

# Editorial

Imphal, Thursday, September 15, 2016

## Of Bamboo the ubiquitous gift

Once more we will be observing "World Bamboo Day" on September 18. In an ever increasing need to replace and supplement the man-made materials that is being utilized to fuel the constructions and creation of infrastructures, newer avenues and innovative use of natural resources are being taken up in a big way. One of the most promising and abundantly available natural resource of building material being bamboo, the world is taking a renewed look at this ubiquitous grass to sustain and fuel buildings and other infrastructures of the future. The inherent advantages of this unique material has only been starting to be appreciated- from the climate friendly and relatively economic attributes to the added aesthetics and versatility, not to mention its unique ability to sustain and thrive in diverse climatic conditions. Yet so far, apart from celebrating the day and waxing eloquence on the subject once a year, precious little have been done by the State authorities, nor has there been any support or visible effort by the Government to infuse the private entrepreneurs to work with this wonderful material and develop commercially viable products. The most glaring point being the lack of any facility for treatment of bamboo- a prerequisite step for development of any product using bamboo due to its propensity to attract termites otherwise. Manipur is naturally endowed with an abundant supply of huge varieties of bamboo, and cultivating them commercially will not be a formidable task, given the conducive climatic conditions, yet the lack of infrastructures coupled with the lackadaisical attitude of the Government in making these infrastructures available as well as the indifference shown in taking the initiative in promoting and encouraging the individuals and organizations in their efforts to develop and popularize bamboo products has so far resulted in the precious and versatile material being relegated to temporary substitutes for fencing and as makeshift scaffoldings- a huge waste of efforts. For a fund-starved State with very limited opportunities for gainful employment such as Manipur, the humble bamboo grass presents the perfect opportunity to enable the society to pole-vault itself out of the pit of misery and trouble it is in at present. A sustainable system for value addition and marketing the products with a planned approach towards the development of artisans and adequate raw materials will ensure that our naturally endowed State benefits from such a venture.

## Central Water and Power Research Station: A Century of Hydraulic Research

By : Sukanta Chatterji

The Central Water and Power Research Station (CPWRS) is going to celebrate its centenary on September 16, 2016. On this date, hundred years back, it was founded as a world-class centre of excellence in hydraulic engineering research and allied areas; which would be responsive to changing global scenario and need for sustaining and enhancing excellence in providing technological solutions for optimal and safe design of water resources structures. The institution which comes under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, is a UN Recognized Regional Laboratory for Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) since 1971. The CPWRS serves three major sectors: Water Resources; Hydro Power; and Ports and Waterways. It conducts applied research to provide sound and economic solutions for River Engineering, Reservoir and Appurtenant Structures, Hydraulic Machinery, Coastal Engineering, Earth Sciences and Foundation and Structures. The Pune based Central Water and Power Research Station was set up initially as a "Special Irrigation Cell" in June, 1916 by the then Bombay Presidency. It has continued to serve for 100 years by catering to the research and development needs for evolving safe and economical planning and design of water resources structures, river engineering, hydropower generation, and coastal engineering

projects fulfilling the mandate of "Service to the Nation through Research".  
 Just like a river, which acquires depth over time and contributes to making its surroundings lush and productive, the CPWRS has also grown from strength to strength over the years of its existence. Almost all important projects of irrigation, hydropower, water supply, navigation and ports have imprints of this institution. Owing to its receptivity towards incorporating new technology with the changing times, the CPWRS's journey has continued ceaselessly over a century, earning it the stature of a world-class water and power research institution. Considering the infrastructure and expertise available, CPWRS has been identified under "World Bank aided National Hydrology Project", as a Nodal Agency for providing overall guidance on hydro-meteorological and water quality equipments selection, commissioning and quality control to all States/Union Territories. In this Centenary Year, CPWRS is also opening new divisions for undertaking systematic studies on River Rejuvenation, for prioritizing actions for optimum results, dissemination of traditional water wisdoms through development of appropriate models, for up scaling across the country and Disaster Management Planning. The mission of the CPWRS is to meet the country's need for basic and applied research in water resources, power sector and coastal engineering with excellent

