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"I am a small man who wants to do big things for small people".

Narendra Modi

DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and the Minister of state for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju along with officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs reviewed law and order situation and development along the international borders in the Northeast from 13th to 15th February, 2015.

In Manipur, the Home Minister visited the border town of Moreh and supervised the under construction Integrated Check Post (ICP) to boost the trade between India & Myanmar. The Home Minister met the Jawans of Assam Rifles and appreciated their job at India – Myanmar Border. The Union Home Minister said that India-Myanmar share a very cordial and warm relationship and the Government is looking forward to resolve border issues with Myanmar amicably through negotiations. He said that India-Myanmar border offers unique opportunity to open links and routes for trade & commerce with East Asian Countries. Both the Ministers visited the 'Friendship Bridge' which connects India & Myanmar at Moreh. The Home Minister later reviewed the law & order situation at Imphal attended by the Chief Minister Sh. O. Ibobi Singh, top officials of Police, Army and Para-Military forces.

In Tripura, the Union Ministers visited the Indo-Bangladesh border along Chittagong Hill tracts, reviewed the situation in frontier areas & interacted with BSF personnel and army officials. Accompanied by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, the Home Minister interacted with BSF personnel deployed at Khartlang in North Tripura district and took stock of the situation including border fencing work with Senior BSF officials. Addressing the BSF Jawans, the Home Minister underlined the importance of their presence in border areas & saluted their courage.

Shri Rajnath Singh later met the Chief Minister Shri Manik Sarkar & reviewed the security situation in the state and assured all possible help to deal with insurgency and other security related issues. "Our Government believes that special emphasis should be given towards development in the Northeast region and we are committed to it. But as long as the problem of insurgency remains, development is not possible. So I would like to appeal to all the insurgent groups to shun violence and give

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our government 5-10 years time for the development of the region. However, violence will not be allowed and there will be no compromise on it," he said.

The Home Minister also visited Kanchanpur, where he interacted with the representatives of Bru refugees living in relief camps in Tripura. The Home Minister said the Government was planning 100% repatriation of all Bru refugees to Mizoram and the Central Government will provide all assis-



2. Shri Kiren Rijiju, the Minister of State for Home Affairs took a meeting on 10.2.2015 at Guwahati with Chief Secretary, DGP, Assam and other concerned to review the security situation in the State of Assam.

3. Shri Kiren Rijiju, the Minister of State for Home Affairs took a review meeting on 12.2.2015 with the officials of Central Government and State Governments at New Delhi to review the implementation of the recommendations of the Bezbaruah Committee.

4. 16th Home Secretary Level Talks and meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on security related issues between India and Bangladesh were held on 16th – 17th



tance to expedite the process. "I appeal to Mizoram Govt. to provide adequate security to Bru refugees and help them in their rehabilitation", he said.

A prolonged period of insurgency has been a major setback to socio-economic development in the Northeast region. The centre is committed to take all possible steps to restore peace and bring about all round development in the region.



February, 2015 at New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Sh. L. C. Goyal, Union Home Secretary and Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. Dr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan, Home Secretary, Govt. of Bangladesh. In the meeting, issues related to security, border management, implementation of various agreements, repatriation of sentenced persons and fishermen, Joint Task Force on Fake Currency, early construction/erection of fencing of remaining unfenced patches along the border, resumption of regular meeting between DMs/DCs of border districts, mechanism for controlling human and drug trafficking, curbing the activities of cross-border movement, capacity building and other related matters etc. were discussed.



The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in border management, increased joint patrolling and deployment of troops of Bangladesh in unguarded border areas particularly along the borders facing Tripura and Mizoram. The Indian side appreciated the steps taken by the Bangladesh authorities in acting against the carriers of fake Indian currency notes and the Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) taking shelter in the bordering areas.

Both the sides also expressed satisfaction over the



DEBADHARA NRUTYA FESTIVAL-2014

A two days festival of classical dance titled, "Debadhara Nrutya Festival" was organized at the India International Centre, New Delhi on 30th & 31st December 2014. The festival was organized in the memory of Late Guru Debaprasad Das who was one of the founder of Odissi dance. The festival showcased performances by dancers from the North Eastern States as well as from different parts of the country.

