

# NE NEWSLETTER

FOR FREE PUBLIC CIRCULATION

Vol. XV. No. 11, November, 2013

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

A Monthly Newsletter on the North Eastern Region of India

Also available on Internet at : [www.mha.nic.in](http://www.mha.nic.in)



*A nation's strength ultimately consists in what it can do on its own, and not in what it can borrow from others.*

*Smt. Indira Gandhi*

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## DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. A Notification dated 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 has been issued declaring entire State of Assam and 20 Kms belt in the State of Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya bordering Assam as 'disturbed area' under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (28 of 1958) for a further period of one year beyond 3.11.2013.
2. Meitei Organizations consisting of the Peoples' Liberation Army, generally known as the PLA, and its political wing, the Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and its armed wing, the Red Army, the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and its armed wing, also called the Red Army, the Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL), CorCom (conglomerate of six valley-based UG outfits) and the Manipur Peoples' Liberation Front (MPLF) along with all their factions, wings and front organizations have been declared as Unlawful Associations vide Notification dated 13.11.2013 under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967).
3. In the meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) held with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (Ranjan Daimary) Group on 29.11.2013 at Guwahati, a tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) Agreement has been signed between the Central Government, the Government of Assam and NDFB (RD). As per SoO Agreement the outfit will deposit all arms held by them with the State Government.
4. A Tripartite Meeting involving the representatives of the Central Government, the Government of Assam and six Adivasi outfits active in Assam was held on 30.11.2013 at Guwahati to discuss their demands.
5. A Tripartite Meeting involving the representatives of the Central Government, Government of Assam and the Hmar Convention (D) outfits active in Assam was held on 30.11.2013 at Guwahati to discuss their demands.

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## PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES 40th JAWAHARLAL NEHRU NATIONAL SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND ENVIRONMENT EXHIBITION

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 40<sup>th</sup> Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition (JNNSMEE) - 2013 for children at Epica Garden, Saramsa near Gangtok on the occasion of National Education Day in the presence of the Union Minister of State, HRD, Dr. Sashi Tharoor, Governor Shri Shrinivas Patil, Chief Minister

Shri Pawan Chamling and a host of dignitaries of the State and the Central Government on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

The exhibition was organised by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi and hosted by the Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim. The event was attended by 130 participants from across the county showcasing their exhibits. Science and Society was the central theme for this year's exhibition with sub themes like industry, natural resources and their conservation, transport and communication, community health and mathematical modelling.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said this day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a great visionary, freedom fighter, philosopher, scholar and also the first Education Minister of India. He recalled that addressing the conference on All India Education on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1948, Maulana Azad observed "we must not for a moment forget, it is the birth right of every individual to receive at least the basic education without which he cannot fully discharge his duties as a citizen".

The President said the central theme of this year's exhibition, "Science and Society", is an occasion to reflect on the issues and problems our society is facing.

There is a need to make our children aware of the nexus between problems like unchecked population growth and energy crisis, depletion of natural resources, pollution of the environment and so on. It is extremely important to inculcate the ethos of science and mathematics in the minds of our young students who are the future scientists and technologists of this nation.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Union Minister of State in his address said that Late Pandit Nehru continues to inspire the people of India and hoped that this exhibition ignites the minds of young students in many more innovations and researches.

The Governor emphasised that the exhibition is held to exchange ideas amongst the students of the nation about their innovative methods based on science and mathematics. He added that the dimension of new thinking in the students should be prioritized. He mentioned about Sikkim's environmental conservation measures, and asked the students to live in harmony with nature.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the NCERT for choosing Sikkim to host this exhibition, and felt that event like this is the testimony of rapid development taking place in the state. Further, this exhibition is a platform for the students to exchange ideas on various themes and subjects, he added.

## INDIA, BANGLADESH VOW TO FIGHT MILITANCY AND CROSS-BORDER CRIME

India and Bangladesh not only share a long border, but also have close bilateral ties. Recently, home ministers of both countries met in Tripura where they expressed their commitment to promote growth, and fighting militancy together.

Union Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde and his Bangladeshi counterpart Shri Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir were in Tripura on November 17 to inaugurate the first multi-purpose Integrated Check Post along the Bangladesh border at Akhaurah. The Akhaura land customs is one of

the most important international trading land ports in eastern India, dealing with around 4,500 people every month travelling between the two countries.

India plans to set up five such posts with Bangladesh to further boost trade and people to people contact between the North Eastern States and Bangladesh.

