

## NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

### Newsletter

Volume 1 No 11 Issue November - December 2011

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.

21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Control Arms Foundation of India organise an exhibition titled "Weaving Disarmament: Arts, Crafts And Paintings By People From Conflict Area" from 11am-5pm at Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network Delhi office. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, a panel discussion on the topic "Weaving Disarmament" as a part of the exhibition was successfully organised at Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network Delhi office from 2 pm to 5 pm that focused on the relevance of disarmament. On 16 December 2011, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network has been honoured as CNN IBN Indian of the Year 2011 Special Achievement award. Please find here Volume 11, December 2011 issue newsletter, positive news of November and December 2011 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

**CNN IBN Indian of the Year Award 2011 - Special Achievement Award, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network**  
Source: [Epao.net](http://epao.net), 16 December 2011

Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN), a Non Government Organisation run by Binalakshmi Nepram, has conferred with the CNN-IBN Indian of the Year Award 2011 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT category at New Delhi on Friday - December 16, 2011. [Read more:](#)

**Indian women 'gun survivors' urge for disarmament**  
Source: [OneWorld South Asia](http://oneworldsouthasia.com), 23 November 2011

Activists urged India to push for disarmament at a discussion organised by the Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network on November 22 in New Delhi. The discussion was held amidst a three day art and craft exhibition by Manipuri women, starting Nov 21, to spread the message of peace and disarmament amid growing global conflict. [Read more:](#)

**Women, peace and security in South Asia**  
Source: [OneWorld South Asia](http://oneworldsouthasia.com), 1 November 2011

A two-day international conference on possibilities of peace-building and conflict-management in the South Asian region, christened 'Beyond Our Differences', culminated here Sunday. Organised by WSICOMP (Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace) and GPPAC (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict) [Read more:](#)

**Day 5: Spotlighting Binalakshmi Nepram, India**  
Source: [Nobelwomensinitiative.org](http://nobelwomensinitiative.org), 29 November 2011

Bina is a disarmament activist-writer from the Manipur state in Northeast India, on the Burma border. Her work is significant in highlighting the link between rising militarization and the increase on violence against women—particularly sexual violence. She is devoted to tackling small arms proliferation and empowering women survivors of violence to rebuild their lives. [Read more:](#)

**Manipur Legislative Assembly passes Lokayukta Bill**  
Source: [Prasar Bharati](http://prasarbharati.com), 22 December 2011

The Manipur Legislative Assembly on Thursday unanimously passed the Manipur Lokayukta Bill, 2011. The Bill seeks to establish the institution of Lokayukta in the state to inquire into the allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries. With the passage of the Bill, Manipur will be the third state in the North-Eastern India after Assam and Tripura, to have a legislation of Lok Ayukta. [Read more:](#)

**Burma Centre Delhi (BCD) calls on India to raise human rights issues during Burma's Parliamentary Delegation's visit to India**  
Source: [Epao.net](http://epao.net), 13 December 2011

Burma Centre Delhi welcomes the Government of India's goodwill invitation to Burma's Parliamentary Delegation to India from 11 to 17 December 2011. The high level Parliamentary delegation is led by Thura U. Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Lower House of the Myanmar Parliament. [Read more:](#)

**Government to proposed Prime Minister to announced state as 'Sports High-tech city': DD Thaisii**  
Source: [Imphal Free Press](http://imphalfreepress.com), 30 November 2011

The state government has been promoting sports and encouraging the players of various sports by providing them with jobs in the state departments. The state has been able to absorb 119 players in recognition of their achievements in various sporting events bringing laurel to the state, stated Chief Minister O Ibobi Singh while inaugurating the newly constructed Manipur Olympic Bhawan at Khuman Lampak Sports complex. [Read more:](#)

**Member of Parliament seeks repeal of army act (Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958) - Steps fail to better image**  
Source: [Telegraph](http://telegraphindia.com), 19 December 2011

The army may investigate alleged human rights violations by its personnel but its popularity in the Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir is going downhill, AGP Rajya Sabha MP Kumar Deepak Das said in Parliament today, urging revocation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. [Read more:](#)

**Indo- Myanmar friendship car rally event in January**  
Source: [Nagaland Post](http://nagalandpost.com), 21 December 2011

The Indo- Myanmar friendship car rally would be organized under the aegis of North East Federation on International Trade (NEFIT) and Assam Speed and Adventure Club (ASAC). This is the 1st international car rally event being organized between India and Myanmar which will cover a total distance of about 5000 kms over a period of 12 days time starting from Guwahati to Yangon (Myanmar) [Read more:](#)

**Women turn waste into wealth**  
Source: [One World Asia](http://oneworldasia.com), 8 December 2011

Women Self Help Groups in southern Indian state of Kerala are turning trash into cash to make Kovalam district a 'zero-waste area', with help from a local NGO. Kovalam, Kerala: Standing on the shimmering white beach and gazing out at the turquoise blue waters of the Arabian sea, it is hard to believe that a decade ago this international tourist [Read more:](#)

**Prime Minister: No winners in Manipur blockade**  
Source: [Hindustan Times](http://hindustantimes.com), 3 December 2011

