

NEHU PANORAMA



MAY 2023

RISE UP & BUILD

VOLUME - 1 ISSUE - V

PATRON



FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE - CHANCELLOR

I am glad that the NEHU e-journal “NEHU Panorama” editorial team’s hard work is paying off. With editions coming out every month, the journal is making waves not only among the University community but also among the readers who eagerly follow the activities of NEHU. This issue of the journal is excellent and it has certainly covered all the events that took place in the University in the month of May’2023.

I extend my best wishes to the editorial team of the journal and hope that they keep on doing the good work to take our University to higher echelon.

Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla
Vice-Chancellor

NEHU secures 15th position among top Universities in India



Date: May 29th, 2023 : North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong secured 15th rank among the top central Universities in the country in the latest Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2023. Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla, the Vice-Chancellor of NEHU while congratulating the faculty, administrative staff, students all the stakeholders of the varsity said that the goal of making NEHU known to the rest of the world has begun. He said that the IIRF – 2023 although not same as the NIRF ranking framework, is a step towards achieving greater goals and that the University has been working towards it. “The Covid Pandemic has affected everyone and it did not leave even the academics. NEHU has similarly been impacted by the pandemic, however with the IIRF rank of 15th, NEHU has solidified its position among the top Universities among the country”, he said. Joining as the Vice-Chancellor of the premier university in the North-East during the peak of the pandemic, Prof Shukla has taken many initiatives to bring back NEHU to its shining colours. The University now boasts of having many centres catering to different needs of the present times like the Design Innovation Centre, Office of International

Affairs, Research and Development Cell, Dr. Ambedkar Centre of Excellence in Shillong Campus while Bio Incubator Centre, Livelihood Incubation Centre in Tura Campus. The University also has plans to open a Skill Development Centre to offer certificate courses in different trades which will help the youth of the region become skilfully employable. The Vice-Chancellor also said that the University is actively working for the placement of the students as well through the placement and training cell and has conducted many placements drives to make sure that maximum students get placed as soon as they graduate from the University. Dalmia Cements recently hired another batch of students within a span of six months, emami has also started hiring process of students of NEHU while the University has signed MoU with a Sodexo, a multi-national company which will hire students for apprenticeship, internship and employment. The Vice-Chancellor said that the University’s next major goal is to secure a good NIRF ranking and to take the University to higher echelons and serve the society, state and the region by serving the students.

NEHU celebrates its University Day by connecting with the Mawkynroh Locality through its Rangbah Shnong

Date: May 26th, 2023 : Perhaps for the first time in its history, the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong celebrated its University Day by inviting the Rangbah Shnong (Headman) of Mawkynroh, the village in which the varsity campus is nestled, as the Chief Guest of the function which took place today. Shri. Longshai Nongkhlaw, the headman of Mawkynroh in his speech wished the University Fraternity for the University Day and also thanked the Vice-Chancellor for inviting him. He said “As a headman of the locality, I want to convey before you that there is a lot of development that is needed to be made. My beloved students the future is in your hands. Education is a great weapon. If we have to make a change we have to be a change. Therefore, on this special day I would like the students to come forward and work harder.” Concluding his speech, the headman said

Prof. Shukla, the Vice-Chancellor of the University in his speech thanked the founding members of the University and said that “Fifty years is a long time, we have seen several generation come and go in these fifty years. And this University has also seen many generations of teachers, staff, scholars and students contribute



to the growth of this University.” He also thanked the administration staff and said “A University is a place where academics is of utmost importance. But I also know very well that administration is also an important part of the University without which perhaps we would come to a standstill.”

The function also witnessed the speeches delivered by the presidents of NEHUTA, NEHUNSA and NEHUSU. The President of NEHUTA, Prof. L. Kma said that NEHU has a lot to do, the University is not the same as it was 10-15 years ago and the Vice-Chancellor has a lot of responsibilities to bring back the lost glory of the University while Dr. W. Synrem, the President of NEHUNSA stated that the University has achieved a lot but still has a long way to go and it requires the hard work of entire NEHU community to bring back NEHU to the level it was known for.

