

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE Newsletter, June 2012

NORTHEAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE JUNE 2012 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 have 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.

In June 2012, a unique initiative was started when on 30th of June 2012 the event "Seeking Our Collective Peace: The Northeast India Diaspora Looks into Solutions for Peace and Development in the Region" was organised successfully at India International Centre, New Delhi. The event was jointly organised by Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, Mindfields: Journal of Ideas and Learning, The Northeast Today (TNT) Magazine and Control Arms Foundation of India supported by Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF).

Please find here June 2012 issue newsletter, positive news of June 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
Convenor, Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace

In numbers: Women in politics globally
Source: CNN, 28 June, 2012

In the first time in modern-day France, women hold half the posts in Cabinet, honouring a campaign pledge by new president Francois Hollande for parity among men and women in government. The recent elections also delivered another record: 155 female MPs voted into France's National Assembly. [Read more:](#)

'Remove weaknesses of institutions that speak for the northeast'
Source: Indo Asian News Service, 30 June 2012

The charters of institutions that speak for the northeast should be re-looked at to remove their weaknesses while the people there should transform themselves to get to know each other better, a noted author said at a seminar here on restoring peace in the region. [Read more:](#)

Tezpur University and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Chennai organises Colloquium on Women's Movement in North-East India
Source: HT Campus.com, 18 June 2012

Tezpur University and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Chennai had organised colloquium on Women's Movement in Northeast India between March 26 and March 27, 2012 at Tezpur University. [Read more:](#)

Naga mothers stand firm in hostile terrain
Source: The Statesman, 24 June 2012

IF one were to write about women in the North-east, the result would have to involve their personal struggles, fight against state harassment and their contribution to society and family. In recent years, it has also come to be about their contributions in sports, education and initiating NGOs or self-help groups, development and women empowerment. [Read more:](#)

Rethinking Women's Power in Manipur
Source: Epao.net

Manipur has witnessed the successful role of collective women's power in the past and also in the present day. This is something, which we can celebrate. However despite their major contributions in the socio-economic and political life of the state, they are not given their due position in society. Thus there is a mismatch between women's role and status. [Read more:](#)

Women Should Be Part Of Peace Process: Group
Source: The Irrawaddy, June 27, 2012

"Women's participation at all levels of the peace process is needed to reflect the concerns and voices of the women and children who are particularly affected when conflicts occur," said WLB General Secretary Tin Tin Nyo at a press conference in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai. [Read more:](#)

The ongoing tragedy of India's widows
Source: Women Under Siege, 22 June, 2012

Widows in India have a pronoun problem. The estimated 40 million women widows in the country go from being called "she" to "it" when they lose their husbands. They become "de-sexed" creatures. Clearly, it's more than a problem of language, although that discrimination goes further, with epithets such as "husband eater" used against them. [Read more:](#)

Northeast India Plays Important Role in United States of America Silk Road for Trade
Source: The Northeast Today, 20 June, 2012

The United States of America expects better trade and economic ties between India and the Central and Southeast Asia by developing a New Silk Route, an American official said here. "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has recently highlighted that the US looks forward towards the setting up of the New Silk Route, where the Northeast India plays an important role as the region connects India with neighbours in the east," Kolkata-based US Consul General Dean R Thompson said. [Read more:](#)

Northeast India's first Indian Institute of Information Technology, IIIT coming up in Tripura
Source: IBN Live, 11 June, 2012

Northeast India's first IIIT (Indian Institute of Information Technology) will be set up in Tripura, a minister said here on June 8. Tripura Education Minister Tapan Chakraborty informed, "Union Human Resource Development and Information Technology Minister Kapil Sibal informed at a meeting in New Delhi that northeast's first IIIT would be set up in Tripura." [Read more:](#)

Tripura's Royal Palaces to be Turned into Museums
Source: The Northeast today, 26 June, 2012

Tripura's royal palaces, which were command hubs until the erstwhile princely state's accession to India in October 1949, are now being turned into museums to showcase northeast India's art, culture, history and ethnic diversity. [Read more:](#)

Idea of India's Northeast: Envisaging a Common Future
Source: Imphal Free Press, 25 June, 2012

In the political history of British India, the term "Northeast" is considered first used by the British rulers to identify a geographical area. When there was a plan to merge Assam with Eastern Bengal in the late 1890s and the beginning of 1900, there were proposals to name the new province as the "North Eastern Province". [Read more:](#)

Indian Prime Minister recent visit to Myanmar and Insurgents in North East
Source: NE Blogger, 05 June, 2012

After 2012, during an Indian PM visited Myanmar when Dr. Manmohan Singh visited its eastern neighbour Myanmar on 27 May 2012. During the visit, he even met Aung San Suu Kyi, opposition leader, and Nobel Peace Prize winner who had spent years in house arrest as she led pro-democracy agitation for decades. [Read more:](#)

Calling North East people 'Chinki' to fetch jail term?
Source: IBNLive.com, 07 June, 2012

While those who dwell in the cyberspace has been debating the justification of sending someone to five years in jail for calling someone 'chinki,' the directive from the MHA, which this tweet debate stems from, does not spell anything like this. [Read more:](#)

Anti-Bodoland Protest in Assam
Source: NE Blogger, 08 June, 2012

There have been reports recently about agitation against proposed Bodoland as well as protest against inclusion of BTAD (Bodoland Territorial Administrative Districts) in parts of BTAD areas, like Dheiajuli. [Read more:](#)

