

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

FEBRUARY 2013 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 the One Billion Rising Global Campaign to stop all forms of violence against women by organising a series of event regarding the issue. On 1 Feb 2013, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, Northeast India Woman Initiative for Peace (NEIWP) successfully organised the event **"Women, Peace and Security: Strategizing to End Violence Against Women in India"** at Control Arms Foundation of India Office, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. On 7 Feb 2013, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, Northeast India Woman Initiative for Peace, Initiatives Women in Development in collaboration with Women and Gender Studies Cell, St Stephen's successfully organised the event **"Strategizing to End Violence Against Women in India"** at St Stephen's College, New Delhi. On 14 Feb 2013 we again successfully organised the event **"Strategizing to End Violence Against Women in Manipur"** at Classic Hotel, Imphal, Manipur.

Please find here February 2013 issue newsletter, positive news of February 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.

Call for End to Violence Against Women in Conflict Areas of India: Urges Government to Implement Justice Verma Recommendation on AFSPA

Source: TheNortheast Today, 4 Feb 2013

A round table discussion on the topic "Women, Peace and Security: Strategizing to End Violence Against Women in India" was held on 1 Feb at Control Arms Foundation of India in New Delhi. Meeting was held to discuss issue of women in conflict areas of India following Justice Verma recommendation on Armed Forces Special Powers Act as well as in solidarity with the One Billion Rising Global Campaign to stop all forms of violence against women. Esteemed panelists included Mr Arvinn Gadgil, State Secretary/Deputy Minister of International Development of Norway; Mr Eivind S Homme, Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy, New Delhi [Read more:](#)

Manipur Women Rises to End Violence Against Women and Girls in State

Source: Epao, 14 Feb 2013

1 Billion Rising campaign states, "One in three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime". In India, according to National Crime Record Bureau in 2011, 14.7% rape cases are registered in cities while 85% rape cases are registered in rural India total of 2, 28,650 women faced violence and abuse during 2007-2011. In Northeast India, a total of 13,308 incidence of crime against women had been reported according to the National Crime Records Bureau 2011 with 11503 cases in Assam, 269 cases in Meghalaya, 1358 cases in Tripura, 167 cases in Mizoram, 247 cases in Manipur, 38 cases in Nagaland, 171 cases in Arunachal Pradesh and 55 cases reported in Sikkim. [Read more:](#)

Manipuri Woman Becomes Youngest Vice Chancellor of India

Source: Sevendiary.com, 4 Feb 2013

Dr.Thoudam Prabha Devi from the state of Manipur has become the youngest woman vice-chancellor of an Indian university besides being the first ever manipuri lady to hold the post. The 40 year old lady and a resident of Naharup Makha Pat Awang Leikai in Imphal East district, is now appointed the Vice-Chancellor of Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's (JVW) University, Jaipur. Prabha began her teaching career from Nirmalabas High School, Imphal and then years later, also taught at the Baptist College in Nagaland and the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in Delhi. [Read more:](#)

Visiting professor shares history of Northeast India

Source: The Woostere Voice, 05 Feb 2013

Rakhal Purkayastha, Visiting Fulbright Scholar Professor of History, presented a history of Northeast India to the campus community on Tuesday. Considered to be one of the most politically divided areas of South Asia, Purkayastha kept students, faculty, and staff eager to learn more about a region of the world that is not often publicized. It is very difficult for these regions to find coverage in the press or in the media," said Purkayastha. At the best, we know about India, but we don't know about Northeast India. "You find people from every race of the world in the Northeast." [Read more:](#)

GI registration for Manipur State Handloom & Handicrafts products soon

Source: The Sangai Express, 1 Feb 2013

Along with official procedures to obtain patent rights for three specific indigenous handloom products of Manipur, efforts are on to study intricacies of tribal shawls for similar patent guardianship, said Principal Secretary (Commerce & Industries) O Nabakishore Singh. Speaking as the chief guest at the one-day seminar cum workshop for 'awareness & registration on Geographical Indications (GI) at Imphal Hotel today, the IAS officer said that preservation of Manipur's traditional and indigenous handloom and handicraft products [Read more:](#)

1st North East India Top of the World Mount Everest Expedition, 2013 flagged off

Source: Imphal Free Press, 25 Feb 2013

The 1st North East India Top of the World Mount Everest Expedition, 2013 was flagged off by Gurbachand Jagat, Governor of Manipur at the historic place of Kangla Ultra Mamang today. Speaking at the function Gurbachand Jagat, Governor of Manipur said the participants for the expedition are the best candidates for this discipline. [Read more:](#)