"We believe that India and Bangladesh must develop and grow together ensuring that our growth provides more opportunities to both our people. India has always followed



Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde inaugurated India's first Integrated Check-Post (ICP) along Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura. Bangladesh Home Minister Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was present at the inaugural function at Akhaura in the Tripura frontiers.

a policy of extending and deepening its ties with Bangladesh on the basis of respect of each other's sovereignty and mutual benefits. I am confident that the Integrated Check Post (ICP) Agartala will enhance the people-to-people contact and cross border trade between two trusted neighbours," said Shri Shinde.

While addressing the media, the Bangladesh Home Minister said that his Government was determined to not allow Indian militants to take shelter in their territory and hence, had signed an extradition treaty. He further denied the presence of any Indian militant camp in his country and assured that stern action would be taken if India provides specific inputs.

On the issue of extradition of ULFA's founder General Secretary, Anup Chetia, who was arrested and jailed in Bangladesh, Alamgir said that he would be handed over to India after some court formalities.

"We are committed to eliminating all sorts of crime and the extradition treaty that we have signed should be treated as a joint effort by both the countries to transform this continent in to a crime less union," said Alamgir.

India and Bangladesh share a 4096 km long border. The two countries are committed to strengthening trade relations with each other as well as preventing cross border infiltration.

## ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMME BY CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES

### Programmes undertaken by Assam Rifles

1. **Medical Camps:-** Living up to the motto 'Friends of North East People', Assam Rifles has been conducting medical camps in the far flung remote areas to provide solace to the people who do not have access to basic medical facilities.

During these camps, a team of Assam Rifles doctors including specialist visit the remote locations to provide free medical care/ treatment and medicines to the locals. The details of medical camps conducted by various units of the Force in the NE region during the month of Nov 2013 are as under:-

| Sl. No | Date      | Unit                      | Place         | State    | No. of Patients treated |
|--------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1.     | 01 Nov 13 | 29 Assam Rifles           | Dimapur       | Nagaland | 26                      |
| 2.     | 05 Nov 13 | 43 Assam Rifles           | Thangalphai   | Manipur  | 264                     |
| 3.     | 07 Nov 13 | HQ 27 Sector Assam Rifles | Churachandpur | Manipur  | 37                      |
| 4.     | 08 Nov 13 | 20 Assam Rifles           | Larong        | Manipur  | 52                      |
| 5.     | 08 Nov 13 | 45 Assam Rifles           | Nairsingpara  | Tripura  | 70                      |
| 6.     | 14 Nov 13 | 31 Assam Rifles           | Yungphang     | Nagaland | 130                     |
| 7.     | 16 Nov 13 | 38 Assam Rifles           | Churachandpur | Manipur  | 165                     |
| 8.     | 17 Nov 13 | 28 Assam Rifles           | Parva         | Mizoram  | 250                     |
| 9.     | 17 Nov 13 | 15 Assam Rifles           | Konaitong     | Manipur  | 237                     |
| 10.    | 19 Nov 13 | 43 Assam Rifles           | Konglatungbi  | Manipur  | 237                     |
| 11.    | 21 Nov 13 | 35 Assam Rifles           | Aigejang      | Manipur  | 60                      |
| 12.    | 22 Nov 13 | 16 Assam Rifles           | Patlaw        | Manipur  | 145                     |
| 13.    | 22 Nov 13 | 43 Assam Rifles           | Amladera      | Manipur  | 154                     |
| 14.    | 24 Nov 13 | 29 Assam Rifles           | Doy apur      | Nagaland | 150                     |



### 2. **Employment awareness workshop for youth:-**

- On 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, 21-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'Career opportunities in Security Forces' for students of the Government college, Zunheboto, Nagaland. The lecture was followed by a motivational movie. The students exhibited keen interest in joining the security forces after attending the event.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, 5-Sector Assam Rifles conducted an "Employment Awareness Workshop" at Chieswema in Kohima district, Nagaland. The campaign was planned with an aim to enhance awareness among senior secondary students and graduates about their



*Employment awareness workshop for youths organised by Assam Rifles*

employment prospects. The event was in the form of lectures and interactive sessions which was attended by 80 students and unemployed graduates from the villages and towns near Kohima. The aim of the event was to inculcate awareness in the youth about various job opportunities available to graduates in the state/central services and to empower the youth to utilise these opportunities.

