

## NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

Newsletter, March 2012

Dear Friends,

For more than a century women and women's organisations and movements have mobilised support for social empowerment, economic justice, democracy, human rights and conflict prevention. Women groups in Northeast India have developed many a powerful programme of direct, non-violent, action designed to confront the fire of insurgency that has for long engulfed this strategic region since the late 1940s. In India's northeast, women have always played a major role in many peace and social movements. However, most of their actions remain in "protest" form and after the initial action dies down, nothing much happens. We, the women of Northeast India need to make ourselves understand the issues of war, conflict, peace. Only through our joint, continued and persistent efforts peace would one day follow.

From 2010 till 2011, Control Arms Foundation of India with support from Heinrich Boll Stiftung and India International Centre had started an initiative called Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace. A network of 60 women from all across India's Northeast have been formed as a result of this unique initiative.

Starting this year, the focus while remaining women initiative for peace is now including aspects of gender, youth and diaspora community in peace-building in armed conflict Areas of India's Northeast. Please enjoy our updates as we continue our search for finding peace in India's Northeast.

Binalakshmi Nepram

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

### **In India's Northeast, Peace and Foreign Ties Quietly Spread**

Source: The New York Times, 13 Mar, 2012

Suddenly, there's a flurry of activity between Northeast India and Myanmar, as barriers have started to lift. On Feb. 22, largely unnoticed by the news media, India's foreign minister met with Myanmar's construction minister in Delhi. [Read more:](#)

### **What Threatens Peace in India's Northeast?**

Source: The New York Times, 15 Mar, 2012

For India's Northeast to have a bright future, the region will need to avoid a few minefields. Most importantly, "a sustainable peace, including in the Kachin state (in Myanmar), is essential for all this to happen," wrote Thant Myint-U, the author of "Where India Meets China," in a message. Across the border in Myanmar, cease-fires with the ethnic armies are tenuous where they exist. [Read more:](#)

### **'More People From North-East Should Go Abroad'**

Source: Manipur Online, 8 Jan, 2011

More people from the northeast should travel abroad in search of opportunities and send back remittances to invest and develop the economy in their region, participants at a seminar in New Delhi on Diaspora emphasized Friday. [Read more:](#)

### **Manipuri Diaspora Group**

Source: Epao.net

Manipuri Diaspora Group - A thinktank group debating core issues and strategies to bring about development of manipuris. SPECIAL NOTES from the Manipur-Diaspora Moderator: This is is not to convince anyone along a particular direction but to get as much information of both the pros and cons out to the public so they can make their own "INFORMED DECISION". [Read more:](#)

### **India tops in remittances from diaspora**

Source: Indo Asian News Service, 06 Dec, 2011

India is estimated to have got \$58 billion in remittances - the highest for any country - from its diaspora in 2011, followed closely by China at \$57 billion, World Bank data showed Thursday. There is increase in flow of remittances to India from all major sources. [Read more:](#)

### **Look East Policy: Look East Through The Northeast**

Source: The Northeast Today, 29 Mar 2012

Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School, USA organized the 9th annual Harvard India Conference on the 24th and 25th of March 2012 at their campus in Boston. The theme of this year's conference was "India - The Next Frontier." [Read more:](#)

### **"Women for Peace", Rally to Restore Peace and Harmony in Arunachal**

Source: The Northeast Today, 16 Mar 2012

Holding banners, posters in their hands, more than 1200 women from 30 villages of the insurgency-infested district of Changlang today rallied in Miao-Kharsang areas to express their strong desire for restoration of peace and harmony in the region. [Read more:](#)

### **Northeast students interact with Union Home Secretary**

Source: Newstrack India, 23 Mar 2012

About 75 students from the eight states of the northeast, recently met the Union Home Secretary R K Singh in New Delhi after the conclusion of their country wide tour. The students visited Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai during their month long Bharat Parikrama tour. During their interaction with Singh, the children discussed several issues pertaining to the Northeast like peace, development, infrastructure, education, and trade. [Read more:](#)

### **The cartography of suffering: Women Under Siege maps sexualized violence in Syria**

Source: Women's Under Siege, 28 Mar, 2012

When we hear about conflicts in foreign countries and imagine terrible acts, our thoughts don't turn immediately to rape. We think of bombings and refugees and government suppression. If we think of sexualized violence at all, we may imagine a faceless, powerless woman, one unfortunate person who will eventually become a statistic—400,000 raped in Rwanda, 100,000 in Guatemala. [Read more:](#)

### **Healthcare for Women Survivors of Armed Conflict**

Source: The Northeast Today, 12 Mar 2012

Over 20,000 people have been killed in the last five decades in Manipur. Today more than 30 armed groups operate in Manipur - ranging from small outfits to organizations with several thousand members. [Read more:](#)

### **North East Has Potential in Food Processing: ICC**

Source: Outlook India, 21 Mar 2012

With its proximity to South East Asian markets, being home to diverse and exotic variety of fruits and other crops, North Eastern states could emerge as major centre of food processing industry, experts said. "The North East is next door to the markets in ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) nations. [Read more:](#)