A Gap In The Clouds: In the beginning was the 'Word'
Source: IBN Live, 28 June, 2012

A few days ago, there was an article in "The Shillong Times" that made me think of a folk story. The Khasis love folk tales, and like many other folkloric traditions, these attempt to explain natural phenomenon in order to make sense of the world. [Read more:](#)

We must imbibe the North East culture, law alone can't protect it
Source: Oneindianews.in, 12 June, 2012

A TV commercial promoting national unity through a song 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara' achieved quite popularity a few decades ago. Although quite young then, I can distinctly remember that the commercial, although promoted various parts of India, featured just a tribal dance while speaking about the north-east (NE) except Assam. [Read more:](#)

Historical Ambubachi Mela in Assam
Source: The Northeast Today, 21 June, 2012

Ambubachi mela, also known as Ambubasi festival, will begin from Friday (June 22) in the Kamakhya Devi Temple in Guwahati. Ambubachi mela is held annually during monsoon in the Kamakhya Devi Temple in Guwahati, Assam. [Read more:](#)

Rs 100 Crore to North East to boost rice output
Source: The Sangai Express / Press Trust of India, 28 June 2012

New Delhi, June 28 2012: The Government on Thursday said it has sanctioned Rs 100 crore to boost rice cultivation in the eight North Eastern States, including Sikkim, this year under a Central scheme, National Food Security Mission (NFSM). [Read more:](#)

Northeast tribals in India: the hard truth
Source: Zolengthe.net, 15 June 2012

We look different! And we are different in many ways. Ideally, India should be a good place to live in, since India, as a country is a concept based upon pluralism of belief and culture. But alas, it is not. Outlook magazine did not condemn the rape of a northeast girl in Delhi, and cited 'cultural difference' as the reason for the crime. [Read more:](#)

The Peripheral Imagination: Writing the Invisible India
Source: Assam Times, 05 June, 2012

I have been writing in Assamese for periodicals in my home state Assam for a long time. I grew up in Guwahati, the biggest city in India's northeast. My early stories, the ones that I am now highly embarrassed by, were broadcast in the youth programs of All India Radio, Guwahati – India's public radio network [Read more:](#)

Sachin Pilot announces Rs 567 crore Information Technology (IT) project for Northeast
Source: Zee News, 18 June, 2012

Union Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology (IT), Sachin Pilot, today announced a Rs 567 crore Information Technology (IT) project especially meant to upgrade e-governance and Information Technology (IT) services in all the north east states. [Read more:](#)

Distinct, but not dissimilar
Source: The Hindu, 18 June 2012

For many in the rest of India, the North-East region holds a special charm as it is geographically and anthropologically unique primarily on account of the multi-ethnic nature of its population. Bounded on almost all sides by international borders — Tibet and Bhutan to the north, Myanmar to the east, Bangladesh to the south and west, North-east India is most strategically situated and hence it is geo-politically an extremely sensitive area as well. [Read more:](#)

New Museum Gallery on North East Biodiversity opens in Bhubaneswar
Source: Press Information Bureau, 01 June 2012

The Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated a Museum Gallery on North East Biodiversity in the Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH) Bhubaneswar today. The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests, MoEF Shri Jairam Ramesh, was also present on the occasion. [Read more:](#)

Manipur Plan for 2012-13 Finalized
Source: Press Information Bureau, 06 June, 2012

The Annual Plan for the year 2012-13 for the state of Manipur was finalised here today at a meeting between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Chief Minister of Manipur, Sh. Oibobi Singh. The plan size has been agreed at Rs.3500 crore. [Read more:](#)

My lovely lantern (Ita Thangmei) - Manipur Folk Tale
Source: Folktales of Manipur, 29 March 2010

Once upon a time, there lived a very hard working old woman. Her husband died a long time ago. She has not children. She lived alone in peace and prosperity. In the early morning she got up and worked till the late night everyday. During the day time, she worked in handloom works and in the night she rendered her duties in cotton works. [Read more:](#)

Half beast half man (Keibu Keioiba) - Manipur Folk Tale

Long ago there was a tiger in a far village of Manipur. Villagers called the tiger as Keibu keioiba. Keibu Keioiba was very similar in appearance to the human body. The difference is that only his head was that of the tiger. He was transformed into Keibu Keioiba from the human being – a married man. [Read more:](#)

The orphan and the vulture's feather- Assam Folk Tale
Source: The Karbis of Assam, 26 February, 2008

Once there was a poor jāng:resô who lived with his old mother. When he grew up to be a young man, he got himself a wife. But trouble started, as the two women would always pick up a quarrel at the slightest pretext, which made his life increasingly unbearable. [Read more:](#)

Long Names- Mizoram Folk Tale
Source: KidsGen.com

A long time ago, in a village in Mizoram, people believed - long names bring great fortune, and longer ones being even greater! In many of the families, it was customary to keep long names for at least one of the children. In one such family, there were two brothers- one named Semu, and the other named Tala Bini Bendo Toko Miki Sembu Chima Chimena Kit Kit Kuki Mizi Pizi Hala. [Read more:](#)

For more information, please contact:

Manipur Women Gun Survivor Network
C/o Control Arms Foundation of India
B 5 / 146, First Floor, Safdarjung Enclave,
New Delhi - 110 029,
India

[Feedback](#)

Email: Cafi.communicate@gmail.com

Website: www.neiwip.blogspot.com

Ph: +91 11- 46018541 Fax: +91 11-26166234