



With the vision *Challenging the Challenges, we are Accelerating Excellence*

Congratulations

Mr. Manik Chandra Barman, Senior Lecturer & Head, Department of Management, Nalbari Commerce College has become the first research scholar from CMS to be awarded the Ph. D. Degree by Dibrugarh University for his thesis *Management of Infrastructure for Agriculture Development in Assam with Special Reference to Nalbari District* under the guidance of Prof. Pranjal Bezborah, Professor, Department of Commerce and former Director-in-charge, CMS, Dibrugarh University.

Col. Kailash Nath Choube has also been awarded his Ph. D. degree under Prof. Bezborah's guidance for his thesis *A Study of the Impact of Motivation in Industrial Establishments with Special Reference to Industries located in Tinsukia District of Assam.*

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sanMilan 2007 : Continuing a Tradition

Unlocking the North East's Potential : Challenges Ahead

It is the event everyone in the CMS family waits eagerly. It will be not an exaggeration if we say the same thing for the University community also. Such is the aura of sanMilan... Meeting of Minds. The 2007 edition of this mega event held on October 6-7, 2007 is the biggest ever till date and was spanned over two days, attended by over 60 delegates - both academic and corporate. It brought together personalities like Mr. Harendra Nath Das, IAS, Former Chief Secretary of Assam, Mr. Wasbir Hussain of The Sentinel, Dr. Sunil Kumar Saikia of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Mr. Manoj Jalan, Director, Jalan Industries, Mr. B P Bakshi, Chairman, All India Manufacturer's Association, Mr. S P Dutta of Coal India Limited and Dr. Shiela Bora of Dibrugarh University who celebrated on the theme "Unlocking the North East's Potential: Challenges Ahead". Mr. Das gave the keynote address which addressed the vital issue of preparing the North East for the Look East Policy while the others participated in Manthan - the panel discussion on the theme. The intellectual convergence was inaugurated by Prof. K. Pathak, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University and the Souvenir was released by Dr. K K Deka, Registrar, Dibrugarh University.

After the Lunch on the first day, there was the paper presentation competition - Agni. In the under graduate group, the Best Paper award went to - Mr. Vivek Goenka and Mr. Abhishek Agarwal of Tinsukia College while the Best Presenter award went to Ms. Umananda Bordoloi of Women's College, Tinsukia. The Best Paper carried with it Rs. 3000/- in prize



money while the Best Presenter took home a cash award of Rs. 1000/-. Next was the open Business Quiz, BizMantra where the top three teams were Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Sarmah and Ms. Gargee Bhattacharya of the Department of Petroleum Technology, Dibrugarh University, Mr. Nilutpal Baruah and Mr. Bubumoni Deka of NERIM, Guwahati and Mr. Pankaj Phukan and Ms. Pallabi Konwar of Assam Medical College respectively. They took home cash prizes of Rs. 5000/-, 3000/- and 2000/- respectively besides trophies and certificates sponsored by Hotel Indsurya. The quizmaster was Dr. Dilip Barua, former Principal, Cotton College and a reputed quizmaster. He in fact was thrilled at the packed Rang-ghar, the DU Auditorium.

Autum Aura - the cultural extravaganza was held on the evening of October 7, 2007 at Rang-ghar which was inaugurated by Prof. Kulendu Pathak, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University. It started with a dazzling fireworks display that lit up the sky. The icing on the cake of the cultural evening was a fashion show where the CMS students displayed eye-catching chic royal wear.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

☺2008☺

from the CMS Parivaar



CMS NEWSLETTER
A Quarterly Newsletter of the Centre for Management Studies, Dibrugarh University

In every success story you find someone who made a courageous decision - **Peter Drucker**

First of all, a very Happy New Year to all the readers. It is in some way, a homecoming for me. Having edited this Newsletter till the second year of its publication (Volume 2, Issue 4), I had not thought about taking up the job again. Before going ga-ga over this, let me tell you that this is a temporary arrangement. I am into the picture as the editor Ms. Rashida T. Noorain is at IIM, Ahmedabad attending its 29th FDP.

