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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

A Monthly Newsletter on the North Eastern Region of India

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"We are all knit together by bonds of blood..... None can segregate usno impassable barriers can be set up between us."

-Sardar Vallabhai Patel

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"We are ready for talks" Chidambaram

In the wake of violent activities and formation of nascent militant outfit on the rise in North-East, Union Home Minister P Chidambaram has said that government was prepared to extend its hand of friendship to any group that wanted to hold talks. He was attending the 36th passing out parade at NEPA.

DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. Home Minister's Visit to Manipur & Meghalaya

The Home Minister Sh P Chidambaram visited Manipur & Meghalaya on the 14th and 15th December, 2010. Home Minister reviewed the Security situation in Manipur at Imphal on the 14th December, 2010. Chief Minister, Manipur and senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs and State Government of Manipur attended the review meeting.

During his visit to Meghalaya Home Minister attended the 36th passing out parade of the North East Police Academy at Umiam, about 15 kms away from Meghalaya's capital, Shillong.

2. Meeting of the Joint Monitoring Groups with National Democratic Front of Boroland/Pro-talk (NDFB(PT) and Dima Haram Daogah/Nunisa (DHD/N)

Meeting of the Joint Monitoring Groups with National Democratic Front of Boroland/Pro-talk (NDFB (PT) and Dima Haram Daogah/Nunisa (DHD/N) were held on 21.12.2010 at New Delhi to oversee the implementation

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of agreed Ground Rules of SoO Agreement and to consider extension of SoO Agreement beyond 31.12.2010. In the meeting it has been mutually agreed to extend SoO Agreement further for a period of six months with NDFB/PT and DHD/N upto 30.6.2011.

3. The First Meeting of Border Liaison Officers in Mizoram - Myanmar

The first meeting of Border Liaison Officers (at police level) of Zowkhather (Mizoram) and Rhi (Myanmar) was held at Champhai (Mizoram) on 12.12.2010. Joint Secretary (NE), MHA and others senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of External Affairs and senior officers of Government of Mizoram attended this meeting. At this meeting, activities of insurgents and trans national crimes including arms smuggling, drug trafficking, smuggling of wild life and narcotic products were discussed.

4. National level Meeting, at Home Secretary between India & Myanmar

The 16th National level Meeting, at Home Secretary between India & Myanmar was held at New Delhi from 27th to 30st December, 2010. Union Home Secretary led Indian Delegation and the Myanmar delegation was led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Government of the Union of Myanmar. The delegation level talks were held on 30.12.2010. At this meeting, Home Secretary raised concern on activities of Indian insurgent Groups operating along India-Myanmar border and requested action against them by Government of Union of Myanmar. Issues relating to strengthening of intelligence sharing mechanism between two countries, arms smuggling, drug trafficking, border

management were also discussed at the meeting. Home Secretary and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs (Myanmar) also exchanged the Instrument of Ratification of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Criminal Matters by signing the Protocol of Exchange on 30.12.2010.

5. Lifting of Protected Area Regime in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland

The entire area of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland and parts of Sikkim are 'Protected Areas' under Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 issued under Sec 3 of the Foreigners Act, 1946 by Ministry of Home Affairs. Some areas of Sikkim have also

been declared 'Restricted Areas' under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 which provide that no foreigner shall enter into or remain in any protected area/ restricted area except under and in accordance with the permit issued by the Central Government or any officers authorized by the Central Government in this behalf. For promoting Tourism in North Eastern States, guidelines regarding relaxation of PAP/ RAP regime have been issued from time to time by Ministry of Home Affairs.

Protected Area Permit Regime in States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland has been reviewed in the Ministry of Home Affairs and it has been decided to exclude the entire area of the State of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland from the Protected Area regime notified under the Foreigners (Protected Area) Order, 1958 initially for a period of 1 year with effect from 1st January, 2011 subject to certain conditions. The concerned State Governments have been advised in the matter.

