

March 12, 2010 -- India -- Sonia Gandhi at Don Bosco Museum, Shillong



(ANS – Guwahati) – The Honorable Sonia Gandhi, chairwoman of UPA, visited and inaugurated Don Bosco Museum, Mawlai, Shillong, on March 5, 2010, in the presence of Shri R.S. Mooshahary, governor of Meghalaya, Dr. D.D. Lapang, chief minister of Meghalaya, Shri Luizinho Faleiro, Congress Party secretary in-charge of Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, and Sikkim, Shri Vincent Pala, union minister of state for water resources, and a host of dignitaries at a simple ceremony by cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque.

Mrs. Gandhi was warmly welcomed by the 22-piece band of Savio Juniorate, Shillong -- a local Salesian residential school -- and was led into the museum by 22 young women bedecked in the traditional finery of the different tribes of Northeast India.

Mrs. Gandhi interacted briefly with a select group of guests -- from the political, social, educational, and religious sectors of society -- who collaborate in diverse ways with Don Bosco Museum. She had warm words of commendation for the wonderful center that has been set up by the Salesian Society, terming it the best museum that she has seen. Despite the rich cultural diversity of Northeast India, the incidence of strife and violence in some parts of the region coupled with limited infrastructure and poor connectivity, has prevented the region from playing its due role in the national arena. Don Bosco Museum, by showcasing cultural richness and promoting mutual understanding among both students and scholars, can be a wonderful catalyst for building a peaceful society. On her part she pledged to tell many others of this wonderful museum, encouraging them in turn to visit it and be informed and enriched by wonderful Northeast India.

Prior to her address, Mrs. Gandhi visited the different galleries of the museum, appreciating the rich collection of artifacts depicting the diverse cultures of the different tribes of the Northeast. The seven-story museum offers visitors an unforgettable experience of the mosaic of cultures of the Northeast through 17 aesthetically pleasing and informative galleries, 22 artistically woven alcoves that welcome visitors, a newly constructed skywalk to view the beauty of Shillong, and a series of multimedia presentations in every gallery on the different aspects of Northeastern cultures. Using state-of-the-art technology, Don Bosco Museum opens wide the doors of knowledge to its visitors. The amazing collection of attire, accoutrements, weapons, ornaments, and rare photographs of the region is phenomenal.