3. **Cancer Awareness Camp:-** On 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, 35-Assam Rifles organised a 'cancer awareness camp' at Sajik Tampak, district Chandel, Manipur. Lectures and demonstrations were conducted to highlight the causes, effects and precautions to be taken against the dreaded disease. 67 villagers, including women and children attended the camp.
4. **Interactive Session:-** On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, Headquarter 27-Sector Assam Rifles organised an interactive session of Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) with aspirants for National Kayaking Trials at Churachandpur district, Manipur. The youngsters were motivated to work hard and earn laurels like other great sportsperson of the State.
5. **Lecture on Healthy Body – Healthy Mind:-** 14-Assam Rifles organized a lecture on 'healthy body – healthy mind' at Govt Middle School, Hnahlan village, district Serchhip, Mizoram on 18 Nov 13. Approx 40 students & five teachers attended the lecture.
6. **Blood Donation Camp:-** On 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, 17-Assam Rifles organised a blood Donation Camp at Wokha district, Nagaland. 30 Jawans of the unit donated blood during the event.
7. **National Integration Tour:-** 40-Assam Rifles organised a national integration tour from Keithalmanbi, Imphal to Chandigarh and Amritsar for the students of Keithalmanbi between 04-18 Nov 2013. During the tour, the students visited Rock Garden, Doll Museum, Sukhna Lake, Golden Temple and Wagah Border, apart from other places of interest at Chandigarh and Amritsar.
8. **Vocational Training Programme:-** On 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2013, 37-Assam Rifles organised vocational training for bamboo craft and furniture making at Pusa Craft Centre, Jharpani, district Dimapur, Nagaland for nine young local boys of Dimapur. The unit undertook this

noble initiative of assisting youth from weaker sections of society in obtaining vocational skills for getting employment. On completion of the training, all nine individuals received Vocational Training Certificates which shall help them gain suitable employment.

9. **Welding course:-** 14-Assam Rifles conducted a two week welding course for local youth at Serchhip, Mizoram from 11<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. Eight local youths attended the course.
10. **Electrician & Welding course:-** 26-Assam Rifles conducted a two week electrician & welding course for local youths at Sakawrdai village, district Aizawl, Mizoram from 11<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. Ten local youths attended the course.



11. **Carpentry course:-**
  - (a) 26-Assam Rifles conducted a two week carpentry course for local youths at Ratu village, district Aizawl, Mizoram from 11<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. 11 local youths attended the course.
  - (b) 14-Assam Rifles conducted a two week carpentry course for local youth at Farkawn village, district Serchhip, Mizoram from 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. 10 local youths attended the course.
12. **Distribution of Sewing Machine:-** On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2013, 13-Assam Rifles distributed 13 sewing machines to the women of Tamenglong district, Manipur under Civic Action Programme. The Sewing machines were distributed with an aim to generate self employment and instill confidence in the women of the area.



13. *Solar Street Lights:-*

- (a) On 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2013, 9-Assam Rifles provided four solar street lights to the Kuki Student organisation at Moreh, district Chandel, Manipur.
- (b) On 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, 41-Assam Rifles provided six solar lights to Khalhang Khullen and Longkpi Kajui villages, Ukhrul district, Manipur. The DG AR presented the solar lights to village headmen during his visit to forward areas.



14. *Ningol Chakkouba Festival:-* On 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, 30-Assam Rifles organised a traditional function to celebrate Ningol Chakkouba Festival at Chardwar Hall, Mantripukhri, Imphal. Approximately 200 womenfolk from various communities and walks of life from Imphal were invited to attend the function.



## PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

### I. *Exploration and Production (E & P) activities in North East under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) Regime*

Under the PSC regime, 31 exploratory blocks have been awarded in the North Eastern states (Arunachal Pradesh- 1, Assam- 19, Manipur- 2, Mizoram- 3, Nagaland- 2, Tripura- 4) covering an area of 43,785 sq.km. Out of these, 7 blocks have been relinquished (Arunachal Pradesh- 1, Assam- 5, Tripura- 1). In addition, 2 discovered fields are in operation under PSC regime namely Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh and Amguri in Assam.

