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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

DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. On 15th December, 2014, 161 UG cadres and 236 over ground workers of Achik National Volunteers Council (ANVC) and 277 cadres of ANVC/B along with huge quantity of arms and ammunition surrendered during disbandment ceremony held at Tura, West Garo Hills district Meghalaya.
2. The Union Home Minister accompanied by the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, the Minister of State (Home), Union Home Secretary, Joint Secretary (NE), MHA visited Assam on 24th – 25th December, 2014 to review the security situation in the wake of the killings of innocent people including women and children in Assam by National Democratic Front of Bodoland/S (NDFB/S) group on 23.12.2014. The Union Home Minister also visited violence affected areas of Biswanath and Chariali under Sonitpur district and Kokrajhar district in Assam on 25th December, 2014. National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken 4 cases for investigation as recommended by the Govt. of Assam.
3. Minister of State (Home)/ Minister of State (Sports, in-charge) flagged off a special train, namely, DU Gayanodya Express on 18.12.2014 for study tour of Delhi University's students (approx. 850 students) to visit



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various parts of NE States with the aim to meet local people, NGOs, Voluntary Groups/Self-Help Groups of NE Region.

4. Union Home Secretary took a meeting on 29.12.2014 which was attended by Officers/representatives of Central

Ministries/Departments and Delhi Administration for expeditious implementation of recommendations made by the Bezbaruah Committee constituted to look into the various kinds of concerns of the persons hailing from the NE States.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NAGALAND



for development of the North East. Rs 28,000 crore will be provided for construction of 14 new railway lines. He described Nagaland as the best tourist destination & emphasised on road, rail and on connectivity to develop tourism in Nagaland. He said that the North Eastern Region power system improvement project has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 5,000 crore for six North East States including Nagaland. Under the comprehensive Telecom Development Plan, Rs. 5,000 crore has been sanctioned for 2G mobile coverage for enhanced connectivity.

The 51st Anniversary of Nagaland and the 10-day long celebration of Hornbill Festival were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 1st of December 2014 at Kohima. The celebration was marked by visits of high dignitaries like Ms Helen LaFave, Consul General, Consulate of USA in Kolkata, Chief Ministers of Myanmar and thousands of foreign tourists. Cultural Dances, Flower Show, Motor Rally, Folk songs, music, dance, drama were organised during the event.

During his visit to Nagaland, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had a meeting with the Governor of Nagaland, the Chief Minister of Nagaland, besides various Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). While inaugurating the Hornbill Festival at Kisama, the Hon'ble Prime Minister urged the Naga people that after 50 years of Statehood, look back, introspect and take stock of the ground you have covered so far and what remains to be achieved. The Prime Minister said that during the tenure of the Vajpayee Govt., it was decided that 10% of the Annual Plan Budget will be spent on the North East States and my Govt. has made a provision of Rs. 53,000 crore in the Union Budget



The Prime Minister underscored the need for preserving rich bio-diversity and sustainable development of natural resources. He also spoke about the need for tapping & channelizing enormous potential and creativity of youth of Nagaland and admired the equal position of Naga Women in the Naga Society.

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated the second unit of ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC) Palatana power project in Udaipur on 1st December, 2014.

VISIT OF HON'BLE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA TO NAGALAND

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha paid a two-day visit to Nagaland from 29th November, 2014.

She inaugurated the Golden Jubilee celebration of Nagaland Legislative Assembly at Kohima. Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Speaker said that the multi-dimensional roles that legislative bodies have to perform tasks ranging from ventilating people's grievances to making laws, debating policies and subjects of public importance and keeping surveillance over the functioning of the administration. She also said that elected members should be true to the principles of democracy and consolidate democratic freedom by combating forces and elements that attempt to vitiate our socio-political culture and undermine our institutions of democracy.

On this occasion the Governor of Nagaland said that Nagaland Legislative Assembly should uphold the institution of democracy and urged to be a model in building a strong

and vibrant India. He reminded the gathering that the State was born out of the sixteen point agreement and 42 Interim



members body was constituted, who were elected by various tribes according to their customs, traditions and usages of respective tribes.

NORTH EAST FESTIVAL 2014

To reduce the regional gaps and to celebrate the essence of North East India, North East Festival 2014 ,Connecting people celebrating life was organized on 7th , 8th, 9th and 10th November, 2014 at IGNCA Ground, Janpath, New Delhi. The first edition was organized at the same venue on the 8th and 9th of November 2013 which received overwhelming response. The event aimed to highlighting the positive aspects of the region which is so full of talents, resources and success stories.