A bunch of talent was showcased in the festival including eminent dancers from the north eastern states. The dancers who performed on the first day were Guru Gajendra Panda, Bidushi Archana Murali, Guru Sharon Lowen, Padmashree Geeta Chandran including Bidushi Khumanthem Narmada Devi from Manipur. The dancers were felicitated by the guests of the evening, Chief Guest Shri Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor of Chhattisgarh and Guest of Honor Shri Ajay Kumar Kanoujia, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs.



The Debadhara Nrutya Festival also featured performances by Padmashree Ranjana Gauhar, Guru Harish Gangani and performances by Bidushi Anita Sharma from Assam, Guru Manju Elangbam and Shri Pradeep Singh & group from Manipur. The artists were felicitated and honored by the guests, the Chief Guest Shri Lalit Mansingh, Former Foreign Secretary and Guest of Honor Smt Shanta Serbjeet Singh, Former Vice Chairman Sangeet Natak Academy and Shri Achyuta Samanta, Founder KIIT & KIIS . Every performance was a pleasure to watch and the drum and stick dance performance by Shri Pradeep Singh and group was a delight to see and enthralled the audiences.

The festival was a huge success and was possible to conclude because of the support of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Without the support it would not have been possible to accomplish this festival. The festival was organized by Guru Binayak Panda, who constantly makes efforts in preserving the dying ancient dance forms of the north eastern states.



Sashtriye dance by Anita Sharma

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

(A) Programmes Undertaken By Assam Rifles

(i) **Medical Camps.** The Assam Rifles have been organising Medical Camps in areas where adequate health care facilities are not available to the villagers. Twenty six medical camps were conducted by various units of the Force in the NE Region during the month of February, 2015. A total of 6543 patients were treated and also provided with free medicines during the camps.



Medical camps organised by Assam Rifles

(ii) **Blood Donation Camps.** 41-Assam Rifles conducted blood donation camp in Ukhrul district, Manipur during the month of February, 2015. A large number of Assam Rifles personnel donated blood during the camp. The donated blood was handed over to District Hospital Blood Bank.

(iii) **Pulse Polio Immunisation Camps.** All formations and units of Headquarter Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) organised Annual Polio Immunization Drive for the children below 5 years on 22nd February, 2015. The drive with the theme "Two drops of Life" was to eradicate polio from the State of Manipur as part of the National aim of a polio free India.

(iv) **Awareness Drives.** The Assam Rifles conducted various awareness drives in the NE Region to address various local health issues like Malaria/AIDS, drug abuse as also to update the populace about various Government schemes and employment opportunities available for the benefit of the locals. The details of awareness drives conducted by various units of the Force during the month of February, 2015, are as under:-

- (a) 10-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'Drug Abuse, HIV and Malaria' at Champhai village, district Serchhip, Mizoram on 4th February, 2015. 15 students attended the lecture.
- (b) 28-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'Drug Abuse and

Water Borne Diseases' at Parva village, district Lunglei, Mizoram on 7th February, 2015. About 35 locals attended the lecture.

- (c) 2-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'Healthy Teeth and Healthy Living' at Kharan village, district Thoubal, Manipur on 18th February, 2015. About 102 locals attended the lecture.
- (d) 24-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'Evils of Terrorism in the Society' at Sita village, district Chandel, Manipur on 19th February, 2015 for motivating the young people of the locality.
- (e) 28-Assam Rifles organised a lecture on 'Hygiene, Sanitation and Water Borne Diseases' at Tuithumhar village, district Lunglei, Mizoram on 21st February, 2015. About 45 civilians attended the lecture.
- (f) HQ 6-Sector Assam Rifles organised an 'Awareness Tour' of Gaon Budas (GBs)/ Village Council Members from the interiors of Peren and Dimapur districts, Nagaland. The awareness tour comprising 12 GBs/ Village Council Members visited Guwahati and Narangi for four days from 24th -27th February, 2015. The aim of the tour was to increase awareness and give exposure to these GBs/Village Council Members about the history, culture and developments in other parts of the country as also to expose them to the way of life outside Nagaland. During their stay in Guwahati they visited various places of tourist interest such as St Joseph Church, State Zoo, State Museum, Guwahati town, ISKCON Temple, Narangi Cantonment and a cruise of the mighty Brahmaputra.



