



*Freedom implies not only emancipation from political bondage but also equal distribution of wealth, abolition of caste barriers and social inequities and destruction of communalism and religious intolerance.*  
*Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose*

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## DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

(i) A meeting was held by Union Home Minister with Chief Minister, Meghalaya on 7th July, 2011 to discuss the spurt in violence created by Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) in the State of Meghalaya.

(ii) The 18th Sectoral Level Meeting between Myanmar and India was held from July 13-14, 2011 at Mandalay, Myanmar. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (NE), Ministry of Home Affairs and the Myanmar delegation was led by the Director General, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar. The leader of the Myanmar delegation while highlighting the important issues included in the agenda said that members of both delegations were looking forward to promoting amity and co-operation between the two countries and work to enhance friendship and cooperation, leading to economic growth and trade development for effective support of peace, security and stability by hosting of both National and Sectoral Level Meetings regularly and alternatively.

The leader of the Indian delegation alluded to the historical, close and cordial relationship between India and Myanmar and expressed the hope that the same would be raised to a higher level.

(iii) The Union Home Minister visited Dhaka on 29th - 30th, July, 2011. During the visit, he held talks with the Bangladesh Home Minister. He also met the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. Security and border management-related issues between the two countries were discussed during the visit. Besides, Indo-Bangladesh Border Management Plan was finalized and signed by the Director General, BSF and Director General, BGB in the presence of Union Home Minister and Bangladesh Home Minister. Border Management Plan would help in better guarding of Indo-Bangladesh border by both forces.

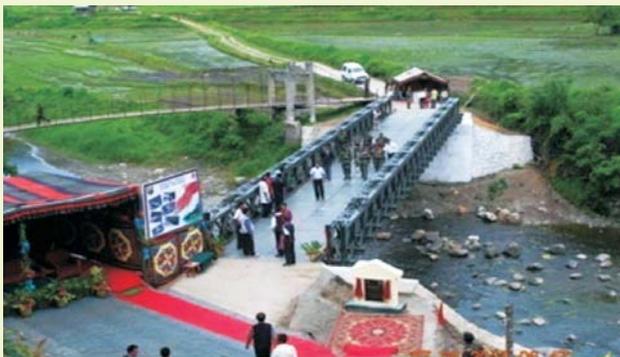


**ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMME  
IN NORTH EAST BY CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES**

**Activities carried out by Assam Rifles (AR)**

**(i) Inauguration of Challao Bridge:** Assam Rifles constructed and inaugurated Challao bridge, a bailey bridge over Chamu Turei river. The bridge was inaugurated by Brig Narendra Kumar, SM, Commander 10 Sector Assam Rifles in presence of civil dignitaries and people of the area. Challao, under Chingai Sub-division, is a isolated border village in the North Eastern periphery of Ukhrlul

district which has bare minimum facilities for communication and transportation. Construction of the bridge at Challao will go a long way in ensuring overall development of the border village. The bridge provides the much needed road connectivity to the remote village with dist. headquarters of Ukhrlul. The Manipur State Planning Department sanctioned the project for construction of Chamu Turel bridge at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,16,21,000/-.



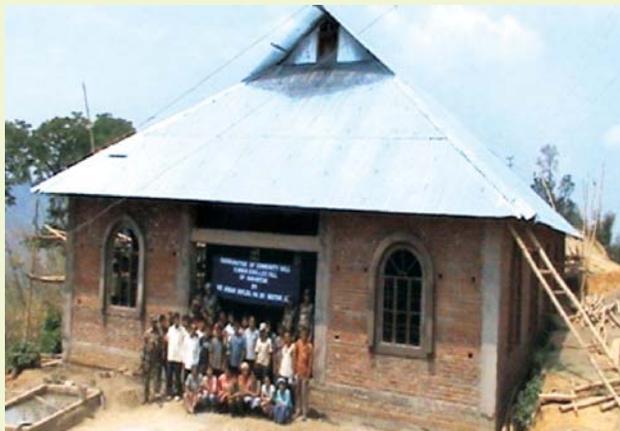
*Inauguration of Challao Bridge by Brig. Narendra Kumar, SM CDR 10 Sector under HQ IGAR (South).*

**(ii) AR Provides Assistance To Dewlah Land Children Home:** Major General C S Krishnan, AVSM, IGAR (South) in a ceremony organized on 10 Jun 2011 distributed 10 Beds, 15 tables and chairs, 04 Ceiling fans, 03 Solar lanterns and crockery items to Dewlahland Children Home. The orphanage accommodates 50 orphan children of Meitei community and Naga tribes, boarding and studying together. The children of the home organized a musical programme on the occasion.