North East Festival was an attempt to promote North East, to build bridge with the rest of the country, to provide a platform for the talents of North East and a discussion platform of India's policymakers and North East stakeholders. The four day festival that saw all the eight State Governments of North East, various stakeholders, icons coming together on one platform. It had participation from all sections of the society like sportspersons, actors, bureaucrats, singers, dancers, folk artists, bureaucrats, policy makers, media, students, entrepreneurs, chefs, corporate and common people.

The formal inauguration ceremony was attended by Gen (Dr) V. K. Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister DoNER , Mr.Kiren Rijju Minister of State for Home, Govt of India, Mr. Vijay Kumar, IAS, Secretary, DoNER, Shri Ameising Luikham, IAS, Secretary NEC amongst other dignitaries.



Minister of State for Home Shri Kiren Rijju said that such events should strengthen NE position. "When we meet for such occasions, something positive should come out



of such events. So those who are participating in cultural events, food events, discussions, seminars, workshops, these all should cumulatively lead us to strengthen our position," he said.

The festival successfully showcased the region potential as a commercial hub through various sessions with key policy makers and business community, exchanged views with local people through food, cultural performances by folk artists, contemporary music performance, showcasing of handloom & handicrafts etc. The North East Festival was organized by Trend MMS a non profit Socio Cultural Trust with support from Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi & North East Community, Delhi. Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India helped in organising the Festival with support from various State Govts of NER, Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India. It consisted of Day time Carnival – around 35 musical bands performed, 25 dance forms of various NER States; Ethnic Food Festival – around 14 food

chains promoting North East Food; A live – Art Exhibition showcased around 100 paintings from emerging painters of North East; around 100 photographs showcasing best of North East Culture and tourism destinations; Film Festival showcasing emerging filmmakers of the region; Handloom & Handicraft Exhibition –around 30 stalls of weavers/artisans and designers exhibited and made brisk business; Agri-horticulture show – Showcasing best of Agro- horticultural products of North East including Bhoot Jalakia, Lemon, Ginger/turmeric etc.; Quiz competition in all the Universities of Delhi including Delhi University, JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia University; and Exhibition of Agro-Food processing, tourism, industrial potentials of various State Governments of North East, various Central Govt agencies.

During the festival issues concerning North East were highlighted/discussed i.e Implementation of Bezbaruah Committee Recommendation; Entrepreneurship and Investment In North East India; and Opportunities of investment in IT and ITES in the North East.



Fashion designers from the region put together a vibrant show showcasing the traditional weaving patterns, rich colorful fabrics and jewellery worn by the numerous tribes of the north-east. Actress Rajni Basumatary, boxer



Shiva Thapa, former Mr. India Mahadev Deka and singer Rewben Mashangva made special appearances on the ramp."When a mega event like this northeast festival happens in Delhi, lots of people come to know many things

about the Northeast region, not just about sports, but also about music, culture and traditions and many more things. This is the biggest platform for us to show our talents and also to let all Indians know that we do exist as well," said Shiva Thappa, a boxer.

Such festivals are essential to facilitate better understanding and bridge the gap between the north-east and the other parts. They also help in promoting the tourism and business potential of the region, besides highlighting the multifarious culture.

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

(a) Programmes Undertaken By Assam Rifles

1. Medical Camps. The Assam Rifles have been organizing Medical Camps in areas where adequate health care facilities are not available to the villagers. Six medical camps were conducted by various units of the Force in the NE Region during the month of December, 2014. A total of 995 patients were treated and also provided with free medicines during the camps.

2. Veterinary Camps. Four Veterinary Camps at Aijejang, Serou, Lilong Khunou and Ukhrul town were conducted by various units of the Force in Manipur during the month of Dec 2014. Approximately 9305 animals belonging to the populace in these remote and inaccessible areas were treated during the camps.



Medical camps and veterinary camps organised by Assam Rifles

3. National Integration Tours. The Force is also trying to connect the people of North East Region to the rest of the country by means of National Integration Tours for the students and villagers who have never had any opportunity to see any other part of the country. The details of National Integration Tours conducted by various units of the Force

during the month of December, 2014, are as under:-

(a) 19-Assam Rifles organised a National Integration Tour from Kohima to Pune from 9th – 21st December, 2014. The tour was flagged off by Inspector General, Assam Rifles (North) and Mrs Mezivolu Therich, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kohima, Nagaland. The tour comprised 24 students and three teachers from G Rio School and Little Flower School, Kohima. The aim of the tour was to give the students an exposure to the diversity of India and to foster an understanding of each other's traditions and culture.