- (g) 28-Assam Rifles conducted a lecture on "Pradhanmantri Jandhan Yojana" at Lunglawn, district Lunglei, Mizoram on 24th February, 2015. About 43 villagers attended the lecture.



Lecture on Pradhanmantri Jandhan Yojana organised by Assam Rifles

(v) **National Integration Tours.** The Force continued with its efforts to attempt to connect the people of North East Region to the rest of the country by means of National Integration tours, especially for the students and villagers who have never had any opportunity to see any other parts of the country. The details of various National Integration tours conducted by units of the Force during the month of February, 2015 are as under:-

- (a) 5-Assam Rifles organised a National Integration Tour from Zunheboto (Nagaland) to Secunderabad and Hyderabad from 19th February, 2015 – 5th March, 2015. The tour was flagged off by Shri Temsu Longkumer, DC Zunheboto. The tour comprised 20 village elders from remote area of Zunheboto, Kiphire and Sataka districts. During the tour, the village elders visited famous places of Secunderabad and Hyderabad like Charminar, Salar Jung Museum, Golkonda Fort, Indian School of Business- Hyderabad, Air Force Academy, Dingigul and Hyderabad Zoo etc.
- (b) 26-Assam Rifles organised a National Integration Tour from Thinghat (Manipur) to Delhi and Dehradun from 19th February, 2015 – 3rd March, 2015. The tour was flagged off from Churachandpur district on 19th February, 2015. The tour comprised 15 students and two teachers hailing from the civil society and remote villages of Thinghat Sub Division, Churachandpur district. During the tour, the students visited famous tourist and historical places at Delhi and Dehradun.
- (c) 46-Assam Rifles organised a National Integration Tour from Phek (Nagaland) to Delhi and Agra from 19th Feb -1st March, 2015. The tour was flagged off from Meluri



National Integration Tours organised by Assam Rifles

Sub Division, Phek district on 19th February, 2015. The tour comprised 20 students and three teachers hailing from the schools of Meluri Sub Division in Phek district. During the tour, the students visited famous tourist and historical places at Delhi and Agra.

6. Assistance by Assam Rifles. The Force has been providing assistance to the people of remote areas in the NE Region by construction of various kinds of infrastructure, distribution of items to assist in generating self employment and other needy items. The details of assistance provided by various units of the Force during the month of February, 2015, are as under:-

- (a) 19 -Assam Rifles donated 100 plastic chairs to Panchayat Hall at Merrima village, Kohima district, Nagaland on 1st February, 2015.
- (b) 41-Assam Rifles provided assistance to the villagers of Lamlang Gate for creation of a football cum volleyball ground for their upcoming 'KATHUR' Sports meet starting from 5th to 9th February, 2015. The Assam Rifles provided a JCB for the levelling and widening work and co-ordinated two Tippers from nearby villages to accomplish the work.
- (c) 41-Assam Rifles organised a picnic for the kids of Destitute Children Home, run by a few women of Alungtang locality of Ukhrul district, Manipur. 36 students and 9 staff members were part of the picnic which was organised to phangrei mountain in Ukhrul district. The picnic proved an enjoyable experience for the children.
- (d) **DGAR inaugurates Integrated Facility at Khudengthabi.** Lt Gen RK Rana, SM, VSM, DGAR visited Moreh and Khudengthabi on 6th February,



2015. During the visit, the Gen inaugurated '10 Mile Café' at Khudenthabi check post. The people of the Khudenthabi, Kwatha, L Chalwa and LS Cananphai villages expressed their gratitude for fulfilment of their long outstanding demand for a cafeteria at Khudenthabi. It was constructed by 24-Assam Rifles under unit arrangements. The Chiefs and the Chairmen of all neighboring villages conveyed their thanks to 24-Assam Rifles for this project, which also included establishment of a medical post for round the clock medical assistance.

