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A Monthly Newsletter on the North Eastern Region of India

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We are all knit together by bonds of blood..... None can segregate us..... no impassable barriers can be set up between us.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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Establishment of High Courts in North Eastern States



Inauguration of newly established High Courts in Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura

DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. A meeting with the officials of Government of Assam and representatives of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) was held on 7.3.2013 under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary at New Delhi to review the progress made in talks with ULFA and also to discuss their demands. Union Home Secretary said that he would take a meeting with the heads of various Central Ministries and Government of Assam in connection with the various issues raised by ULFA.

It was also stated that additional measures need to be taken for effective guarding of Indo-Bangladesh Border to check illegal infiltration from across the border. Union Home Secretary assured that effective measures were being taken in this regard which had helped to control illegal influx and additional measures, if required, would be taken in this regard. After the meeting with the Union Home Secretary, ULFA delegation met the Union Home Minister.

2. The security situation in North Eastern States was reviewed by the Parliamentary Consultative

Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs on 7.3.2013. A power point presentation by Joint Secretary (NE) was followed by a detailed discussion on the subject matter.

3. Home Secretary chaired a meeting on 20.3.2013 to review security forces operations in Northern Assam and Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The meeting was attended by the representatives of DGMO, Chief Secretary, and DGP of Arunachal Pradesh and other senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
4. Union Home Secretary chaired a meeting on 20th March, 2013 to review the progress of work on improvement of NH-2 (old NH-39) and NH-37 (old NH-53). The meeting was attended by Chairman, Roadway Board, DG, Border Roads Organization (BRO), the representatives from the Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, the State Government of Manipur & other senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SPECIAL SCHEME FOR SURRENDER-CUM-REHABILITATION OF MILITANTS IN THE STATE OF MANIPUR

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has a special scheme for surrender-cum-rehabilitation of militants in the State of Manipur w.e.f. 1.12.2012. Main features of the scheme are as under:-

- (i) An immediate grant of Rs. 2.50 lakh to be kept in a bank in the name of the surrenderee as fixed deposit for a period of three years.
- (ii) Monthly stipend of Rs. 4,000/- for a maximum period of 36 months.
- (iii) Incentives for surrendered weapons.

- (iv) Imparting vocational training to the surrenderees etc.
- (v) Funds will be provided for construction of rehabilitation camps as per State PWD estimates to accommodate the surrenderees.

2. Expenditure incurred by the State Government on the implementation of scheme will be 100% reimbursable by the Ministry of Home Affairs under SRE scheme. The Ministry of Home Affairs will release 80% of estimated annual expenditure on rehabilitation in advance and the rest will be reimbursed subsequently.

INAUGURATION OF NEW HIGH COURTS IN MANIPUR, MEGHALAYA AND TRIPURA

The seven North Eastern States- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland have been served by the Guwahati High Court with benches in the respective capitals. Sikkim has a separate High Court.

In order to establish separate High Courts in Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura, amendment to the North Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act, 1971- the North Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2012- was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in May 2012, paving the way for the creation of separate High Courts in Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura. The North

Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2012 was notified in the Gazette of India on 5.6.2012 and came into force on 23.3.2013.

The High Courts in Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura were inaugurated in the last week of March, 2013 by the Chief Justice of India Justice Altamas Kabir and Union Minister of Law Shri Ashwani Kumar in the presence of the State Chief Ministers and other dignitaries.

In Manipur, on March 23, Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court by the Governor of Manipur at the Raj Bhavan during a function that was attended by Chief Minister Shri

O Ibobi Singh, his cabinet colleagues, senior civil and police officials among others. The court will have three judges, including the Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice of Manipur on the occasion said that now that there is a separate High Court of Manipur, efforts will be made to clear the heavy backlog of cases which were pending in the Imphal bench of the Guwahati High Court.

In Meghalaya, Justice T Meena Kumari was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. Justice T Meena Kumari on the occasion said that her first priority would be to see that fast tract courts are set up in the State.

