

DG desk, July 08, 2010

I have been on two exciting trips in the last few days. The first was a visit for a few hours to the Shanghai Expo, which is a remarkable accomplishment and an impressive display of diversity that marks global society and the sophistication of technology in projecting it for the average person. I visited four pavilions, the first being that of BROAD airconditioning company. The pavilion itself is a large pyramid structure, which was constructed almost miraculously within 24 hours. A film shows this step by step, leaving a deep impression on the mind of the viewer. The second was the Chinese pavilion, the highlight of which was a massive electronic display using a 700 year old painting of life in a village and city of China, all of it brought to life through animation. As one walked across the huge pavilion with the projection of this living city all around, one felt being a living part of the entire experience which was projected. The Saudi pavilion was equally impressive with hi-tech projection of life and cities and structures in Saudi Arabia, presented on what was claimed to be the largest projection screen in the world. The Indian pavilion was a disappointment, and frankly left me angry, because we had lost an opportunity to really project what India is and is going to be in the future.

Yesterday, I had gone to Guwahati to address a group of legislators and others on climate change and its implications for the north-east. I then spent about two hours with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Mr. Tarun Gogoi, going to a village where we have implemented several activities as part of our LaBL campaign, and the Chief Minister as well as another minister in the Assam cabinet Mr. Akom Bora, were very impressed. I then spent some time with colleagues at our North East Centre and was very happy to see the work being done in that Centre, which we had established way back in 1993, and which now shows dynamism and great promise. I shall be providing colleagues with more information about this Centre very shortly.