India's Northeast: Where India and Asean can thrive

Source: Bangkok Post, 4 Feb 2013

Lying at the crossroads of South and Southeast Asia, the Northeast region of India is geographically and culturally remote from the heartland of India and incorporates a cultural kaleidoscope of more than 200 ethnic and tribal groups, who are ethnically, linguistically and culturally distinct. This has the potential to make it a future tourist paradise and an intriguing study for social scientists as well. Unlike their counterparts in the rest of India who speak languages belonging to the Indo-European and Dravidian family of languages a large number of people from Northeast India speak Sino-Tibetan languages or Austro-Asiatic languages. [Read more:](#)

113 crorepatris in fray for Meghalaya polls

Source: PTI, 12 Feb 2013

Altogether 113 candidates of the total 341 candidates in fray for the February 23 Assembly elections in Meghalaya have property worth over Rs one crore, according to an working for electoral reforms. The ruling Congress fielded 35 crorepati candidates including four women, second only to the 38 others who joined the 2013 poll battle as independents, said the Meghalaya Election Watch (MEW). [Read more:](#)

Assam Wins National Award for E-Governance

Source: Sevendiary.com, 5 Feb 2013

Assam's Computerisation of Registration (Panjeeyan) Project has won the prestigious Gold Icon National Award for e-governance, presented by the Union Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for 2012-13. The project was implemented by Revenue and Disaster Management Department under the Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Project (AGPRMP) funded by Asian Development Bank. [Read more:](#)

Projects of National Importance to get priority: Bansal

Source: The Northsat Today, 27 Feb 2013

Expressing hope that Finance Minister P. Chidambaram will sanction the necessary funds, Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal Tuesday said he will accord top priority to rail projects of national importance. "I am fully conscious of the difficult task of the finance minister but hope that he will find ways to provide necessary funds for important rail connectivity projects," Bansal said while presenting his maiden rail budget in the Lok Sabha. [Read more:](#)

Sikkim Needs Rail Connectivity: MP

Source: The Northsat Today, 28 Feb 2013

The railways should create a mountain unit within the ministry to plan connectivity in the Himalayan region, lone Sikkim Democratic Front member in the Lok Sabha, P D Rai, said Wednesday while noting that his state, which borders China, remains cut off from the national network till date. "Till date there is no rail link to Sikkim. There is no strategic thinking. Why can't we have railway when China has built rail connectivity till Lhasa in Tibet," Rai told IANS. [Read more:](#)

Two Women Contesting Nagaland Elections 2013

Source: Sevendiary.com, 20 Feb 2013

Among the 126 hopeful candidates, include two women candidates who have filed their nomination papers for the upcoming Nagaland Assembly elections scheduled on February 23. One of the women candidates is Dr Yanglerla Ao, former Director of Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Department, formally declared her candidature as Independent candidate. She is contesting from the 27th Mokkokchung Town A/C, a constituency of her birthplace. [Read more:](#)

Sikkim an example of Peaceful Border State: Chief Minister

Source: The Northeast Today, 24 Feb 2013

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan K. Chamling said Saturday the state has changed the conventional perception about a border state being "traditionally troubled" with good governance, peaceful development and a "general sense of happiness" of its 600,000 people. "The general idea has always been that how can a border state be peaceful, development oriented and progressive? People think that border states are traditionally troubled. But this is an example of a peaceful border state," Chamling told the media in the picturesque capital of this Himalayan state known for its rich organic resources and eco-friendly outlook. [Read more:](#)

Assam Produces 53 Per Cent Of India's Tea

Source: Sevendiary.com, 16 Feb 2013

Assam produces 53 per cent of total tea production in the country, says a data released by the Tea Board of India. In 2012, India produced 1,111.76 million kgs of tea and in this portion, Assam's share was 588.27 million kgs. The production of tea in the country was 1,115.72 million kgs in 2011, which is the highest ever production by India. [Read more:](#)