National Seminar on Natural Farming in North-East India & E-launch of Gujarat Bhavan at NEHU, Shillong



Date: May 21st, 2023 : A one-day national seminar on “Natural Farming in North-East India: A Vision towards Sustainable Agriculture, Livelihood and Nutritional Security” was organised by the BIRAC’s BioNEST Bio-Incubator (B3I) Facility, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Tura Campus in association with ICAR Regional Centre - North Eastern Hill Areas (RC-NEH), Umiam, Meghalaya; Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell, NEHU and Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS), Gujarat University (GU) on Sunday, May 21st, 2023, at the U Kiang Nangbah Guest House (Old Guest House), NEHU, Shillong. The inaugural session of the program was graced by the Chief Guest Acharya Devvrat, Hon’ble Governor of Gujarat; Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Meghalaya and Chairperson of the session; and special guests Dr. V. K. Mishra, Director, ICAR RC – NEH Region, Meghalaya; Prof. Mayuriben Bhatia & Shri. Shwetal Sutaria, Executive Council Members of Gujarat University.

Acharya Devvrat, Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat congratulated NEHU and IIS, GU for working together for the benefit of the academia, society and the country at large. He said this is the true beginning of the "Amrit Kaal ka Bharat" uniting the country under "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat." Lastly, the concluding remarks were delivered by Prof.

B. Panda, Honorary Director, ICSSR NERC, Shillong as Chairman of the session and Dr. Dinesh Bhatia, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, NEHU, Meghalaya as Repertoire. The program ended on a good note with an affirmation of the need for adopting Natural Farming for sustainable development.

Recruitment Drive conducted by Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd. At NEHU in six months period



Date - May 13th, 2023 : Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd. Conducted yet another recruitment drive at NEHU campus on 13th May 2023 within six months' time. A large number of passed-out and final-year students from various Departments like Chemistry, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Energy Engineering, Horticulture, Geology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Rural and Agricultural Production, and Commerce appeared in the interview. After the day-long interview, the company selected six students for Apprenticeship. Two students were selected from the Department of Geology and one student got selected from each of the Departments of Chemistry, Energy Engineering, Environmental Studies, and Horticulture. NEHU is in touch with many other companies to absorb the students. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla is working hard in building industry-academia relationships and leading from the front to improve the student placement record.

Third Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp gets underway in NEHU

