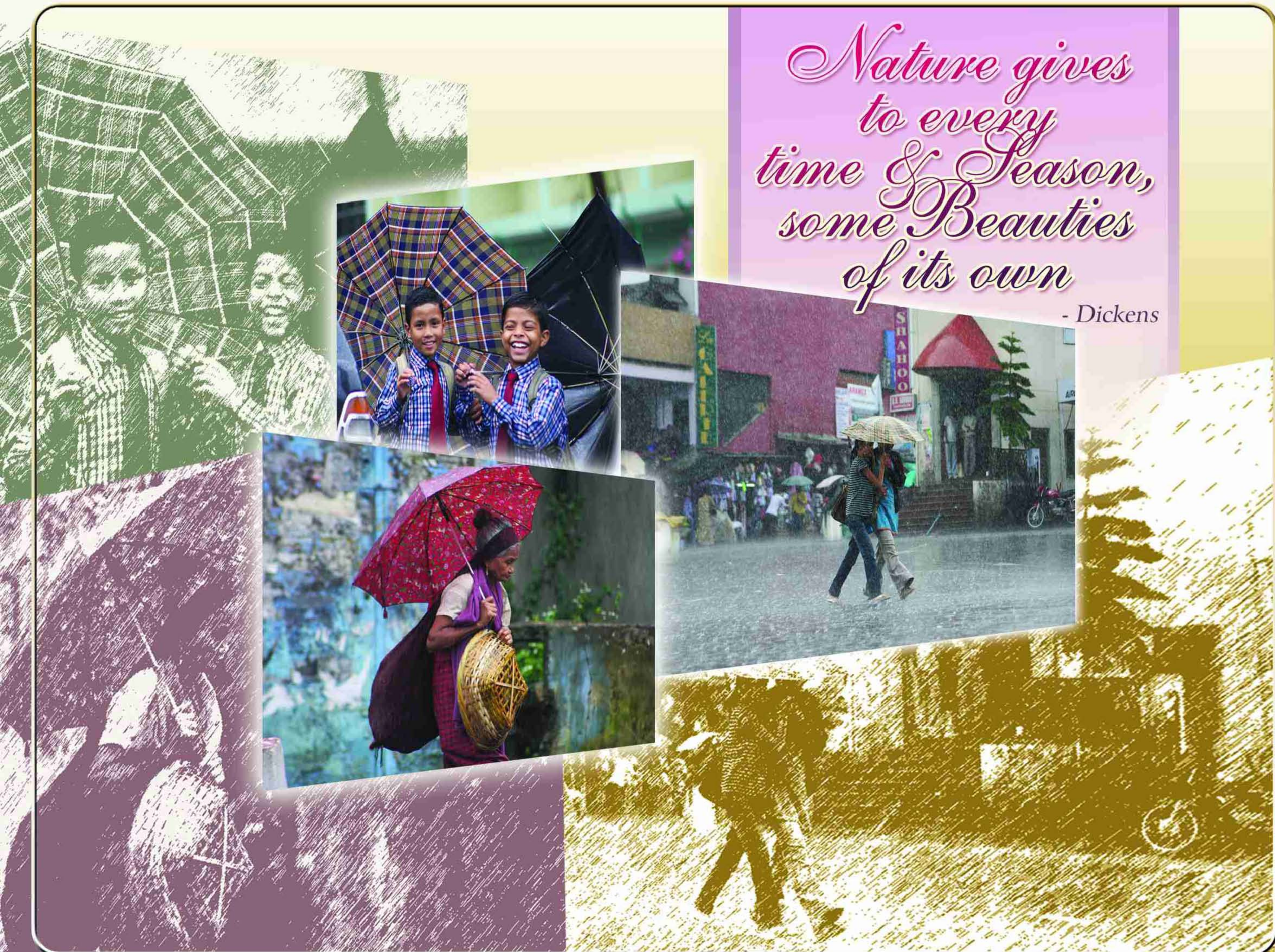
Earlier, Mr. Manas Chaudhuri inaugurated the EDUSAT Hub followed by live interaction between the Minister, Parliamentary Secretaries and Officials from the Education Department with teachers and students from different SITs across the State while Mrs. Ampareen Lyngdoh inaugurated the new DERT Guest House located at the DERT premises, Shillong.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were Dr. P.P. Nageshwar Rao, Director, NESAC, Umiam, Dr. K.S. Dasgupta, Director, DECU, ISRO, Ahmedabad.

Mr. L. Roy, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary, Education Department delivered the welcome address and Smt. L. R. Sangma, IAS, Director Educational Research and Training proposed the vote of thanks.

*Nature gives
to every
time & Season,
some Beauties
of its own*

- Dickens



KNOW YOUR CHIEF MINISTER

Born on November 10, 1954, Dr. Donkupar Roy did his schooling up to Class VI from Ram Krishna Mission School at Shella. After this, he moved to Cherra Presbyterian High School, Sohra and appeared for his matriculation from here.

In pursuit of a higher education he moved to Shillong where, following his post-graduation he went on to pursue a doctorate in economics from the Northern Eastern Hill University. A simple, hard working man, Dr. Roy always maintained a low profile and worked as a professor of Synod College, Shillong from 1990 to 1998 before entering full time politics.

His foray into politics began in the year 1987 when he contested and won the election from Shella Assembly constituency bordering Bangladesh as an Independent candidate in 1987.

He was re-elected to the Assembly in 1993 and then joined UDP just before the 1998 State Assembly elections. He retained the Shella seat for the three consecutive times on UDP ticket.

He held several important portfolios, including Health, Education, Finance and Planning Implementation, in the D. D. Lapang Ministry before being elevated to the rank of Deputy Chief Minister. Dr. Roy was chosen as the chief ministerial candidate of the Meghalaya Progressive Alliance on March 19, 2008. He is married to Rose Mary Synrem and has four daughters and two sons.

As forms of recreation, Dr. Donkupar Roy loves to read, play chess and go fishing.

Dr. Donkupar Roy
Chief Minister



Learning is the art of knowing how
to use common sense to advantage.

– Josh Billings

The first point of wisdom is
to discern that which is
false; the second to know
that which is true.

– Lactanius

Some folks are wise,
and some are
otherwise

- Tobias Smollett

Rise above the restrictions
and conventions of the
world but not so high as to
lose sight of them.

- Richard Garnett

People learn something
everyday, and lots of times,
it's that what they learn the
day before was wrong

– B.V