



"We 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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DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

(A) Strengthening of Police and monitoring infrastructure development in Arunachal Pradesh:

In order to strengthen the Police Force and monitor infrastructure development in Arunachal Pradesh, on 15.3.2011 the following decisions have been taken:-

- (i) Strengthening of Civil Police in Tirap and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh including augmentation of manpower, weaponry, WT equipments and other logistics;
- (ii) Increasing the number of police stations in Tirap and Changlang districts;
- (iii) Upgrading existing 9 police stations, including 4 in Tirap and 5 in Changlang district in terms of manpower, weaponry, vehicles, telecommunication and buildings etc.
- (iv) Providing required non-recurring budgetary support of Rs. 106.11 crore during 2011-12 and an initial recurring support of Rs. 32.84 crore during 2012-13.
- (v) Inducting additional battalions of CRPF as per necessity for providing back up support to the State Police.
- (vi) Constituting a Working Group of Central and State Government Officers to work out additional manpower requirement for strengthening the District level administration in Tirap and Changlang districts.
- (vii) Constituting an Empowered Committee chaired by Home Secretary with representatives of Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and Ministry of DoNER and the Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh as members to suggest and monitor infrastructure development projects in Tirap and Changlang districts. The Empowered Committee is mandated to require the concerned administrative Ministry to earmark resources to the two districts from out of the allocations to Arunachal Pradesh for various welfare measures such as construction of schools, hospitals, roads and mobile towers etc.

(B) Decentralization of governance in North East

A meeting was held by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs with the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Officials of TD and Hill on 21st March, 2011 at the Secretariat, Conference Hall, Manipur to discuss the decentralized Governance in North East.

(C) Setting up of non-lapsable fund in North East

The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure approved the setting up of a non-lapsable fund called 'North East Region Rail Development Fund' (NERRDF) for national projects in the north eastern region.

The NERRDF is to be funded to the tune of 25 percent through Railway Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) and balance 75 percent by Ministry of Finance as non-dividend additionally to GBS.

The funds to be provided as non-dividend bearing additional budgetary support by Ministry of Finance may be allocated at the beginning of the year. This will ensure assured flow of funds for the national projects so as to complete them in a time-bound manner.

(D) Home Secretary visits Ukhrul, Manipur

Home Secretary Sh. G K Pillai received warm welcome in Ukhrul, Manipur on the 5th of March where he had gone to attend the 2nd Manipur Tribal Cultural exchange programme. The programme held between the 4th to 6th of March was a real treat to the eyes and ears, and was unique as it brought together 32 tribes of the state on one platform. Each of the tribes put forth its own traditional performances, with some putting up dances, while others preferring to sing it out. The whole fiesta was an entertaining mix of traditional and modern, which the Home Secretary rightly lauded, while urging all to reach out to others, as well as to take full advantage of the various developmental programmes that are on offer in Manipur.

The Home secretary, accompanied by Manipur's Chief Secretary D S Poonia, and security officials reportedly also inspected the US manufactured hovercrafts which the Manipur Police has recently acquired to flush out militants from Loktak area.

(E) Centre's initiative for peace in North-East

The past 18 months have been good for the Northeast with regard to improvement in the security situation, especially in Assam and Nagaland. Both United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland – Isak-Muivah or NSCN (IM), two of the biggest insurgent groups in the Northeast, have softened their stand, thanks to the continuous efforts of the Government.

NSCN (IM) General Secretary Th Muivah visited New Delhi on February 27 to hold talks with the Centre in a bid to solve the six-decade-old problem. NSCN (IM) which had been insisting on meeting in a third country for talks, this time accepted the Centre's invitation for talks in the country. The relaxation in their stand was seen as a major development. NSCN (IM) President Isak Chishi Swu arrived in New Delhi on January 27 this year.

The Naga society has lauded the efforts of both NSCN (IM) and the Centre for their efforts to bring the violence levels down. "This is very true that every Naga is very positive about the talks. And as it has been flashed in the media reports also that Isak Chishi Swu accepted the Indian visa (SiG), we are looking it as a very positive step. We are seriously hoping for a positive outcome," said Imti Longchar. "We are happy that talks between Government and NSCN (IM) are taking place. We want a positive solution from it," added Khrielie Angami. "The talks between Centre and ULFA are very important from the people's point of view. It should conclude in a positive manner. And we are expecting a positive outcome from it," said Jyotirabhya Kashyap.