2008 promises to be a watershed year in the history of CMS with its long awaited infrastructure (academic building, hostels etc.) finally getting ready. And a big *thank you* to Oil India Limited (OIL) for this. For the reader's information, CMS should move to its new building by mid February, if everything goes as planned. Once, we move in to the new building, we will be in a position to offer better facilities to not only the students but also the faculty members and office staff, which will for sure bring cheer to their faces.

A big resource of any institute of higher learning is its intellectual capital. CMS with its young faculty members is trying hard to enrich CMS stronger in this aspect. Mr. Ranjit Singh who joined CMS along with me has already submitted his Ph. D. Thesis. Most of the other faculty members have already started or are in the process of starting their research work. They have been presenting papers at various national and international seminars with unfailing regularity. This is a healthy sign. Hopefully, the days ahead will also see the faculty members take up consultancy work which will not only enhance their standing but also the institute's.

CMS has been successful in building its reputation in a very short time in the job market because of the way our past students have been able to impress their employers. I am sure that this tradition of commitment to excellence will be continued and taken a notch higher by each successive batch of students.

I take this opportunity to welcome the 2008 Batches of the MBA (FT) and MBA (PT) Programme. I hope that their decision to join CMS is rewarding and fulfilling. I remind them of their responsibilities towards the institute and exhort them to achieve their best. And on our part, we assure that we will give our best to shape their future.

Before winding up, here's something I penned specially for this issue of the Newsletter. I hope it's worth a glance...

*The Morning Sun Breaking through the Winter Mist
A Sight to Behold, A Lesson to Learn
That even the Strongest has to Fight
To Shine and be Admired*

Himadri Barman

Director's Communique

This column could not be published as Prof. A R M Rehman, Director-in-charge of Centre for Management Studies, Dibrugarh University had an open heart / by – pass surgery at Delhi and is still recovering. The entire CMS Family wishes him a speedy recovery and hopes that he would join CMS soon.

- Editor

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TERMINOLOGY OF THE QUARTER

Hedge Funds

Hedge Funds are funds which have the ability to "gear" portfolios by borrowing to increase their exposure to underlying stock markets. This method increases risk as well as the potential for gain. Another way to "gear" portfolios is to offset stock market exposure by "short" selling (selling stocks not owned in the hope of buying them back more cheaply at a later date - for e.g., buying shares of, say, IBM on one exchange and simultaneously selling them on another exchange, leaving pure profit). Yet another way is to cover the equity position with derivative instruments, normally stock or stock market options or futures. These last two strategies have less risk, but are not immune to losses or lost opportunities.

Alfred Winslow Jones is credited with inventing hedge funds in 1949. As their name implies, hedge funds often seek to offset potential losses in the principal markets they invest in by hedging via any number of methods. However, the term "hedge fund" has come in modern parlance to be overused and inappropriately applied to any absolute-return fund – many of these so-called "hedge funds" do not actually hedge their investments.

A hedge fund (in the US, such funds are unregulated if the number of investors does not exceed one hundred) is a private investment fund charging a performance fee and typically open to only a limited range of qualified investors. Hedge fund activity in the public securities markets has grown substantially as it constitutes approximately 30% of all U.S. fixed-income security transactions, 55% of U.S. activity in derivatives with investment-grade ratings, 55% of the trading volume for emerging-market bonds, as well as 30% of equity trades. Hedge Funds dominate certain specialty markets such as trading in derivatives with high-yield ratings, and distressed debt.

As a hedge fund's investment activities are limited only by the contracts governing the particular fund, it can make greater use of complex investment strategies such as short selling, entering into futures, swaps and other derivative contracts and leverage.

