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WEFA NEWS LETTER

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Er. Bandita Phukan
President

Er. Geetimala Baishya
Secretary

Dr. Bibha Das Saikia
Editor

Message from the President, WEFA

My action is my possession,
My action is my inheritance."

Bandita Phukan, President, WEFA.

Report from Secretary, WEFA

Women Engineers' Forum of Assam celebrated its **7th Foundation Day** on 20th November, 2016, at the Conference Hall of Institution of Engineers (India), Assam Centre at Panbazar. The



Foundation Day programme was started with lighting the lamp by the Chief Guest followed by a Borgeet by Er. Bijuli Goswami. Er. Bandita

Phukan, President, WEFA presided over the meeting. Welcome address was delivered by Secretary WEFA, Er. Geetimala Baishya. Smt. Anima Hazarika, Retd. Hon'ble Judge, Gauhati High Court, Assam graced the occasion as Chief Guest on this celebration day. In her speech she elaborated about "The Sexual Harassment of Women at work place Act, 2013", as most of the members are working in Govt./ semi Government/



Private Organisation etc. She also explained how the Act provide protection against sexual harassment of women at workplace and the prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WEFA's News Letter Issue No.17 was also released by Smt. Anima Hazarika on the Foundation Day.



Late Kavita Devi Kakati Memorial award of Rs. 10,000/- donated by Sri Ramdas Kakati was presented to Ms. Archita Bora, topper of the Civil Engineering Branch in the final examination of 2016 from Royal School of Engineering & Technology, Guwahati.



One time financial assistance amounting to Rs. 10,000/- offered to Ms. Maimaidi Johri, a 1st Semester needy student of Assam Engineering College, Gauhati for the year 2016-17 was donated by WEFA member Er. Krishna Sarma.

Another award of Rs. 5000/- on merit cum means basis was presented to Ms. Nabami Nath, a 1st Semester student of Bongaigaon Polytechnic, Bongaigaon for the year 2016-17 was donated by WEFA member Er. Antara Baruah.

A cultural programme was also organised in this event where WEFA song was presented by members of WEFA. Er. Geetanjali Kakati and Er. Bijuli Goswami entertained the members by singing Assamese popular song. At the end, vote of thanks was offered by Er. Mrinalini Das. The whole programme was successfully anchored by Er. Mitali Chakravorty.



WEFA conducted an **Extempore Speech Competition** amongst the students of Chandrapur area on 22nd April, 2017 at Bodhidroom Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur. Twenty one (21) students from Class Seven (7) to Class Ten (10) from the following schools participated in the competition:

1. Chandrapur High School, Chandrapur.
2. Bodhidroom Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur.
3. Donbosco School, Chandrapur.
4. Pachim Mayang High School, Pachim Mayang.
5. Sankardev Vidya Niketan, Hazengbari, Chandrapur.
6. Panbari High School, Panbari, Chandrapur.
7. Pragjyotishpur Balika Vidyalaya, Chandrapur.
8. Swahid Kushal Knowar High School, Panikhaiti.
9. Uttar-Pub Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur.



1st, 2nd & 3rd prize money of Rs. 3,000.00, Rs. 2,000.00 and Rs. 1,000.00 respectively was

donated by Advisor Er. Rita Rajkhowa and the two (2) Consolation prizes of Rs. 500.00 each from WEFA account. Along with the prize money books were also offered to the winners. Books were donated by our WEFA members namely Er. Bandita Phukan & Er. Nayan Bhandari Sharma to the five (5) winners.

Advisor, Er. Rita Rajkhowa accompanied by President, Er. Bandita Phukan, Vice President Er. Labanya Padmapati Baruah, Executive member Er. Indira Das, and the undersigned attended the programme.

The judges of the competition were Sri Tutumoni Kalita, Teacher, Sri Mukul Chandra Goswami, Chandrapur and Er. Bandita Phukan, President, WEFA. The following students won the competition and their names are as follows:

- 1st Prize: Ms. Chaya Medhi, Chandrapur High School, Chandrapur.
2nd Prize: Mr. Prakash Das, Bodhidroom Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur.
3rd Prize: Mr. Biswajit Das, Donbosco School, Chandrapur.

Consolation Prize:

- Ms. Dikshita Mitra, Bodhidroom Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur.
Ms. Supriya Acharya, Bodhidroom Jatiya Vidyalaya, Chandrapur.



At the end of the programme, President of the Forum delivered about WEFA's scheme and how this type of extempore speeches helps the students. It was informed that WEFA also helps meritorious economically weak boys and girls by providing them with solar lamps in order to pursue their studies unhindered.

Celebration of International Women's Day and Pre Rongali Bihu by the Executive members of WEFA.

International Women's Day is celebrated all over the world every year on 8th March. The Forum in its meeting held on 5.3.17 celebrated the International Women's Day by cutting the cake. Quiz competition among the members were held and prizes also distributed.

WEFA in its Executive meeting held on 8.4.17 celebrated **Pre Rongali Bihu** by exchanging gifts and taking Laru-pitha which were made by the



members themselves. All members enjoyed the evening.

I would like to thank all the members of WEFA for their continual support to the programmes conducted by the Forum and expect to help the poor and needy girl students in future.

Ms. Geetimala Baishya
Secretary, WEFA

Editorial:

The 'Cillage' is a new term recently promoted by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission, Government of Maharashtra. The Concept of Cillage is a knowledge enabled bridge to close in opportunity gaps between cities and villages. The concept involves a higher technical education institution in a rural domain becoming the host for technology awareness, capacity building, problem solving and new technology development with full

engagement of local people, faculty, staff and students. Such an eco-system world ensures up to date technology, its continuous rejuvenation and most importantly enhancement of livelihood through the use of technology including the areas outside agriculture and related value addition.

Such an ecosystem can also facilitate technology enabled enrichment of school education along with benefits of SUPW (Socially useful productive work) as a result of first hand practice with latest technologies. Establishment of Science, Innovation and Activity Centers accessible to school students would further enhance the spirit of innovation among school children. Participation of college students in these activities establishes direct contact between school and college students with benefits for both.

A cillage thus becomes an eco-system where creative researchers would work to resolve problems in rural areas through globally competitive research as well as neighborhood outreach, local people enhance their livelihood through adoption of new technologies, schools in the area benefit through inculcating innovation culture in the context of cutting edge technologies and importantly, college students become empowered to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Hopefully the practice of Cillage is exercised in our society .It is a collective effort to progress more towards making a world a better place to live.

With best wishes for happy and prosperous Assamese New year

Dr. Bibha Das Saikia
Editor, WEFA News Letter

Respected Birubala Rabha

Born in the year 1949 to Sagarbala Rabha and Kaliaram Rabha in a remote village named Thakurbila of Goalpara District in Assam-Meghalaya border, before she could enjoy her childhood in the midst of green fields, fruits & flowers , butterflies & friends ,Birubala lost her father at the age of six and forced to drop out of

school to help her mother , a farm worker. She was married to a farmer at the age of 15 and looked after her household work and their three children.



In the mid 1985, her eldest son suffered from typhoid leading to mental health problem. When she took him to a village quack for treatment in Goalpara, the village quack diagnosed her son to be assailed by demons and he would die within a few months. But she fought for his life and after some time when her son recovered made her to disbelieve the quake. (and is alive till today in as asylum in Shillong). As a result, the quack and village people branded her as witch or Dyni and cast out in the village. She survived the attack in the name of ‘Dyni’ and first raised the voice against such practices and blind superstitions.

With her years of experience about fight against witch hunting or Dyni started singular **Mission Birubala** to rescue more victims like her. Mission Birubala is a non-profit making progressive organization founded by some conscious people of Assam, namely those from Guwalpara, Kamrup (Rural) and Kamrup (Metro) districts of the state. With the birth of Mission Birubala under the leadership of Birubala Rabha in the year 2011, a reinforced fight against witch hunting was launched. It was the vindication of a sixty year old woman’s lone struggle against the strong clutches of age old superstitions that victimized both men and women and subjected them to heinous atrocities.

This organization is committed towards providing support to the survivors of witch hunting Today she travels to remote villages with team of supports to bring awareness about futility of such

practices and tries to rescue the helpless victims (in many cases killed). Strong determination and upright nature made her steel woman of North East India- Birubala Rabha for her fight against the evil practices of Assam. In this way the great lady started a lonely war against “Witch hunting” practices within Assam decades ago. She obtained inspiration for this tough work from her own sufferings and other village people. At present her efforts have been admired and recognized by many. For her fight against the menace of witch hunting, Birubala Devi (Rabha), who was recommended for the Nobel peace prize by Northeast Network, Guwahati, an NGO, in 2005. She was presented the 12th Upendra Nath Brahma award of Humanity award in Kokrajhar on 4th July 2015. This award grants her INR 25, 000, a citation and a bronze memento. She has also won the Assam Government’s Best Social Entrepreneur award and has been bestowed upon with an honorary doctorate from Guwahati University.

Further, she received Sati Sadhini Award on 21st April 2017, organised at Golaghat by the State Cultural Affairs Department in association with the Golaghat District Administration. in recognition of her relentless fight against witch-hunting across Assam. The award instituted by the State Government carries Rs 1 lakh and a citation.

Birubala Rabha is all set to speak about the scenario of witch hunting at the Witchcraft and Human Rights Experts Workshop at the

[UN Human Rights Council](#) in Geneva, Switzerland, on September 28 and 29, 2017.

Lady power:



Mumbai-based adventure enthusiast Shilpa Balakrishnan covered 29 states in India by travelling 55000 km in her bike. Most of the time she travelled alone for approximately 4 months (from October 2016 to February 2017). Her inspiration for the ride was strong desire to see the country as it really is and bust the myth that India is ugly, unsafe and filthy.

Health corner

Don,t sleep immediately—The food we intake will not be able to digest properly .Thus will lead to gastric & infection in our intestine.

Inspirational quote

“Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing, leave behind us foot prints on the sands of time.”
.....Longfellow