In a major development, the Centre convinced the proscribed United Liberation Front of Asom under the leadership of Arabinda Rajkhowa to come for talks. ULFA leaders came to New Delhi on January 10 to begin talks with the Centre. "We want that ULFA-Centre should hold peace talks, and if the talks can materialize, it will be beneficial for the society," said Deobojit Saikia.

The Centre's effort for brokering peace with the insurgent groups is paying great dividends. As per the report, the Northeast witnessed the lowest levels of violence in 2010. No civilian or security personnel were killed in Nagaland in 2010. Overall twenty security personnel, 94 civilians and 247 militants lost their lives in the northeast in 2010, which is far less than previous years.

CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL ROADS IN MANIPUR

The Ministry of Rural Development has released grant in aid worth Rs. 26.83 crore for construction of rural roads in Manipur under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The sum is from the special window created in NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development) under RIDF as grants in aid to the Manipur State Rural Roads Development Agency (MSRRDA).

MSRRDA is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the

state. PMGSY is a hundred percent centrally sponsored scheme to provide road connectivity in the rural areas of the country.

PMGSY envisages connectivity to all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the rural areas and about 250 persons and above in respect of the hilly states, tribal areas and desert areas through good and all weather roads.

PRESIDENT URGES MANIPUR PEOPLE TO REJECT VIOLENCE

President Pratibha Devisingh Patil, visited Imphal for two days and laid the foundation of an Information Technology (IT) Park and launched the State-Wide Area Network (SWAN) Project at Mantripukhari in Imphal East. The President, after laying the foundation stone, urged the people of the State to maintain harmony, reject violence and join the national mainstream for development and progress of the country. However, during the visit normal life in the State was disturbed owing to a 40- hour general strike called by the banned Manipur People's Liberation Front (MPLF).

The President congratulated Manipur for emerging as the top state in the country in the recent 34th National Games 2011 held at Jharkhand and expressed the hope that the State will continue to produce excellent sportspersons. The president also hoped that Manipur will be able to leverage the advantages of its talented population to become one of the IT hubs in the country. During her speech, Patil also stressed post-harvest management and processing to make agriculture a higher income-generating activity and called for ways to increase agricultural

productivity through better cropping pattern, using high-yielding seeds and scientific water management.

She, however, expressed disappointment for not being able to visit the historic khwariband keithel, a unique all-women market in Manipur. However, she hailed the great talent and strength of Manipuri women and urged further strengthening of the Self-Help Group Movement and to work more intensively on women's issues.

The President stressed that issues like drug consumption or HIV/AIDS require sensitive handling and said women can play an important role in dealing with such issues. She urged the women of Manipur to take initiative in bringing about a friendly and harmonious atmosphere in the whole State and among all sections of society.

The President expressed the optimism that Manipur, along with other North-Eastern States, has great potential for development. Regional integration and their cooperation with the South-East Asian countries can be useful in not only promoting India's Look-East Policy, but also in bringing benefits to the region, including Manipur.



6,000 YOUTH FROM GARO HILLS TO GET TECHNICAL TRAINING

Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Ms Agatha K Sangma, inaugurated the first-ever Bosco Academy for Skills and Employment (BASE) at Tura Don Bosco School that will provide special technical training to 6,000 youth from the rural areas of Garo Hills.

The programme is funded by the Union Ministry for Rural Development under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) which aims to provide employment-linked, market-oriented training to youngsters in the

age group of 18 to 35 years from below the poverty line families. Inaugurating the training, the Union Minister of State exhorted the youth to make full utilisation of the opportunity to avail the training programme.

"This training programme is funded by the Rural Development Ministry and is free of cost. I urge upon the youth to take advantage of it because we need to absorb the youth into the employment sector," mentioned Agatha. Mentioning in brief the importance of inclusive growth she

said China is forging ahead due to its booming manufacturing industry. She added that our country has also taken up the challenge and has even diversified into other sectors of employment such as Business Processing and Outsourcings (BPOs), Marketing, Tourism and Health Sectors.

