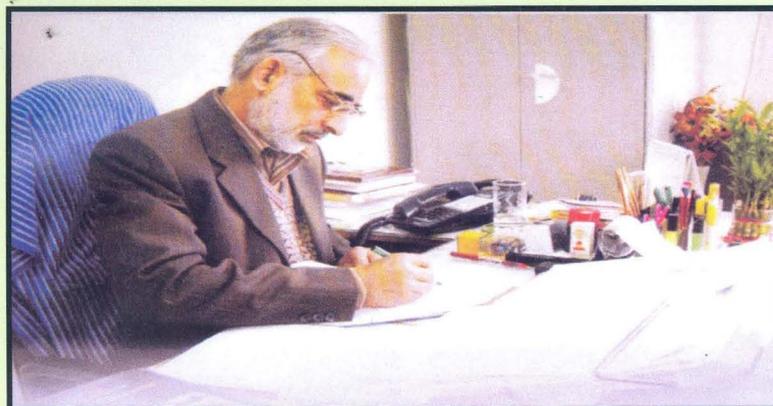


PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



'*Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*' is a laudable initiative of the government of India. This programme envisages strengthening the existing emotional harmony and bonding amongst all Indians by appreciating, promoting and showcasing the rich cultural heritage, diversity, resource base with flora and fauna and natural scenic beauty, agricultural practices, educational specificities etc. of each state from the North-East India. It is an opportunity made available to students and staff to explore, appreciate and love various cultures of India for which we Indians should be proud of.

From the time immemorial, this region has been a meeting point of many communities which profess different faiths and cultures through dance, song and music being part and parcel of everyday life. They are also known for their simplicity, hospitality and courtesy. The contribution of the North East region to the nation has always been immense. Many people from this region have taken an active part in the freedom struggle. Many political personalities has enriched the national life. This region has the potential of being a powerhouse of development and progress of our nation while establishing a concrete bond with the fastest growing ASEAN countries.

Our North East India has international borders with Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Myanmar and Tibet and is of extraordinary strategic importance. With about 8% of area and about 4% of the population, our North East is not only rich in social diversity but also conferred with abundant natural resources, hydrocarbon deposits, biodiversity and bamboo forests. With about 52% of the forest-cover, it alone constitutes about 20% of the known potential of petroleum & natural gas. Despite such a rich cultural heritage, social and economic diversity and resource base, some parts of this region are yet to get out of the low level of economic equilibrium, under -development, ethnic conflicts and insurgency. Thus, our younger generation in particular must have the knowledge of our North East not only for enhancing their academic understanding but also to create an everlasting bonding with our own people living therein.

Following the engagement matrix for GNCTD with respect to 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and conveyed to the College, we are now focusing on Sikkim. The modern SIKKIM- 22nd State that joined Indian Union in 1975 - is the second smallest and the least populous mountainous state. It is a land of peace, harmony, safety and clean environment. It is forward looking and visionary state with rich resources (about 48% area under forests; about 700 varieties of medicinal plants; 4500 types of flowering plants; about 550 orchid species: 362 fern species; & 5580 plant species) and so on. It produces 88% of India's cardamom and 50% of the global production. Sikkim- listed as one of 34 Global Biodiversity Hotspots- was declared as the best region to visit in 2014 by Lonely Planet. The state has 10 mountain peaks above 7000 meter height, 84 glaciers and 315 glacial lakes.

Let us not forget Sikkim's vulnerable physiographic structure and the high risk seismic activity. The state has an admirable record of innovations in public administration and governance. It has won many PM's Awards, including Life time achievement in public service, Excellence in Public Administration. It has become India's first state with 100% sanitation Coverage, and was awarded for comprehensive development of tourism and Clean India Campaign. The Chief Minister of the state was conferred the Grand Prix Award for his pioneering work in the field of organic farming and honored with "Sustainable Development Leadership Award" and many more. All these reflects good governance and holistic approach with people at the centre. Despite Sikkim's overall improved human development records, it has still to address some of the issues concerning youth like drug abuse, alcoholism, women rights and issues related to expanding infrastructure, connectivity and managing urbanization and ecotourism in the perspective of sustainable development. It must also work hard on building a knowledge economy for its future growth.

I firmly believe, celebrating Sikkim Week (20-26 March 2018) will showcase all aspects of cultural heritage resources, social and biological diversity of Sikkim and its good administrative practices, which will help our students to know the most beautiful parts of India and inspire them to explore more through their future endeavors, while strengthening their emotional bonding with the people of our North East.

On behalf of the College family, I wish all success to this event being organized by the College North-East Cell led by Ms. N. Victoria Chanu and Dr. Rajbala and their teams. I wish them all the best.

Best Wishes,
Dr. G.K. Arora
March 2018