standards. Its mission also includes to develop competence in deployment of latest technologies by networking with the top institutions globally and to meet the future needs for development of water resources projects in the country effectively. The CPWRS, along with these missions, aims to disseminate information, build skills and knowledge for capacity-building and mass awareness for optimization of available water resources. Apart from the fact that it is a premier research institute in hydraulics and allied areas in water and power sector, it has multidisciplinary expertise to provide R&D solutions to the problems associated with water resources, power and coastal projects. The CPWRS has close association with all major River Valley Projects, Port Developments, and other Organizations. The major functions of the CPWRS are to undertake specific research studies relating to development of water resources, power and coastal projects, consultancy and advisory services to Central and State Governments, private sector and other countries. It also disseminates research findings and promoting/assisting research activities in other organizations concerned with water resources projects. The Institute contributes to Bureau of Indian Standards and International Standards Organization; carrying out basic and applied research to support the specific studies. It has provided expertise in Jawahar Lal Nehru Port, Sardar Sarovar Dam

Project, Chilka Lake and on River Yamuna to name a few. Major activity of CPWRS is the project specific applied research supported by necessary basic research in three major sectors, viz. water resources, power, and coastal engineering. CPWRS receives references mainly from Central/State Government Organizations, Public/Private Sector Agencies/Organizations/ Undertakings, Port Trusts, Municipal Corporations, etc. At any given time, on an average about 250 site specific studies are in progress at the research Station. Important studies carried out during the last some years include studies related to flood control, Hydraulic Analysis, studies about Bridges, Barrages, Weirs, River Training-Diversion and morphological changes. Similarly studies have also been carried out in the field of River and Reservoir Systems and also studies in Physico-Chemical Methods for Water Quality Surface Water Hydraulics etc. Apart from these, studies conducted on Hydraulic Designs of Shipways and on the development of Ports and Harbours have been of great significance. Equally important were studies conducted in the field of Applied Earth Sciences which included work related to Geophysics, Earthquake Engineering etc and also on development of Hydraulic Instruments etc. In the Centenary Year of the CPWRS, the country needs to know the vast capabilities along with the facilities that this premier institution can deliver to the nation. (Courtesy PIB)

## I&B Minister Venkaiah Naidu asks media to refrain from sensationalism

New Delhi, Sept 15: Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu has asked media to refrain from sensational reporting and focus on the truth. Addressing the 49th convocation of Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi, Mr Naidu said, sensationalism has unfortunately become order of the day in the hunt for headlines. He said journalists must ask hard questions but reporting should be based on facts. He said presently in Parliament and assembly reporting, media is headlining the ruckus and sloganeering in the

Houses at the cost of real issues related to agriculture and villages. Mr Naidu said they project people who break law as heroes. Expressing concern over paid news, the Minister said journalist is for mission, not for commission and they should refrain from such activities. He also stressed on the need for starting journalism courses in all Indian languages in IIMC. Mr Naidu said communication skills are very important in a democracy and there is a need to understand how to communicate and influence people.

## Government reiterates declaration under the Income Declaration Scheme, 2016 as "confidential"

PIB New Delhi, Sept 15: The Income Declaration Scheme, 2016 (the Scheme) provides an opportunity to persons who have not paid full taxes in the past to come forward and declare their undisclosed income and assets. The Scheme is open for declarations up to 30.9.2016. As regards, concerns regarding confidentiality of the information filed under the Scheme, it is reiterated that information contained in a valid declaration is confidential and shall not be shared. In respect of declarations filed with the Commissioner of Income-tax, Centralised Processing Centre, Bengaluru (CIT (CPC)), the declaration shall not be shared even with the jurisdictional Principal Commissioner/Commissioner and payments made under the Scheme shall not be visible to the jurisdictional officers. Form-2 and Form-4 required to be issued in such cases shall be system generated by the CPC. Similarly, the declaration filed with jurisdictional Principal Commissioner/Commissioner shall not be shared with any authority within or outside the department including the jurisdictional Assessing Officer. Further, the payments under the Scheme shall neither be reflected in 26AS statement nor can be viewed by the Assessing Officer in the Online Tax Accounting System (OLTAS) of the Department in the interest of confidentiality.

