

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

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

The journey of a humble initiative of women from India's Northeast that started in 2010 has now entered its second 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.

As India has been rocked with protest demanding safety, security of women and to stop all forms of violence against women, Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace and Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network also participated at several protests. On 27 Dec 2012, our team participated the Citizen's March to India Gate starting from Nizamuddin Gol Gumbaz at around 12 pm demanding Justice for Women who faced sexual violence and to stop any form of violence to woman. On 28 Dec 2012, we gain join Women of Northeast India were part of peaceful protests which centred around India Gate seeking justice & call for ending all forms of violence against women. On 29 Dec 2012, we have a meeting with Ministry of Women and Child, Government of India regarding regarding the issue. Our team dedicate coming year 2013 to be year of Ethnic Reconciliation. It's a need of the hour in Northeast region.

Please find here December 2012 issue newsletter, positive news of December 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.

Assamese NRI Traced 200-Year-Old Dictionary In London

Source: Sevendiary.com, 2 Dec 2012

A manuscript of a 200-year-old dictionary of ten languages, including English, Assamese, Bengali, Manipuri, Garo, Rabha, Koch, Kachari, Panikoch and Mech, has been traced in the British Library in London. The British Library, is the national library of the United Kingdom with a wide collection of over 150 million items from many countries, has in its shelves 'Comparative Vocabularies'. The manuscript was written by Dr Francis Buchanan Hamilton (1762 to 1829) [Read more:](#)

Using development for peace in Assam good approach, says Powell

Source: The Times of India, 23 Dec 2012

US ambassador to India Nancy J Powell is impressed by the Assam government's bid to use development to bring peace to the state. She said chief minister Tarun Gogoi's approach in this area is an encouraging sign. Powell was here to inaugurate the American Business Centre and also to facilitate US companies to invest in Assam. "I feel using development and education as a tool to resolve crisis in the northeast is a good approach," she said, while interacting with a group of journalists on Friday. [Read more:](#)

Mizoram Govt and HPC-D Peace Talks Back on Track

Source: The Northeast Today, 16 Dec 2012

The Lal Thanhawla-led Congress government in Mizoram has paved the way for resumption of peace talks with the Hmar People's Convention-Democratic (HPC-D), which had hit a roadblock in December 2010. A meeting between Mizoram government officials and HPC-D representatives at Mizoram House in Silchar on Thursday was said to have shown positive signs. "We will chalk out a roadmap for the peace talks after Christmas and New Year festival, on condition that the HPC-D fulfill its homework" a source told Newslink. [Read more:](#)

Manipur grapples with rising number of crimes against women

Source: The Times of India, 23 Dec 2012

There has been a steep rise in crime against women in Manipur despite the emergence of a large number of women's vigil groups and civil bodies and higher recruitment in the police department. Gender analysts here said misuse of technology, delayed delivery of justice, poor economic condition and imposition of the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (Afspa) are some of the factors fuelling crime against women in the state. They said lack of human rights and gender equality education in police training and non-implementation of gender issues in education are adding to the problem. [Read more:](#)

North-East forum calls for repeal of AFSPA

Source: The Times of India, 23 Dec 2012

The North-East Dialogue Forum (NEDF), a conglomeration of various civil society organizations of the region, has urged the Centre to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from the northeast. Terming the Act as "draconian", the forum, in a press conference here on Friday, said the Centre's own committee headed by justice Jeeven Reddy set up in 2004, and the Second Administrative Reforms Commission chaired by Congress leader Veerappa Moily, have already recommended to repeal the Afspa. [Read more:](#)

Sr NSCN (IM) cadre 'molests' film actress

Source: The Sangai Express, 19 Dec 2012

Film fraternity of Manipur took to the streets in Imphal city to denounce the highhandedness of an NSCN (IM) cadre, who allegedly molested and assaulted a film actress and fired at other actors during a musical concert in Chandel district headquarters last evening. The musical concert was organised by the Mahamani Women Society, Chandel. The sordid incident has come at a time when a final settlement to the peace process between the Naga rebel outfit and New Delhi is reportedly at hand. [Read more:](#)

Journalist covering Manipur strike killed in police firing

Source: The Hindu, 23 Dec 2012

Manipur, which had been reeling under a general strike called by film actors demanding the arrest of R.P. Livingstone, an NSCN(I-M) functionary, for allegedly misbehaving with an actress, suffered a jolt when a journalist was killed in police firing at Thangmeiband here on Sunday. The strike has since been suspended till December 26 in view of Christmas. [Read more:](#)

1st NE India on Top of the World (Mt. Everest) Expedition

Source: Eastern Mirror, 18 Dec 2012

A preparation camp for the 1st North East India on Top of the World Expedition 2013 was held in Aizawl from 10 to 15 December. Mizoram minister for Sports and Youth Resources Zodintluanga is one of the patrons of the expedition. The camp was sponsored and organized by Mizoram's Sports and Youth Services Department with an objective to promote Sports and adventure Tourism. [Read more:](#)

Christmas Stars all Over Northeast India Spreading Message of Peace

Source: Zolengthe.net, 20 Dec 2012

A paper star spells a lot during Christmas. Symbolizing hope, love, peace and divinity, stars adorn almost every household, offices and market places in the Northeast region in the advent of Christmas. "People are swarming to roadside and departmental stores which display local-made paper and bamboo Christmas stars of varied designs for sale. A star is a must for the Christmas decorations. [Read more:](#)

NE projected as gateway to ASEAN as car rally flagged down

Source: Echo of Arunachal, 17 Dec 2012

Pivotal to the country's "Look East Policy", India's North East region could serve as the gateway to ASEAN countries with the ASEAN-India car rally 2012 proving the effective road link between these neighbouring nations. The car rally was flagged down in Assam's main city Guwahati today after traveling a distance of 8,000 km across nine nations, with 31 cars and 124 participants taking part in this 22-day long journey that started from southern tip of Indonesia on November 26 last month. [Read more:](#)

