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Unveiling Excellence

USTM Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA

Newsletter, March - September 2017

Wisdom Tree..

"Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident. There are four proven steps to achievement; having an aim in life before 20 years of age, acquiring knowledge continuously, hard work towards the aim and perseverance to defeat the problem and succeed", said Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and the world renowned space scientist. USTM team sets its milestones of "Mission Bronze"—to become a top university in the East by 2020, "Mission Silver"—to become one of the top universities in the country by 2025—and "Mission Gold"—to become one of the world class universities by 2030. I appeal to all the stakeholders to join us in our endeavor to transform this University into a world class institution and participate in the nation building process by producing trained human resources.

Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor

Vice Chancellor Speaks..

I am glad to present before you the current issue of our University Newsletter covering some of the major events of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya since mid-February 2017. The Newsletter would speak about the progress of activities of the University as this period has been marked by number of important events.

As the Newsletter tells about the appreciable activities taken place in the University academic ambiance, it gives me immense pleasure to experience the enthusiastic interest among the academia of the University. The Convocations for the University were momentous occasions to celebrate success. I congratulate the editorial team and advisors of the Newsletter for their sincere efforts in bringing out the publication on time.

Dr PG Rao, Vice Chancellor

VCs of three oldest universities at 2nd Convocation

The second Convocation of USTM was successfully held on 10 June. The event was graced by Vice Chancellors of three oldest universities of India : Prof Ashutosh Ghosh, VC, University of Calcutta, Prof Girish Ch.Tripathi, VC, Banaras Hindu University and Prof Sanjay V Deshmukh, VC, Mumbai University. Other digniteries include, Prof Dhruba Jyoti Saikia, VC, Cotton University, Prof Dilip Chandra Nath, VC, Assam University, Silchar and Prof GD Sharma, VC, Bilaspur University. A galaxy of distinguished guests and eminent academicians were also present on this auspicious occasion.

A total number of 583 students received degrees at different levels out of which 518 had received post-graduate degree, 61 students received under-graduate degree and four scholars were awarded Ph.D degree. A total number of 26 students, including UG, PG and Ph.D awardees were honoured with gold medals.

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Director, BARC addresses 2nd Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial Lecture

The 2nd Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial Lecture was organised at Techno City Campus on 16 September. Dr B S Tomar, Director, Radiochemistry and Isotope Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre delivered a lecture on 'Atoms in the Service of Mankind'. Dr T R Ganapathi, Head, Plant Cell Culture Technology Section, BARC was also present on the occasion, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Prof B S Tomar delineated on how atoms are used for the development of the society. Dr Tomar also had an interactive session with the students of USTM. Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM also addressed on the occasion and remembered Dr Kalam's visit to USTM in 2014 during North East College Principals' Conclave.

Nobel Peace Laureate lauded USTM's role

Nobel Peace Laureate and founder of the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), Kailash Satyarthi highly lauded USTM's role in the development of education in the North East and said that its founder Chancellor Mahbubul Hoque is a big dreamer and a charismatic leader in the field of education who has determination and strategic thinking to make this nation a highly educated and advanced nation. Satyarthi flagged off the Meghalaya part of his 'Bharat Yatra' march at a function held at USTM on 23 September. He agreed to set up a chapter of BBA in the University campus to speed up the movement in the North East.

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Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel laureate, addressing

IIT Guwahati Director addressing 2000 newly joined students

The Orientation Programme was inaugurated on 6 September for more than 2000 new undergraduate and postgraduate students of 38 disciplines. In his welcome address, USTM Chancellor Mahbubul Hoque announced 100 scholarships for both UG and PG students who aspire to qualify competitive exams both at the State and Central level. Keeping at par with USTM Pay-Back policy, four UGC-NET and CSIR-NET crackers from the University were paid back the entire amount of their course fees.

Prof Guatam Biswas, Director, IIT Guwahati, addressed as the Chief Guest of the programme. The programme was also addressed by Prof NC Talukder, Director, IASST. The orientation continued for a week in different departments which witnessed the congregation of a galaxy of eminent academicians, researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals from different universities and institutes of repute.