**(iii) AR Dedicates Community Hall:** Assam Rifles constructed a community hall at Kangoi Khullen village under Civic Action programme. The village chief and civil administration expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Assam Rifles for their continuous efforts for over all development of the area and the society.



*AR Distributing Assistance to Dewlahland Orphanage.*



*Newly Constructed Community Hall at Kangoi Khullen by 42 AR Under HQ IGAR (S).*

## 2. Activities Carried out by the CISF and CRPF

- (i) On 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, at Duliajan district, the International Day against Drug abuse and illicit trafficking was observed by the personnel of CISF Unit, Oil Duliajan along with OIL Management. A road show was also organized by a local NGO to create awareness about the damaging effects of illicit trafficking of drugs.
- (ii) On 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, at Namrup district, an anti-drug march/rally by a platoon of CISF personnel displaying posters, slogans, banner was carried out at the BVFCL township/residential area. A lecture on Drug Abuse and Health awareness was delivered to the Unit personnel at the Unit line

Recreation Hall. A Public meeting was organized at the BVFCL Township/residential area for the awareness of the public.

- (iii) CRPF deployed in Assam organized Civic Action Programme at District Tinsukia w.e.f 15/6/2011 to 16/6/2011 in the presence of local people and school students. During the ceremony, sports items like volleyball net, football, badminton, chess & carom boards, sport shoes etc. were distributed to the students of primary schools of Chhotatingari, Borbheta, L.P. School Nokhroy, high schools of Guijan Boriguri, Samdang and Golai Vidhya Mandhir of District Tinsukia, Assam.

## ROAD PROJECTS FOR NORTH EASTERN REGION

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has sanctioned a project 'ADB assisted North Eastern State Roads Investment Programme (NESRIP),' for construction and upgradation of 433 km of roads in six North-Eastern States at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,353.83 crore. The project is to be implemented over a period of five years (2011-2016).

The Centrally-sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) proposes construction and upgradation of 74.70 km of roads in Assam, 93.40 km roads in Meghalaya, and 34.20 km of roads in Sikkim. 62.90 km of roads is proposed to be constructed in Assam, 93.20 km in Manipur, 55 km in Mizoram and 20.30 km in Tripura. Ministry of DoNER is the nodal agency responsible for overall coordination with ADB and participating State and monitoring the progress of the project.

An estimated 4.8 million people living within 10 km radius of the project would be directly benefited. Others will benefit from lower transport costs and faster transit time. A Central-level steering committee and Internal Project Management Units (IPMU) within DoNER Ministry and State-level steering committee and Project Implementation Units (PIUs) have been established in each project state.

The Project Implementation Units (PIUs) in each state will have primary responsibility for day-to-day implementation and coordination of both the road works programme and Institutional Development and Capacity Building (IDCB) initiatives which would include staff for project management functions in engineering, procurement, contract management, environmental planning and management, social analysis and management, re-settlement planning and implementation, road maintenance, road safety and accounting.

## SCHEME TO PROMOTE YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The government is all set to launch a scheme to promote youth activities in the North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. The proposal by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) envisages to "integrate" the remote areas bordering North Eastern States with the rest of the country through promotion of youth activities. The move will also help in encouraging people to expand the government's administrative reach and motivate the local populace to start living in the hitherto unpopulated areas. The bordering areas of such states are sparsely populated, for example, in Arunachal

Pradesh the population density is only 16 persons per sq km, which is extremely low as compared to the national average. The poor population density in Arunachal Pradesh has led to inadequate development of the remote areas due to poor road conditions.

The Ministry of DoNER has secured approval for launching a full-fledged scheme from the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan wherein youths from other parts of the country would be facilitated in taking up activities such as trekking, mountaineering, rock climbing, jeep safaris, water sports and caving in these states.

This new initiative is aimed at enhancing the capacity building of the local youth through skill development. Under pilot projects, two trekking trails would be finalized in Arunachal Pradesh and one in Mizoram. The scheme- titled “Movements of youth from rest of India to the border areas of NE states to participate in adventure activities” would be launched in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The government has approved a pilot project to be commenced this year itself.

