

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE MAY 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 organised 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. On 30 and 31 May 2013, our team have joined the continuous process to ensure justice to a young Northeastern girl, late Ms A.S. Reingamphi alias A.S. Solam from Ukhrul district, of Manipur who was found dead under suspicious circumstances in her rented accommodation, House no. 424/B, Ground Floor, Chirag Delhi, New Delhi -110017 under Malviya Nagar Police Station in India's capital Delhi where the police has at first refused to file an FIR and to conduct proper investigation which is itself a discrimination, violation of citizens rights and a racist behaviour towards Northeasterners of India.

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

Weaving History of Northeast India Conclave Series-3: Including Histories of Northeast India in National Curriculum
Source: Epao.net, 8 May 2013

For more than 63 years in the history of the independent Republic of India, the history/histories of 45 million of its citizens living in 8 states of the Northeast region of the country have been absent from our school, college and university text books. Northeast India is home to over 272 ethnic groups and communities. However, there is no collective writing, publication or inclusion of its varied histories in the syllabus or the text books of the country's schools and universities. [Read more:](#)

State girl found dead in South Delhi's rented room, relative's suspect Landlord's hand
Source: The Sangai Express, 29 May 2013

A 21 year old girl, identified as Reingamphi Awungshi was found dead today at her rented room in Chirag, South Delhi. Reportedly, her landlord informed the Police and one of her friends who stays nearby, who in turn passed on the information to her relatives in Delhi. One of the relatives of the deceased told The Sangai Express that they came to know of the incident at about 11 am. [Read more:](#)

The Moral Trumpets of Delhi Police
Source: News Click, 30 May 2013

Delhi police trips on misogyny and prejudice yet again in investigating the death of Reingamphi, 21-year old girl from Northeast who was found dead in Delhi on May 29. Fresh mangoes were carefully laid on the kitchen slab next to the pressure cooker on the gas stove. The phone charger was still on. This small cane rack, found in the households of all newcomers in Delhi, is symbolic of the aspirations and enthusiasm with which people flock to the national capital. Reingamphi, 21, was found dead in this two room ground floor flat in B Block, Chirag Dilli at 2 pm on May 29. [Read more:](#)

Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences finalises country mission to India
Source: Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights, 1 May 2013

At the end of her official country mission to India, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, delivered the following statement: "I have been mandated by the Human Rights Council to seek and receive information on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and to recommend measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women ..." [Read More:](#)

'I Studied History For 5 Years, But There Was Not A Single Chapter On The History Of The Northeast'
Source: Tehelka, 13 May 2013

Why is the Northeast conspicuous by its absence in the academic curriculum of the country? In a recently concluded conference called 'Weaving histories of Northeast India', intellectuals, scholars and historians came together to understand why and make concrete plans to change this aberration. Binalakshmi Neparum, founder of the Manipur Gun Survivors Network and Secretary General of Control Arms Foundation of India tells Aastha Tyagi about her vision to get rid of the prejudice that these gaping holes in history can breed. [Read more:](#)

The unfold story: The Great Battle of Maram
Source: Sevendiary.com, 29 May 2013

After defeated at the battle of Kohima, the Japanese troops were retreating via Viswema, Mao-Songsang and at the great ridge of Maram (Manipur), the battle of Maram was fought on 18th June 1944. Though Major General Miyazaki of the Japanese 31st Division was told to hold on to Maram for ten days, a brilliant battle plan executed by Michael West and the 7th Battalion Worcestershire regiment made the Japanese to retreat within few hours. [Read more:](#)

History as a utility toolkit
Source: The Times of India, 19 May 2013

India's very recent history provides some choice examples of the institutionalized use and abuse of history for present-day ends. Bengal's Marxists and the Centre's Hindu nationalists, ideologically deadly foes, can become fellow travellers when it comes to the politician's contempt for the disinterested pursuit of history. Those who have been living under the illusion that the Nehruvian legacy has insulated Congress from this tendency are in for a shock. [Read more:](#)

Meghalaya boys won Coca-Cola Cup
Source: Sevendiary, 31 May 2013

For the first time in its historic calendar, Meghalaya won the national Coca-Cola Cup football trophy (under-15) beating Odisha 1-0 on Tuesday, at the Father Agnels School in Vashi. The state had never won a National Football Championship before be it senior, junior or sub-junior. Meghalaya coach Jefferey Walarpih complimented his boys for the achievement, saying, "It was a tough challenge. After all it's an U-16 tournament and I need to laud my boys for the manner in which they responded. They deserve the title much more than anyone", quoted IANS. [Read more:](#)

Book to promote NE cuisine industry released
Source: The Assam Tribune, 2 May 2013

North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India is looking towards developing the cuisine industry of the region that is unique in flavour and taste and also boasts of an exceptional cooking procedure. As a step towards promoting the region's cuisine, the NEZCC has published 'Food Trail: Discovering Food Culture of Northeast India' - a first-of-its-kind anthology on food culture of Northeast India. [Read more:](#)

