

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

JANUARY 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 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.

On 8 Jan 2013 we joined the NDTV public discussion and debate on the theme "'Amanat' case: Is there a race for foot in mouth disease?" regarding the horrific gang-rape of the 23-year-old medical student and bizarre and downright sexist comments by some leading leaders of India on how women should behave in India to prevent rapes. Please find here January 2013 issue newsletter, positive news of January 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.

Two North East India women groups receives Times of India Social Impact Award

Source: Sevendiary.com, 30 Jan 2013

Two social women groups from the Northeastern states – Meira Paibi, the fearless group of women from Manipur and Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) of Nagaland have been jointly honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award of the "2nd Times of India Social Impact Awards", presented by the President of India Pranab Mukherjee at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi yesterday. NMA and Meira Paibi have campaigned against alcohol and drug addiction, gender violence and human rights violations in their states, and spearheaded peace efforts in the insurgency-ridden region. [Read more:](#)

'Amanat' case: Is there a race for foot in mouth disease?

Source: NDTV, 8 Jan 2013

Ever since the horrific gang-rape of the 23-year-old medical student, we have been waking up almost every day to bizarre and downright sexist comments by some leading light or the other. Yesterday, it was spiritual guru Aasharam Bapu, today it was Samajwadi Party leader Abu Azmi, who said fashion and nudity were responsible for rapes. It's almost like a race for who makes the most shocking comment. We discuss. [Watch video:](#)

On 64th Republic Day, march for women's freedom

Source: NDTV, 26 Jan 2013

Just hours after Rajpath in the heart of Delhi came alive with a grand display of India's military might and colourful floats to mark the country's 64th Republic Day, not far away, a very different procession was taking to the streets. Called the 'freedom march' to Reclaim the Republic, it included many protesters who had been water-cannoned and tear-gassed just last month at the same place that was today the focus of India's celebration. [Read more:](#)

Cultural Positioning of Tribes in North-east India

Source: Economic and Political weekly, 5 Jan 2013

Despite the fact that the Indian nation state is publicised as one carrying a long and rich civilisational heritage, it is largely a product of a 19th century Indian response to British colonialism (Baruah 2009: 177). How-ever, while India's modern, educated, urban elite – whose intellectual horizons were extended by modern ideas and whose sphere of action was expanded by modern agencies – thought it was possible to unite India in a single political community (Khilnani 2004: 5), the concept of Hinduism as a force unifying religious [Read more:](#)

With Verma committee report, clamour against AFSPA gets louder

Source: The Hindu, 23 Jan 2013

Political parties, human rights groups and various other organisations have made unheeded calls in the past for doing away with or amending the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), but will the criticism of this legislation by the Justice JS Verma committee be the turning point? Presenting the report to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a member of the committee Gopal Subramaniam today said that armed forces, including para-military forces, should be brought under common law when operating in conflict zones in order to stem the number of cases where women were sexually exploited. [Read more:](#)

Comics, graphic works: Towards animated belief

Source: NP Feature, 8 Dec 2012

If names like Phantom, Mandrake, Tarzan, Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Titin, Asterix or Bahadur and Chacha Chaudhary are familiar signifiers, you surely have consumed numerous sequences of images in the multiple-panel sequence of comic strips or comic books. These characters from the comics have managed to weave magic into our imaginations and left our minds with imageries difficult to erase from the mindscape. The popularity of these characters has been made possible through the art of comic book making and production. [Read more:](#)

2 Fast Track Courts yet to pick speed in Manipur State

Source: Imphal Free Press, 31 Jan 2013

The state government has kept in a sorry state of affairs two fast track courts of the state which were established 11 years back to take up cases relating to violence related cases against women and children remain unknown to the public and are in a sorry state even as the clamour for such courts have only begun in other states following the brutal rape resulting in the death of a 23 year old student in New Delhi. As per an investigation conducted by IFP, there are two fast track courts in Manipur, namely Additional District and Session Judge, Manipur East [Read more:](#)

The Internationalization of Women's Issues

Source: The New York Times, 8 Jan 2013

At the dawn of this new year, a note of cautious optimism is rising from female leaders, activists and advocates who are anticipating major new strides as "women issues" go global. "Women issues are world issues," Michelle Bachelet, the executive director of U.N. Women and former president of Chile, said recently. "Today there is greater awareness than ever before that women's full participation is essential for peace, democracy and sustainable development." [Read more:](#)

Manipuri Girls become Overall Champions in All India Inter-University Taekwondo Tournament 2013

Source: Epao.net, 25 Jan 2013

Manipuri Girls Become Overall Champions In All India Inter-university Taekwondo Tournament held at Panjab University on 24th January 2013. The girls representing Manipur University bagged a total of 4 Golds. [Read more:](#)