2. In the above blocks/fields, following exploration activities have been carried out during the month of November, 2013:-
- (a) 3D seismic (SKM) : In Kharsang, 3D seismic data processing is presently underway.
- (b) Development wells : In Block AA-ONN-2001/1 in Tripura, testing is in progress in two appraisal well, Khubal #9 and Khubal #7. In block AA-ONN-2001/2 in Mizoram, exploration activities of Phase III will commence after MC meeting.
3. Oil and Gas Production:-
- (a) Kharsang: Average production of crude oil was 1,811 barrels per day (253 TPD) and gas was 62,000 standard cubic metres per day during November, 2013.
- (b) Amguri: Field has been closed w.e.f. December 2011. Efforts are being made to re-start the field operations.

### II. *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities for the month of October, 2013*

| Sl. No       | CSR Focus Area     | Area & District | Sponsored/ Project | Amount in Rs.    |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1.           | Health Care        | Jorhat          | Project            | 1,00,000         |
| 2.           | Infrastructure     | Sivasagar       | Project            | 5,65,000         |
| 3.           | Infrastructure     | Sivasagar       | Project            | 3,99,000         |
| 4.           | Infrastructure     | Sivasagar       | Project            | 2,46,000         |
| 5.           | Infrastructure     | Sivasagar       | Project            | 1,24,750         |
| 6.           | Infrastructure     | Sivasagar       | Project            | 3,80,000         |
| 7.           | Infrastructure     | Sivasagar       | Project            | 3,50,000         |
| 8.           | Infrastructure     | Nazira          | Project            | 1,00,000         |
| 9.           | Seminar/Conference | Sivasagar       | Sponsored          | 80,000           |
| 10.          | Seminar/Conference | Dibrugarh       | Sponsored          | 3,00,000         |
| 11.          | Seminar/Conference | Guwahati        | Sponsored          | 3,00,000         |
| 12.          | Seminar/Conference | Sivasagar       | Sponsored          | 1,80,000         |
| 13.          | Seminar Conference | Dibrugarh       | Sponsored          | 1,40,000         |
| 14.          | Sports             | Sivasagar       | Sponsored          | 2,63,200         |
| 15.          | Sports             | Guwahati        | Sponsored          | 1,00,000         |
| 16.          | Sports             | Nazira          | Sponsored          | 40,000           |
| 17.          | Sports             | Sivasagar       | Sponsored          | 50,000           |
| 18.          | Sports             | Sivasagar       | Project            | 3,69,000         |
| 19.          | Entrepreneurship   | Sivasagar       | Project            | 98,000           |
| 20.          | Entrepreneurship   | Sivasagar       | Project            | 9,86,700         |
| 21.          | Entrepreneurship   | Nazira          | Project            | 3,99,000         |
| 22.          | Art & Culture      | Guwahati        | Sponsored          | 3,50,000         |
| 23.          | Art & Culture      | Guwahati        | Sponsored          | 1,50,000         |
| 24.          | Art & Culture      | Sivasagar       | Sponsored          | 1,00,000         |
| 25.          | Education          | Jorhat          | Project            | 39,520           |
| 26.          | Education          | Nazira          | Project            | 3,90,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                    |                 |                    | <b>66,01,070</b> |

**III. Oil India Limited (Oil) Shikshya Ratna Purashkar 2012-13**

In order to encourage the teaching fraternity for their contribution to education and nation building, OIL had instituted a new award called Shikshya Ratna Purashkar as an annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The OIL Shikshya Ratna Purashkar is intended to encourage and recognize individual excellence in teaching. The award has been instituted with an objective to recognize teachers' outstanding ability to incite intellectual curiosity in students and engage them in the enterprise of learning which has a life-long impact.

In the inaugural year 2013-14, in-service teachers

of all provincialized schools (elementary to secondary) and colleges of Govt. of Assam under Dibrugarh University within Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts of upper Assam were eligible for the said award. On the auspicious occasion of Teachers' Day (5th September 2013), OIL announced names of five recipients of OIL Shikshya Ratna Purashkar which was widely published in news dailies.

Since inception, OIL has been providing financial assistance to all-round development of education from primary to higher education and has so far provided financial support to more than 400 institutions in the company's operational areas in Upper Assam.

**PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES**

**(I) Activities of Central Ground Water Board**

**1. Aquifer Mapping**

Under Aquifer Mapping Programme in North Eastern Region, Data gap analysis has been completed for a total area of 5000sq.km. covering parts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

**2. Participatory ground water monitoring**

Under participatory ground water monitoring a total of 73 nos. of wells are being monitored by the observers of which 48 are in Assam, 7 in Arunachal Pradesh, 9 in Meghalaya and 9 in Tripura. Monitoring of existing ground water observation wells has been completed.