Hedge funds have acquired a reputation for secrecy. Unlike open-to-the-public "retail" funds (e.g. mutual funds) which market freely to the public, in most countries, hedge funds are specifically prohibited from marketing to investors who are not professional investors or individuals with sufficient private wealth. This limits the information a hedge fund is legally required to release. Additionally, divulging a hedge fund's methods could unreasonably compromise their business interests; this limits the information a hedge fund would want to release.

Since hedge fund assets can run into many billions of dollars and will usually be multiplied by leverage, their sway over markets, whether they succeed or fail, is potentially substantial and there is a continuing debate over whether they should be more thoroughly regulated.

Source: The Internet

~~Third Alumni Meet~~

On the sidelines of the 2007 edition of sanMilan, the Third Alumni Meet was hosted on October 7, 2007. It was presided over by Mr. Veeru Singh Sokhi, Vice-President of Samannay, the CMSDU Alumni Association in absence of the President, Mr. Anshuman Bordoloi. The General Secretary, Mr. Himadri Barman, Faculty Member gave a brief overview of the developments that took place since the hosting of the second Alumni Meet in October 2006. The Souvenir, called Expose was released by Mr. Lakhinandan Rajkhowa, an alumnus of the MBA (PT) 2004 Batch. There was healthy discussion on what needs to be done to make the alumni association vibrant. There was a general consensus that the association needs to register more members to make it stronger and ways need to be find out to make the alumni come closer to the their alma mater. The Alumni present also promised to help the institute in whatever way they can. 32 alumni registered for the Third Alumni Meet which was a big achievement

The General Body Meeting decided to persist with the existing executive body with two changes. Mr. Kiron Kumar Buragohain of the MBA (PT) 2004 Batch and Mr. Moynotddin Aghmed of the MBA (FT) 2005 Batch replaced Mr. Shankar Jyoti Kakoty and Mr. Uday Bhaskar Das as members of the executive.

After the formal closure of the General Body meeting, the alumni were treated to rounds of fun games. The alumni present seemed to enjoy the moment and go back to their care-free days. The Third Alumni Meet ended with a Lunch and lots of memories for the alumni to take back.

GUEST COLUMN

Mr. Harendra Nath Das, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Assam

Trade and Economic Development Preparing the North East for Look East Policy

Theoretical economics has long pleaded for removal of all restrictions on trade. The belief is that “in every country it always is and must be the interest of the great body of the people to buy whatever they want off those who sell it cheapest”. In the practical field international trade has fostered the wealth of nations all along. To quote the Nobel prize winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz “the most successful developing countries in the world have achieved their success through trade- through exports.” But he has warned that “opening up markets in the developing countries to goods from the advanced industrial countries without full reciprocation” might not work. These are prophetic words with great potency. In the following paragraphs, I propose to examine whether the North Eastern Region (NE) of India is ready to participate fully in a ‘Look East’ policy of the Government of India (GOI) and whether NE will actually gain from such a policy.

Ever since liberalization of the Indian economy in 1990 a new orientation is sought to be given to India’s foreign policy and trade by a thrust on south Asian and south east Asian countries. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described India’s Look East policy as “a strategic shift in our perspective” and further clarified that “the age-old India-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) linkages have been given a renewed thrust with the impressive growth of connectivity and the ever increasing flows of tourism between India and ASEAN.” The very first agreement in this field was the Indo Myanmar Trade Agreement signed on January 31, 1994. The agreement provided for “establishment of trade on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.” The idea was to put in place a “signaling device to monitor the movement of commodities and people.” It is appropriate that the Look East policy first touched Myanmar. Myanmar has a common border of 1643 kms with four of India’s states, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. For trade with China and the south east Asian countries by the land route all movement has to be through Myanmar.