The scheme, which envisages an expenditure of Rs. 2,65,56,750/- will be implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the aegis of the Ministry of DoNER in coordination with the respective State Governments. “Increased presence in border areas of NE Region and promotion of National integration” are the key reasons behind the proposal.

### NAGA PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL IN DELHI

Dilli Haat hosted a Pineapple festival of Nagaland from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of July, 2011. Inaugurated by Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, Minister for Development of North East Region, the exhibition cum sale which gave people of Delhi an opportunity to taste and buy not only pineapples but also other organic vegetables and vegetable products from Nagaland like ginger, squashes etc, aimed at highlighting the awareness of many positive features of pineapple and other organic produces from Nagaland and to give a market to farmers.

The event was organized by the National Horticulture Board which brought 29 pineapple

growing farmers of Nagaland to Delhi for interaction and exposure to the Delhi market. The Board provides all round help to farmers of the NE including help in scientific ways of growing fruits and vegetables, packaging, transportation of produce, marketing etc. This all encompassing support has helped to multiply the export figure of organic produce of India.

The farmers on their part now have a problem of plenty. They want to explore more markets. With Nagaland being peaceful at present largely due to the ongoing ceasefire and peace talks, every section of the populace pursues its economic activities without hindrance.



Handicraft products of Nagaland displayed during the exhibition.



Exhibition cum-sale of Pineapple, organic vegetables and vegetable products from Nagaland.

### SOCIAL SECTOR SCHEMES CHANGING THE FACE OF ASSAM

The Government of Assam has launched several schemes and projects for the underprivileged people living in remote areas, including providing them with jobs and loans to start a business, or even to build their homes. The State Government in collaboration with Centre has initiated the Indira Awaas Yojna scheme (BPL) to build houses. The Indira Awaas Yojna scheme is implemented through the Panchayati Raj and the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The beneficiaries of Indira Awaas Yojna are selected from the permanent IAY waitlist prepared from BPL lists and approved by the Gram Sabha.

In 2010-11, the Titabor Development Block spent Rs 2.76 crore to construct 571 houses for BPL families in the region. In the coming year, over 300 families of the

block are expected to benefit from the scheme. "We do not face any disturbance from any militant group. The work is going on peacefully in the region, said Pratap Phukan, Block Development Officer, Titabor. "We are daily wage labourers. I am happy that I have got this house in the village. We are constructing it. Actually I never expected that I would get such an opportunity under the scheme," said Jonali Manki, a beneficiary from Titabor.

Indira Awaas Yojna is not the only scheme that has been implemented in the region. Other successful Centrally funded programs in Titabor include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojna, Swarnajayanti Gram Rozgar Yojna, Kalpataru and Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme.

## MANIPUR HOSTS HANDLOOM AND HANDICRAFT BUYER-SELLER MEET

To facilitate the promotion of exports of indigenous handloom and handicraft items produced in Manipur, a buyer seller meet was recently held in the state under the aegis of the Manipur Apex Handloom Weavers and Handicraft Artisans' Cooperative Society in association with Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India and Department of Commerce and Industries, Govt. of Manipur.

Fifteen eminent handloom traders and exporters from different parts of the country along with representatives of the State and the Central Government took part in the event. The authorities provided all possible support to the artisans to facilitate the sale of handloom and handicraft products outside the state.

"It is a very good idea to bring buyers from outside to Manipur to enable artisans and weavers to know what they can sell in the rest of the country and also

get exported. So, it is very good thing," said N Choubey, Development Commissioner, Handicrafts, Government of India.

Visitors appreciated the skill of the local artisans and urged them to improve quality as their products have a huge export market. "In Imphal, I saw a number of good products that were on display. I hope they can improve them further in the future," said Ramesh, a buyer.

The event culminated with a fashion show in which young boys and girls walked down the ramp showcasing hand woven apparels. Young designers of the Blue Ocean Academy designed the clothes. "In Manipur, we have good handloom products. In order to export them outside the state, we need good designers and a good platform to display them," said H Ranita Devi, designer at the Blue Ocean Academy.

## PROMOTION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN MANIPUR

In an endeavor to promote the usage of solar energy, the Manipur Renewable Energy Development Agency (MANIREDA) has set a target for providing 10,000 solar water heaters under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Energy Mission. The agency recently organized a one-day workshop on solar thermal system that laid stress on the need to use solar and wind energy to meet the power shortage in the region.