**3. Ground water exploration through departmental rigs**

Groundwater exploration has been taken up in the study areas, a total of 15 wells have been completed in the alluvial areas of Jorhat & Goalpara and Kamrup districts of Assam and in the hard rock areas of Meghalaya.

**4. Other activities like seminar/lectures/meeting/painting competition**

The 4<sup>th</sup> State level painting competition was conducted at the Regional office at Guwahati on 18.11.2013 and at the State unit offices located at Shillong, Itanagar and Agartala in the states of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura.

**(II) Programmes undertaken by Ganga Wing, Ministry of Water Resources**

**1. Flood Management**

Flood management being within the purview of the states, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

**2. Flood Management Programme (FMP)**

In order to provide central assistance to the State Governments for river management, flood control, anti-erosion works, anti-sea-erosion works, drainage development, flood proofing, flood prone area development programme, restoration of damaged flood management works, etc, in critical areas, a 'Flood Management Programme' under state sector was launched by Government of India for XI Plan period. The Govt. of India has approved continuation of Flood Management Programme during XII Plan and modified guide lines have been issued in October, 2013.

**3. Status of schemes from North Eastern States including Sikkim under Flood Management Programme (FMP)**

A total of 195 flood management and anti erosion works with a total cost of Rs. 1402.78 crore (Central Share Rs. 1261.56 crore) from North Eastern Region including Sikkim were approved under FMP during XII Plan. Central assistance amounting to Rs. 1024.83 crore during XI Plan and Rs. 27.81 crore during XII Plan has been released to the North Eastern Region including Sikkim as on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. Out of 195 works, 141 works have been completed.

*Details of works approved and completed under Flood Management Programme upto 30.11.2013*

Rs. In crore

| Sl. No. | State             | Works taken up under FMP |            |               |                               |   |                                   |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
|         |                   | Nos.                     | Total Cost | Central Share | Funds Released during XI Plan | Funds Released during XII Plan as spill over (up to 30.11.2013) | Works completed (up to 30.3.2012) |
| 1.      | Arunachal Pradesh | 21                       | 107.33     | 96.55         | 78.77                         | 8.9   | 11                                |
| 2.      | Assam             | 100                      | 996.14     | 896.50        | 744.90                        | 2.51  | 77                                |
| 3.      | Manipur           | 22                       | 109.3      | 98.41         | 65.03                         | 0.95  | 19                                |
| 4.      | Mizoram           | 2                        | 9.13       | 8.22          | 3.40                          | -   | -                                 |
| 5.      | Nagaland          | 11                       | 49.35      | 44.38         | 28.96                         | 15.45   | 9                                 |
| 6.      | Sikkim            | 28                       | 104.92     | 94.42         | 82.86                         | -   | 21                                |
| 7.      | Tripura           | 11                       | 26.57      | 23.92         | 20.91                         | -   | 4                                 |
|         | Total             | 195                      | 1402.78    | 1262.40       | 1024.83                       | 27.81   | 141                               |

## IITF 2013 SHOWCASES RICH TRADITIONS, CULTURE OF NORTHEAST

The India International Trade Fair (IITF) held in New Delhi provides a global platform for craftsmen and entrepreneurs from different states of the country. Many artisans from the northeast are using the opportunity to expand their market.

A large number of crafts persons and entrepreneurs from eight North Eastern States participated in the India International Trade Fair 2013. Each state had a dedicated pavilion at the fair with different themes. Around 20 exhibitors from Nagaland showcased a variety of products like handloom, artificial jewellery, decorative items, paintings and cultural artefacts.

Emilo, an entrepreneur from Nagaland, who came here for the first time, was thrilled by the response of the people. "I feel so excited and so good to be here. We are showcasing our Naga handicrafts and handloom and people out here are so excited to see and they are purchasing, I am thankful to the organisers for this fair," said Emilo. "They like our traditional products. It's quite unique in designs, colors. Those who know the quality really come and purchase our products," added Merabeni, another exhibitor from Nagaland.

Exhibitors from Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh also took part in the fair. Dressed in traditional attires, they also promoted the culture of their states.

Large crowds thronged the Arunachal Pradesh pavilion for its cane and bamboo products.

Other than handloom, many innovative products like designer lampshades and sofa sets made from horns of bullocks were on display. "It feels great, it's a great platform for people like us from Northeast because we do not get much exposure. This is the place where we can showcase our

unique items. It's all made of cane and bamboos and people out here in the city like Delhi don't get to see such items. It's a good occasion for all of us," said Amung Tado, an exhibitor from Arunachal Pradesh.