Sixty five years ago the then Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Admiral Mountbatten, also recognized the importance of NE in the Asian context. It was his South East Asia Command which built the famous Ledo Road to Kunming in China for supervising the two oil pipe lines, respectively, from Kolkata and Chittagong via Tinsukia. This road was also used for movement of troops and military supplies. Its construction was overseen by Mountbatten’s quarrelsome Deputy Stilwell. But a magnanimous Mountbatten named the road after Stilwell. According to media report the Stilwell Road has now been rebuilt by China up to their border with Myanmar. On the Indian side the road is quite good up to a reasonable distance of the India-Myanmar border. The damaged stretch can be repaired within a short time. It is the portion within Myanmar which will need very extensive rebuilding. Myanmar does not seem to have the resources to do this. Whether India and China will carry out the repair is a question which has no answer as yet.

Regional co-operation has been given a boost ever since the first BIMSTEC summit in July, 2004. The countries concerned in this summit were Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar. Again, the Thailand Mekong Ganga Co-operation Project aims at revitalizing and developing overland trade, tourism, communications and transport. The countries involved are India, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. These are developments which will advance the Look East policy and enhance India’s economic and diplomatic relation with these countries.

According to Sanjib Baruah, foremost scholar on the Look East Policy, “Northeast India’s isolation from its neighborhood has much older roots: that which came about as a result of the advent of western dominance over sea routes and over global trade and more particularly the British conquest of the region and the decisions to draw lines between the hills and plains, to put barriers of trade between Bhutan and Assam and to treat Myanmar as a strategic frontier - British India’s buffer against French Indo-China and China. While the British colonial rulers built a major new transportation infrastructure, aimed primarily at taking tea and other resources out of Assam, the disruption of old trade routes remained colonialism’s most enduring negative legacy.” According to Baruah “Northeast India was on the southern trails of the Silk Road.” If that was so, this region had connectivity in the ancient times with the world outside. This got snapped during British times. In this connection Baruah alludes to Bhutan. That country realized the importance of connectivity with south-east Asia. The Bhutan King emphasised this when he made the following statement: “No other region in the world needs harmonious and cooperative relations among its states more than South Asia.”

Cont’d in page 5

The legal and the formal arrangements for trade through NE to south east Asia is now more or less complete. But is NE ready for it? This region is not yet economically as developed as the rest of India. Moreover, it is land locked. Its land connectivity with the rest of India remained limited to the 22 kms “Chicken’s neck” in northern West Bengal. An extremely concentrated endeavour will be required to achieve economic development of NE and its principal state of Assam before NE can be ready for participation in the Look East policy. Let us examine the situation. Will opening a new trade route or reviving the ancient land trade route through NE lead to economic development of this area? There is nothing automatic about it. Before meaningful trade activities can be undertaken our agriculture has to improve both in terms of production and in terms of productivity. Processing industries have to be set up to manufacture quality goods which can be offered in international markets at acceptable prices. The entire infrastructure of roads, railways, communication and air transport will have to be completely revamped. Similarly hotels, restaurants and resorts will have to be built for sophisticated tourists. If that cannot be achieved Look East policy will not benefit NE. In that case the Look East policy will only provide a bridge between the rest of India and south east Asia of which NE will forever remain an “underbelly”. This type of result probably was not envisaged when the policy was devised. In order that the Look East policy is inclusive it must therefore provide for economic development of NE as a direct objective. In India the indirect effect or “trickling down effect” has not worked so far. Even Stiglitz has opined that “trickle down economics does not work. The fact is that if the economy grows, it is not inclusive, and some time, the poor can be worse off.”