Assamese Researcher at Stanford found measures to cure TB

Source: Sevendiary.com, 31 Jan 2013

Dr. Bikul Das, an Assamese researcher at Stanford University has discovered the paves to completely eliminate the TB bacteria and cure the deadly disease that still kills 1.9 million people across the globe annually. Times of India wrote today; In a study published in the journal - Science Translational Medicine, Das, who has been researching the subject for the past 15 years, points out that TB bacteria hide in a group of stem cells inside the bone marrow beyond the reach of antibiotics and the body's own immune system. [Read more:](#)

Rosa Parks at 100: a great American rebel for racial justice

Source: The Guardian, 31 Jan 2013

On 1 December 1955, Rosa Parks famously refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama, thus launching the modern-day civil rights movement. Monday 4 February is the 100th anniversary of her birth. After she died at the age of 92, in 2005, much of the media described her as a tired seamstress, no troublemaker. But the media got it wrong. Rosa Parks was a first-class troublemaker. [Read more:](#)

Xomidhan: The first free career portal of NE

Source: Sevendiary.com, 27 Jan 2013

Xomidhan, is a 3-year-old registered non-profit organization which launched the first free career counseling portal of Northeast India . Started Xomidhan.org (click here) on January 1, 2010 as a collective effort by some working professionals from Assam, it has now turned into an organisation with volunteer counsellors from every part of the world, providing career guidance in all the domains such as options after Class 12, conventional career options like medical and engineering, higher studies in India and abroad, upcoming careers like journalism, creative writing, law, competitive exams like defence services, civil services, life sciences, business and management studies, fine arts to name a few. [Read more:](#)

Folklore From North-East India: Tale Of A Mishmi Girl

Source: Greener Pastures, 17 Jan 2013

This folktale, from the Idu Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, tells about the moral behind the Idu tradition of naming their new born babies within 5 days after delivery. If not followed, it is believed that a khinu (Eng: spirit) will name the baby and take it away. One upon a time, a beautiful daughter was born to a married couple who lived in the hills of Dibang Valley. Even after five days after birth, the parents had not decided upon her name, and that's when they heard a bird sing "anchi-anchi". They liked the twitter of the bird a lot and accordingly named their daughter Anchi. [Read more:](#)

State handloom products to be registered in GI Registry

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 1 Feb 2013

State handloom products namely Moirang-Phee, Saaphee-Laaphee and Rani-Phee are ready for registration in the GI Registry of India in compliance to Geographical Indication Registration Act, Principal Secretary of Commerce and Industries O Nabakishore has informed. He was speaking as Chief Guest of a day-long Seminar cum Workshop on Geographical Indication organised by Department of Commerce and Industries under the aegis of Geographical Indication Registry, Chennai at the Conference Hall of Imphal Hotel, North AOC here today. [Read more:](#)

North East News for 30 minutes in English will be launched on Sadhna TV

Source: Epao.net, 14 Jan 2013

Exclusively North East News for 30 minutes in English will be launched on 14th January, 2013 at 7:30 pm on Sadhna T.V. Name of the programme is Northeast Gateway, The Cultural programme had already started from 1st of Jan, 2013. The channel is available on Airtel dth, Dish tv dth, DD dth and Cabel tv network. The site for this programme is [www.sadhna.com](#). [Read more:](#)

Full frontal feminism

Source: The Asian Age, 13 Jan 2013

These generations of feminists have broken the shackles of that era's priorities, ethos... They are more strident, less elite and less inhibited. Since the dark night of the Delhi gangrape, the rising of the young has been an inspiration. Every corner of conventional power has been shaken into acknowledging this uprising. The majority of those who are engaged in it are students, with almost an equal number of young women and men. Many of us so-called elders merged with them. I, for instance, spent some time at the protesters' meetings at Jantar Mantar. [Read more:](#)

Aribam Syam Sharma's Leipaklei invited to Jeonju Int'l Film Fest

Source: Imphal Free Press, 28 Jan 2013

Noted film director, Aribam Syam Sharma's latest Manipuri feature film-Leipaklei (2012) has been invited for participation at the Jeonju International Film Festival to be held at Jeonju, South Korea from April 25 to May 5, 2013. Aribam Syam Sharma's Leipaklei Based on the Sahitya Akademi Award winning drama- Leipaklei written by Arambam Samarendra, the film tells the story of a woman- Leipaklei who is separated from her husband and whose life is surrounded by the hard trials of fate and is burdened with sustaining herself and her little daughter. [Read more:](#)

Northeast fashion gets new platform

Source: Punjab News Express, 11 Jan 2013

Following the first ever Shillong Fashion Week (SFW) in 2012, Guwahati is set to host the North East Fashion Fest (NEFF). The event, endorsed by Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan, will give the local talents a chance to promote their craft and boost their business. The four-day festival, organised by Basics Concepts and Marketing, will start Feb 20 at the Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok in Guwahati, Assam's main city. [Read more:](#)