Northeast Ignored In Rail Budget, Says Tripura Minister

Source: The Northeast Today, 27 Feb 2013

Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal has largely ignored the northeast in his maiden rail budget and focussed only on the mainland states, a minister in Tripura's Left Front government said here Tuesday. "Like in previous years, the infrastructure and industry-starved northeastern region was again ignored in the railway budget for fiscal 2013-14," Transport Minister Manik Dey said. "People of Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and southern Assam have long been seeking conversion of the metre gauge track to broad gauge beyond Lumding in southern Assam. [Read more:](#)

India's undiscovered gem: the hills of Meghalaya

Source: The Guardian, 1 Feb 2013

In Meghalaya, north-east India, women own the land, Christianity dominates and the landscape is straight out of The Hobbit. Our writer visits a most unusual state. Two-lane traffic ... one of the living tree bridges in Meghalaya, India. Click on the magnifying glass icon to see a larger image. Photographs: Nick White. "I'm the supreme power in my house," declared Dave the shopkeeper. "That is certain." Behind him his wife and female relatives giggled. He turned and glared until they agreed that he was definitely the boss. The women had good reason to snigger. [Read more:](#)

Organic is the way to till in Green Sikkim

Source: The Northeast Today, 25 Feb 2013

Greener, bigger, fresher and more wholesome than elsewhere in the country – that's how vegetables appear here, in the manicured Saramsa Gardens, the venue of the Sikkim International Flower Show, 2013. Rows upon rows of potted vegetables flourish in what is described as the state's organic stomach. Tomatoes, dwarf red peppers (jolakia), chinese cabbage, fennel, indian cabbage, green lettuce, red lettuce, zucchini, broccoli, cauliflower, beetroot, turnips, 60 varieties of locally-grown rice [Read more:](#)

NE Movies Mostly Serve Local Market, Says Filmmaker

Source: The Northeast Today, 25 Feb 2013

India has the world's largest filmmaking industry but Manipur-based filmmaker Oinam Doren says movie-making in the country's northeast is only restricted to regional market. "Most of films made in the northeast are for regional market. You cannot expect a Manipuri movie to release in the entire country. Only Bollywood movies have the kind of power or money to make such big movies. A few good movies are sent to international festivals," Doren told IANS. His movie "Songs Of Mashangva" was screened at the recently held Blue Lotus Music Festival here. [Read more:](#)

Budget 2013: FM stresses on waterways connectivity for Northeast India

Source: The Economic Times, 28 Feb 2013

In a move to restore the pre independence days glory of water transportation in Northeast India, Union Finance minister, P Chidambaram in his budget 2013-14 has announced the Lakhipur - Bhanga stretch of river Barak in Assam will soon be declared as the sixth national waterway. Presently Northeast India faces tremendous problem for not exploring its waterways. Already the move to link the South East Asian countries through Northeast India is on. [Read more:](#)

Abok's Friendly Lamp: - Eta Thangmei (Thaomei) Manipur Folktales

Source: Epao.net, 16 Sep 2012

Simple stories sometimes shine in glory so supreme and so marvelously that it forever never ceases to dwell upon special sites in our hearts and minds that in spite of age and time, it continues to yearn for tales that tell moments so much part and parcel of our real life. This story reveals a simple tale of an old Abok and her imaginary friendly talking lamp creating an exciting moment that captures the moral message of old wisdom winning over evil-guided acts of all. [Read more:](#)

Folklore From North-East India: A Manipuri Tale About A Demoness

Source: Greener Pastures, 8 Aug 2012

This tale, about bravery and intelligence, has its origin in the state of Manipur in northeastern India, a beautiful land which has remained much hidden from the outside world due to decades of hostile struggle and hard terrain. Long long time ago in a faraway village in Manipur, lived a poor couple – Kaliyong and his wife Roopa. They had two small children whom they loved very much. Most of the times, the husband remained at the house but at times he would go out to make a living for the family. [Read more:](#)

Folklore from North-East India – Rih Dil Lake, Mizoram Folktales

Source: Greener Pastures, 24 Sep 2012

Rih Dil Lake, a heart shaped lake located midst breathtaking greenery, is the largest lake in the state of Mizoram in India, but awkwardly, is situated in the kingdom of Myanmar. Maybe it has to do with the influence of the lake in the culture and tradition of the Mizo people. There was once a girl named Rihhi who unfortunately had a very cruel stepmother and father. One day, the father took Rihhi's young sister deep inside the forest and killed her. Rihhi eventually found her lifeless sister and inconsolably wept. A friendly spirit called Lasi found Rihhi crying. [Read more:](#)