It is not proposed to go into the details of the steps needed to achieve this objective. But an attempt is being made to identify, to the extent possible, the exports which are within the range of possibility. Agriculture is the mainstay of majority of people in all the states of NE. Export possibilities is quite high in plantation crops. Tea, for example, has been exported ever since the first batch of Assam tea was auctioned at London in 1834. Green tea market is quite extensive in Asia. Assam can convert some of its area to green tea. Fresh fruits and vegetables of NE are very tasty. Once cold storage and cold chain are provided these can be exported in plenty. NE’s major fruit products include pineapples, pears, bananas, plantains, oranges and now even apples. Vegetables include chillies, ginger, pumpkins, gourds, lemons, jack fruits, orange, cucumber, tomatoes, egg plants and onions. NE is till now outside the traditional rubber-growing area. However, its climate is very favourable for rubber. A good beginning has been made in Assam and in Tripura with respect to commercial cultivation. In fact, Tripura has been declared as the “second rubber capital of India” (next to Kerala) by the Indian Rubber Board. Again, Assam produces 40 percent of India’s rubber honey. NE is believed to be very rich in medicinal plants. Arunachal, NE’s largest state in area is reported to have more than 500 species of medicinal plants. Assam’s vast expanse of dense forest reserves also has significant variety of “medicinal herbs.” Identifications and preliminary estimations have been already done. There are 3000 species of medicinal and aromatics plants. What is needed is to bring up the units in coordination and collaboration with India’s export oriented pharmaceutical industry which has registered high export oriented growth during the past few decades. Assam has plenty of tuber crops. Similarly coconuts and areca nuts are produced in plenty. Some of these are exported outside NE. The Asian market has already shown its liking for some of the industrial products of NE. Products manufactured from plantation crops such as jute, mesta, and ramie have proved their popularity in the Asian market. In the case of cane and bamboo products also NE has vast potential. Another area with great possibilities is handloom and handicraft. Assam’s silk, and particularly *muga*, can earn megabucks abroad.

To sum up NE has to be an integral part of the Look East policy. In order to achieve that; the states of the region must develop their agriculture and industry to such a status that their agricultural and industrial products can compete in the international market. The funds are available under various schemes of GOI and banks and financial institutions. The natural resources are all there. Some of these have been already identified. NE does not have the required number of entrepreneurs and technical manpower. It cannot transform its natural resources into finished products without the human resources. For that NE has to become a “knowledge society” or a “knowledge economy”.

The planners and builders of NE have to realize this cardinal fact. What is necessary is the vision and concentrated efforts in various thrust areas after micro studies and appropriate project formulation which can bring NE to a standard in which it will be able to stand the challenge of the Look East policy and will also be able to fully participate in the new milieu. The macro studies have been already done. Considerable work of identification of agricultural, horticultural, floricultural and industrial products has also been carried out. But the real work has to start in the field. Only then NE can hope to be a part of the bridge connecting India and south east Asia.

*Abridged and edited version of the Keynote Address given at the 2007 edition of sanMilan.
The full text of the address is available for download at <http://cmsdu.org/downloads/KeyNoteAddress.pdf>*



Rhythm 2007 – the Voice of DU

The 2007 edition of Rhythm – the Voice of DU was successfully organized on October 6, 2007 (Prelims) and October 7, 2007 (Finals) on the sidelines of the 2007 edition of sanMilan. Each Centre / Department of Dibrugarh University could nominate one contestant for the competition. Out of twelve contestants in the Prelims, four were selected for the finals. Mr. Bishwadeep Gogoi of Centre for Computer Studies was crowned the voice of DU – 2007 and won a cash prize of Rs. 2000/-. Miss Soumi Dey of the Department of Commerce and Miss Jyotirupa Chetia of the Department of Applied Geology came first and second runners' up respectively.

Industrial Visit by MBA (FT) 2007 Batch

20 students of the MBA (FT) 2007 Batch went to Delhi, NCR for *Industrial Visit* during December 16 – 30, 2007. They visited the complexes of Mother Dairy and Surya Food and Agro Limited (Priyagold Biscuits) and were accompanied by Mr. Bikash Gogoi and Mr. Dhrubajyoti Bordoloi as faculty guides. They also visited Agra, Jaipur, Ajmer and Pushkar.

Industry Training for PGDTM 2007 Batch

The students of the PGDTM 2007 Batch underwent a 10-day training programme at Guwahati during December 14 – 24, 2007 under the aegis of Assam Tourism. They were given training on basic nuances regarding House Keeping, Maintenance of Files and Records, Customer Care and Front Office Management. The girls were trained at Prashanti Lodge while the boys were trained at Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok. Assam Tourism also made took the students on a tour of the important tourist destinations of Guwahati.