Book on folktales of Dzongu released
Source: Sikkim Now, 5 Feb 2013

'Dzongu Nye Mayellyang Sikkim', the first book by Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha was released by the HRDD Minister, NK Pradhan in a function organized by the Sikkim Lepcha Youth Association [SLYA] today. The book has a foreword by writer Gener "Ghije" V Talan of Pimpfunes and is a compilation of folklores of Noom Panang, Nayving Cave, Mulongmung Cave, a love story of Sumfuk Punu and Lungzong, Fenn and others. It has been mentioned that these classic folklores of Dzongu have never been put on paper before [Read more:](#)

Manipur's titular King meets Muivah
Source: NagalandPost, 30 May 2013

In a historic meeting, the titular King of Manipur Leishemba Sanajaoba met NSCN (I-M)'s general secretary of Thuingaleng Muivah at Hebron Camp in Dimapur recently. According to the reports in the local dailies, Sanajaoba met Muivah at Hebron Camp in the early part of May, 2013. The report said that Muivah described the meeting as very historic, valuable and of utmost importance. [Read more:](#)

Angami folk tale 'Man Tiger Spirit' showcased at London event
Source: Nagaland Post, 8 Jul 2012

A unique animation film based on a Naga folk tale and paintings by London-based artists hailing from India's north-east were the highlights of an event at the Nehru Centre here to celebrate the art and culture of the region. The six-minute film titled 'Man Tiger Spirit' produced by researcher Tara Douglas, secretary of the London-based Adivasi Arts Trust, in collaboration with animators from the north-east was noted for its aesthetics, folk sounds and bringing to life a tale that is less known in other parts of India or abroad. [Read more:](#)

Mayong myth captured on screen
Source: Aiyushmandutta.wordpress.com, 31 May 2013

For many of us in Assam, Mayong is synonymous with black magic. Villagers of this quaint village are regarded to practice black magic to cast evil spells on unknown people. Although no written proof ever existed, for the first time ever the myth is being documented on celluloid. Assamese film critic-turned-filmmaker is presently trying to capture the myth through his documentary- Mayong: Reality/Reality. [Read more:](#)

Arunachalee weightlifter becomes first Indian to win Gold at AYWC
Source: Sevendiary.com, 29 May, 2013

Arunachalee weightlifter Jimjang Deru became the first Indian to win Gold medal (boy's 50kg category) in the ongoing 15th Asian Youth Weightlifting Championship held at Doha on Tuesday. He won two gold medals and a silver medal, to open India's account on the opening day of the annual championship event. Jamang bagged a silver in snatch with an effort of 87kg before adding a gold to his kitty in clean and jerk with a lift of 113kg. He signed off with a gold in total lift with an effort of 200kg. [Read more:](#)

Sufi singer Chitrallee Goswami mesmerises Keralite music lovers
Source: Aiyushmandutta.wordpress.com, 7 May 2013

A Sufi concert by noted Assamese Sufi singer Chitrallee Goswami from Mumbai was held in Kozhikode last week at the Calicut Co-Operative Urban Bank Auditorium. The concert was organised as the part of anniversary celebrations of Sai Organisation, Chalppuram, Calicut. During Chitrallee's maiden performance in Kerala, which continued for almost one and half hours, Goswami presented two of Amir Khusro's legendary numbers and one of her own recent compositions 'Dum Ali Dum'. During the presentation, Goswami translated many of the Urdu words to English and Hindi for ease of understanding of the South Indian audience. [Read more:](#)

The European Business and Technology Centre brings EU cleantech experts to North-East India, to explore opportunities in energy and water
Source: European Business Technology Centre, 23 May 2013

Exploring the abundance of opportunities that the North-East States of India has to offer for EU-India collaboration in the field of energy and water is the key focus of EBTC's Cleantech Expert Mission to North-East India 2013. The European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC), in partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute MOEZ from Germany, and in association with the Indian Chamber of Commerce, will be visiting Guwahati and Shillong from 27th - 29th May 2013 along with cleantech experts from the EU, and interacting with organisations, companies and governmental agencies from across the North-East. [Read more:](#)

Three Northeast Boys beaten in Delhi: Father, Son arrested
Source: Northeast Support Centre and Helpline, 7 May 2013

In yet another shocking incident of discrimination against the Northeast people, three Northeast boys has been allegedly beaten up by the landlord and his son on Monday evening. The father, Adarsh Kumar and his son, Ashish Tokas have been arrested after they allegedly assaulted three Northeast boys with wooden sticks accompanying a group of local people, here in Munirka yesterday. [Read more:](#)

Questions of North East India
Source: The Shillong Times, 8 May 2013

The recent clashes in Assam once again reveal the gory and tragic history of India's North East. Political and Social commentators have tried to explain away the North East problems in a very facile manner without looking into the complex nature of the problems, be they ethnic, political or militant issues. They have taken a singular view of the question of identity or administration in the North East by considering it as a single unit. The single unit misnomer perhaps makes solutions elusive. [Read more:](#)

North East Students' Organisation (NESO) proposes 8-point agenda to GoI
Source: Hueiyen News Service, 10 May 2013.