Spread the message of love and brotherhood: Ering

Source: Echo of Arunachal, 23 Dec 2012

Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Ninong Ering has called upon the Christian community to spread the message of love and brotherhood, urging them to show their 'true' love and affection towards their neighbours. The chief guest was addressing the Advent Christmas programme at Town Baptist Church, Dambuk today. Saying Christmas is the season for 'Love, Joy and Peace', the very message of Lord Jesus Christ while coming to this world in human flesh, which is celebrated all over the world, he exhorted the people to forgive and forget one another's mistakes and faults. [Read more:](#)

Badal offers free higher learning opportunities to deserving students of North-Eastern States

Source: The Assam Chronicle, 12 Dec 2012

In the wake of inadequate educational opportunities for the youth in the North-Eastern states of the country, Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal today offered to provide free quality higher education facilities to the deserving bright but underprivileged students hailing from North-Eastern states in the state universities. [Read more:](#)

Assamese Filmmaker Barua Honoured With 1st Bhupen Hazarika Award

Source: Sevendiary.com, 3 Dec 2012

Acclaimed Assamese filmmaker, Padma Shri awardee and nine-time National award winner Jahnu Barua was conferred with the 1st Bhupen Hazarika National Award by Pune-based NGO Sarhad held on Sunday at S M Joshi Hall, Pune. The award was presented by former Assam chief minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, to institute the annual award this year going forward, in honour of award-winning singer Bhupen Hazarika who passed away last year. [Read more:](#)

Mo Tattoos opens its first studio in northeast India

Source East Expeda, 4 Dec 2012

Mo Naga, owner and artist of Delhi's renowned Mo Tattoos, announced the opening of Headhunters' Ink, his first tattoo studio in the NE region today. His new venture at Bora Service in Guwahati aims to promote the traditional tattooing art of North Eastern tribes and to make North East India a force to reckon in the world of tattoo art. The event also marked the inauguration of Headhunters' Ink Tattoo School, North-East's first official tattoo training institute. [Read more:](#)

Horticulture College in Mizoram Soon

Source: The Northeast Today, 24 Dec 2012

Mizoram will soon have a horticulture college as per plan. Mizoram chief minister Lal Thanhawla, when meeting Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar on December 19 in the latter's office, informed the Union minister about the delay on the part of the Union ministry in sending 'high power committee' members for setting up of Horticulture College in Mizoram. Lal Thanhawla requested the Union minister to send a team at the earliest for the said project to Mizoram. [Read more:](#)

Delhi Horror Turns Spotlight on Northeast Women

Source: The Northeast Today, 24 Dec 2012

The Sunday night horror where a paramedic student was gang-raped in a moving bus in south Delhi has once again turned the spotlight on security of northeastern women in the national capital. In 2010, a Mizo woman, working in a call centre was gang-raped by four men in a moving car at Barakhamba in central Delhi. In spite of big claims made by the Union Home Ministry and Delhi Police of taking strong action to stop such crimes, government statistics show an increasing trend of such incidents in the national capital. [Read more:](#)

US to Boost Commercial Ties with Northeast India

Source: The Northeast Today, 15 Dec 2012

The US Mission in India will act as a facilitator in building business and commercial ties between North East India and the US, said US Ambassador to India, Nancy Jo Powell while interacting with select media persons. Referring to the emerging prospects for US and Indian entities, she said that infrastructure, healthcare, tourism, and IT fall within the ambit of mutual interest. An American Business Corner has been recently established in Guwahati to increase awareness in this regard among local entrepreneurs. [Read more:](#)

Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace and Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network joins protests. See media coverage:

Story 1: Protesters demand fast-tracking of trial in rape cases

Source: The Hindu, 28 Dec 2012

The protests against the gang-rape of a 23-year-old woman, which has become the inception point for a new public demand for change in the way safety of women is perceived and approached by the authorities, has refused to die down. The national Capital on Thursday saw a fresh set of peaceful but lengthy face-offs between the Delhi police and the protesters, who were demanding removal of the city Police Commissioner Neeraj Kumar, fast-track trials in rape cases and improved safety for women through better policing and stricter anti-rape laws. [Read more:](#)

Story 2: Justice for Women Now: Protest in New Delhi

Source: Kafila, 28 Dec 2012

On a day when the Prime Minister put his foot in his mouth by saying that 'footlose migrants' were responsible for heinous crimes like rape. On a day when the S.O.P – 'son of a president / sign of a pervert' – Abhijit Mukherjee said that the protesters were 'dented and painted' women, on a day when yet another gang rape was reported in Delhi, and a young woman ended her life in Patiala because the police harassed her in Patiala following her complaint of rape – hundreds of young women and men, and many not so young and women and men, gathered under the single banner of 'Justice for Women Now' at noon in New Delhi, at the Nizamuddin 'Sabz Burj' with an intention to march to India Gate. [Read more:](#)

Story 3: Indian Women March: 'That Girl Could Have Been Any One of Us'

Source: Washington Post, 30 Dec 2012

Neha Kaul Mehra says she was only 7 years old the first time she was sexually harassed. She was walking to a dance class in an affluent neighborhood of New Delhi when a man confronted her and began openly masturbating. Police officers stood guard outside a cremation center in New Delhi on Sunday before the arrival of the body of a 23-year-old woman who was fatally beaten by a group of rapists on a bus. That episode was far from the last. Years of verbal and physical sexual affronts left Ms. Mehra, now 29, filled with what she described as "impotent rage." [Read more:](#)

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