MANIREDA aims to set up solar water heaters, lights, cells, biogas plants and windmills in the region in pursuit of this goal. The heaters that have a capacity of 100 litre per day, cost around 25,000 each, 75 per cent of which will be provided by the Central and State Government as subsidy. This will help save 75-megawatts of power and prevent carbon emission of 1.5 tonnes in a five-year period. It also aims in spreading awareness among people about the benefits of renewable energy.

"The main objective of the workshop is to make people aware of what is solar heater system and the advantages and disadvantages of it and how they can use it and get benefit from it," said Waikhol Chandra of MANIREDA which is the nodal agency for formulating policies and programmes, for popularizing the applications of various non-conventional and renewable source of energy in Manipur.

The agency has set up biogas plants, distributed solar cells, lighting systems, wind-solar hybrid energy system in villages of the hill districts of Manipur where electricity has not reached so far. MANIREDA has set up a 200 KW solar power plant recently at Moreh. 165-gram panchayats were electrified and 5736 solar street lighting sets with a capacity of 444 Kilowatts were distributed by MANIREDA. MANIREDA not only helps in setting up the solar plants but also trains villagers in preventive maintenance of these installations.

## DIMAPUR SCHOOL SERVING THE CAUSE OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

'Right Vision', a community education centre in Dimapur, is providing free education to hundreds of underprivileged children. The school was inaugurated in 1999 under the shade of a tree with five to six street children. It is now located at Grace Colony in Dimapur and has 13 teaching and non-teaching staff.

The school caters not only to children from nearby localities, but also to those who live in far off villages. "Our mission is to make these children avail free education and to educate them so that they

can become a better citizen. We want every child to receive education, to have education," said Supong, Director of the school. "It is a great privilege for me to deal with all these students. We not only teach here but we visit the houses of these children, collect their family profiles and do case study on them," said Seun, a member of the staff.

The popularity of the school is growing in the suburbs of Dimapur and more and more children are coming forward to study in the school.

## NAGALAND TAKES STEPS TO CURB MILITANT-RELATED EXTORTION

The Government in Nagaland is taking tough steps to curb militant led extortion that has badly affected the business community in the State. On July 17, Nagaland Home Minister Shri Imkong L Imchen convened a high level meeting with the business community of the region and discussed the increase in the cases of extortion in the region. Talking to reporters after meeting, Shri Imchen said the government had strengthened various law enforcing agencies to deal with the problem and urged the local people and the business community to support the government's effort. "We have decided to step up the arrest of extortionists and criminal activities. If you

have received an extortion note, extortion telephone call, you should also inform to police," he added.

The business community present at the meeting demanded 'underground tax' imposed by insurgent outfits to be declared illegal, shutting down of all check-gates and setting up of a special anti-extortion cell. Businessmen in the region had earlier threatened to shut down their businesses in the wake of rising extortion cases. "We have faced problems and if the government does not take any action we are contemplating indefinite closure; so I hope the government takes some steps," said Ato Yephthomi, President, Nagaland Medicine Dealers Association.

## DEVELOPMENT, THE NEW WATCHWORD IN TRIPURA'S GAMCHACOBRA VILLAGE

With militancy on the decline in the North East, development and progress have become the new watchwords in states such as Tripura. An example of this is Gamchacobra village in North Tripura. Once a safe haven for cadres of the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), the village now is benefiting tremendously from development related work. Villagers have now taken up modern methods of farming to increase crop output, which in turn has helped them earn, more and improve their economic condition. Apart from paddy, the traditional crop of Tripura, many people are engaged in cultivating pineapple and making good money. "Though we are still poor but now our economic condition has improved considerably. Apart from working in the paddy fields, we also have a pineapple farm. Sometimes we also get work under the MGNREGA, which is an additional income. I also

practice pig farming that gives me good returns," said Monimala Debbarma, a villager.

To further improve the socio-economic condition and infrastructure of the region, the government also has initiated many schemes and projects. Villagers now have access to regular clean drinking water that is provided to them through pipelines and tubewells. Students in the village can now study at nights, as electricity is now available round the clock. The roads have been improved under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, a Centrally sponsored scheme.

"Here we are working for the Panchayat that has engaged us under the MGNREGA. The money that we earn supplements my husband's earning and it helps us to take care of our family," said Tapashi Nama, a villager who is engaged under MGNREGA scheme.

## NABARD HOLDS MEET IN NORTH EAST TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG FARMERS

In an endeavor to boost agriculture by raising awareness among farmers about newer technologies and better loan facilities, a one-day meeting was organized by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in Manipur.