Prof Guatam Biswas, Director, IIT Guwahati addressing

Water Pledge Administered by Mrs. India United Nations 2017

On 22 March, World Water Day was observed in USTM. In an overwhelming gathering at USTM Techno City campus, the Water Pledge was administered by Roshni Hassan, Mrs. India United Nations 2017 and Mrs India Earth 2016.

University College of Physiotherapy launched

The University College of Physiotherapy was launched at USTM on 17 August at a grand ceremony. On the occasion, USTM Chancellor Mahbubul Hoque announced several future projects in the Techno City Campus, such as, Physiotherapy Hospital, Medical College cum Hospital and Yoga Hospital. Inaugurating this new venture of USTM, Prof Amarjyoti Choudhury, CV Raman Chair Professor, USTM and former VC, GU said that the College of Physiotherapy is expected to fulfil the demands of the students who took up physiotherapy as future career option.

'Pi' Day observed by Maths Dept.

The Department of Mathematics observed Pi Day on 14 March to celebrate the mathematical constant π (pi). The programme was inaugurated by Dr P G Rao, VC, USTM. The guest speaker of the programme was Dr Prabin Das, retired Professor, Arya Vidyapith College. The students of the Department had presented papers on various topics related to mathematics, such as, trigonometry, calculus, number theory and graph theory.

Talk on Nanotechnology orgnized by ECE Dept.

On 24 March, USTM and ECE Department, RIST organized a talk on 'Nano Technology and its Multidisciplinary Applications'. The talk was delivered by Prof Sunandan Baruah, HoD of Electronics & Communication, Assam Don Bosco University.

USTM fulfils UGC compliance

On 22 June 2017, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified that USTM has fulfilled the UGC Compliance for 12(B) status. The University is now eligible to apply for financial grants for research projects from UGC and organizations funded by Central Government

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VCs of three oldest universities...

Prof Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, eminent scientist and former VC, Tezpur University was conferred with honorary D.Sc. degree. Dr DD Lapang, former CM, Meghalaya, who has immensely contributed for the socio-economic development of the region, was conferred with honorary D.Litt. degree.

Prof Mihir K Chaudhuri & Dr DD Lapang receiving the honorary degrees handed over by Prof Girish Ch Tripathi & Prof Ashutosh Ghosh

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Nobel Peace Laureate lauded...

The Nobel laureate also participated in a brain-storming interactive session with the students of the University. More than 4000 USTM students participated in the march in Meghalaya.

A view of the march from USTM

Awards & Achievements

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Award to Mahbubul Hoque

The 2017 'Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Award' was conferred to Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM and Chairman ERDF on 3 April. The Award was conferred by the Barak Education Society, Silchar. The Award recognised Shri Hoque's immense contribution in the field of education in the North East in order to bring about a social revolution by educating the poor, under-privileged and backward class people, specifically minority Muslim women.

Mahbubul Hoque receiving the Award from Director, NIT, Silchar & VC, Assam University

Kriti Sylheti Samman to Mahbubul Hoque

M. Hoque receiving the Award

On the 23 April, Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM & Chairman of ERDF was conferred with the honour of 'Kriti Sylheti' at a grand ceremony held at Shilpagram Muktangan Guwahati. The honour was conceived as a token of recognition of his endless contribution for the development of NE region in the field of education.

USTM Media Excellence and Achievers Award 2017

Former Governor of Meghalaya with recipients of USTM Media Excellence Award

Achievers in the media world in the region were honoured by USTM on 29 July at an award ceremony at a city hotel in Guwahati. Shri RS Mooshahary, former Governor of Meghalaya, was the Chief Guest of the programme.

Social Work Excellence Award 2017

The Department of Social Work, USTM presented the Social Work Excellence Award 2017 to Mrinalini Devi, an eminent social activist, author, poet, and Sister Bertha G Dkhar, the Principal of Jyoti Sroat School for the Visually Impaired, Shillong. The award was given on the occasion of World Social Work Day on 21 March at the University campus.

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam remembered

On the occasion of the second death anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, USTM and RIST remembered him at an assembly organized under the roof of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Block, an academic building of USTM dedicated in the memory of Dr Kalam.