(vii) **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 and encourage them towards more constructive pursuits. The details of sports activities/distribution of sports items undertaken by various units of the Force during the month of February, 2015, are as under:-

- (a) 45-Assam Rifles distributed sports items and toys to the orphans of Mother Teresa and Tabitha children home of Imphal at Mantripukhri garrison on 7th February, 2015.
- (b) 12th edition of Director General Assam Rifles Cup, State Equestrian Championship-2015 was organised conjointly by IGAR (South) and Manipur Equestrian Association at Imphal Polo Ground. The whole ceremony was full of pomp and splendour but the cynosure of the ceremony were the tent pegging,



cultural programme and the exhibition of Sagol Kangjei (Traditional Manipuri Polo) which received accolades from the gathering on their performances. The event was very well received by the locals as it attempts to revive the heritage sport of polo from Manipur as also a showcase for the near extinct Manipur Ponies.

- (c) 41-Assam Rifles organised multiple events like football for men, volleyball matches for women, Run for Fun & Marathon from 18th – 28th February, 2015 at Somsai Garrison football ground, district Ukhrul, Manipur. The aim of this initiative was to promote talent in sports.

(viii) **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, nursing assistance, etc. In addition, the Assam Rifles has also been distributing materials to enable the locals to gain from the vocational training and to make them more employable / self reliant, with the long term objective of the social and economic development of the region. The details of vocation training activities carried out by various units of the Force during the month of February, 2015, are as under:-

- (a) 10-Assam Rifles conducted a two week long Plumber Course at Farkawn, Mizoram with effect from 2nd February, 2015. 8 youths attended the course.
- (b) 10-Assam Rifles conducted a two week long First Aid Course at Khawbung village, Mizoram from 9th February, 2015. About 17 local youths attended the course.
- (c) 39-Assam Rifles conducted a two week Electrician Course at Ritu village, Mizoram with effect from 10th February, 2015. Six local youths attended the course.
- (d) 42-Assam Rifles organised a Pre-Recruitment Training to encourage youth to join the armed forces at Miao village, Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh from 7th February, 2015. Six locals attended the same.
- (e) 10-Assam Rifles conducted a two week long Photography Course at Hnahlan village, Mizoram from 16th February, 2015. 12 youths attended the course.
- (f) All units of 6-Sector Assam Rifles conducted pre-recruitment training at Jaluike, Dimapur and Medziphema for the Army Recruitment Rally conducted at Kohima, Nagaland from 24th February, 2015 to 8th March, 2015. All interested candidates were asked to join the pre- recruitment training after producing the requisite documents including their education certificates, mark sheets, permanent residential certificate, character certificate from SP, birth certificate and two copies of passport size photograph. During the training, candidates were made to undergo medical tests, physical tests and written exam in addition to the checking of their documents.



- (g) 39-Assam Rifles conducted a three week long Pre Recruitment Training Camp at Ngopa, Champhai district, Mizoram from 18th February, 2015. Fifteen local

youth attended the same.

- (h) 27-Assam Rifles conducted Pre Recruitment Training at Kadamtala, Imphal East district, Manipur. 44 local youth attended the same.
- (i) 10-Assam Rifles conducted a three week long Pre Recruitment Training camp at Champhai, Khawbung, Hnahlan, Farkawn and Vaphai, district Serchhip, Mizoram from 17th February, 2015 to 5th March, 2015.

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

(i) SSB conducted Beautician Training Programme for border women

A 15-day beautician training programme for 10 women villagers of Indo-Nepal border was conducted by SSB from 27th January, 2015 to 10th February, 2015 in association with Admiral Beauty Parlour, Yaksom, West Sikkim. The programme was inaugurated by Gram Vikash Adhikari, Yuksom in the presence of Shri Rup Singh, Deputy Inspector General, Sector Hqrs, SSB, Gangtok and other dignitaries. On the occasion officiating area organiser of Sikkim area Shri D K Thongon addressed and appraised the details of training programme with Smt. Bhim Maya Gurung, proprietor-cum-Sr. Instructor, Admiral Beauty Parlour, Yuksom.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest appreciated the various welfare activities executed by SSB for border villagers and advised the trainees to take advantage of the training. He also cherished the close rapport and coordination maintained by SSB in border with local population. The Deputy Inspector General, Sector Hqrs Gangtok briefed dignitaries & trainees on the occasion about the various capacity building activities being initiated by SSB. He added that SSB is always here to help and assist the people in remote corners of the Nepal border. He appreciated the zeal of trainees that they would get the best facility being provided by SSB. He also thanked

the trainers for giving good training to trainees to take advantage of the program.