"It's a very good opportunity to be on such a platform. We get a chance to showcase our products. Whatever products we display here is made by artisans. Artisans get to know the customer's choice to boost their income. It's good for both the artisans and customers," said Pradip Saha, manager, Tripura Pavilion.

"I am very happy because I tried so hard to get this opportunity and fortunately this year, I got this chance. I would like to participate again even next time because it's a beautiful place and I feel good to meet different people," added Shyama Devi, an exhibitor from Manipur.

The IITF 2013 was a perfect blend of commerce and culture. During the fair every state was allotted a day to celebrate its state day with the aim of promoting awareness about traditions of the region.



## 58 CMRHM HOUSES INAUGURATED IN SOUTH DISTRICT, SIKKIM

The Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission (CMRHM) being one of the flagship programmes of the State Government strives to make Sikkim a Kutcha House free state by providing qualitative housing to the poorest of the poor. On the basis of baseline survey conducted by RMDD in 2010, an allocation of 1625 houses were constructed in the South District under CMRHM.

The beneficiary identification and the allotment process has already been completed for 1175 houses in south district, of which 569 houses have been completed and handed over to the beneficiaries so far, while 606 houses are in various stages of construction. A total of 58 more houses, under various blocks of South district were inaugurated and handed over to the beneficiaries on October 30, 2013.

## NE STATES MEET ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS SCHEMES

Two days Consultation meeting with North Eastern States organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and chaired by Mrs. Sangeeta Verma, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India was held on October 28- 29, 2013. The session dealt with the planning, implementation and monitoring of Tribal Sub Plan.

The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Ms. Vibha Puri Das in her address, stressed on the need to make tribal affairs knowledge based and not

simply allocation and expenditure based. She urged the participating States to get an individual status profile prepared in three major areas namely health, education and employability with the help from concerned agencies. She said that the State needs to ensure development of these three sectors in terms of access and service delivery.

As part of the state-wise presentation, Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment & Welfare Department, Mr.

G.P. Upadhyaya, apprised about the schemes and programmes on Tribal Affairs being implemented by the State of Sikkim. He said that adequate impetus is given to development of Scheduled Tribes in the States in terms of infrastructure, health, education, employability and capacity building. He also highlighted the various Missions of the State Government and informed about the benefits extended to the tribal people.

Similar, presentations were also made by

representatives from Tripura, Manipur and Assam. Mr. Dev Burman, Principal Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Government of Manipur also spoke on the occasion.

The second half of the consultation dealt with grant-in-aid under NGO, schemes in the North Eastern States, conservation-cum-development of particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) and review of other schemes and programmes. The closing remarks were made by the Economic Advisor, Ministry of Tribal.

## WORLD BANK LOAN FOR (NORTH EAST RURAL LIVELIHOOD PROJECT) NERLP PROJECT

The World Bank has committed to provide 90 per cent soft loan to a Rs. 683.2 crore project under the North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP), the remaining amount being provided by the Union Ministry of Development of North eastern Region (DoNER). The project aimed at creating employment opportunities for 3,00,000 families in the four North Eastern States of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura would be executed in five years starting

from financial year 2013-14. It would be implemented in 1,624 villages under 12 districts in the four states. A similar livelihood scheme was earlier implemented in Manipur, Assam and Meghalaya, which has been extended for another five years due to its success. The project would help to create sustainable community institution around women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), youth groups of men and women and Community Development Groups (CDG)

## READERS COLUMN

The NE monthly Newsletter is published in English, Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri and has a circulation of 40,000 copies. Ministry of Home Affairs brings out the publication incorporating important information/developments concerning North Eastern States.

Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Newsletter, requests for inputs for the Newsletter from the State Governments, agencies, institutions and individuals highlighting the area specific issues, problems, special features, potential for tourism, environmental protection or special efforts/achievement in various fields etc. Views and write-ups from

general public are also solicited on specific issues/problems including on measures for resolution thereto in the North East.

Articles should be sent in a hard copy format accompanied by floppy/CD version along with photographs. Articles should be accompanied by an abstract of maximum of 150-200 words. Readers are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (upto 300-400 words) on published articles. All letters should have writer's full name and postal address. Selected articles will be published in the monthly NE Newsletter after due editing.

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

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