Under this special project, the Union Rural Development Ministry has granted four projects to Don Bosco Tech (DB Tech) to train several thousand youth of the country. In the East and North East sector Meghalaya is one of the eight States to get selected. Jowai, Shillong, Umran and Mendal are the centres which will be run by DB Tech.

Earlier, the Assistant Director of DB Tech, mentioned that since the start of the project in May, last year, over 8,000 youth have been trained with 85 per cent of them getting employment through placements. He urged upon the rural youth to get themselves registered at the nearest Don Bosco Centre.

Don Bosco Tech will initially provide training in four categories of jobs - tourism, security, hospitality and marketing with basic skills in computers. In the hospitality sector detailed training will be given to the selected members in the food and beverages wing. Each course will be of three month duration with no provision of stipend or scholarship.

MAHATMA GANDHI NREGA SAMMELAN

The Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Sammelan was held at Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi on February, 08, 2011 to commemorate the completion of the fifth year of the commencement of this National Flagship Programme. During this function the Ministry of Rural Development recognised the exemplary work done under MGNREGA and honoured the outstanding contributions by presenting awards to the best performing Gram Panchayats, District MGNREGA teams and NGOs. Sikkim bagged the national award in all the three categories, and is thus the only State to have achieved this triple distinction.

In the function organised at Vigyan Bhawan, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the UPA Chairperson, Mrs Sonia Gandhi conferred the national awards under the District category to Mr Tshering Namgyal Bhutia, District Development Officer, North District, the award under the Gram Panchayat category went to Mr Milan Kumar Chettri, Panchayat Secretary, Chuba Phong Gram Panchayat and in the NGO category to Voluntary Health Association of Sikkim (VHAS).

This National Flagship Programme holds special significance for the State of Sikkim, since it found representation amongst the top 10 districts and top 11 Gram Panchayats selected from all over the country. The program was attended by a large contingent from Sikkim. The selection of the awardees was made by a National Screening Committee appointed by the Government of India. North District was selected under the category- "Excellence in District Administration in the effective implementation of MGNREGA" resulting in community-centric development in challenging physical environment. Earlier, the screening committee had carried out evaluation in North District from 22nd to 24th January, 2011 and had inspected the implementation of the Scheme at Kabi, Mangan and Dzongu. They were especially impressed with the level of community involvement in this highest,

steepest and remotest district in the country, with a high tribal population as well.

Panchayat Secretary of Chuba Phong Gram Panchayat was instrumental in transforming the village, reeling under perennial drought by aligning the MGNREGA programme to the felt needs of the village. With full guidance and support from the DDO and the Block team 120 household level water storage tanks of 10,000 litres capacity each were constructed. The villagers ingeniously filled up these tanks from the running drinking-water supply during night time and used the overnight stored water for livelihoods activities during the day. With winters becoming increasingly dry, due to the impacts of climate change, this investment in rural water security paid immediate dividends and the villagers were not only able to meet their drinking water requirements but also used the surplus water for vegetable farming and animal husbandry. Also under the MGNREGA Dhara Vikas program, Nagi lake at Namthang, which had dried up 30 years back, is being revived and this initiative will further boost the natural ecosystem and ground water regime of the region. Under the able leadership this village has effectively demonstrated climate-smart governance on how to adapt and mainstream climate change concerns in ongoing developmental programs, to transform the future of a village.

The Voluntary Health Association of Sikkim (VHAS) received the national award- Rozgar Jagrookta Puraskar (Employment Awareness Award) recognising the outstanding contribution made by a Civil Society Organization for promoting effective implementation of MGNREGA in the State of Sikkim. VHAS has been spearheading awareness generation and social audits over the last three years in the State. Later in the day, the awardees called on the Chief Minister, Mr Pawan Chamling at Sikkim House, and were felicitated and congratulated for bringing laurels to the State of Sikkim.

AGRICULTURE GROWTH IN NAGALAND

A workshop was organised by the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry India to promote entrepreneurs in food processing. Nagaland's Agriculture Minister Dr Chumben Murry, mentioned that due to progressive changes taking place in the agriculture sector in Nagaland, the State's agriculture growth rate is at present higher than the national average and the State's agri contribution of 24 per cent stands above the nation's contribution of 17 per cent. Adding that agriculture has been a sustenance form of business in the State, Dr Murry urged the need to start looking at agriculture as an industry.