(ii) SSB Dairy Farming training programme

The six day long training programme on Dairy Farming was organized by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) for 20 youths from border villages of Aritar, Dalapchand and Sudanglekha GPU of East Sikkim from 7th February, 2015 to 12th February, 2015. On the occasion Shri D K Thongon, Officiating Area Organiser, Sikkim Area, urged the trainees to make maximum use of training being provided to them by SSB. He thanked Director State Animal Husbandry for sparing his two Doctors as resource persons. On the occasion Smt. Chandra Maya Rai, President, Dalapchand, GPU, East Sikkim applauded the training programme and urged participants to make practical use of the training being provided by SSB. Dr. Tashi Chuzen Bhutia, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry appreciated the training programme organised by the SSB for the bordering youths. The participants were also awarded certificates of participation by SSB.

(iii) SSB organised Welfare Exhibition at Old JNU, Campus, New Delhi

On the occasion of 51st anniversary of SSB, Welfare Exhibition was organised at Old JNU, Campus, New Delhi by "SSB Wives Welfare Association" (Sandiksha) from 13th to 15th February, 2015. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Smt. Sabitri Singh, Wife of Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh. Smt. Salma Ansari wife of the Vice President of India was the Chief Guest of the closing function. In this exhibition Gangtok Sector of SSB also participated and displayed the items of Sikkim & popularized the Handicrafts & various organic products of Sikkim at the National Capital. Assistant Publicity Officer during the Exhibition briefed Smt. Sabitri Singh & Smt. Salma Ansari about SSB's working & welfare activities in Sikkim. About 10 thousand people visited the stall of SSB Sector Gangtok.

PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

The Regional Directorates of North East Zone i.e. Guwahati, Tinsukia, Imphal and Siliguri conducted 51 Programmes during February, 2015 for 1886 workers. Highlights of the programme are as under:-

Central Board for Worker's Education (CBWE) Regional Directorate, Guwahati

- (i) A 5 days North East Special programme for NGO Activities were organised at Conference Hall, Hotel East End, district-Dibrugarh, Assam from 9th to 13th February, 2015. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. B. N. Borthakur, Former Prof. Department of Sociology, Dibrugarh University and he highlighted in his speech about the vital role played by Non-Governmental Organisations in the socio-economic development of

the people, especially the downtrodden and under-privileged group of the society and stressed on necessity to equip the NGO function and enhance by imparting know-how and skill for the upliftment and bringing a much desired change among the different target groups. He remarked that the organising such training programme is very timely and most appropriate. He advised all the participants to make best use of the training programme to learn and refresh their knowledge in order to equip to counter different challenged effectively.

- (ii) Another 5 days North East Special Programme for NGO activists was organised at Conference Hall, Hotel East End, district- Dibrugarh, Assam from 16th to 20th February, 2015. The programme was inaugurated by

Shri F. Khan, Founder Member of Rural India Real India. He discussed the role of NGOs in disseminating information and knowledge in the Rural India where the government agencies find it difficult to make aware the populace of various developmental schemes of the State and Central Government. He emphasized the need for training for NGOs to upgrade their knowledge which will help them to effectively play their role of a good NGO activist. He also appealed to the participants to take the training programme seriously and collect as much as information and knowledge from different resource persons by interacting and clearing their doubts on various subjects.

Union Activities was organised at Conference Hall, Hotel Maruti, district- Tinsukia, Assam from 9th to 11th February, 2015. The programme was inaugurated by Sh. Rohit Patra, Vice President, BCPL Nirman Shramik Union, Lepetkata, district Dibrugarh. Shri Patra hailed the effort of eminent Trade Unions of Assam who contributed their valuable service to the trade union movement of Assam. He said that history of trade union movement in Assam was a great struggle for upliftment and betterment of working class. He also laid emphasis on the need of training of trade union activists to know the recent amendment of Labour Legislation and Judgement of the Supreme Court as well as changing national economic arena. He thanked CBWE to take steps for enlightening the workforce of Assam.

(iii) A 3 days North East Special Programme for Trade

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.

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