Honorary D.Litt. & D.Sc. Conferred to Dr Abdul Gafoor & Prof D Khathing

Dr Abdul Gafoor, renowned paediatrician from UAE and Bright India Foundation leader, who is working on healthcare and allied activities for underprivileged in India, conferred with honorary D. Litt, handed over by Hon'ble VC, JNU, Prof. Jagadesh Kumer at the third Convocation of USTM on 9 September. Dr Gafoor hails from Karala.

Prof Darlando Khathing, VC, North East Christian University, who has laid his stint as Nuclear Scientist through his numerous research works carried out at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre conferred with honorary D.Sc. in the third USTM Convocation.

Former DONER Minister launches NEGC 2017

Mani Shankar Aiyar, former DONER Minister and former NEC Chairman, addressing the participants

The Fourth North East Graduate Congress (NEGC) 2017 was successfully organized from 17 to 19 February at USTM campus. The event has been a platform for around 10,000 graduates across the north-eastern region. The fourth North East Graduate Congress began with grand cultural manifestations of eight sister states of the North East.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural function was Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Union Minister of DoNER and former Chairman, NEC Secretariat. He asserted that the potential of the north-eastern states can be rightly tapped and executed through proper planning. The Chancellor of USTM, Mahbubul Hoque, said that NEGC at USTM has become a place for counselling and cultural exchange.

Bird's eye view of the NEGC procession

A section of award recipients at NEGC

View of participants

Panel Discussion on "Youth, Politics and Corruption"

The panel discussion on *Youth, Politics and Corruption* took place on 18 February. The speakers were R G Lyngdoh, VC, Martin Luthar Christian University, Debobrata Saikia from INC, Dilip Borah, Vice President, AGP, Debodutta Borkakoti from BJP, Paul Lyngdoh from UDP and Abdur Rahman from AIUDF. The Panel Discussion was moderated by Wasbir Hussain, Executive Director, CDPS.

Panel Discussion session shared by all political party leaders

A sports event at NEGC 2017

Seminar & Workshops held

National Seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Business & Economic Development in India with reference to NE Region'

A two-day national seminar on *Emerging Trends in Business & Economic Development in India with reference to North Eastern Region* was organised by the Department of Business Administration, USTM in association with the Department of Business Administration, Tezpur University on 19 & 20 May. The Seminar was supported by ICSSR-NER, Shillong.

Dr RM Pant, Director, NIRD was the Chief Guest in the inaugural session of the Seminar. The Guests of Honour were Ashok Dutta, GM (T&I) Oil India Ltd, Sabyasachi Roy, State Head, Reliance Jio and Prof Mukulesh Baruah, Director, AIM, Guwahati. Dr Amiya Kr Sarmah, Executive Director RGVN, Guwahati delivered the Keynote Address.

Director NIRD, Dr RM Pant addressing

National Seminar on 'Ethnicity and Identity in the North East : Indian Writing in English'

A two-day-long National Seminar was held from 18 to 19 February 2017 on *Ethnicity and Identity in the Northeast: Indian Writing in English.* The Seminar was organized by the Department of English, USTM in association with the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

The Seminar began with a welcome song by the MA Students. This was followed by the speech of Dr PG Rao, VC, USTM. The Keynote speaker, Prof GJV Prasad, Centre for English Studies, JNU started off with a beautiful line "The Sun Rises Here". The key points that he highlighted were inherent conflict between "Us" and "Them", biggest marker of identity being 'gender', pre-existing notion that everything is fixed but which is not in reality, and so on.

Other guest speakers were Prof M Asaduddin, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof Bijay K Danta, Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur Central University, Prof Asha Kuthari Chaudhuri, Department of English, Gauhati University.

Meghalaya CM Inaugurates National Conference at USTM

A two-day-long National Conference was jointly organised by USTM and NEMA (North Eastern Management Association) on 10-11 October at the University Conference Hall on the theme 'Think Global, Act Local: Contemporary Sustainable Business Practices and Development'. The Conference was inaugurated by Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma while the Keynote Address was delivered by B.P. Mukteih, CMD, NDFi. More than 100 scholars and professionals from across the North East participated in the two-day Conference.

