

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

Newsletter, April 2012

Dear Friends,
Greetings.

The wrongful deaths of two students from Northeast India in April 2012 sparked a massive debate in India over the issue of racial profiling and discrimination of people from the Northeast. Control Arms Foundation of India and Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network spearheaded various call for justice to end violence and discrimination. On 29th April 2012, Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network and Control Arms Foundation of India participated candle light vigil at India Gate, New Delhi demanding for justice for wrongful death of a Manipuri student Richard Loitam of Acharya Institute, Bangalore.

Besides this struggle, we also joined on 4th April, 2012, Initiatives: Women In Development, Joint Women's Programme, Prakriti Foundation and United Nation Information Centre in organising an event titled "To Explore Strategies to Ensure Land for Women in the Governance System" at the UN Conference Hall at UNDP, Lodi Estate, New Delhi. Besides we were also invited on 12 March to be a part of women's leaders group who met and interacted with UNDP Chief Administrator, Helen Clark.

Please find here April 2012 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.

Binalakshmi Nepram
Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network
Secretary General, Control Arms Foundation of India

Land Ownership, Collective Farming and Women Empowerment

Source: Epao.net, 5 Apr 2012

An interactive planning session on the topic "To Explore Strategies to Ensure Land for Women in the Governance System" was held on 4 April 2012 at the UN Conference Hall at the premises of United Nation Development Program, Lodi Estate, New Delhi. [Read more:](#)

Bhutan's first woman Gup leads the way for a new generation of women leaders

Source: UN Women South Asia, 17 Apr 2012

When 28-year-old Namgay Peldon was elected as the Gup of Tashiding Gewog in Bhutan's Dagana district, she made history of sorts, becoming the first woman Gup or block leader in Bhutan after the nation first went to polls in 2008. [Read more:](#)

The egotistical elephant and praying pebet

Source: Epao.net, 8 Apr 2012

A long time ago, at the edge of a big forest lived a pebet with her tiny brood. It was a happy nest indeed complete with some eggs waiting to be hatched. One day a herd of elephants was advancing towards the bush on which her nest lay. [Read more:](#)

Student allegedly beaten to death at Bangalore

Source: The Sangai Express, 19 April, 2012

A Manipuri student, studying B'Arch at Bangalore was allegedly beaten to death by senior hostelmates when he switched the channel of the television while watching an IPL match last night. [Read more:](#)

Justice for Loitam Richard Campaign at Jantar Mantar by MSAD

Source: Epao.net, 29 April 2012

The Manipur Students' Association Delhi (MSAD) had organised a demonstration and a candle light vigil on 29 April 2012 to condole the untimely lost of Richard Loitam and to protest his murder on 17th April by his hostel mates and the denial of justice. [Read more:](#)

12 Mizo women 'harassed' in Bangalore to leave for Mizoram

Source: Mizonews.net, 12 Apr 2012

Women from northeast India continued to be a soft target for companies in the cities like New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. The latest incident of women from the region being 'harassed' by their employer came to light when a group of 12 Mizo ladies were allegedly 'harrassed' by their employer here in India's IT capital Bangalore. [Read more:](#)

Security Council hears of need for more women in peace and security matters

Source: UN News Centre, 26 April 2012

The UN Security Council today held a meeting at which it heard of the need to strengthen the role of women in the area of peace and security, such as through increased participation in politics. [Read more:](#)

Northeast India should go for traditional housing

Source The Economic Times, 9 April 2012

Quake-prone north-eastern India should switch to traditional forms of house-building, including houses made of bamboo and cane that are flexible and able to withstand tremors said experts at a meet here. [Read more:](#)

Nation-wide Protest Demanding Justice for Loitam Richard, Protesters Want Quick Action

Source: International Business Times, 30 Apr 2012

Nearly two weeks after a student from Manipur died after allegedly beaten up by two of his hostel mates in Bangalore, protests were held in various parts of the country on Sunday demanding justice. A protester holds a placard at a protest in Bangalore on April 29, 2012, demanding justice for Loitam Richard [Read more:](#)

1 lakh seek justice for Manipur youth

Source: The Telegraph, 28 April 2012

A campaign that gets the support of more than one lakh people in a span of a few days, be it in the virtual world of Facebook, clamours for attention. The one lakh-plus people who have registered support for the Facebook campaign, Justice for Richard Loitam, whose death and subsequent efforts to pass it off as an accident has stirred up a hornet's nest, are angry. [Read more:](#)

Amity student ends life, Meghalaya CM alleges discrimination against NE

Source: Hindustan Times, 25 April, 2012

A day after a second year MBA student of Amity University allegedly committed suicide in her hostel room, police have registered a case of abetment to suicide against the university authorities. Dana Silva M Sangma (21), the deceased student, is the niece of Meghalaya chief minister Mukul Sangma. [Read more:](#)

Small Scale Industries Important for NE India

Source: The Northeast Today, 25 April 2012

The picturesque north eastern region of India has a lot of potential and plenty of natural resources that are yet to be tapped. This region is still underdeveloped, even though India is one of the fastest developing countries. [Read more:](#)

Meet on Ethnography and Tribes begins

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 3 Apr, 2012

A 3-day long National Seminar on Ethnography and Tribes in Colonial Northeast India being organised jointly by Department of History, Manipur University and Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi commenced at the Lecture Hall of the History Department, MU today. [Read more:](#)

Book On Monsang History Released

Source: The Naga Journal, 13 Apr 2012

A book entitled, Glimpse of Mon-sang History and Culture, revised and edited by E Kh-artu Monsang and Dr RK Ranjit Singh was released by Th Oliver Monsang, OS-D, IGNTU in a function held yesterday under the aegis of Situ Upa Ruh (Monsang Tribe Union). [Read more:](#)

Pradeep Gurung wins DID-3 Silver Crown

Source: The Northeast Today, 23 Apr 2012

The PRADEEP GURUNG FAN CLUB (PGFC), the coordination committee of Pradeep Gurung- splendid dancer of Dance India Dance season 3(DID 3) in ZEE TV who has last night won the DID-3 SILVER crown, has thanked and acknowledged support of the entire gamut of population East and Northeast India. [Read more:](#)

Does attire define a woman?

Source: The Hindu, 29 April 2012

If clothes don't make a man, why do women from the northeast in their short skirts raise so many eyebrows? They often seem to bear the brunt for not adhering to the Indian standard cultural norms of an ideal woman's clothing. [Read more:](#)

Assam has lead role in Look East effort: PM

Source: The Hindu, 20 April 2012

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday said he would discuss with the Myanmar leadership, during his Yangon visit next month, how the two nations could increase opportunities for expansion of trade, economic cooperation and connectivity to the larger ASEAN region. [Read more:](#)

CNN IBN debate on whether the Northeast India can ever become part of Indian Mainstream

View <http://ibnlive.in.com/videos/254555/ftn-can-the-north-east-ever-become-part-of-the-indian-mainstream.html>

Times Now debate on victims of discrimination

View debate at <http://www.timesnow.tv/Debate-Victims-of-discrimination---1/videoshow/4401185.cms>

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