

NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

AUGUST 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 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.

This month our organisation participated a series of debates concerned for the issues and safety for man and woman of Northeast India related to the recent achievement of Olympic bronze medallist MC Mary Kom from Manipur, India as well as the fear psychosis of Northeasterners due to recent Northeast Exodus from cities like Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad etc. as a result of the conflict in Assam.

On 8 and 9 August 2012, we had participated the debate: 'Has Mary Kom put Manipur on the national map?' and 'Has Mary Kom broken stereotypes about North East women?' at CNN IBN. Regarding the exodus of Northeast India, on 16 and 17 Aug 2012 we again joined the debate: 'How do we end the fear psychosis among NE people living in India?' at CNN IBN and 'Rumour mongering: Is there a design to divide India?' at NDTV respectively.

On 21 and 22 August 2012 we organised a community consultation on the theme 'Tripura People Community Consultations for Peace' was held in Agartala, Tripura. Again on 28, 29 & 30 August 2012 we successfully organised a workshop on the theme: 'Research Consultation on Women's Access and Control to Land in Manipur' at Imphal, Manipur.

Please find here August 2012 issue newsletter, positive news of August 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

Indigenous women working together, raising the volume

Source: UN Women, 08 Aug 2012

Martha Sanchez was born in an adobe house in Mexico's mountainous Guerrero state, and raised by her grandmother, an indigenous Amuzgo and expert in traditional medicine. As she grew up, absorbing the culture of her ancestors, Martha determined that she would spend her life working to preserve it. [Read more:](#)

India: Gun Widows Remake Their Lives

Source: India Current affairs, 01 Aug 2012

Sometimes all it takes is one incident to transform one from being a mere spectator to a participant in change. For Binalakshmi Nepram, that moment came on a gloomy Christmas eve of 2004 in a village near Imphal, the capital of Manipur. As an academic researcher she was talking to a group of women activists, when gun shots shattered the peace. [Read more:](#)

Women stage peace rally in Churachandpur

Source: Nagaland Post, 10 Aug 2012

Around 3000 women, mostly widows and deprived women took part in a massive peace rally on Friday in the streets of Manipur's Churachandpur districts headquarter. The rally which was started from Churachandpur Peace ground conclude at Tuibong Public ground after submitting a memorandum containing 11-point charter of demands [Read more:](#)

Mary Kom brings home Olympic bronze

Source: Kanglaonline, 08 Aug 2012

"I have won an Olympic medal for my country. But Sorry, I could not win gold. Thank you everyone for so much support and love" wrote Chungneijang Mary Kom Hmangte, India's only woman boxing medal winner at the London Olympics on her Facebook account. Five times world women's boxing champion from the state, MC Mary Kom's [Read more:](#)

Northeast India's Quest for Identity

Source: JESA, 03 Aug 2012

India's Northeast is in a combustible state. Some 250 ethnic groups are arrayed against one another and New Delhi to fight for their identity, some even seeking to break away from the Union. Religion-wise, the proportion of Hindus, Muslims and Christians is more or less the same. [Read more:](#)

India needs to be poverty free, says PM

Source: Indiavision News, 15 Aug, 2012

New Delhi - India will deemed to have achieved true independence only when it abolishes poverty, illiteracy and hunger, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared Wednesday. Addressing the nation from the Red Fort on Independence Day, Manmohan Singh said the country had achieved "much in these 65 years" since British colonial rule ended. [Read more:](#)

M C Mary Kom is India's Dream Come True

Source: iDiva.com, 06 Aug 2012

I didn't know women in India box," said the incredulous English lady in the tube headed towards Excel centre where M C Mary Kom's bout was about to begin in half hour. "Are they any good?" That may have reflected ignorance, but was not an unfair question considering the emancipation of Indian women remains fraught with severe restrictions. [Read more:](#)

Debate: Has Mary Kom broken stereotypes about North East women?

Source: CNN-IBN, 09 Aug 2012

Can the success of Mary Kom break the stereotype that the rest of the country holds about the North East in general and of North East women in particular? [Watch here:](#)

Debate: Has Mary Kom put Manipur on the national map?

