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Democracy is a form and method of government whereby revolutionary changes in the economic and social life of the people are brought about without bloodshed.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EAST REGION

1. A meeting under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (North East) was held with the officers of ISRO in MHA on 10.4.2015 to discuss the action plan on effective use of space technology based tools.
2. The Ceasefire agreement signed between Government of India and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khole-Kitovi) [NSCN/KK] was reviewed and the agreement has been extended for a further period of one year w.e.f. 28.4.2015.
3. The Government of India and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Reformation) [NSCN/R] have signed Ceasefire agreement for a period of one year w.e.f. 28.4.2015 on mutually agreed Ceasefire Ground Rules. It has also been decided not to engage with NSCN/ Khaplang any longer and therefore, ceasefire agreement signed earlier with NSCN/K is no longer valid.

RONGALI - CELEBRATING ESSENCE OF ASSAM

Assam a land of diverse culture, beautiful landscape is blessed with huge resources. The largest river in India Brahmaputra, World renowned one horned rhino, one of the biggest river island in the world Majuli, the largest concentration of wild life sanctuaries, highest tea generating region in the world etc. Assam has plenty to offer. Assam is also the gateway to North East India comprising beautiful States of Meghalaya, Arunachal, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.

Out of five national parks, two are designated World Natural Heritage Sites by UNESCO, and several wildlife and bird sanctuaries. Assam is a blessed land for wildlife enthusiasts. At the heart of its mind boggling biodiversity is the rich topography of Assam with its lush hills and valleys dissected by the majestic Brahmaputra and its many tributaries. Assam is home to over 180 species of mammals, including rare and endangered species like that great Indian one-horned rhinoceros, the royal Bengal tiger, the golden langur and hoolock gibbon, and a

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spectacular range of avifauna. The state has conserved the one-horned Indian rhinoceros from near extinction, along with the pygmy hog, tiger and various species of birds. It provides one of the last wild habitats for the Asian elephant. The Kaziranga and the Manas National Parks are designated as World Heritage sites.

Assam is home to Kamakhya temple, one of the most powerful shrines in India, river island Majuli is the hub of Sattriya culture initiated by Mahapurush Sankaradeva, the cultural icon of Assam. Sattriya dance is considered the national dance of India. Numerous tribes, colourful celebrations, rich culture of traditional handloom & handicrafts, Assam has it all. Rongali Bihu is the most famous festival of Assam; Springtime the State blooms with festivity and colours.



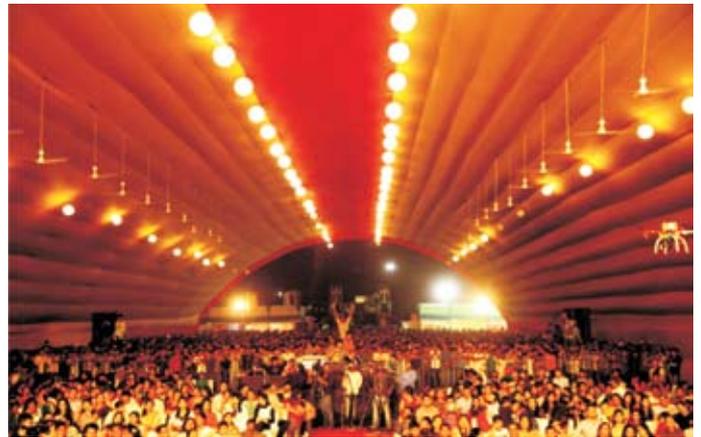
Youth Affairs, Govt. of India and Assam Tourism, Rongali was organised by Socio-Cultural Trust Trend MMS, who also organised the famous North East Festival in Delhi with support from Hotel & Restaurant Association of Assam.

Rongali means confluence of colours. Assam is land of various colourful tribes. Rongali showcased way of life of various communities of Assam, colourful dance forms, ethnic foods, traditional sports, the famous black magic of Assam, traditional fire crackers, jewelleryes, handloom etc. An Exhibition of Historical trail of Assam showcased the rich history of Assam from historic days upto Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, the bird of Brahmaputra. The evening cultural programme had performances by top musicians of Assam including Zubeen Garg, Papon, Simanta Sekhar, Manas Robin, Babu, Priyanka Bharali, Mondakini was attended by lakhs of people. Top rock band of the country Indian Ocean regaled the audience with his jugalbandi with famous Assamese singer Zubeen Garg. Two ethnic fashion shows showcasing the rich tribal designs of Assam with top designers of the State and Assamese film stars as showstoppers was a major attraction. Anka Bhaona, Zikir, various cultural attractions of the State were displayed. Upto 1.30 AM in the morning, people came out and enjoyed this wonderful

However, the State is not being able to attract tourists, and as per statistics the inflow of foreign tourists, Assam is 23rd amongst the various states of India. The marketing efforts have been less and perception about the region outside is not good but tourism have the potential to create employment to lakhs of Assamese youths.