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said frequent economic blockades in Manipur would impede development and cause immense hardships to the common people. "To my mind, there are no winners in such disruptive activities, there are only losers," Singh said addressing a large gathering at the Kangla Fort here. [Read more:](#)

**Manmohan to visit blockade-hit Manipur**  
Source: [IANS](http://ians.com), 28 November 2011

Prime minister Manmohan Singh will visit blockade-hit Manipur on December 3 to attend a series of programmes and address a public gathering, an official said on Monday. [Read more:](#)

**United Naga Council temporarily lifts Manipur blockade**  
Source: [IANS](http://ians.com), 28 November 2011

The indefinite economic blockade in Manipur that entered its 121st day on Monday has been temporarily withdrawn, said a leader of the United Naga Council (UNC) spearheading the agitation. [Read more:](#)

**Peacemaker Indira Goswami passes away**  
Source: [Hindustan Times](http://hindustantimes.com), 29 November 2011

Jnanpith laureate Indira Goswami, one of the first peacemakers between the Centre and Ulfa, passed away at the Gauhati Medical College Hospital on Tuesday at 7.45am. She was 69. The eminent Assamese writer was suffering from lung infection and had been unwell for a long time. [Read more:](#)

**Indian Women Break New Ground as Tea Growers**  
Source: [WeNews](http://wenews.com), 30 November 2011

A handful of women in this northeastern city of India could be signs of something brewing in India's tea industry. They have stopped laboring on someone else's plantation, planted businesses of their own and are happily uprooting family expectations of how to earn a living. [Read more:](#)

**Women Live In Fear In Manipur's Epicentre of Conflict**  
Source: [Epao.net](http://epao.net), 22 November 2011

In 2006, 25 women - many of them still in their teens - were allegedly tortured, molested and sexually harassed by so-called 'underground outfits' in villages like Parbung, Hmarkhawpui and Sipiukawn, deep inside Manipur's conflict-affected district of Churachandpur. [Read more:](#)

**Repeal Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 in northeastern states, Kashmir: Church panel**  
Source: [IANS](http://ians.com), 8 November 2011

The National Council of Churches in India Tuesday demanded repeal of the Armed Force (Special Powers) Act, 1958 in India's northeastern states and Jammu and Kashmir. "The law and order situation has improved considerably in these states (northeastern states and Jammu and Kashmir), and the government ought to find new ways to build the confidence of the local people so as to sustain peace and stability [Read more:](#)

**Northeastern India's largest power project to ease electricity woes**  
Source: [IANS](http://ians.com), 21 November 2011

The electricity crisis in northeastern India is set to ease when the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) first mega power project — the largest in the region — starts generating power by April next year. [Read more:](#)

**Central staff get air travel sop to attract tourists to the Northeast**  
Source: [Telegraph](http://telegraphindia.com), 28 November 2011

The Union tourism ministry has renewed air travel concessions for central government employees to attract tourists to the Northeast. An official statement issued here today by the tourism ministry said the government has relaxed Central Civil Services (Leave Travel Concession) Rules, 1988, to enable the central government employees to travel by air to the Northeast. [Read more:](#)

**"Two lakh educated women unemployed"**  
Source: [Sangai Express](http://sangaiexpress.com), 6 November 2011

Saying that two lakh educated women are unemployed in Manipur, Manipur University Associate Professor Chinglen Maisnam has asserted that incidents of violence against women are closely related with economic condition of women. [Read more:](#)

**Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana scheme 307 villages electrified**  
Source: [Sangai Express](http://sangaiexpress.com), November 29 2011

Altogether 307 villages have been electrified in Manipur under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana, a scheme under the Ministry of Power and Rural Electrification Corporation under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGVY), under the Ministry of Power, Govt. of India. [Read more:](#)

**Powerful explosion in Imphal crowded market**  
Source: [IANS](http://ians.com), 30 November 2011

A suspected separatist bomber was killed when an explosive device he was carrying to plant at a festival venue in this Manipur capital exploded on Wednesday, just days ahead of the prime minister's visit here. Two people were injured. [Read more:](#)

**Chief Minister: Lokayukta in Tripura soon**  
Source: [Tripurainfo](http://tripurainfo.com), 16 November 2011

Tripura will have the anti-corruption watchdog, 'Lokayukta' soon, Chief Minister Manik Sarkar told reporters at Civil Secretariat on Tuesday. The Lokayukta will cover the offices of public service right from Chief Minister to Gaon Pradhan. [Read more:](#)

**Prime Minister, Sonia arrive in Manipur**  
Source: [Hindustan Times](http://hindustantimes.com), 3 December 2011

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi arrived in Imphal on Saturday on a day's visit to Manipur, official sources said. The VVIPs were received at the Imphal airport by governor Gurbachan Jagat, chief minister O Ibobi Singh, his cabinet colleagues and high [Read more:](#)

**Water plants bring prosperity to Bangladeshi women**  
Source: [One World Asia](http://oneworldasia.com), 19 December 2011

Ask a farmer in Bangladesh's Deep South about the water hyacinth and he will say it is a curse. The floating plants form broad green blankets that strangle waterways and create a prime breeding ground for mosquitoes. [Read more:](#)

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