Source: CNN-IBN, 08 Aug 2012

The five-time world champion boxer has won a bronze medal for India at the London Olympics. [Watch here:](#)

Campaigning with art for peace in northeast

Source: Firstpost, 12 Aug 2012

The idyllic life amid strife in the northeastern countryside is the subject around which Assamese artist Jiten Hazarika has built his peace campaign. "The tension in the society has influenced art in the northeast. During insurgency in Assam, young artists eschewed flowers and nature for guns and blood on their canvas to express their angst. [Read more:](#)

Rumour mongering: Is there a design to divide India?

Source: NDTV, 17 Aug 2012

We look at whether this has been a design to divide India and how social media has fanned the flames. [Watch video:](#)

How do we end the fear psychosis among NE people living in India?

Source: CNN-IBN, 16 Aug 2012

The Prime Minister said he had spoken to Karnataka Chief Minister Jagdish Shettar and Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan and was constantly in touch with Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. [Watch video:](#)

Akademi award for Sagolsem Indrakumar

Source: The Sangai Express, 26 Aug 2012

Sagolsem Indrakumar has been included in the list of recipients of Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar for the year 2012, for his children's science fiction book entitled 'Thada Thabaton'. The award, which includes a plaque and Rs 50,000 cash, will be conferred on November 14 at Delhi. [Read more:](#)

Gangmei: The tale of a successful fish farmer in Nungba

Source: Hueiyen News Service, 26 Aug 2012

In a bid to lessen the problem of scarcity of fish in Tamenglong district, Thunankhulung Gangmei of Rongdai Village under Nungba sub-division, has crossed all the hurdles so that his village brethren can relish fish curries of their choice. [Read more:](#)

Chirom Indira : Promoter of Manipuri Handlooms products

Source: Epao.net, 17 Aug 2012

Since the last 18 years, Chirom Indira has been working in the field of Handloom. And she is working very hard to promote Manipuri handlooms products (traditional touch designs) for national and international markets. [Read more:](#)

NE exodus: Social media being unfairly blamed?

Source: CNN IBN, 22 Aug 2012

CNN IBN: Face the nation debate on NE exodus- Social media being unfairly blamed? [Watch video:](#)

Indian Army Must Detect and Deport Illegal Bangladeshis, Seize Illegal Arms

Source: News Blaze, 30 Aug 2012

was also done in Sikkim, in keeping with the Census Act, 1948 and Rules 1990. [Read more:](#)

University Launches New Degree Courses to Empower Northeast India Leaders

Source Bosconet, 24 Aug 2012

In an effort to offer higher education in socially relevant studies accessible in northeast India the Assam Don Bosco University launched 3 new Masters level courses as well as a post graduate diploma course. The new courses introduced this year include Master of Social Work (MSW), M. Tech. in Electronics and Communication [Read more:](#)
Tapta [Animatics] – Manipur Folktales

Source: Folktales of Manipur

Tapta' Is A Folk Story From The Meitei Community In Manipur. It's A Funny Take On Everyone's Fear Of The Unknown. This Animatic is the outcome of a 3-week workshop conducted in Imphal, Manipur at Manipur Film Development Corporation in 2012. [Watch video:](#)

The Sparrows: Assam Folktales

Source: Aryana Musing's Blogspot

Once upon a time, in a small village in Assam, there lived two brothers. The two brothers were farmers and had a piece of land where they grew paddy for rice. One year, in their field, among the paddy plants, a pair of sparrows set up their nest. After sometime, the She-Sparrow laid two eggs, and eagerly waited for her eggs to hatch. [Read more:](#)

Mauruangi, Ideal Woman : Mizoram Folktales

Source: Mizo Writing in English

Mauruangi was a little girl who lived with her parents in a village. One day, the parents went out to fetch pumphir (a type of bamboo). On the way they had to cross a wooden bridge that was soft with age and rot. The wife remarked, "How frightening it will be to walk on this bridge when we come back carrying burdens!" The husband responded, [Read more:](#)

Stories from Nagaland

Source: Talleststory.com

I once read an unusual story from Nagaland of three brothers; one was Spirit, one was Tiger and one, Man. He was the youngest, but with his capacity for emotion, Man loved his mother the most. The three clearly had different natures and habits and it was obvious that they could not live together in harmony [Read more:](#)

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