Rongali- Celebrating the essence of Assam, an unique project attempted to create awareness about Assam as tourism destination and to build bridges amongst the various communities of Assam. Organised from 3rd to 5th April, 2015 at Veterinary Ground, Khanapara, Guwahati, Rongali became a talking point in Assam, with extensive coverage in the regional and national media.

With support from MHA, Govt. of India, Ministry of



exhibition of colours.

During Rongali, Assam's top brains joined in a round table discussion about the "Development Agenda of Assam". The roundtable was attended by Vice Chancellors of various Universities, top entrepreneurs, cultural icons, media personalities, economists etc and key suggestions are being documented in the form of book by Guwahati University which would be circulated amongst Governments and policymakers.



Roundtable discussion on 'Development Agenda of Assam'

The key focus of Rongali was to attract tourist interests. Many travel writers, tour operators, tourists visited Rongali, participated at various traditional games and enjoyed traditional food items. Many members of National media visited. Spicejet have promoted Rongali in their Boarding passes and Spice Route magazines across all of their flights, India tourism have promoted Rongali across the world.

Shri Shambhu Singh, Joint Secretary (North East), MHA stated that tourism could become a source of major employment in the North East and lack of employment is the breeding ground for insurgency. Rongali is an excellent step to attract tourists to visit Assam.

Shri Shyamkanu Mahanta, Chief Organiser of Rongali informed that the next year, Rongali would be organised in February. Hotelliers, tour operators of the region have joined hand to promote Rongali and next nine months, extensive marketing across the tour operating networks of the world is planned to attract participation of more tourists and tour operators. Mr. Mahanta informed Rongali would be an attempt to build bridges amongst the various communities of the State and showcasing the various facets, food habits, culture etc for attracting tourists.



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

(A) Programmes undertaken by Assam Rifles

1. Medical camps

Continuing with its endeavor to provide medical care and access to medicines to people living in remote areas, the Assam Rifles have been organizing Medical Camps in areas where adequate health care facilities are not available to the villagers. Eight medical camps were conducted by various units of the Force in the NE Region during the month of April, 2015. A total of 1959 patient were treated and provided with free medicines during the camps.



Medical camps organised by Assam Rifles

2. Felicitation ceremony for selected candidates.

A dedicated & professional approach by the team of 41-Assam Rifles has borne fruits as seven local Tangkhul youth have qualified in the recruitment drive held at Kohima for Indian Army. The youth were motivated & trained for over two months by the Battalion. A ceremony was held on 16th April, 2015 at Somsai, district Ukhrul, Manipur for felicitation of the selected candidates by Brigadier Peeyush Pandey, VSM, Commander, Headquarters, 10-Sector Assam Rifles, He congratulated the selected candidates and wished them success in their professional life ahead.



3. 41-Assam Rifles celebrated the auspicious '**Shaar Phanit Festival**' with the residents of Chingai village, district Ukhrul, Manipur on 16th April, 2015. Shaar Phanit was celebrated with full vigour and gusto which included traditional folk dances and games. The troops of Assam Rifles played a friendly game of 'TUG-OF-WAR' and Volleyball match with teams of Chingai village.