Dr Mukul Sangma addrssing the Conference

National Librarian Day observed by Dept. of Library & Information Science

The Department of Library and Information Science observed National Librarian Day on 12 August to mark 126th birth anniversary of Dr S Ranganathan, father of library science. The programme began with the lighting of lamps and speech by Dr P K Barooah, retired technical official, CSIR, NIST.

ISRO Space Science Exhibition inaugurated

ISRO event being launched by Prof Amarjyoti Choudhury, CV Raman Chair Prof of Applied Sciences, USTM

The two-day-long Vikram Sarabhai Space Exhibition was inaugurated at USTM on 11 September. The exhibition was organized by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Department of Space, Government of India in association with USTM and RIST. A host of eminent scientists, academicians and other dignitaries from different educational institutions were present on the occasion. The exhibition had a set of about 20 static panels related to remote sensing satellites and communication satellites, their applications, about Chandrayan-1/Mars Mission, models of camera of Mars Mission, satellite images, scale down models of launch vehicles like PSLV & GSLV, various satellite models of INSAT and IRS, OCM, Aryabhatta, RISAT, etc and a working model showing satellites orbiting around the earth.

Tura MP laid foundation stone of PA Sangma International Block

Conrad Sangma, MP & James K. Sangma, MLA laying the foundation stone

USTM paid homage to former Lok Sabha Speaker Late Purno Agitok Sangma on 25 May with the laying of foundation stone of PA Sangma International Block at the University campus. The foundation stone was laid jointly by two sons of PA Sangma—Conrad Sangma, Member of Parliament, Tura Constituency and James K Sangma, MLA, West Garo Hills.

200 college magazines from across NE in North East College Magazine Competition

The award ceremony for the winners of the Second Northeast College Magazine Competition organised by USTM was held at Hotel Landmark, Guwahati on 1 August. Young, energetic and promising writers, editors, graphic designers of different college magazines across the north-eastern states are encouraged and recognized for their creative talent through this competition. The award ceremony was inaugurated by former Meghalaya Governor Shri RS Mooshahary, who was the Chief Guest in the programme.

Ph.D Orientation Programme

Orientation for the newly enrolled Ph.D scholars was held on 2 March. Around 39 research scholars from different schools were enrolled in the academic session starting from January 2017. Purpose of the orientation was to make them understand the rules and regulations of the research proceedings, the mandatory one month course work that they have to undergo, etc.

English Dept. commemorates Shakespeare

The English Department of USTM observed William Shakespeare's 453rd Birth Anniversary on 23 April with a talk on Shakespeare's dramatics. Dr Asha Kuthari Choudhuri, Professor, Department of English, Gauhati University, was the Chief Guest of the programme.

Research Scholars' Guides' Meet

The Research Scholars' and Guides Meet was organised on 15 May for smooth functioning of the ongoing research works in the various departments of the University. Prof Chandan Sarma, Head of the Department of Sociology, Tezpur University was present as a distinguished speaker on the occasion. The meet was chaired by of USTM VC Dr P G Rao.

Anis Uz Zaman, Kabyaratna Award winner and renowned poet, speaking on the occasion of World Poetry Day at USTM

Rs 2.75 crore NewGen IEDC DST-EDI India project launched at USTM

USTM-New Generation Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre was formally inaugurated by PVSLN Murthy, Chief General Manager, SBI on 22 September in the presence of Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM and Manoj Kumar Das, Director, IIE. The programme is an initiative of National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and is being implemented by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India.

Science Model Competition on National Science Day

The Department of Physics, USTM celebrated the National Science Day on 28 February at the University campus. The Science Model competition was inaugurated by Prof Syed Iqbal Ali of Aligarh Muslim University. The Chief Guest of NSD-2017 was Dr D K Srivastava, Raja Ramanna Fellow and Former Director and distinguished scientist, Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata.

USTM students shine in IASST Science Model Competition

On the occasion of National Science Day on 28 February, the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) in association with Cotton College State University (CCSU) organized Science Model Exhibition at IASST Campus. Around 50 educational institutions from Assam had participated in the exhibition where all the three prizes were bagged by students of USTM and RIST.