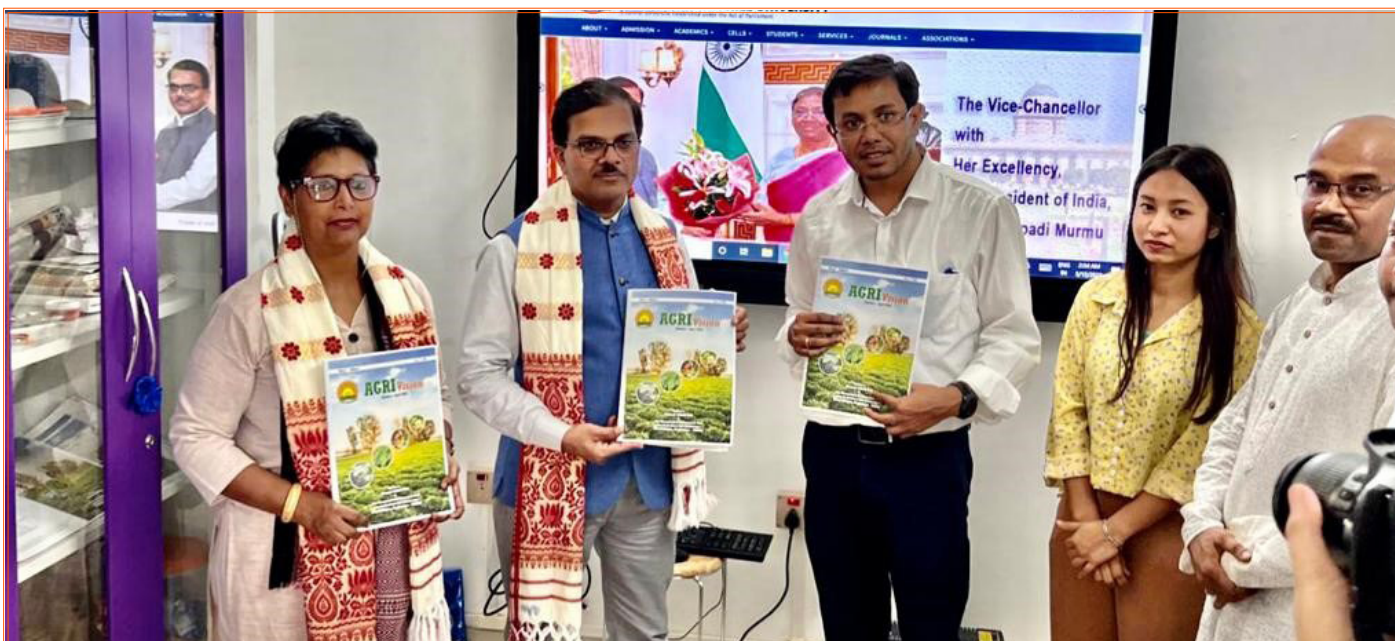
Date - May 15th, 2023 : The Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp (EAC) sponsored by the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), GoI got underway in the NEHU campus. The course is being organized by the Department of Biomedical Engineering, NEHU sponsored by Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), Ahmedabad from 12th to 15th May, 2023. More than 75 students from the different backgrounds are attending this three days camp. The experts from industry and academia who would be deliberating with the participants to make them aware about entrepreneurship, start-up, innovation,

marketing an idea and generation of resources for product commercialization. This is the third EAC camp being organized in the University. The course was inaugurated on 12th May, 2023 by Dr. Sudip Paul, Teacher-Incharge, BME Department, NEHU, Dr. Dinesh Bhatia, Course Coordinator and Mr. Shyamal Mandal in the Biomedical Engineering Department, NEHU, Shillong. During the welcome speech, Dr. D. Bhatia, the Course Coordinator outlined the objectives of organizing the entrepreneurship awareness camp for young entrepreneurs and how it would benefit the society in the long run. He highlighted the available opportunities and challenges for the young entrepreneurs who wish



to venture in the field of start-ups and innovations especially when India has recently become as the world's most populous country overtaking China. He profusely thanked both the Central and State governments for their whole hearted support in organizing such camps in the region from time to time.

Inauguration of “Agri Vision” Magazine of Biotech Kisan Hub and Bio-Resources Development Hub, NEHU, Tura Campus



Date - May 13th, 2023 : An inauguration programme for the first issue of “AGRI Vision” magazine of Biotech KISAN Hub and Bio-Resources Development Hub, North-Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus, Meghalaya was organized at Biotech KISAN Hub, NEHU, Tura Campus, Meghalaya on 13/05/2023 at NEHU, Tura Campus, Meghalaya. The first issue of “AGRI Vision” magazine of Biotech KISAN Hub and Bio-Resources Development Hub, North-Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus, Meghalaya was inaugurated by Prof. Prabha Shankar Shukla, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, North-Eastern Hill University, Meghalaya in the presence of Prof. Sujata Gurudev, Campus In-Charge, North-Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus, Meghalaya; Dr. Arindam Barman, Project Coordinator (Biotech KISAN Hub & Bio-resources Development Hub) & Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, NEHU, Tura Campus, Meghalaya; and other teaching and non-teaching member of the university. The “AGRI Vision” magazine will help in disseminating information to the grassroots and to all such agencies, institutes, organizations and stakeholders in the industry, abreast them with latest developments in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. This magazine will give a platform to the researchers, scientists, students, innovative, and progressive farmers and also to all the other members of scientific community to share their innovative ideas and to spread awareness by publishing articles addressing the current and future needs.