4. **Awareness drives.** In another initiative undertaken by the force towards Nation building and upliftment of people especially the youth living in remote areas, Assam Rifles conducted various awareness drives to address issues related to health, education, welfare and social upliftment as well as information to the populace about various Government schemes and employment opportunities available, for the benefit of the locals. The details of some of the awareness drives conducted by various units of the force during the month of April, 2015, are as under:-

- (i) 10-Sector Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'importance of education' at Yaibilen Children Home, Keibi village, district Ukhrul, Manipur, and also distributed stationary items to local children during the lecture on 6th April, 2015.
- (ii) 28-Assam Rifles on 8th April, 2015 organized a lecture and immunization programme on 'World Health Day' under mission 'Indradhanush' at Lunglawn village, district Lawngtlai, Mizoram and administered Hepatitis B, TT and DPT vaccinations to the locals.
- (iii) 27-Assam Rifles on World Health Day conducted a seminar on 'Food Safety –The Global View' the theme being from Farm to Plate, Make Food Safe at Kadamtala, Tripura on 7th April, 2015.
- (iv) 10-Assam Rifles organized a lecture on 'Prevention of Malaria & Water Borne Diseases' at Vaphai village, district Champhai, Mizoram on 8th April, 2015. 17 villagers attended the lecture.

(v) 25-Assam Rifles organised a 'Motivational Lecture' for youths both boys and girls, to join the Armed Forces at Thangkanphai village, district Ukhrul, Manipur on 17th April, 2015. 75 Students (36 girls and 39 boys) attended the lecture.

(vi) 10-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'National Integration' at Farkawn village, district Champhai, Mizoram on 17th April, 2015. About 135 villagers attended the lecture.

(vii) 16-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'career in the armed forces' at Nungdam Kuki village, Sangshak district, Manipur for the unemployed youth on

18th April, 2015. 23 local youth attended the lecture.

- (viii) 28-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'drug abuse' at Lunglawn village, district Lunglei, Mizoram on 18th April, 2015. 36 villagers attended the lecture.
- (ix) 44-Assam Rifles organised a drawing competition for school children at village Kamjung and Chassad, Manipur on 20th April, 2015. The competition was organized in two groups i.e Group-I for Class III to V and Group-II for Class VI to X. 95 students from schools of village Kamjong and Chassad participated in the events.

5. Assistance by Assam Rifles.

The force has been providing succour to the socio-economically disadvantaged & marginalized people who have limited economic means, access to basic amenities and living in remote areas of the NE Region by way of diverse kind of activities such as construction of various kinds of Infrastructure, distribution of items to assist in generating self employment and other critical items based on the requirement of particular group of people. The details of assistance provided by various units of the Force during the month of April, 2015, are as under:-



- (i) 35-Assam Rifles constructed a bus waiting shed at Phuba Khunan village, district Senapati, Manipur. The shed was handed over to the village authority on 4th April, 2015.
- (ii) 43-Assam Rifles distributed grocery and food items on 2nd April, 2015 to three families who were victims of 2009 Jeme Dimasa ethnic clashes at Asanhaju village.
- (iii) Headquarters, 5 Sector Assam Rifles organised a meeting of the Welfare and Rehabilitation Board (WARB) for the state of Nagaland at Chieswema, Nagaland on 4th April, 2015. The meeting was attended by a large number of Ex-servicemen of all Central Armed Police Forces i.e Assam Rifles, CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB. The meeting was chaired by Brig Debashis Das, Sena Medal, State Welfare Officer (SWO), Nagaland and attended by Senior Assam Rifles and Central Armed Police Forces officials. A large number of issues concerning the welfare and well being of Ex Servicemen were discussed and suggestions were noted for future implementation.
- (iv) 44-Assam Rifles distributed five solar lights to Phaikoh Village and four solar lights to Aishi village, district Ukhrul, Manipur on 16th April, 2015.
- (v) 41-Assam Rifles provided Medical Assistance to

Mr Simon Rising of Poi village, district Ukhrul, Manipur who met with an accident on 20th April, 2015 and later shifted to district hospital Ukhrul, Manipur for further treatment. The village authority appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for their noble gesture.

6. Vocational training activities and promotion of self employment.

The Force has been providing vocational training and imparting specialised skills in various disciplines as varied as welding, computer literacy, tailoring, beautician courses, wireman/ electrician, agriculture productivity, motor training and nursing. In addition Assam Rifles has also been distributing materials to enable the locals to gain

from the vocational training imparted and make them more self reliant, with the long term objective of social and economic development of the region. The details of vocational training activities carried out by various units of the force during the month of April, 2015, are as under:-

- (i) 10-Assam Rifles conducted a two weeks 'first aid course' with effect from 6th April, 2015 at Hnahlan village, district Champhai, Mizoram. 7 youth attended the course.
- (ii) 28-Assam Rifles conducted a four weeks 'computer course' at Saiha, Mizoram with effect from 9th March, 2015 to 8th April, 2015. 8 youth attended



First Aid course and computer course organised by Assam Rifles



First Aid course and computer course organised by Assam Rifles

the course.