World Consumer Rights Day Celebrated

The Department of Business Administration observed World Consumer Right's Day on 15 March. Dilip Jain, Advocate, Commissioner of Civil Court, Guwahati and Rita Majumder, Advocate, Mediator, Gauhati High Court delivered lectures on the significance of the day.

USTM celebrates World Intellectual Property Day

The Department of Library and Information Science has celebrated the World Intellectual Property Day under the theme of *Innovation - Improving Lives* on 26 April. Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, HOD, Dept. of Library and Information Science, GU and Dr Manoj Kumar Rana, Assistant Librarian, Central Library, NEHU were present as the guest speakers on the occasion.

Centre for Rural Dev. opened on Women's Day

The Department of Rural Development and Department of Social Work celebrated Women's Day on 8 March with the women of Jorbil Village and Maswami village of Baridua. The Department of Rural Development has also opened a Centre for Rural Development at Jorbil Village, Kling Road, Baridua to offer training and guidance for the village women.

All faith prayer for peace on International Day of Peace

Religious guides from all faiths addressed a large number of students on the International Day of Peace at USTM. The students were urged to understand the importance of retaining peace and harmony in the world and defeat all evil forever.

International Energy Day observed

The Department of Chemistry at USTM observed International Energy Day on 3 May to make an effort towards creating awareness about the necessity of saving the earth. Dr Pankaj Kalita, Assistant Professor, Centre for Energy, IIT Guwahati, Prof K Ismail, Retd. Professor, Department of Chemistry, NEHU, Dr J N Ganguli, Professor, Department of Chemistry, USTM had spoken on the issue.

Marathon Run marks National Sports Day

The Sports Forum of USTM celebrated the National Sports Day on 29 August with a day-long programme. A marathon competition titled 'USTM Run' and felicitation of renowned sports journalists were organized to mark the day. Manish Deka, the second mountaineer of Assam who has scaled the Mount Everest was present as the Guest of Honour in the felicitation ceremony in the presence of a galaxy of sports journalists from both print and electronic media of the North East. Around 500 students from USTM took part in the marathon, which was flagged off by Abu Nasim, the well known cricketer from Assam.

International Biodiversity Day observed

The Department of Botany celebrated International Biodiversity Day on 22 May. Prof Pradeep Sarma, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Cotton University was present as a distinguished speaker on the occasion along with Dr PG Rao, VC, USTM and other dignitaries and students.

USTM celebrates International Youth Day

USTM celebrated International Youth Day on 12 August. This year's theme of International Youth Day was *Youth Building Peace* as charted out by the United Nations. The day was commemorated through a debate competition on the topic *Youth and Social Media: Harbinger of Peace?*

International Yoga Day observed

The third International Yoga Day was celebrated at USTM on 21 June. Sunil Kumar Sharma and Partha Deka from All Assam Yoga and Naturopathy Association addressed the participants on the occasion. The Yoga instructors demonstrated different postures of Yoga and Meditation.

Physics Dept. develops Astronoscope-I

Seizing the opportunity of lunar eclipse that occurred on 7 August 2017, the Department of Physics at USTM conducted a scientific experimentation on lunar eclipse. A group of M.Sc. Physics students developed USTM's first optical telescope, Astronoscope-I (Newtonian Reflector Type). Astronoscope-I initially has the maximum magnification 450X, which will be increased in the upgraded versions of this telescope series.

Recent eminent visitors

- Prof Jagadesh Kumar, VC, JNU, New Delhi
- Prof Girish Ch Tripathi, VC, Banaras Hindu University
- Prof Ashutosh Ghosh, VC, Calcutta University
- Prof Sanjay V Deshmukh, VC, Mumbai University
- Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate
- Mani Shankar Aiyar, former DoNER Minister
- Dr Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister, Meghalaya
- Prof Guatam Biswas, Director, IIT Guwahati
- Dr B S Tomar, Director, BARC
- Prof Ved Prakash, Chairman, UGC
- Shri V Shanmuganathan, Governor of Meghalaya
- Shri PB Acharya, Governor of Nagaland
- Shri AS Kiran Kumar, Chaiman ISRO

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