'Engaging Political Theory' – Talk by Prof Ashok Acharya



Date: April 24th, 2023 : The Indian Council of Social Science Research in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, North Eastern Hill University, presented an invited lecture by Prof Ashok Acharya on the topic 'Engaging Political Theory' on the 24th of April 2023. Prof Acharya is currently teaching in the Department of Political Science, Delhi University and is a Global Justice Fellow in Yale University.

Prof Acharya also tried to de-parochialize the concept of political theory, so that there is a bridge between Western and Indian political theory. He introduced the idea of building conceptual bridges between various traditions of political theory to help better

understand the complexities of the nature of the society we live in. Through drawing the attention of the audience towards, the current global wealth/income inequalities, resource scarcity, traditional and non-traditional threats to human security etc like wars, violence, poverty, majoritarianism etc, Prof, Acharya re-stated the need to collectively understand not only the nature and function of political theory but also to engage with broader disciplinary questions about what relevance does political theory occupy for many of us. He concluded the lecture by stating that, a general scepticism about political theory must be kept entirely separate from the more specific scepticism directed against particular kinds of political theorizing.

Department's Farewell program for Prof. Henry Lamin



Date: May 19th, 2023 : The Department of Political Science, North Eastern Hill University organised a lecture by D. Thirumaran on the topic, 'Left Wing Extremism-A Challenge to National Security' on 19th of May 2023. D. Thirumaran is an Assistant Professor and the Head of Defence and Strategic Studies in Voorhees College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

The speaker started his lecture by introducing the audience to the concept of three dimensions of security as it is understood in literature related to IR-

the internal, external and externally induced internal security threats. The lecture attempted to analyse the causes of Naxalism in India by tracing it's past to its present developments. The Speaker highlighted the various mechanisms and policies undertaken by the Government of India to control the Naxalite Movement and bring forward peace and security in the region.

Further, in the lecture, D. Thirumaran elaborated the grassroots level causes and problems faced by the people in the 'Naxalite affected' areas and the

impact it has on the socio-economic development of the region. He argued that, once the causes of Naxalism as a political and ideological movement is addressed by the state from the perspective of finding a solution to end the movement within the democratic framework of dialogue, and deliberation, economic development can take its course seamlessly. He concluded the lecture by drawing the attention of

the audience towards the positive steps undertaken by the central government towards curbing the Naxalite movement the justified the government strategies and policies towards it. The talk ended in an atmosphere of optimism and hope when the speaker highlighted the glorious achievements of India in the recent past and the commendable pace of economic development under the current government.

National Youth Parliament gets underway at NEHU



Date: May 12th, 2023 : The National Youth Parliament started today at NEHU in which students from 26 institutions from over the country took part. Prof. Indrajit Dube, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Meghalaya graced the inaugural session of the two day program while Smt. Isawanda Laloo, IAS, Director, Department of Sports and Youth Affairs was the guest of honour who also gave the motivational speech to the young participants who immensely motivated and encouraged by her words. Smt. Laloo in her motivational speech spoke about the various social issues like unemployment, addictions, drug abuse, climate change etc and how the youth can be the beacon of change. Prof. Indrajit Dube, Vice-Chancellor, National Law University, Meghalaya and Chief Guest of the occasion spoke at large about the role of youth in the democracy and policy making.

The first day of the Youth Parliament saw students debating on two burning issues of the present times. Smt. Patricia Mukhim chaired the first session which saw the participants debate on ***“Should there be limits on free speech to protect against the hate speech?”*** After the speakers of both the house summed up the points, the Chair, Smt. Patricia Mukhim emphasised how important free speech is for a country like India and more importantly a free press where truths can be put forward without fear. The second day of the event kickstarted with another

debate session which was chaired by Smt. Abhilasha Mahapatra Basaiawmoit, Retired Indian Revenue Service, Commissioner Customs on the topic ***“Addressing Economic Polarisation in India: Causes, consequences and solutions.”*** The session chair in her introductory speech mentioned how India has progressed as a growing economy with increasing GDP and recently as the most populous country (1.42 billion) overtaking China.