- (iii) 28-Assam Rifles conducted a four weeks 'carpentry course' with effect from 6th April, 2015 to 2nd May 2015 at village Tuithumhnar, district Lawngtlai, Mizoram. 6 youth attended the course.
- (iv) 39-Assam Rifles conducted a two weeks 'electrician/welding course' with effect from 6th – 17th April, 2015 at Aizawl, Mizoram. 8 youth attended the course.
- (v) 10-Assam Rifles conducted a one week 'masonry course' at Champhai, Mizoram with effect from 20th to 25th April, 2015. 6 youth attended the course.
- (vi) 39-Assam Rifles organized a 'carpentry course' at Ratu village, district Aizwal, Mizoram with effect from 20th April, 2015 to 27th April, 2015. 7 youth attended the course.
- (vii) 39-Assam Rifles organized a 'Driving & Maintenance Course' at Sakawrdai village, district Aizwal, Mizoram with effect from 13th to 22nd April, 2015. 8 youth attended the course.

(B) Programmes undertaken by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

(1) SSB organised medical camps in Sikkim

Sashastra Seema Bal's Sikkim unit organised an intensive Medical & Veterinary Civic Action camps from 28th to 30th March, 2015 at Uttarey of West Sikkim where there were inadequate health care facilities available. Since, the Medical Camp was organised on the sidelines of the famous Rhododendron festival, it was a great centre of attraction.

The medical and veterinary camp of SSB was also seen by Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, who was the Chief Guest of Rhododendron festival. The programme was also witnessed by Shri R. B. Subba, Minister of HRDD, Govt. of Sikkim, Shri N.K Subba, Minister of Urban Department,

Food & Civil Supplies, Govt. of Sikkim & Shri S. B. Subedi, Minister of RMD Rural Cooperation, Govt. of Sikkim, Smt. Chandra Maya Subba, MLA, Smt. Devika Subba, President Zilla Panchayat, West district, Shri Rup Singh, DIG, SSB, Gangtok and other officials of SSB.

During the camp, Medical Civic Action (MCA) was carried out by Dr. Doma Lachenpa, Dy. Comdt. (Medical) and the Veterinary Civic Action (VCA) was done by Dr. Chandan Talukdar, Asstt, Surgeon (Vety) of 36th Bn, SSB, Gangtok with their team of Para-medical & Para-vety staff. 535 patients of 8 villages of nearby Uttarey were benefitted under MCA and 592 livestock under VCA. Medicines were distributed free of cost to the needy persons.

(2) SSB's promotion of cultural integration

Siliguri Frontier's Gangtok SHQ has got off the block first to create its own cultural team and record programmes on Doordarshan as desired by Shri B. D. Sharma, DG, SSB.

Under the guidance of Shri Kuldeep Singh, IPS, IG, Siliguri Frontier, all Battalions and Area Offices were advised to start their own cultural team to nurture not only their own talent but go the extra mile to provide concepts for DD/AIR to record interesting places, occasions, celebrations, art forms and cultural events, historic personalities, artists, performers etc. of the region about whom there has been no coverage or elaborate coverage on Prasar Bharti media units.

Under the watchful eyes of Shri Rup Singh DIG Gangtok, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh Second-in-Command 36th Bn Gangtok created the cultural team comprising of 32 members some from the state but, mostly from different parts of the country. Yet, they adopted the Bhutia, Lepcha & Nepali dances so well that they were all invited to the studio of Doordarshan, Gangtok on 24th March, 2015 for recording their dance performance.

With real costumes and effects, the boys performed very well which made the Programme Director of DD to compliment them that their performances were better than



the professional groups in Gangtok. The same group had performed the Bhutia and Nepali dance during the recently concluded Sandikhsha Exhibition 2015 in New Delhi and the Flag Off Ceremony of the 'Discovering India with SSB' Study Tour in Gangtok. They also performed their programme in front of Chief Minister and State Ministers at Dentam, West Sikkim during white board & library books distribution ceremony. They would also perform their programmes during various cultural integration programmes.