(b) 1-Assam Rifles organised a National Integration Tour from Khonsa (Arunachal Pradesh) to Pune from 12th – 24th December, 2014. The tour was flagged off by Commander 25-Sector Assam Rifles. The tour comprised 14 students from Khonsa area. During the tour, the students visited the National Defence Academy, Armed Forces Medical College and various tourist places.

4. Promotion of Sports. The Assam Rifles is also promoting sports in the NE Region by conducting various types of sports training and tournaments in the Region as also distribution of sports equipment, to help divert the minds of the youngsters from insurgency and encourage them towards more constructive pursuits. The details of sports activities/distribution of sports items by various units of the Force during the month of December, 2014 are as under:-



(a) 40-Assam Rifles organised a three days long State Level Inter Club Archery Competition from 3-5 December, 2014. 72 archers from 16 teams registered under the Manipur Archery Association, including Assam Rifles Archery Team participated in the competition. Individuals as well as teams took active participation during the

competition and Assam Rifles Archery Team (ARAT) won the Championship Trophy.

- (b) 30-Assam Rifles distributed sports and utility items such as chairs, tables, cooking utensils, volleyball and football etc. to "The SAVIOUR"- Substance Abuse and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Research Centre, Mongjam Chingjin, Chingmeirong, Imphal East, Manipur on 6th December, 2014.
- (c) 31-Assam Rifles provided two Footballs and four packets of Badminton shuttle cocks to Khar Students Union, Mokochung District, Nagaland on 17th December, 2014.

(b) Programmes Undertaken By Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

1. Indo-Nepal DIG Level Coordination Meeting held at SHQ SSB Gangtok

A three day long Indo-Nepal Border DIG Level (SSB & APF) Coordination Meeting between Sashastra Seema Bal (India) and Nepal's Armed Police Force was held at Sector Headquarters, SSB, Gangtok, Sikkim from 28th to 30th November, 2014. Shri Rup Singh, DIG, SSB, Sector Hqrs Gangtok represented the Indian side and Shri Pusparan KC, DIG, APF from East Regional Hqrs, Sunsari, Nepal was represented from Nepal side.

Welcoming the Nepalese delegates, Shri Rup Singh, DIG, SSB, informed in detail about the information of SSB and how it was posted along the Indo-Nepal Border while

keeping in mind the sterling role played by SSB along the international borders of India. He further said that, the SSB, apart from keeping vigil at the border, is also inculcating feelings of national belonging amongst the border population.

The discussions spread across several issues such as border security, human trafficking, illegal drug supplies and others. Both the sides resolved to stop encroachment on the no man's land in the border area. The modus operandi and approaches for controlling human trafficking were also discussed. The meeting further discussed the renovation of border pillars and re-enactment of those missing border pillars. In this matter, both the parties decided to approach their respective higher officials and take immediate steps.

2. Sector Hqrs, SSB Gangtok celebrated 51st Raising day of SSB its 36th Bn. Hqrs.

Sector Hqrs Gangtok celebrated the 51st Raising day of SSB at its 36th Bn. Hqrs. In this programme Area Office Sikkim & 36th Bn. also took part. To mark the occasion a March-Past was organised in which Sh. Rup Singh, DIG Sector Gangtok took the salute. The parade was followed by colourful games and sports completion. Earlier, after taking the salute DIG addressed the SSB, its work in Sikkim and also projected the road map for the coming year.

In this function apart from retired and serving SSB personnel and their families, people of nearby places also witnessed the programme.

PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

During the month of December, 2014, the Regional Directorates of North East Zone i.e. Guwahati, Tinsukia, Imphal and Siliguri have conducted 51 programmes for 1886 workers. Highlights of the programme are as under:-

(i) CBWE Regional Directorate, Guwahati

A 3-days Special Programme for Panchayati Raj functionaries was organised at Karia Borbhag, block of Nalbari, district, Assam on 15th to 17th December, 2014. The Block Development officer, Borbhag Block expressed that "CBWE is doing a commendable service for the benefit of people in general while interacting with the participants and also observed that CBWE's effort is bringing a change in outlook and way of lives of many rural workers. He appreciated that the programme for Panchayati Raj functionaries will help them to evolve into a real grass root leader who will guide rural people for socio-economic development.

(ii) CBWE Regional Directorate, Tinsukia

A 3-days special Panchayati Raj Programme was organised at Conference Hall, Saikhowa Development Block, district- Tinsukia, Assam on 3rd to 5th December, 2014. The programme was inaugurated by Sh. Montu Kakoti,

President, Saikhowa Anchalik Panchayat, district- Tinsukia who expressed that this type of programme is necessary for attitudinal change of the Panchayati Raj functionaries which will help them in discharging their duties and responsibilities.

