

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace (NEIWIP).

The journey of a humble initiative of women from India's Northeast that started in 2010 has now entered its third year. A network of over 120 women has been formed from across eight states of the region and efforts are on to further strengthen work for peace, democracy and rights of the people of region through this initiative.

On 3 and 4 May 2013 Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, Control Arms Foundation of India, Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace in collaboration with India International Centre (IIC) with support from Heinrich Böll Stiftung, New Delhi will be organizing a conference on the theme "Weaving History of Northeast India Conclave Series-3: Including Histories of Northeast India in National Curriculum" at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.

Please find here April 2013 issue newsletter, positive news of April regarding Diaspora, history, peace and news on women empowerment from Northeast India and rest of the world to renew our hopes and strengthen our efforts to work towards peace making.

'History of the Hmars in North East India' book review

Source: Mizonews.net, 24 Apr 2013

One of the few Hmar intellectuals who combine in him discipleship and scholarship is the Reverend Dr Hrilrokhum Thiek, a retired pastor who is now settling at Muolhoi, Halflong. His new book on the History of the Hmars in North East India (with special reference to Assam) is indeed a welcome addition to the existing but sketchy published materials on the Hmar tribe who are found today in different parts of North East India. The book is divided into 18 chapters which covers not only the Hmars but also the allied tribes with whom Hmars have close contact throughout the concerned historical period. [Read more:](#)

The NorthEast: Menancing Nexus

Source: Real Politik, 6 Apr 2013

Insurgencies in northeast have seen cycles of reverses and resurgence as most states there remain poorly governed. India's Northeast, troubled by decades of militancy and ethnic extremism had seen dramatic improvements in the security scenario over the past years. A multiplicity of enduring insurgencies had weakened considerably, either disintegrating or seeking peace through negotiated settlements with the Government. The region has, however, given cause for some concern in 2012. [Read more:](#)

A History of Muslims and Barak Valley: Pioneering effort to bring the fact.

Source: Two Circles.net, 27 Apr 2013

The Muslims in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam have played a major role in the history since ages. At present the Muslim population is around 33 per cent in the state and has been vital in many aspects of the socio-political scenario. On times, it is difficult to find the details of the community and their role in the state and the region which is known for its cultural diversity. But there is an effort by noted scholar and educationist Ali Haidar Laskar to bring the historical facts and figures of the Muslims in Assam, especially in the Barak Valley for the first time with his book 'A History of the Muslims and the Barak Valley'. [Read more:](#)

Another gangrape in northeastern India as protests continue in New Delhi over 5-year-old's rape

Source: News, 22 Apr 2013.

There has been a gangrape of a nine-year-old girl in the northeastern Indian state of Assam. Police said that they have launched a massive manhunt for the two unidentified persons who allegedly gangraped the nine-year-old in Assam's Cachar district late Sunday evening before dumping her at a tea garden. [Read more:](#)

48,338 child rape cases from 2001 to 2011 with 336% increase of child rape cases from 2001 to 2011

Source: Epao.net, 20 Apr 2013

Asian Centre for Human Rights in its report, "India's Hell Holes: Child Sexual Assault in Juvenile Justice Homes" (<http://www.achrweb.org/reports/india/IndiasHellHoles2013.pdf>) stated that sexual offences against children in India have reached an epidemic proportion and a large number of them are being committed in the juvenile justice homes run and aided by the Government of India. The report has been submitted in advance to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Ms Rashida Manjoo who is conducting an official visit to India from 22 April to 1 May 2013 while ACHR is scheduled to meet the Rapporteur on 23 April 2013. [Read more:](#)

Mizo teen's book "Facebook Phantom" released

Source: Mizonews.net, 27 Apr 2013

Bangalore-based Mizo teenager has taken a literary path which only a few of her compatriots dare to undertake – to write a novel in English. Seventeen-year-old Suzanne Sangi's debut novel "Facebook Phantom" will be released here tomorrow at the Tagore Hall of the United Theological College in Benson Town. "The book will be released by Karnataka IG&DGP Pu Lalrokhuma Pachuau," family sources told Mizonews.net. [Read more:](#)

All Meghalaya blocks to have banks: Sangma

Source: IANS, 12 Apr 2013

Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma Friday said all 39 blocks across the state would become "banked blocks" with the setting up of bank branches there. "Our engagement with banks will be much more aggressive to have their branches in the block headquarters to facilitate banking facility," he said. Stating that 90 percent of the state population did not have access to banks, Sangma -- who was replying to a discussion on the budget in the assembly -- rued "pathetic" credit deposit ratio (CDR) in the state, which was less than 20 per cent. [Read more:](#)

NE India-Myanmar Business Conclave from May 26

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 30 Apr 2013

In a bid to boost trade relationship Myanmar and India, specially in the northeast region, the first ever "North East India-Myanmar Business Conclave" is all set to commence from May 26 next with the inaugural function on May 27 at Monywa and Mandalay. The proposed business conclave has gained significance in the light of business projection that the quantum of trade between India and Myanmar is likely to be increased manifold and it is estimated to cross 3 billion dollar during current 2013. [Read more:](#)