### **Round Table On Advancing Women's Economic & Political Leadership: Transforming Lives, Transforming India**

Source: Kanglaonline, 16 Mar, 2012

A round table conference on the topic "Advancing Women's Economic and Political Leadership: Transforming Lives, Transforming India" was held 14th March 2012 at the UN Conference Hall on the premises of UNDP, Lodi Estate, New Delhi. [Read more:](#)

### **Indian Diaspora Invited To Invest In North-East**

Source: Manipur Online, 8 Jan, 2011

The Indian Diaspora was Saturday invited by chief ministers of northeastern states to invest in the region's infrastructure, especially the healthcare and education sectors. "You are the people who can help... There is a lot of scope in education and healthcare sectors for investment. [Read more:](#)

### **Government of India and World Bank Sign an Agreement Worth US \$130 Million to Improve Livelihoods for 300,000 Village Households in North Eastern States**

Source: Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre, 20 Jan, 2012

The Government of India and the World Bank today signed an IDA credit of US\$ 130 million to finance the Government of India's (GOI) efforts to empower rural communities in the growth-deficient North East (NE) region to improve their livelihood opportunities. [Read more:](#)

### **Overseas Indian workers to get pension, life insurance**

Source: Prokerala News, 07 Jan, 2012

The Indian government Saturday launched a special pension and life insurance scheme that would benefit over 5 million unskilled and semi-skilled workers employed overseas mostly in Gulf countries on temporary contract visas. [Read more:](#)

### **Assamese - the roots: a note by Dr. Ankur Deka**

Source: Northeast India

Assamese language had to climb different stages to reach its present shape. The nature of Assamese language was different before the arrival of the Christian missionaries when Nathan Brown wrote first Assamese grammar 'Asomia bhakhar byakaran'. [Read more:](#)

### **Pre-Colonial History and Traditions of Arunachal Pradesh**

Source: The Northeast Today, 29 Mar 2012

The Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University under the UGC, SAP DRS-II has conducted a national seminar on "Pre-Colonial History and Traditions of Arunachal Pradesh: with reference to Tawang and West Kameng districts. [Read more:](#)

### **Manipuri Kumhei 2012, enthralled Bengaluru Manipuri Diaspora**

Source: The Sangai Express, 05 Feb 2012

Imphal, February 05, 2012: Manipuri cultural items enthralled the audience including Karnataka Governor Hansraj Bhardwaj on the second day of Manipuri Kumhei at Bengaluru today. The presentations of the festival were organised at Karnataka Rajbhavan today with Governor Hansraj Bhardwaj as the chief guest. [Read more:](#)

### **PM 'working' to get NRIs voting rights**

Source: IBN Live, 08 Jan 2010

NRIs will be able to cast their votes by the time the country holds its next general elections, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Friday. "I recognise the legitimate desire of Indians living abroad to exercise their franchise and to have a say in who governs India," he told the annual conclave for the Indian diaspora. [Read more:](#)

### **PM urges scientists to work with diaspora**

Source: IBN Live, 03 Jan, 2011

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday stressed on attracting the young Indian diaspora through joint research projects. [Read more:](#)

### **Book Review: North East India**

Source: Inclusion

For a book that discusses the advantages of the economy of India's North-Eastern region, given the market diaspora that the rest of India represents, given the latter's relative advantages of cost of production and demand-supply relations, 'North East India: Local Economic Development and Global Markets', [Read more:](#)

### **The Assamese Diaspora - a few success stories**

Source: Indiewijzer, 07 Jan 2011

Compared to NRIs/PIOs from other states of India, the number of Assamese who settled abroad is small. But there is a global presence of Assamese Diaspora and most members of this community are doing well. The Assamese Diaspora, on an individual basis is active in supporting people back home [Read more:](#)

### **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2011: a Non-Resident Overseas Manipuri (NROM)'s experience**

Source: Kanglaonline, 03 Jan 2011

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2011, conducted at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi on 7-9 Jan, has indeed become a national event of global importance with an astonishing participation from 2000+ delegates of Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and People of Indian Origin (PIO) across the globe. [Read more:](#)

### **Use northeast as springboard to Myanmar: Nagaland CM**

Source: Indo Asian News Service, 30 Jan, 2012

New Delhi, Jan 30 (IANS) Describing Myanmar as the "gateway" for enhancing ties between South Asia and Southeast Asia, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphu Rio Monday called for more investment in the northeast so that it became a "springboard" for enhanced trade ties with the eastern neighbour. [Read more:](#)

### **President's Address ignored serious issues of Northeast India**

Source: iSikkim, 21 March 2011

The debate on the President's Address saw MPs from North East India bring out their share of grievance and anger against the injustice by the center, long claimed as the Step Mother of the Region. China's suspected plan of diversion of the lifeline of the region Brahmaputra River, continued infiltration from Bangladesh, Land Transfer deal between India and Bangladesh which resulted in huge outcry, delay in solution to the peace talks with the Armed Outfits engaged in talks [Read more:](#)

*For more information, please contact:*

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