Smt. Kesai Hemrom D/o Sh. Babulal Hemrom, Kailabari village, P.O. Hatiali, Nadua Gaon, Dibrugarh applied for Prime Minister Jan Dhan Jajna (PMJDY) after attending 1 day retraining programme for rural sector organised by the CBWE, Tinsukia at House of Nadua Gaon Panchayat, village- Hatiali Natun Gaon.

(iii) CBWE Regional Directorate, Imphal

Trainees of 2 day special programme organised for workers of the unorganised sector on 20th to 21st December, 2014 at Khangabok Makha Leikai, Thoubal district Manipur have been inspired to form a Trade Union such as The Khangapok Area Building and other Construction Workers Union, Thoubal district-Manipur and registered under Registration Act 1926 vide Registration No. 807 of 2014. Two new blocks i.e. Padmabil RD Block and Khowai RD Block, Khowa district covered by the Regional Directorate, Imphal.

PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

(i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)

The irrigation projects including the minor irrigation projects are undertaken by respective State Governments as per their 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 States in the month of December, 2014 for taking up ongoing/new MI Schemes under AIBP :-

Sl. NO.	Name of the NE State	No. of new/ ongoing MI Schemes	Grant released (Rs. in crore)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	93 ongoing Mi Schemes	14.7225
2.	Nagaland	159 new MI Schemes	24.6608
3.	Assam	64 new Mi Schemes of KAAC	90.00

(ii) Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR)

Following grant has been released to the North East State in the Month of December, 2014 for taking up ongoing/ new water bodies under Repair Renovation & Restoration (RRR).

Sl. No.	Name of the NE State	No. of new/ ongoing MI Schemes	Grant released (Rs. in crore)
1.	Meghalaya	9 new water bodies	2.52

The Empowered Committee of (Ministry of Water Resources) MoWR, River Development (RD) & Ganga Rejuvenation (GR) in its third meeting held on 17.12.2014 has approved for inclusion of 4 water bodies of Manipur under RRR during 2014-15.

(iii) Progress of Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) programme in NE Region

All the States of the region are implementing CADWM programme in their state. There are 20 on-going projects under CADWM programme. Physical and financial achievements of the aforesaid projects are under:

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total CCA of the On-going projects (th. ha)	Areas covered up since inception to March, 2014 (th.ha)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.570	22.90
2.	Assam	41.019	63.32*
3.	Manipur	34.745	89.042
4.	Meghalaya	2.820	2.55
5.	Mizoram	3.262	0.91
6.	Nagaland	1.080	4.72
7.	Sikkim	2.250	0.18
8.	Tripura	0.440	0.41

*Area covered upto March 2013.

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

Sl. No.	Name of State	CA released till March, 2014 (Rs. lakh)	CA released during 2014-15 (Rs. lakh)	Total CA released upto December 2014 (Rs. lakh)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1606.454	150.00	1756.454
2.	Assam	3156.496	0	3156.496
3.	Manipur	6849.109	0	6849.109
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

FIVE YEAR OLD DRUMMING PRODIGY FROM NAGALAND

Five year old Arenlong Longkumar from Nagaland has won a million hearts with his amazing talent of playing drums. Son of Sosang Longkumer and Akokla Imchen from Dimapur, Arenlong can beat drums for any genre of music. He has performed during many events, including the famous Hornbill festival.

He has also performed with Purple Fusion, a famous Naga music band at the 'World Music Day' celebration in Dimapur. Arenlong was inspired by his musician father, Sosang Longkumer, who runs his own recording studio in Dimapur. Sosang said that his son started drumming when he was only one year old.

"He started playing when he was only one. I took him to Kohima during Hornbill Festival. We went backstage and he got really excited seeing the drummers banging," said Sosang. Arenlong's mother Akokla said that besides playing, her son likes draw and watch cartoons.

"He likes playing drums. Besides that he likes to draw and watch cartoons," said Akokla. Arenlong's success is a source of inspiration for other children.



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

I shall be very grateful if you kindly send a free copy of the NE Newsletter in English to the address given below.

Sd/-
Dingu Kenye,
Director, Community Development Agency,
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I shall be highly obliged if you kindly send a copy of NE Newsletter to the address given below.

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C/O Diptikana Deb,
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While working in Assam since last three years, I am interested to update information regularly about North Eastern States. Kindly send me copy of NE Newsletter to the address given below.

Sd/-
M.K Vishwakarma, Director,
Farm Machinery Training & Testing
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