Truce with 'K' to be extended; with 'IM' still unknown

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 24 Apr 2013

Ceasefire between the Government of India and the NSCN group headed by S.S Khaplang will be extended for one more year after the current term ends in the next few days. The ceasefire term ends on April 28. Official sources said leaders of the NSCN-K and New Delhi had agreed on extension of the ceasefire after the April 28 expiry in the national capital on April 22. However, it is not clear whether the two sides had signed the agreement. [Read more:](#)

Czech Republic keen on joint ventures in northeast India

Source: IANS, 25 Apr 2013

The Czech Republic is keen to set up joint ventures in agro-based industrial sectors in northeast India and is also willing to extend technical support to develop the segment, Czech Ambassador to India Miloslav Stasek said here Thursday. "With the developing of agro-based industries in Tripura and other northeastern states, the region could build up a strong trade network between the region, south and southeast Asia," Stasek told reporters. [Read more:](#)

TRIPURA - the state with a difference

Source: Greater Kashmir, 23 Apr 2013

Cradled in a landscape dotted with hills, lush green valleys crisscrossed by rivers, sprawling lakes and pristine forests, Tripura is a land of antiquity in the north-eastern tip of peninsular India. This erstwhile princely state merged with Indian Union on October 15, 1949 in the aftermath of partition and was a union territory for over two decades before getting the status of a full-fledged Indian state in January, 1972. Nestled in a remote corner of north-eastern region of India, Tripura is the 3rd smallest state of the country after Goa and Sikkim. [Read more:](#)

North-east expansion plans for Phase III

Source: Radioandmusic.com, 22 Apr 2013

FM Phase III is the much awaited chapter in the history of private radio industry of India. Like most private radio stations, Radio Misty based in North-eastern India, is waiting for it to arrive so that they could expand their hold more strongly in the region. Growing revenue and listenership has boosted the confidence in Misty to expand. It has witnessed a growth of ten per cent compared to last year. Speaking with Radioandmusic.com, Radio Misty 94.3 FM and Radio Misty Sikkim 95 FM vice president Dilip Dugar said, "In the next auction, we are planning to have more stations in North-east India. We have done very well in the market so we don't just want to expand more but add about 17 more stations more in Phase III. We have done very well in the market so revenue as well." [Read more:](#)

Save Arunachal's Hornbills Project Shortlisted for 'Green Oscars'

Source: India local news, 19 Apr 2013

A project to save the hornbills of Arunachal Pradesh has been short-listed for the Green Oscars. London based Whitley fund for nature on Thursday announced the shortlist of seven finalists for the Whitley awards, a prestigious annual international prize that honours exceptional individuals working in grassroots nature conservation, in what are often conflict-torn and under-resourced developing countries. Aparajita Datta's project, "threatened hornbills as icons for the conservation of the Himalayan forests of Arunachal Pradesh, India" is among the seven finalists for the Rs 2 crore (€245,000) prize. [Read more:](#)

Manipuri officer to receive top military honours from UK Government

Source: Myadvcorner.blogspot.com, 10 Apr 2013

Lt. Khwairakpam Robin Singh, a young Manipuri youth serving as a Lieutenant in the British Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service (RMAS), Special Forces, has been chosen for a prestigious gallantry award for his bravery during a fierce gunfight with Al-Qaeda insurgents in Afghanistan in 2011. For his act of bravery and inspirational leadership during a fierce gunfight, Robin will receive the 'Conspicuous Gallantry Cross', a second ranking award on June 19 in London. He will also get 15,000 pounds as a mark of encouragement and respect for the act of heroism. [Read more:](#)

Arunachal scribe invited by German NGO

Source: The Morung Express, 13 Apr 2013

Arunachal Pradesh journalist Tongam Rina, who had been grievously injured in by unidentified gunmen, has been invited by a German NGO for a one-year stay in that country. Rina has been invited by 'Hamburger Stiftung', a German NGO that cares for journalists in need, a statement released here by the German Embassy said. Hamburger Stiftung is organising and sponsoring her stay in Germany. The Associate Editor of Arunachal Times, Tongam Rina, was shot at point-blank range close to her office in Itanagar on 15 July 2012. [Read more:](#)

Imphal-Kohima battle selected 'Britain's Greatest'

Source: Press trust of India, 21 April 2013

Britain's struggle to repel a combined force of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose-led Azad Hind Fauj and Japan during World War II, around Imphal and Kohima in 1944 has been adjudged the 'greatest ever battle involving British forces', a report said. The clashes that took place in the north-eastern corner of India, were voted the winner of a contest run by the National Army Museum here, to identify 'Britain's Greatest Battle'. The battles of Imphal and Kohima saw the British and Indian forces, under the overall command of Lieutenant-General William Slim, repel the Japanese invasion of India and helped turned the tide of the war in the Far East. [Read more:](#)

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