"Children film are neglected in Manipur" RK Nimai Singh

Source: Imphal Free Press, 31 Jan 2013

Manipur, IMPHAL, January 31: 3 days 4th Children Film Festival inaugurated today at Manipur Film Development Corporation Ltd.(MFDC) auditorium, situated at palace gate, Imphal. The festival was jointly organised by Manipur Film Development Corporation and Children's Film Society of India (CFSI). To showcase the festival 7 children films were selected to picture at the MFDC theatre. The inauguration function was attended by Commissioner (Art & Culture) Dr. RK Nimai Singh, Director Art and Culture K Sobita Devi [Read more:](#)

News portal launched

Source: Imphal Free Press, 23 Jan 2013

A Mobi, President of the All Manipur Working Journalists Union today launched a new media website, [www.manipurtimes.com](#) at the Hotel Yaisana. Calling upon media to focus on positive news, A. Mobi speaking at the launch said that the media of the state are publishing negative news as the main news in a bid to attract more readers and to sell more, which has adversely affects the minds of the young. [Read more:](#)

Manipur Fashion Extravaganza

Source: Kanglaonline, 7 Jan 2013

In a gala eveing, one of the most awaiting fashion events 'Manipur FASHION Extravaganza' (MFE) was held with a total number of 33 models walking the ramp at Hotel Imphal on 6th Jan 2013. Jakei Besterwich, Mitali, Dayana, Priyanka, Nina, Sony Kaur, Anjum and others are some of the gorgeous models from other fashion hub cities in India like Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad etc., who added glamour to the event. While, Lin Laishram, Halley, Nirmal Kangjam and others are the models from the state who took part at the event making the show bravura. [Read more:](#)

Mizoram University and Minnesota University to sign MoU

Source: Sevendiary.com, 28 Jan 2013

Mizoram University and University of Minnesota (USA) have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in research collaborations and exchange programme for faculty members and students. Mizonews.net reported that the two universities had made the decision in a joint meeting held on January 24, 2013 at the Mizoram University Administrative Conference Hall, presided by the Vice Chancellor Prof. R. Lalthantluanga and representatives from University of Minnesota – Prof. Dr. Karlyn Eckman (Senior Consultant at Food & Agriculture Organisation of United Nations and Chief of Minnesota University Water Resource Centre) [Read more:](#)

8th North East Business Summit Begins

Source: Press Information Bureau, 09 Jan 2013

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar has inaugurated two-day 8th North East Business Summit here today. Addressing on the occasion, Shri Ghatowar reiterated that it is the most opportune time for North East to capitalize on the growing trade relation with the bordering nations and emerge as a crucial enabler to enhance economic and cultural tie-ups with these neighbouring countries. [Read more:](#)

National Seminar on singularity of India begins

Source: The Sangai Express, 28 Jan 2013

A two-day national seminar on Singularity of India: Integration, Homogenisation and Racism was inaugurated at Classic Hotel today. The seminar is being jointly organised by United NGO's Mission Manipur (UNM-M), Conflict and Human Rights Studies Network, Manipur and North East Dialogue Forum. The inaugural function of the seminar was graced by Prof Vanlalngnak, Director, IGNTU-RCM; U Noboki-shor, Secretary United NGOs Mission-Manipur and Satyajit Usham, editor of Hueiyen Lanpao (Eng) as the chief guest, president and guest of honour respectively. [Read more:](#)

North East: India's Unexplored Paradise

Source: TravelBiz, 10 Jan 2013

The New Year is kick-starting for India Tourism with a long overdue initiative that will focus on a hidden treasure of Incredible India, the North East region. The International Tourism Mart (ITM), organised by Ministry of Tourism, (MoT) Govt. of India from January 18-20 in Guwahati, Assam, will highlight the immense tourism potential of the region on a global level. MoT plans to create a platform to showcase the wealth of destinations and tourism offerings of the eight states in the region and West Bengal, much needed business opportunities for the stakeholders of North East. [Read more:](#)

North-east India welcomes first international tourism mart

Source: TIG India, New Delhi, January 11, 2013

INDIA'S Ministry of Tourism will organise an international tourism mart in Assam's Guwahati from January 18-20, marking inaugural efforts to host such events in the country's north-east. Tourism minister, K Chiranjeevi, said: "The mart will provide a platform for delegates to engage in one-to-one meetings with sellers from the north-eastern region. Tourism product suppliers on their part will be able to reach out to international buyers." [Read more:](#)

Centre mulls AFSPA repeal

Source: The Guardian, 5 Jan 2013

The UPA is all set to take another look at the controversial Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), armed with a devastating critique of the law by IDSA. The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, the government's premier think tank, has concluded in a blistering appraisal report, that "status quo is no longer acceptable". It suggests major changes, or the replacement of AFSPA — the law that gives sweeping powers to the Centre's counter-insurgency forces — by a more acceptable law. [Read more:](#)

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