PGDTM 2007 Batch on Exposure Tour

13 students of the PGDTM 2007 Batch went on a study tour to Tawang, Bomdila, Bhalukpong, Nameri (all in Arunachal Pradesh), Tezpur, Kaziranga and Sivasagar during the period November 8 – 16, 2007 as part of their requirements for Course 20100. They were accompanied by Prof. (Mrs.) Shiela Bora, Coordinator, PGDTM Programme & Professor, Department of History, Prof. S D Goswami, Professor, Department of History and Syed Sajid-ul-Islam, Faculty Member (PGDTM Programme), CMS.

BBA 2007 Batch Students Visits Tea Factory

25 students of the BBA 2007 Batch visited the Tea Factory at Damayanti Tea Estate on the outskirts of Dibrugarh on December 14, 2007. They were accompanied by Mr. Bikash Gogoi and Ms. Hilly Das, faculty members of CMSDU.

CMS Theme Song

The Centre for Management Studies students has come up with its very own *theme song*. It was released on the sidelines of the Third Alumni Meet on October 7, 2007. The song which is trilingual (Assamese, Hindi and English) have been penned by Subrat Khound, Biraj Hazarika, Palash Kanchan Baruah, Sakhyar Sharma and Sabir Abbas. It has been sung by Biraj Hazarika, Shubrat Khound, Pubali Baruah, Purbali Borah, Sushmita Baruah, Shibani Konwer, Devneet Goswami and Epsita Sharma. The song is available for download at http://cmsdu.org/downloads/CMS_Theme.zip

Placements for MBA (FT) 2006 Batch

Three students of the 2006 MBA (FT) students were placed in Nestle during October 2007 while two more students have been placed at Reliance Telecom Limited during December 2007.

MBA (FT) Semester End Exams Concludes

The MBA (FT) second semester exams concluded on December 12, 2007 while the fourth semester exams concluded on December 22, 2007. The exams for the second semester had started on November 29, 2007 while that of the fourth semester started on November 19, 2007. 33 students of the second semester and 32 students of the fourth semester appeared for their exams.

MBA (PT) Year End Exams Concludes

The MBA (PT) 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year exams concluded on December 16, December 19 and December 22, 2007 respectively. The exams had started on December 1, December 3 and December 13, 2007 respectively. 17 students of the 1st year, 15 students of the 2nd year and 8 students of the 3rd year appeared for their exams.

Placement Brochure Released

The *2007 Placement Brochure* of Centre for Management Studies was released at a solemn function organized at the Conference Hall of the Research Complex on 10th October 2007 by Prof. K. Pathak, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University. The programme was graced by Mr. Samip Baruah, Branch Manager, ITC Ltd., Guwahati.

MBA (FT) 2007 Batch visits HUL, Doomdoma

31 students of the MBA (FT) 2007 Batch visited the factory of Hindustan Unilever Limited located at Doomdooma on November 12, 2007. They were accompanied by Mr. Bikash Gogoi and Mr. Dhrubajyoti Bordoloi.

Clicks



► **New Constructions:** Main Building (1, 2), Boys Hostel (3) ► **sanMilan 2007 snapshots:** Mr. Harendra Nath Das addressing the audience (4), the crowd during the Quiz Competition – BizMantra (6), Dr. Dilip Barua, the quizmaster (5)

FACULTY FORAYS

Mr. Ranjit Singh

- Has submitted his Ph. D. thesis on the topic “Risk Perception and Equity Share Investment Behaviour of Employees of Organized Sector – A Case Study of Oil India Limited”. He has done his research under Dr. Amallesh Bhowal, Professor, Department of Commerce, Assam University, Diphu Campus and formerly Reader at the Department of Commerce, Dibrugarh University