## National & International News

### NCP Cautions Samajwadi Party Following rift between Mulayam, Akhilesh

ANI Mumbai , Sept. 15: The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Wednesday cautioned the Samajwadi Party while hinting at a crack in the party fold post Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav's move to sack his uncle from all ministerial portfolios and said they will have to very soon take corrective measures to see that everything is in order. NCP leader Majeed Memon pointed out that the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls will be a semi-final contest ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. "Uttar Pradesh is going to face the people's mandate in a few months to come hereafter and it being the largest state of the country, it's going to be maridarshak for 2019. As a matter of fact, this is something like a semi-final and therefore the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is also pulling up its socks and trying its best to ensure that what result people gave them in 2014, that

they literally swept Uttar Pradesh," said Memon. The NCP leader also pointed out that Samajwadi Party boss Mulayam Singh Yadav may have many tough days to come to face hereafter even the present situation continues in his party. "Although Modi wave has receded substantially anywhere else in the country also, but then they want to retain their upper hand in Uttar Pradesh and probably think of getting to power, which does not seem very probable in the present circumstances," said Memon. "But as far as the ruling party is concerned...the Samajwadi has threat from the BJP, Congress and others because now Nitish and Lalu are also likely to plunge into Uttar Pradesh politics," he added. Emphasizing on Amar Singh's entry in the Samajwadi Party camp, Memon said very soon they will have to take corrective measures to see that everything is in order.

"Amar Singh's entry also caused some kind of an anguish in Azam Khan's camp and all these things are going on. But I am sure the necessity is to make everything in order and I think the Samajwadi Party would do that soon," he added. Akhilesh Yadav yesterday divested party member Shivpal Yadav of all important ministerial portfolios including PWD, irrigation, cooperative, flood control and revenue and handed him the social welfare department. Prior to it, Shivpal had replaced him as its new chief in Uttar Pradesh on the instructions of Mulayam Singh Yadav. The development came hours after Akhilesh shunted out state chief secretary Deepak Singhal, considered close to Shivpal and replaced him with Rahul Bhatnagar. The move comes at a time when the state is gearing up for assembly elections which is scheduled to take place next year.

**WALLET LOST**  
 I have lost my wallet containing Service ID (EMRS.MOREH), Pan card, Driving, voter ID , 2 ATM cards (SBI -A/C no. 30292716447 and 2025901216) and with my father's ATM card of SBI-A/C no. 30783193111 on the way between Babupara, Imphal to Yairipok Bazaar on 14th September, 2016.  
 Finders are requested kindly handover the same to the undersigned.  
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Contd. from page 1

## Engineers are Nation Builders

M. Visvesvaraya stands out as the pioneering Indian engineer. He began as a civil engineer in Bombay Presidency in 1884. But it was his engineering feat at Sukur in Sindh Province (then part of Bombay Presidency) in 1893-1895 that brought him fame. He devised an ingenious method to filter the muddy and discoloured water of Indus by digging a well on riverbed and creating a tunnel below the river to bring drinking water for the city to the pumping station. Later on, he specialized in irrigation, water supply and drainage works. He was involved in Pune suburban water supply project. He devised sluice gates at Lake Fife in Khadakvasala, Pune for which he took patent. This technology stopped the loss of excess water. He also lent consultancy services to Nizam of Hyderabad after the great Musi floods of 1908. The two projects he advised the Nizam government was related to sewerage and reservoir of river Musi, a tributary of Krishna in 1909. The role played by Dr. Visvesvaraya in setting up of Hindustan Aeronautical Limited in Bangalore in 1940 is less discussed. He was a close friend of Seth Walchand Hirachand, one of the promoters. Today Indian engineers have entered global big league. Vinod Dham, Sundar Pichai, Satyendra Nadela, Padmasree Warrior, Vinod Gupta are some of the well-known names to succeed abroad. However, there is a worrying trend that many qualified engineers tend to divert to non-engineering professions like banking, civil services and journalism. While the new IITs and NITs are being commissioned, thousands of seats in engineering colleges are going vacant. The Lok Sabha was informed in March this year that the number of students enrolled in engineering colleges has been coming down. In 2012-13 it was 10,09584; in 2013-14 it was 986817 and in 2014-15 it was 91,9603. The Government of India's 'Make in India' drive with major focus of manufacturing sector will require thousands of qualified engineers. Thus engineers should be motivated to take the challenge and should willingly adhere to their profession. They need to be recognized as nation builders.