The Minister was addressing Agriculture department officials and entrepreneurs at the workshop on 'Linking Small Time Entrepreneurs with Government Schemes and Markets' at the National Research Centre on Mithun at Jharnapani, Medziphema. Dr Murry also emphasised on looking at the post-harvest issues. He informed that three storages have come up in the potential districts adding that more will be coming up to provide better safety for farmers' produce.

Maintaining that the State Government has adopted friendly policies for entrepreneurs, farmers and youth, he said more opportunities will be introduced very soon. Dr Murry also encouraged the gathering to start small agri entrepreneur projects and advised them not to always think on big/huge profits while maintaining that profit comes with sustenance of the business. Highlighting about the numerous Central schemes introduced annually, Parliamentary Secretary for Industry and Commerce called on the public to be more aware and avail the opportunities provided by the concerned Ministries at the Central and State levels. He also stressed on the importance of food processing sector mentioning that huge amounts of agricultural produce go waste.

Agricultural Production Commissioner in his address, questioned the lack of commitment, patience and perseverance among entrepreneurs. "Is there a lack of synergy among the entrepreneurs?" he asked, adding that so many schemes have been introduced which have not been availed to its maximum.

MISS MEGA NORTHEAST CONTEST SHOWCASES UNITY

The recently held Miss Mega Northeast Contest set a perfect example of unity among all, as talents across the region participated in the event which promoted cultural exchange among the North-Eastern states.

When it comes to beauty and talent, the northeast is second to none and this was amply demonstrated at the 9th edition of the contest here, where 21 finalists from the Northeast and West Bengal enthralled the spectators with their Indian beauty. The organizers said that the event was not only a beauty contest but also promoted cultural exchange among North-Eastern states.

"It's not only to promote the beauty of the Northeast but the beauty of India. We are very proud of India. Also we want to promote the talents of the Northeast region to national level, said Abhijeet Sinha, Director and designer. "The show aims to showcase the unity among all the people

of Northeast. When women from different parts of the Northeast come together they ask each other about their well being," added Champa Devi, Chairperson, Organizing Committee.

The winner of the title for 2011 was Sukanya Rajguru of Assam, S Hursoseno of Nagaland was the 1st Runner up and Hoirose from Manipur bagged the 2nd Runner Up title. "I cannot express my feelings. I was Miss Assam in 2009. After the state level contest it is something great by winning Northeast title. So, I'll try to go forward and try to do more beauty pageant in different national level" said Rajguru.

The event opens new vistas for young talented girls from the region to join a bright career in modelling. It has grown in stature and repute with passing years and is now the most sought after pageant in the northeast.



SIKKIM FOOD PROCESSING INVESTOR'S MEET

The North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, (NERAMAC) a Government of India Enterprise, along with Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India organised a day long "Sikkim Food Processing Investors Meet" at Chintan Bhawan in Gangtok on February 2, 2011.

Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development, Government of Sikkim inaugurated the meet. Mr Takarpa appraised the gathering of investors and stake holders that the government has been instrumental in taking the agro based and food processing industries of the State forward with policies and planning which are investor friendly and by building the capacity of the people of the State to prepare them to take over these industries as a sector for employment, under the Capacity building programme which is the

flagship programme of the government.

He informed that the State Government has been active in providing marketing facilities to the people who have taken up agro based industries as their source of employment and further added that the Government's ambitious project of turning Sikkim into fully Organic state by 2015 is underway and once it is achieved the value of the organic products of the state will yield good value not only in the domestic market but also in the international market which will ultimately make Sikkim a hotspot for organic products.

Secretary Agriculture, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development informed that the present government has been investor friendly by providing not only an ideal environment but also favourable plans and policies.

FLORICULTURE MAKES TRIPURA YOUTH A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTOR TO ECONOMY

With the North-Eastern state of Tripura taking to floriculture, it has given the youth an opportunity to become not only able entrepreneurs, but also make them able enough to contribute significantly to the economy of the State. Dipak, a Tripura based young farmer, who was on a never-ending job search after completing his graduation finally, began working as a labourer to sustain his family. The youngster, who currently grows flowers like gladiolus, marigold, chrysanthemum, tuberose, orchids and anthurium in his small farm has never looked back since then.