A delegation of the North East Students' Organisation (NESO) has proposed the 8-point agenda to the government of India which include education policy and human resources development; repeal of impunitive legislations and expedite the ongoing peace process for an early negotiated settlement; infiltration of illegal migrants, refugees and demands for a comprehensive policy on the issue; economic and infrastructural development and concern on environment; employment policy for the North East [Read more:](#)

President focus on education, peace
Source: The Telegraph, 15 May 2013

President Pranab Mukherjee today wrapped up his two-day Nagaland visit with a message on world-class education, global outlook, peace and development. Addressing a large gathering at the third convocation of Nagaland University, he said "We are deficient in the number of quality academic institutions, on account of which many bright students go abroad for higher studies. There are more than two lakh Indian students studying abroad. India has the capability to be in the global top league but for this the way education is imparted needs to be changed [Read more:](#)

Manipuri Woman Lily Chanu P and Her Team Win India's First-Ever Archery World Cup Medal in Shanghai
Source: Timesfeed, 19 May 2013

India won a first-ever archery World Cup medal in the compound women section when Trisha Deb, Gagandeep Kaur and Manipur's Lily Chanu P beat their Italian opponents in the bronze medal play-off in Shanghai on Saturday. India avenged last year's defeat, beating Italy 228-223 to open the account with a bronze medal on the penultimate day of the archery World Cup State 1. [Read more:](#)

Bangladesh allows transit for foodgrains for Northeast India
Source: Zee News, 25 May 2013

In a major policy change, Bangladesh will allow India ferry foodgrains for the mountainous northeastern states via its territory, a Tripura minister said here. "Initially, the Bangladesh government has agreed to transport 10,000 tonnes of foodgrains for Tripura through its territory," Tripura Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bhanulal Saha said. [Read more:](#)

CBSE class X results 2013: Northeast students fare better
Source: India Today, 31 May 2013

In the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) results declared for its class 10 examinations on Thursday, students from northeastern region have performed better this year. According to reports, the pass percentage of the NE states, including Sikkim, went up to 93.58 per cent from 91.25 per cent last year. Girls have done better than the boys in the exam this year again. [Read more:](#)

Home Sponsored Post Nagaland Music Scene caughts British Council's attention
Source: Sevendiary.com, 27 May, 2013

While Nagaland Government is carving a niche to make music an industry in the state. Tuning up forward, in a progressive fortune — Nagaland music scene has already caught the attention of British Council too. Taseem Vahanvaty, Head of Business Development for the Arts, British Council India (BCI), who was part of a three-member team from the BCI visiting Nagaland earlier this month, spoke of her wish to promote the music scene in Nagaland. [See more](#)

EMA social gathering and general body meeting held at Worcester
Source: Imphal Free Press, 29 May, 2013

"A two day annual convention of the European Manipuri Association (EMA), Annual Social Gathering and General Body Meeting concluded on 27th May 2013", said a press statement of the association. It said the convention began from the evening of the 25th at the Highball Country Centre at Worcester, near Birmingham. Like every year, members and friends of European Manipuri Association from different countries in Europe attended this year's two days gathering, making it another great congregation of Manipuri diasporas in Europe. [Read more:](#)

Mary Kom's boxing academy to get Centre's grant
Source: sevendiary.com, 30 May, 2013

The Union sports ministry has approved a grant of Rs 309.56 lakh in principle to London Olympic medalist and five-time world boxing champion MC Mary Kom for setting up her boxing institute. The grant under National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), will be released in installments on fulfilling certain conditions for construction of gymnasium hall and procurement of gym equipment. [Read more:](#)

Arunachal woman scales Mt Everest for third time
Source: Sevendiary.com, 25 May, 2013

Mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh Anshu Jamshenpa, who holds the record of being the only mother in the world to scale the peak twice in 10 days, has conquer the Mount Everest on May 18, 2013 for the third time. She was among the 11 mountaineers as part of the 1st North East India Mt. Everest Expedition to make it to the summit. The team has broken numerous records for the first time. [Read more:](#)

A Nation Not Of Woman Born
Source: Aiyushmandutta.wordpress.com, 1 May 2013

One night long ago, at the stroke of the midnight hour, when half the world slept, India apparently awoke to life and freedom. But it was a freedom leading and (to be) sullied by a handful of people. It was the freedom of a nation conceived and delivered by a few leaping men. For the new India only had so many 'fathers of the nation', no mothers. Its systems and norms were also thus shaped by the patriarchs. Any wonder then that in this nation, women still cannot walk in the streets with their heads held high, their minds without fear? [Read more:](#)

Interview: Debut Indian Author Dismanthes Stereotypes Through Storytelling
Source: Asiasecurity.org, 20 Mar 2013

Boats on Land is my (humble) homage to storytelling. Storytelling as performance, oral archive, and reservoir of both history and folklore. I think there are few misconceptions on the part of the West about the Northeast, as it doesn't usually feature in people's awareness of India's boundaries. Aside from a small, hardy cluster of Welsh, Irish and Italian missionaries, whose predecessors have been travelling there since the mid-1800s, people don't know much about the region. Apart from Assam, perhaps, which is famed for its tea. [Read more:](#)

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