The second session was chaired by Prof. K. Debbarma, Dean, School of Social Sciences, NEHU on the topic ***“National Education Policy, 2020: A Game-Changer or a Missed Opportunity?”*** Prof. Debbarma pointed another important issue that is the internationalisation of education under the NEP - 2020 so to keep the students from going abroad and giving the students quality education which they often opt for in foreign universities and also to attract students from outside by best internationalising the curriculum and standard of the education.

The Last debate session was chaired by Shri. Naba Bhattacharaya, Chairman, State expert appraisal committee, Govt. Of Meghalaya. The topic of the session was ***“Wealthy nation must take proactive steps to combat climate change”***. The session chair pointed out that climate change is considered a cliché in many countries.

Report on the Activity of the Department of Sociology for the Month of May, 2023



Date: May 16th, 2023 : The Department of Sociology in collaboration with SAATHII (Solidarity and Action Against The HIV Infection in India) organized a Sensitization Programme entitled “Towards inclusion of Transgender Individuals in Higher Educational Institutions” on the 16th of May, 2023 at the Cluster Classroom, NEHU Shillong.

The programme started with a welcome and inaugural address by Prof. B. Panda, Head, Department of Sociology, NEHU. The programme was introduced by Bakordor Lyngdoh Tron, Transgender Activist and Field Co-ordinator, SAATHII. There were two technical sessions. In first technical session, the Resource person was Biswa Bhusan Pattanayak, Assistant Director, SAATHII who made two presentations (i) Overview of the transgender and other gender and sexual minority communities. (ii) Way-forward towards making educational spaces inclusive.

The theme of the second technical session was gender and sexual minority communities: perspectives from Meghalaya. The resource persons were:

- (i) Bakordor Lyngdoh Tron, Transgender Activist and Field Coordinator, SAATHII
- (ii) Rebina Subba, Shamakami, Meghalaya
- (iii) Stephanie Marwein, Community member
- (iv) Dawansaka Synrem, Community member

There was also a question and answer session where many questions were asked by the students who interacted with the transgender activists and community members.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Rekha M Shangpliang, Department of Sociology, NEHU.

(The programme was an initiative under ‘Project Susthiti’ implemented by SAATHII, with support from Azim Premji Foundation).

Department of English, NEHU inaugurates the Lumiere Film Society with screening of movie “Joyland”.



Date: May 12th, 2023 : The Department of English, NEHU, inaugurated its film club, Lumiere Film Society, on 12th May 2023, with the screening of the movie Joyland directed by Saim Sadiq. The Head of the Department, Prof. Jyotirmoy Prodhani, inaugurated the event and expressed his delight for this initiative and commended the effort taken by the students of the department in realizing this project. Prof. Prodhani also gave a short speech, where he briefly talked about the importance of cinema in broadening perspectives, for students

of humanities, while also speaking a few words about the movie itself.

The screening conducted in the department was met with a full house, with audience consisting mainly of students, scholars and teachers. Discussions were held on the movie after the screening, which was coordinated by M.A. Second Semester students, Ravi Shashank and Muzamil Hassan. According to the welcome speech given by one of the coordinators of the club, Muzamil Hassan, Lumiere Film Society will aim to cultivate a space and a community, where cinema can

be celebrated, discussed and engaged with, and create a venue where opinions can be freely exchanged while exploring and appreciating the art of cinema. He also stated that to reach towards this vision, the film club will be holding regular weekly screenings, discussions, social media programs and more. The debut screening was successfully conducted and wrapped up after active discussions from the audience. The Lumiere Film Society will also be conducting more diverse events as the community grows, in the future.

Field Trip of MBA (TTM) Students to Yuksom, Sikkim



Date: May 29th, 2023 : The Department of Tourism and Hotel Management, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong organized a field trip-cum-adventure camp of thirty students pursuing MBA (TTM) programme to YUKSOM in West Sikkim from May 21 to 29, 2023 (inclusive of to and fro journey). Dr. Punit Gautam was in charge of this trip accompanied by Ms. Vigeenia Sun and Mr. Badap K. Kharsyntiew (office staff at the Department).