"Others, who are in this business, inspired me. Today, I am doing well and can take care of my family. Now like me many other youth are doing well and earning a livelihood from floriculture," said Dipak.

The Government under its technology mission has been regularly organizing camps for training youth to grow flowers in a systematic and scientific way. "We found that growing flowers is more profitable than growing vegetables. I have been growing flowers for the past five years. When we started our venture the government provided us with saplings at a subsidized rate," said Chitranjan, a floriculturist.

Tripura, known for its rubber production, is gradually beginning to make a mark in the floriculture sector as well. Endowed with fertile soil, abundant moisture and sub-tropical climate, it offers immense scope for production of a wide variety of flowers. The residents here are now beginning to see floriculture as a tremendous business opportunity in the region, as the demand for flowers both within and outside the State is increasing.



“Earlier, we used to have two crops - Rabi and Kharif. But over a period of time, I have realized that flower cultivation is quite profitable,” said Basanti buni, another floriculturist. People now think floriculture to be a more profitable business venture than vegetable cultivation. “For the last seven years I have been practicing floriculture. It is more profitable than growing vegetables or rearing

animals,” said Biswajit Paul, a floriculturist.

“Earlier, we used to work in other places, but after one of the villagers started floriculture here, we do not have to go out in search of work. We are earning well from this business,” added Ratan Chakraborty, another floriculturist.

LUI NAI NI CELEBRATION IN NAGALAND

Songs and dances reverberated in the air in Nagaland as many major and minor tribes of the state came together recently to celebrate their seed sowing festival, Lui nai Ni. Declared as one of the tourism festivals of India in 1997, Lui nai Ni is an annual time when people across tribes

bond together and perform their traditional dances. The festival is celebrated not only across Nagaland, but also in the Naga dominated areas of Manipur. The hill people of Manipur take the occasion to invite their friends from the valley too, to enjoy their cultural fiesta.



RECRUITMENT OF BOYS AND GIRLS FROM NORTH-EAST STATES IN DELHI POLICE

Delhi Police, being the Police of cosmopolitan city, invites candidates for recruitment in Delhi Police from all parts of the country. For direct recruitment to group 'C' & 'D' posts, applications are invited on all India basis. Any Indian national fulfilling the required terms and conditions can apply. As and when the vacancies are to be filled up through direct recruitment, the same are advertised in leading Newspapers of Delhi and Employment News.

The vacancies are intimated to all Employment Exchanges of Delhi and the same are displayed on

Delhi Police website for wide publicity. Besides this, the Resident Commissioners of all states are requested to give wide publicity in their respective states. The candidates can either apply for the posts online (through Delhi Police Website) or offline application form published in the advertisement or obtained from Delhi Police website.

Ministry of Home Affairs will also give due publicity through the Newsletter as & when the vacancies are advertised by the Delhi Police.

READERS COLUMN

The NE monthly Newsletter is published in English, Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri and has 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, would request for inputs for the Newsletter from the State Governments, agencies, institutions and individuals highlighting the area specific issues, problems, special features including potential for tourism, environmental

protection or special efforts/achievement in various fields. Views and write-ups from general public are also invited on specific issues/problems and possible measures for resolution thereto related to 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 a

maximum of 150-200 words. Readers are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (upto 300-400 words) on published articles. All letters should have the writer's full name and postal address. The selected articles will be incorporated in the monthly NE Newsletter in its subsequent editions with due editing and contribution will be welcomed and suitably rewarded.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

1. I shall be highly obliged, if you kindly send me a copy of NE Newsletter in English at the following address.

Sd/-
Yaramoti Yadav,
Secretary,
CHA Sharmik Women Welfare Assosiation,
Vill- Yadav Nagar,
P.O- Olviachera, Dist- Karimganj, (Assam)

2. Our organization is working in the field of education & social development. To get connected with North-East your newsletter is very useful for us. I will be obliged if you kindly send me a copy of NE Newsletter regularly in English language at the following address.

Sd/-
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3. I beg to state that please send to me a free copy of North East Newsletter to following address which is given below.

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P.S - Katigorah, Dist- Cachar, Assam

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Readers are also requested to e-mail their e-mail address for getting a copy of the N.E. News Letter through e-mail.

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: