

NEWS

Silver Jubilee of Synapse-06 at S.C.B. Medical College and Hospital "BE CUSTODIANS OF HEALTH IN THE STATE" - GOVERNOR

His Excellency the Governor of Orissa Shri Rameshwar Thakur exhorted on 21st January the would-be doctors of Orissa to be the custodians of health in the State and march ahead with the spirit of 'Service to Mankind is Service to God'. Inaugurating the silver jubilee celebration of SYNAPSE-06 at the S.C.B. Medical College and Hospital premises in which students of three medical colleges participated, Shri Thakur said that health care holds great importance in a State like Orissa where about 85% people live in villages with poor standard of living, low level of awareness and less accessibility to healthcare facilities. Expressing concern over the maternal and infant mortality rate in the State, Thakur said it is our top priority to ensure that quality health care facilities are available at the grassroots level.

The Governor said that today the health care provisions at different levels of health care delivery systems face newer challenges in the everchanging world of scientific advancements in medical sciences. So the future custodians of public health system are to be taught and trained in such a manner so that they boldly face these challenges and convert them into opportunities.

Health and Family Welfare Minister, Shri Bijayshree Routray said that very soon there will be a Vision Document-2035 in the State. This vision document will give direction to health facilities in the State. He added that very soon there will be a health university in the State. All Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic Colleges will come under this University's administration, thereby ensuring a uniform time schedule for examination and publication of results. He also said that many health problems in Orissa are either poverty driven or ignorance driven or both. Shri Routray appealed to the would be doctors to be sympathetic to the poor man's problems.

Principal of S.C.B. Medical College Dr. D.K. Ray, Superintendent Dr. N.K. Mohanty, Advisor of Students' Union Dr. Raghmani Mohanty and President of the Students' Union Rudrashis Samal also spoke.

FOURTH INDIAN MINING SUMMIT - 2006 INAUGURATED AT BHUBANESWAR

Fourth Indian Mining Summit-2006 was inaugurated by Shri Padmanabha Behera, Hon'ble Minister for Steel and Mines and Parliamentary Affairs on 9th February at Bhubaneswar.

In his inaugural speech Minister Shri Behera thanked the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) for organising the Indian Mining Summit-2006 at Bhubaneswar, the Capital and temple city of Orissa. Orissa is not only famous for temples, beaches, waterfalls, wild life and colourful crafts but its vast mineral resources, abundant power at competitive tariff, skilled labour and harmonious industrial relations which make this eastern state India's treasure trove, he added. Geologically 2/3rd of Orissa is covered with pre-cambrian rocks comprising many metallic and non-metallic minerals. The main minerals of the State are coal, chromite, iron ore, bauxite, manganese ore, fire clay and nickel ore. This State produces about 98% of chromite, 63% of bauxite, 23% of manganese ore, 92% of nickel ore, 25% of coal

and 31% of iron ore resources of India. Shri Behera spoke that as against country's total capacity of about 36 million tonne of steel production, the state has meagre production capacity of two million tonnes which is about only 6% of the all India figure. The same is also the scenario of other minerals. By simple mining activities the State Government gets royalty, which is about 671.00 crores for 2004-05 which contributes about 27% of the state GDP. But the total area occupied by mining leases so far is approximately 0.7% of the State's area and it provides direct employment to more than one lakh persons. State Government is keen to sustain the growth of mining activities and is therefore formulating a mineral policy which will be transparent as well as investment friendly. He told that the State Govt. is taking all possible steps to utilise the mineral resources by encouraging mineral based industries in this State. In order to utilize the abundant iron ore and coal resources of the State, the Government of Orissa has signed 43 MOUs with private sectors having investment of Rs.1,36,156 (Rupees one lakh thirty six thousand one hundred fifty six) crores to produce about 58 million tonne of steel per annum. The State has also a strong geological database which provides ready to use information to investors. Lastly Shri Behera hoped that the deliberations in this mining summit will help the scholars, scientists, mining engineers, industrialists and all others associated with mining industries to chalk-out a path for future growth and development.

Shri D.K. Sahni, President, FIMI delivered the introductory speech and after that a documentary film on 'Orissa Mining' was shown to the delegates. Chief Secretary Government of Orissa, Dr. Subas Pani told in his speech that Orissa has been in the news for the last couple of years for the new mining industries. Mining industries has important role in overall development of the country. In this field, we have to follow the concept which is globally supported. There has to be a methodology to develop the mining area which is a single largest challenge Dr. Pani added in his speech. Steel and Mines Principal Secretary Shri Bhaskar Chatterjee gave his vote of thanks to the esteemed guests. Secretary General of FIMI Shri K.K. Sharma presented mementoes to the hon'ble guests.

This conference was co-organised by BHP Biliton, Essel Mining and Industries Ltd. Kolkata, IMFA Group, Bhubaneswar, MMTC Ltd., New Delhi, OMC Ltd., Red Horse Resources (H.K.) Ltd., Dalton, Rio Tinto Iron Ore, New Delhi, Rungta Mines Ltd., Chaibasa, Tata Steel, and Sandvik Asia Ltd., Gurgaon. More than 350 delegates from all over India and abroad including experts on mining attended the summit and 36 papers presentations were made in eight sessions of the Conference.

GOVERNMENT TO GIVE SUBSIDY ON ERIOPHYID MITE CONTROL OF COCONUT PLANTATION.

To boost up coconut cultivation and production of healthy coconut in Orissa, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Orissa has taken up a bold initiative and decided to lessen the burden of the farmers by increasing subsidy on eriophyid mite control of coconut, which is a great threat to coconut orchard at present.

In present situation, to control the eriophyid mite in coconut out of total cost involved for three applications of Neemazal for one palm, Coconut Development Board, Govt. of India bears Rs.8/- and rest amount is borne by the farmer.

But it is decided that Government of Orissa will give a subsidy of Rs.4/- per palm over and above the subsidy of Rs.8/- borne by the Coconut Development Board. As such farmer will get Rs.12/- subsidy for treatment of one coconut palm with Neemazal and rest amount will be borne by the farmer.

The Directorate of Horticulture, Orissa has advised the coconut growers of the state to take the opportunity of this initiative to control the pest and boost the production of healthy coconuts.