The programme, which was organized by Mountaineering and Adventure Institute, Gangtok, Sikkim under the dynamic leadership of everester Mr. Kunzang Gyatso Bhutia, encompassed of daily physical exercise scheduled in the early morning, to be followed by various adventure activities ranging from trekking, rock climbing, zipJining, zumarring, rappelling etc. The Programme also included excursions to Gangtok, Pelling and Kecheoperri lake where the group visited various mesmerizing tourist attractions

and had a chance to interact with the tourists belonging to other parts of the country in addition to understand the tourism mechanism of the state.

The participants also organized a cleanliness drive-after a trekking of about five kilometres (one way) - at Hungri Monastery: one of the oldest in the state. Their keenness to keep the mother earth clean and enthusiasm to support the mission SWACHH BHAMT was highly appreciated by the local residents. The programme concluded with certificate distribution ceremony and a gala cultural evening planned by the students showcasing the various music and dance forms of the state of Meghalaya and other parts of the country.

Overall the entire venture proved to be a lifelong experience to the students and the practical exposure they acquired will, certainly, be advantageous for the enhancement of their knowledge spectrum and job prospects in future.

A Glimpse of Meghalaya, “ Mawphlang Sacred Grove ”

Mawphlang Sacred Grove is a forest located in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, India. It is a place of great spiritual significance for the Khasi people, who have been the caretakers of the grove for generations. The Khasi people believe that the forest is home to many spirits and deities that are worshipped by the community. For this reason, the grove is considered a sacred place where visitors must show respect and reverence.

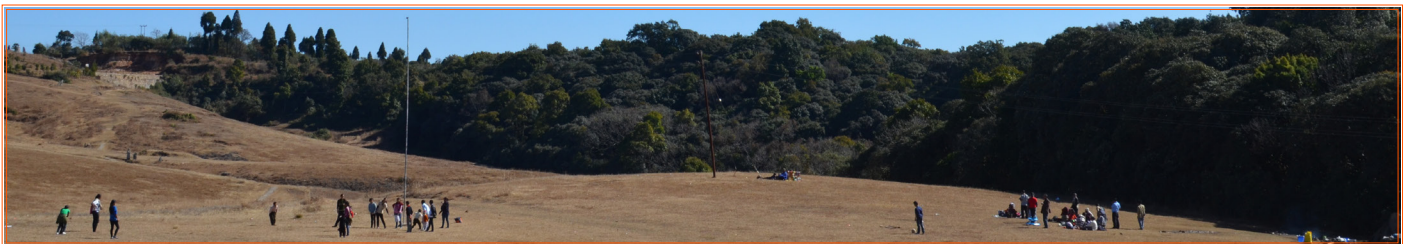


The forest is a unique place, with a rich biodiversity that is home to many rare plant and animal species. The Khasi people have long been committed to preserving the forest and its natural beauty, and have worked hard to maintain its delicate ecological balance. They believe that the forest is a living entity that must be protected and cared for, and have implemented a number of measures to ensure that the forest remains healthy and vibrant.

One of the most striking features of Mawphlang Sacred Grove is its ancient trees, some of which are over 800 years old. These trees are considered to be the guardians of the forest, and are revered by the Khasi people. The grove is also home to a number of beautiful waterfalls and streams, which add to the natural beauty of the area.

Visitors to Mawphlang Sacred Grove must be respectful of the forest and its inhabitants. The Khasi people believe that the forest is a sacred place, and visitors must show reverence and respect. This means that visitors must not litter, damage or remove any plants, or cause any harm to the animals that live in the forest. Visitors are also encouraged to learn about the Khasi culture and traditions, and to appreciate the spiritual significance of the forest.

In conclusion, Mawphlang Sacred Grove is a unique and beautiful place that is of great spiritual significance to the Khasi people. It is a place of natural beauty and biodiversity, and is home to many rare plant and animal species. Visitors to the grove must be respectful of the forest and its inhabitants, and must show reverence and respect for this sacred place.



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