(C) Programmes undertaken by CRPF

CRPF organized Free Health Camp Programme at Jeevan Nagar village, Manipur On 24/04/2015

32-Bn CRPF organized "Free Health Camp" under Civic Action Programme on April 24, 2015 at Jeevan Nagar village, Churachandpur district. Medical Doctors and Para Medical staff of CRPF, NHPC and Manipur State Health Department extended all helps to attend to medical problems reported by the villagers on the occasion.



Around 500 local people including old aged, women and children from 20 villages in Leimatak areas benefited from the Civic Action Programme by availing free health check up and free medicines. The programme was also used as a platform to create awareness among the villagers on the importance of timely health check up at regular intervals.

'DoNER AT DOORSTEP' ANNOUNCED

A new concept of DoNER at Doorstep has been announced to convince the people of Northeast that they need not travel to New Dehi every time for redressal of their grievances, as New Delhi can also reach their destination. Various Camp Secretariats have already been held in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. According to this concept, during each given fortnight, at least eight

Union Ministers from New Delhi will be visiting North East which means that one Minister each will be available in each of the eight States every 15 days. It will not only help them to make an assessment of the development works related to their Ministries but also allow them to gain first-hand inputs from the local communities from the region.

POWER LOOM ESTATE FOR MANIPUR

The Government of Manipur will set up a Comprehensive Power Loom Development Project under the North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) of the Government of India to cater the needs of weavers/entrepreneurs of Manipur to generate employment opportunities. All possible technical assistance to the 41

identified weavers/entrepreneurs, on a continuous basis, would be provided by the Centre for sustained development of the sector. For this purpose, 45 acres land near the Trade & Permanent Exhibition Centre at Lamboikhongnangkhang has been identified by the State Government for setting up the project.

MULBERRY SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN MANIPUR

The Ministry of Textiles has given the approval for the implementation of the Phase-II of Manipur Sericulture Project under the North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) for the Mulberry Sericulture development programmes starting from 2014-15 to 2016-17 with a total cost of Rs. 149.76 crores, out of which, Rs. 126.60 crores will be given by the Ministry.

mulberry raw silk worth Rs. 159.38 crores during the project period. The project will facilitate production of 203 MT of mulberry raw silk per year with a value of Rs. 50.62 crores at current prices. So far, the Department of Sericulture, Govt. of Manipur has brushed 11.69 lakh mulberry dfls (disease free layings) in the project area and has produced 615.45 MT of cocoons with a cocoon productivity of 52 kg/100 dfls with the existing acreage available with around 2500 farmers.

The project is expected to yield 638 MT of

FOUNDATION STONE FOR APPAREL AND GARMENT MAKING CENTRE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

The foundation stone for an Apparel & Garment Making Centre at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh was laid recently. The Centre is being set up as a part of a landmark initiative announced by the Honourable Prime Minister in Nagaland on 1st December, 2014. The Prime Minister had announced that an Apparel and Garment Making Centre shall be constructed in all North Eastern States each of which would be expected to generate direct employment for 1200 people. Each state would have one centre with three units, each having 100 machines. For local entrepreneurs with requisite background, required facilities

to start a unit would be provided in 'plug and play' mode. Once such entrepreneurs get established, they can set up their own units, allowing the facility to be provided to new entrepreneurs.

The initiative comes under the North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) of the Ministry of Textiles. NERTPS is an umbrella scheme for the development of various segments of textiles, i.e. silk, handlooms, handicrafts and apparels & garments. The scheme has a total outlay of Rs. 1038.10 crore in 12th Five Year Plan.

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

<p>I shall be honoured and obliged, if you could send me a copy of the NE Newsletter in English to my address below:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sd/- Mr. Yab Nikum, Village- Upper Tubung, PS- Balijan, District- Papum Pare, Pin-791123, Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>I shall remain thankful to you if you could send me a copy of the NE Newsletter in English to the address given below:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sd/- M. Paokhugin Kaokin, Moreh, W.No.2, P.O. Moreh, Manipur-795131</p>	<p>I would like to request you to kindly send me a copy of NE Newsletter to the address given below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sd/- Nirmal Kumar Singh, President, Veer Kunwar Singh Foundation, A-42, Vikas Vihar, Dharma Chowk, Kakrolla Road, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078</p>
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Request for free copy of the NE Newsletter indicating language preferred or suggestions, if any, may be sent to the Chief Editor/Editor at the address given below:

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