Mr. Bikash Gogoi

- Presented a paper on “Creating Customer Value” at the All India Seminar on *21st Century Business Practices: The Evolving Trends in India*, organized by Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Kolkata Extension Centre during October 6 – 7, 2007
- Presented a paper titled “Significance/Role of Small Enterprises in Economic development” at the UGC sponsored National Seminar on *Challenges and Opportunities before SSEs in the wake of Globalisation* organized by the Department of Commerce, Kaliabor College during October 12 – 13, 2007

Ms. Rashida T. Noorain

- Is attending the 29th Faculty Development Programme (FDP) at IIM, Ahmedabad
- Presented a paper on “People Productivity in the Tea Industry” at the All India Seminar on *21st Century Business Practices: The Evolving Trends in India*, organized by Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Kolkata Extension Centre during October 6 – 7, 2007
- Proposal for Ph. D. titled “Productivity and Quality Awareness in the Tea Industry: A Comparative Study of Bought Leaf Tea Factories and Estate Owned Tea Factories in the Upper Brahmaputra Valley of Assam” under the supervision of Prof. P. Bezborah has been approved by the Research Council in Arts of Dibrugarh University

Mr. Arup Goswami

- Proposal for Ph. D. titled “Tea Consumption Habits of Urban People: A Consumer Behaviour Study in Dibrugarh and Guwahati” under the supervision of Prof. P. Bezborah has been approved by the Research Council in Arts of Dibrugarh University

ELECTION DUTY

Mr. Arup Goswami, Mr. Bikash Gogoi, Mr. Dhrubajyoti Bordoloi, Mr. Himadri Barman and Md. Irfan Ullah officiated as *Presiding Officers* of various Polling Stations in Dibrugarh district during the recently held Assam Panchayat Elections on December 31, 2007. It was the first experience for all of them.

FACULTY FORAYS

Ms. Kakoli Mahanta

- Presented a paper jointly written with Prof. P. Bezborah, Department of Commerce, entitled “Realities of Informal Sector – A Study of Centrally Funded Social Assistance Scheme in Dibrugarh District of Assam” at the 60th All India Commerce Conference organized by the Department of Commerce, Osmania University, Hyderabad during 27 – 29 December, 2007
- Presented a paper titled “A Critical Overview of SSE in India” at the UGC sponsored National Seminar on *Challenges and Opportunities before SSEs in the wake of Globalisation* organized by the Department of Commerce, Kaliabor College during October 12 – 13, 2007
- A paper entitled “Myths and Realities of BPO” jointly written with Prof. P. Bezborah and Ms. R. T. Noorain published in “The Indian Journal of Commerce”, Volume 60
- Proposal for Ph. D. titled “Management of Human Resources in Outsourcing Industry – A Study of Selected Business Process Outsourcing Firms in India” under the supervision of Prof. P. Bezborah has been approved by the Research Council in Arts of Dibrugarh University

Syed Sajid-ul-Islam

- Attended a UGC sponsored seminar on Tourism titled “Potential of Tourism on the Socio – Economic aspect of the North East” held at SMD College, Charing, Sivasagar on November 21, 2007

INTERACTIONS

Mr. Samip Barua

Mr. Barua addressed the students of CMS and bestowed them with a presentation on ‘Competency Management’. His prime focus was on influencing and resource management. He highlighted various areas of interpersonal skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution, influencing strategies, time management, body language, planning, etc. which are very important for a passed out professional. The session with Mr. Barua who has an excellent sense of humour was indeed very fruitful and was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Himadri Barman was nominated by the Hon’ble VC to the *Visiting Team* that inspected five colleges namely Dimow College, Silapathar College, Silapathar Science College, Simen Chapori College and Jonai Girls’ College during November 6 – 8, 2007 for opening of new programmes and temporary affiliation / permanent affiliation under Dibrugarh University

Send your comments, criticisms and suggestions on this issue. Inspire us to work more on this newsletter.

Help us make it a happening newsletter!