The meeting aimed at linking farmer clubs with nationalized banks so that better facilities are extended to them. Over 30 representatives discussed pros and cons of various policies regarding agriculture in the state.

"In Manipur there are farmer's mela and other things but there is no farmer's meet and we want to interact with them so that they can voice their concern. I feel the meeting was successful," said Namlekar, officer-in charge, NABARD. The participating farmers were briefed on the benefits they can avail from the banks like the Kisan credit card scheme, loans for buying seeds, developing irrigation facilities and buying tractors. They were also provided information about the role that NABARD plays in the development of agriculture in the country.

## RALLY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

To spread awareness about the dangers of drugs, an auto rally was recently held in Manipur as a part of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The rally was organized by the social welfare department in collaboration with FINGODAP-Manipur Chapter, AMADA, CADA and Usher Manipur on the theme "Think Health, Not Drugs".

After the rally ended, a public meeting was held in which speakers shared their views on how to prevent youth from taking to drugs.

In Sikkim, activists organised a cycle rally to educate people, especially the youth against drug abuse. "Drugs are the killers of the society and we all are united here to fight against drugs and drug abuse.

The message that goes to the youth is to take up positive activities and concentrate on positive side of life," said Satish Bardewa, a participant.

Hundreds of NCC cadres from various schools and colleges of Jorhat District took out a rally in Jorhat town against drug abuse. The rally concluded with a meeting in which eminent doctors spoke on the harmful



Businessmen in Nagaland take off to streets to protest against extortion.

effects of tobacco. "Our aim is to end drug abuse. We want to protect the future generations of the country from drug abuse and its ill effects," said Col. Prabhakar of Indian Army. Nagaland too extended its support to the the fight against the drugs. People from all walks of life participated in a public meeting and pledged to contribute their bit.



Youth in Dimapur, Nagaland gather to Pledge against consumption of drugs on eve of 24th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

## MANIPUR YOUTH WANT A MILITANCY FREE EDUCATION ZONE

Living under the constant fear of blasts, extortion and violence, students in Manipur want educational institutions to be a militancy free zone. This is because militants have been threatening these institutions and causing problems in their functioning.

Grenade attacks on educational institutions are common and teachers often receive threatening notes. Blasts, blockades, shutdowns and strikes have ensured that schools remain closed for days together. "The situation here affects our studies. We are supposed to complete our syllabus within one year but we are unable to do so because of boycotts, strikes, and shutdowns. We cannot study in peace," said Shaya Devi, a student.

Several teachers' associations, student bodies and senior citizens of the state attended a protest meeting

and took out a rally, demanding that education should be freed from disturbances and corruption. Several resolutions were adopted during the meeting. One of them was a demand for exempting schools and colleges from the purview of any shutdown or strike. "Militancy is a major problem that affects students. Militants demand money from the family of students or kidnap people creating tension for the students. They do not let them study peacefully, so these students want a militancy free education zone," said N Chaoba Singh, President, All Manipur Students' Guardian Organization.

"We face many problems so today we are demanding that we should get proper and peaceful education. There are many reasons why we cannot study properly and that may affect our future," said Priyanda, a student.



Protest rally by students and teachers for making educational institutions a militancy free education zone.



## 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, requests 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 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 the writer's full name and postal address. The selected articles will be published in the monthly NE Newsletter with due editing.

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

1. I have the honour to request you kindly to send the NE Newsletter to the address below. I had the privilege of reading the news letter from a friend which I found it very educative and enlightening for me as well as our NGO (The Rural Foundation, Tamenglong). Our NGO is engaged mainly with the socio-economic development of Rural masses especially in Agri and Horti activities among women SHG and manual labourers.

*Sd/-*  
Zaojianpou,  
Secretary, Rural Foundation,  
Tamenglong, Manipur.

2. I shall be highly pleased if you kindly send me a free copy of NE Newsletter in English to the following address.

*Sd/-*  
R. Beilochai Khithie  
Mara Autonomous  
District Council,  
Saiha, Mizoram.

3. I have read the NE Newsletter, I find me very useful to know more about NE region. I shall be highly obliged if you kindly send me a free copy of NE Newsletter in English on the following address.

*Sd/-*  
Athanbou Pamei  
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Chairmen's Council,  
Tamenglong District, Manipur,  
Ward No. V, Spring Valley, Near  
Tamenglong Post Office,  
TamenglongHQ, Manipur-795141.

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