In Tripura, Justice Deepak Gupta was sworn as the new Chief Justice of Tripura High Court. Shri Utpalendu Bikash Saha, Shri Swapan Chandra Das and Shri Subhashish Talapatra were sworn in as judges. Chief Minister Shri

Manik Sarkar, his cabinet colleagues, top bureaucrats and other dignitaries were present at the event. The Chief Justice of Tripura High Court laid stress on quick justice. He said that separate High Courts for states will expedite justice delivery.



Oath ceremony Meghalaya



Oath ceremony Manipur



Oath ceremony Tripura

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

(A) Programmes undertaken by Assam Rifles

1. Medical/Veterinary Camps

- (i) Assam Rifles organized a medical camps at Jalenbung village, Ukhurul district, Joupri village and Aigejang village in Chandel district, Zalenphai village and Vokbol village in Churachandpur district, Manipur. Villagers received medical treatment and provided free medicines.
- (ii) Assam Rifles organised medical camps in St Xaviers School, Jalukie, Lillen village, Nihoi village, Nzao village,

Athibung village and Nchen village in Peren district, Nagaland. Students and villagers received medical treatment in the camps.

- (iii) 45-Assam Rifles organized a medical camp in Kawnpui village, Tripura North district, Tripura on 5th Mar, 2013. About 254 persons received medical treatment.
- (iv) 25-Assam Rifles organised a medical camp at Dihangi village, Haflong, Assam on 13th Mar, 2013. About 153 villagers received medical treatment and provided free medicines.



Medical Camps organized by Assam Rifles

2. **Blood Donation Camp.** 26-Assam Rifles conducted a blood donation camp at unit hospital on 6th Mar, 2013. The camp was inaugurated by Dr Laslrinliana Sailo, Director, Hospital Medical Education Department, Aizawl, Mizoram. About 48 people donated 48 units of blood to Civil Hospital Blood Bank, Aizawl.



3. **Sports Event.** 15-Assam Rifles organised a Football championship at Chaoyaima Football Ground in Thoubal district, Manipur from 4th – 10th Mar, 2013. The winners were given trophy and cash prize of Rs 20,000/- while the runners up were given cash prize of Rs 10,000/-.



Blood donation camp and sports events organized by Assam Rifles

4. **National Integration Tour.** 15-Assam Rifles organized a National Integration tour from Thoubal, Manipur to Ludhiana and Amritsar. The tour group comprising 20 farmers was flagged off on 1st March, 2013. The group visited Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana as also Guru Angad Dev University. They were also taken to local farms and various agri-based industries like textile mills, sugar mills and dairy units in Phagwara and Ludhiana. The participants visited a number of historical places in Amritsar like Golden Temple, Jalianwala Bagh and also witnessed the retreat parade at Wagah Border.

5. **Encouraging IT Literacy and Employment Scheme.** On 4th Mar, 2013, 17-Assam Rifles donated three computer sets with accessories, three computer tables, revolving chairs and ten sewing machines to the villagers of Baghty village, Wokha district, Nagaland.



6. Distribution of Solar Street Lights.

- (i) 6-Assam Rifles provided five solar lights to Zangkham village, Mon district, Nagaland on 2nd Mar, 2013.
- (ii) 32-Assam Rifles distributed four solar street lights to the village council of Hengshi village, Chandel district, Manipur on 13th Mar, 2013.



Solar lights distributed by Assam Rifles

7. Water Supply Scheme.

- (i) 46-Assam Rifles handed over two water tanks to the villagers of Tollen village, Churachandpur district, Manipur on 7th Mar, 2013.
- (ii) 23-Assam Rifles provided water supply equipments to Sipongsang village, Tuensang district and water storage tanks to Yimbarasa village, Wokha district, Nagaland.



Water supply equipment and water storage tanks distributed by Assam Rifles

8. Construction of toilet block

- (a) 8-Assam Rifles handed over one toilet block to Dasguriya village, Tripura West district, Tripura on 9th Mar, 2013.
- (b) 23-Assam Rifles handed over two toilet blocks to Tuesang village, Tuensang district, Nagaland on 12th Mar, 2013.



Sports items provided by Assam Rifles

9. 17-Assam Rifles provided sports items to Rengma Sports Association of Tseminyu village, Kohima district, Nagaland on 13th Mar, 2013.

10. A community hall constructed by 11- Assam Rifles at Phayuba village, Kohima district, Nagaland was handed over on 18th Mar, 2013.



Community Hall constructed by Assam Rifles

11. Free Artificial Limbs Camp. 27-Sector Assam Rifles took the measurements for provisioning of free artificial limbs on 18th Mar, 2013. About 25 persons from Manipur including Imphal, Ukhrul, Chandel, Jiribam and Churachandpur districts availed the facility.



(B) Activities carried out by CISF

(i) CISF unit OPS Noonmati observed Security Week from 3.3.2013 to 9.3.2013. On this occasion, "Cycle Rally" from Unit HQRS to Paterquary market, Narangi main

market and Birkuchi area was conducted for Security awareness in local public. Badminton, Volley Ball matches and Essay writing competition were also organized among CISF personnel. Drawing competition, Jellabi Race and Spoon Race competition of CISF Ward was also organized. Musical chair and Hitting of Matka competition was conducted for CISF families. Women health camp was organized from 7th to 9th March, 2013 in which Dy. CMO Dr. D. Bhattacharjee delivered speech on Breast Cancer and other women related disease and advised for routine check up at OIL Hospital.

(ii) CISF unit BVFCL Namrup organized women health camp in CISF Family Quarter Complex on 07.03.2013. Dr. Priyanka Mukharjee, Govt. Hospital, Namrup delivered speech on breast cancer, cervical cancer etc and conducted medical checkup of participants.

(iii) The personnel of CISF unit, BTPP Bongaigaon conducted Civic Work at BTPP Primary School on 6.3.2013. BTPP/ NTPC Hospital, Salakati organized a medical check-up camp for women and children on 7.3.2013. CISF unit, BTPP/NTPC Bongaigaon sent a team of volunteers to assist the hospital authorities.

PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) formerly DOEACC Society, was set up in 1994 by the Department of Electronics (now Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) with the primary objective of implementing DOEACC Scheme, a joint Scheme of DoE and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The objective is to utilize the facilities

and infrastructure available in the non-formal private sector for generating quality IT manpower. Under DOEACC Scheme, accreditation is granted to institutions in non-formal sector about fulfilling well defined criteria of faculty, hardware, software, library and other infrastructure for conducting education and training for four levels (O,A,B & C) of courses in IT as per the syllabi developed by the NIELIT.

The examination is conducted for the candidates undergoing training of accredited courses twice a year.

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) is having presence in the capitals of all North-Eastern States i.e. Aizawl, Guwahati, Itanagar, Imphal, Shillong, Kohima and Gangtok. NIELIT is conducting formal and non-formal courses (i.e. Computer Hardware and Maintenance (CHM) 'O' and 'A' level, Information Technology (IT) and 'A', 'B' 'C' level, BCA, MCA, Diploma in Computer Science Engineering (DCSE), Diploma in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering (DETE) etc. for the students where SC/ST youths are given training free-of-cost.

Further, Deity, Govt. of India has approved the project 'Development of North Eastern Region by enhancing the Training/Education capacity in the IECT area'. The objectives of the project are as under:

- (a) upgradation of six existing NIELIT centres located at Imphal, Aizawl, Guwahati, Shillong, Gangtok and Itanagar to full-fledged campus with state-of-the-art labs, classrooms, hostels, staff quarters etc. for catering to various training needs (both formal and non-formal) right from certificate level to under-graduate/postgraduate courses, various accredited courses of DOEACC Scheme O/A/B/C levels and short term skill based courses. The upgraded infrastructure would conform to norms prescribed by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE); and
- (b) setting up of ten new NIELIT Extension Centres at Senapati and Churachandpur in Manipur; Dibrugarh,

Silchar, Jorhat and Kokrajhar in Assam; Lunglei in Mizoram; Tura in Meghalaya; Tezu & Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh; and upgradation of two existing Extension centres located at Chuchuyimlang in Nagaland and Tezpur in Assam with appropriate training facilities for conducting non-formal (NIELIT-O/A levels) and short-term skill based courses.

Presently NIELIT is imparting training to approx 4630 students per year in the field of IECT in NE centers and it is expected to go upto 14400 students per annum with the implementation of the project.

NIELIT has also initiated the following projects in North Eastern Region which will set a landmark in capacity building and enhancing employability of youths in NE Region.

- (i) 'Creating mass cyber security awareness among school children, college students and public in North Eastern States of Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura'. The broad objective of the project is to launch a mass awareness on cyber security aspects.
- (ii) 'Capacity building programme for creating e-readiness of ST youths of NE States and State Government Employees at NIELIT Kohima (Nagaland)'. The broad objective of the project is to spread IT culture and bridge digital gap in use of computer at basic level in order to deal with electronic services programs.
- (iii) Setting up of Medical Electronics Lab and E-Learning & Content Development Lab at NIELIT Agartala.

PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

Progress of CADWM programme in NE Region

All the States of the region are implementing Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) programme in their states. There are 20 on-going projects under CADWM programme. Physical and financial achievements of the aforesaid projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total CCA of the On-going projects (th.ha)	Area covered up since inception to March, 2012 (th.ha)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.570	20.40
2.	Assam	41.019	61.52
3.	Manipur	34.745	87.24
4.	Meghalaya	2.820	2.55
5.	Mizoram	3.262	0.91
6.	Nagaland	1.080	3.82
7.	Sikkim	2.250	0.18
8.	Tripura	0.440	0.41

The central assistance (CA) released to the NE States since inception is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	CA released till March, 2012 (Rs. lakh)	CA released during 2012-13 (Rs. Lakh)	Total CA released upto March, 2013 (Rs. Lakh)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1159.814	168.84	1328.654
2.	Assam	2887.016	269.48	3156.496
3.	Manipur	5869.489	775.42	6644.909
4.	Meghalaya	147.096	0	147.096
5.	Mizoram	92.378	0	92.378
6.	Nagaland	373.624	0	373.624
7.	Sikkim	6.750	0	6.750
8.	Tripura	19.700	0	19.700

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Irrigation projects including minor irrigation (MI) projects are undertaken by respective State Governments as per their own priorities. With a view to encourage the completion of the ongoing projects and help States in creation of irrigation potential, Government of India provides financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit

Programme (AIBP). Following grant has been released to the North East state in the month of March, 2013 for completion of ongoing MI schemes under AIBP:

S. No.	Name of the NE state	No. of ongoing MI schemes	Grant released (Rs. In crore)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	92 ongoing MI Schemes of 2012-13 (additional instalment)	43.5051
2	Assam	36 ongoing MI schemes of 2012-13 (KAAC)	32.40
		124 ongoing MI schemes of 2009-10 (General Area))	64.80
		104 ongoing MI schemes of 2009-10 (General Area))	63.4970
		208 ongoing MI schemes of 2009-10 (BTC)	100.76
3	Nagaland	120 ongoing MI schemes of 2012-13	45.9910
4	Meghalaya	49 ongoing MI schemes of 2010-11 (WRD)	2.0252
		65 ongoing MI schemes of 2012-13 (WRD)	29.4387
	Total		382.4170

SKILL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN MANIPUR

Empowering women by educating and making them economically independent is one of the top priorities of the Manipur government. Its consistent efforts in this direction are now bearing fruit. The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, launched the "Integrated Skill Development Scheme for the Textiles and Apparel Sector" in the state.

Recently, a month long training programme was conducted at the Weavers Service Centre in Manipur. A large number of women hailing from the nine districts of the state took part in the training programme.

"It will benefit us a lot because whatever we have learnt from here like weaving, designing, printing we can do it by our own and sell the products," said Ibemcha Devi, a trainee.

Most of these women are unemployed and the

training program is an opportunity to acquire skills to get jobs. During training, the women are trained in designing, block printing, dyeing and weaving Moirang Phee. The training not only helps them improve their socio-economic standards but also boosts their self esteem and confidence. The trainees are also paid 100 rupees every day.

"This training will benefit me a lot because I have a plan to open one more shop. Even now I am working in the tailor shop so it will be now much better than before as I have learnt modern design and printing, so now I can use them," said Sharda Devi, another trainee. Over the years the government has emphasized the need to empower women through various schemes and projects. It also provides loans for starting new ventures and vocational training to help them get jobs.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (HRD) MINISTER LAYS THE FOUNDATION STONE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

HRD Minister Shri M. M. Pallam Raju on 11th February, 2013 laid the foundation stone of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Arunachal Pradesh and expressed the hope that the institute would help uplift the state's economy and enhance its human development index.

Hinting about the possible restructuring of NITs to ensure that they play an even greater role in national development and become world-class institutions not only in engineering, but also in manpower development with technologies through research and innovation, Shri Raju said "these institutions have so far made an excellent contribution to national development over the past five decades. I pay tribute to the people of Arunachal Pradesh for donating the required land for the NIT," said Shri Raju.

Describing the NIT as a dream come true for the state, Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki, in his address, highlighted the region's poor education scenario, which currently ranks 32 in the country's literacy index. "Availability of manpower, technical inputs and resources are limited. The growth and expansion of the education sector has been facing problems, and therefore, output is also not up to expectations," said Shri Tuki.

The Member of Parliament, Shri Takam Sanjoy, termed the NIT as a gift from the Central Government to the people of Arunachal Pradesh and hoped that with such institutions, the region would soon catch up with the rest of India.

PANGSAU PASS WINTER FEST HELD IN ARUNACHAL'S CHANGLANG DISTRICT

Three-day long Pangsau Pass Winter Festival-2013 was held recently with pomp and gaiety in Arunachal Pradesh.

People from Arunachal Pradesh, and other parts of the north-eastern region, came together to celebrate the Pangsau Pass Winter Festival in Changlang district. A

group of 70 people from Myanmar also participated in the three-day long cultural extravaganza. They presented their dances that enthralled the audience.

On display was a slice of their rich culture which included dances, music and traditional food. Over 40 troupes performed folk dances such as Tangsa Rongrang War Dance, Lungchang Dance of Changlang, Wancho Dance, the Assamese Bihu Dance, and the Shri Mizo Bamboo Dance.

"It's very good to celebrate this festival here because it will also boost tourism in Arunachal Pradesh," said

Mamun, a resident.

"I have never seen a festival like this before; this is the first time I came here with my family and it's amazing. It's a good festival and at the same time I am enjoying the beautiful scenery," said Shri Agarwal, a visitor.

"We are very happy to get such a great opportunity again to perform here at this festival. We are happy to perform and are grateful to the organizers for inviting us again," said Shri Sanjoy Miaoa, a participant. Such festivals not only preserve the culture of the region, but also promote tourism.

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. 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. The selected articles will be published in the monthly NE Newsletter with due editing.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

<p>I earnestly request your good office to send me the hard copy of the NE Newsletter in English language on the address given below:--</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sd/- Sudarshan. R. Kottai, Vineetha Bhawan, P.O. Pathinppatta, Vill- Kakkattil, Kohileode district, Kerala-673507</i></p>	<p>I shall be grateful if you kindly send a free copy of NE Newsletter in English to my address given below in the interest of the local youths of my village:--</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sd/- Chingangbam Basanta Singh, Secretary, Youth Sporting Club, (District Outstanding Youth Club Awardee), Kiyam Siphai, Thoubal, Manipur-795138</i></p>	<p>Please send me a copy of Newsletter. I am preparing for Civil Service Examination it will be very helpful :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sd/- Vidya S. Hiremath, 7, OM Prakash Building, Mruthyunjaya Badawane, Near Rajeev Nagar, Hubli-580031, Karnataka</i></p>
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