COFFEE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

(Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

Coffee was introduced as early as 1953 in Cachar district of Assam. But later coffee cultivation was commenced on experimental basis in Garo Hills of Meghalaya to wean away the tribal inhabitants from *jhuming* (Shifting Cultivation) practice and save precious forest cover from denudation and soil erosion. As cultivation was encouraging, Coffee Board in accordance with its perspective plan undertook a comprehensive survey during 1982-1990 in the NE Region and identified suitable areas of 43,501 Ha for coffee cultivation in different states of North

Eastern Region (NER). But due to various reasons, coffee development was neglected and abandoned by the growing ethnic population and the scenario of coffee holdings indicated poor performance in terms of production and productivity. Efforts were made again to improve coffee holdings by consolidation and also to bring new areas for coffee development in the NE region. Accordingly Coffee Board implemented Special Area Programme for the overall development in NER during IX & X Plan period for

- Support for expansion of coffee in new areas
- Consolidation of existing coffee areas
- Providing machinery and creating infrastructure for quality coffee preparation
- Supporting marketing assistance apart from providing technical support
- Supply of seed coffee, etc for improving production and quality of coffee.

The strategies for coffee development programme in NE Region during the XI Plan period have been proposed after a detailed assessment of the status of coffee in the Region and taking into account the major gaps identified on review of the X Plan programmes by the Expert Committee of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and a Techno Feasibility Survey conducted by a team of Scientists/Extension Officers of the Coffee Board.

The Board has established a Mini Coffee Curing Works at TEC, Bualpui (Mizoram) during the year 2008 to process coffee produced in the state of Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur for better return. The coffee produced in the State of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya is being processed in the Coffee Curing works of Assam Plantations Crops Development Corporation (APCDC) located at Lokra, Guwahati.

Presently, the total area covered under coffee cultivation is 5416 ha and bearing area 3086 ha. in different states of NER with a production of 150 MT of clean coffee average production.

The details of programmes and the areas of support for coffee development in NE Region during XI Plan programme are:-

- Expansion of coffee in 850 ha by providing Rs. 20,000/- ha as financial incentives for planting and aftercare and also supply of coffee seedlings/shade saplings (1400 ha)
- Consolidation of coffee in 1000 ha by providing Rs. 15,000/- ha (gap filling, plant and shade management, soil management, pest and disease control)
- Financial incentives for quality up-gradation activities viz., setting up on farm pulpers, drying yards and store house - 90% subsidy

for growers below 2 ha category and 50% for growers above 2 ha category.

- Incentives of Rs. 12/-kg to procure, process and market coffees produced in NER.
- Set up secondary processing units at appropriate locations by involving State Government to aid growers to achieve value addition.

Coffee Board continued to support the tribal farmers to development Coffee in NER under Coffee Development Programme (CDP) during the year 2010-11. From April to October 2010 7.50 lakhs of Coffee seedlings raised through Group Nurseries/ Govt. Agency and distributed to cover an area of 200 ha under Expansion New Coffee gradation programme, a total 111 numbers of baby pulpers have been distributed to the growers of NER for preparation of quality parchment coffee for better price realization. Also supported for construction of 25 numbers of drying yards. Coffee Board has also facilitated to collect 306 MT of raw coffee grown during the season 2009-10 in the states of NER and processed to 180 MTs clean of Coffee. Arrangement has been made to dispose the said coffee in the ICTA auction at Bangalore. So far 145 MTs of Coffee has been disposed and arrangement has been made to disburse the amount to the concerned growers.

Training has also been conducted for the benefit of the 1181 tribal growers of North East Region on scientific method of different aspects of coffee cultivations for improve production and productivity.

Brief report on achievement of different component/activities implemented under coffee development programme- north eastern region for the year 2010-11.

The Coffee Board is implementing "Coffee Development Programme" in North Eastern Region during XI Plan Period which includes financial support for Expansion/Consolidation programme, support for marketing of coffee produced in NE Region, financial support for raising of coffee seedlings, providing technical support to the coffee growers for production/quality improvement, assistance for infrastructure development and quality up-gradation. The details of different schemes and its achievement till the end of October 2010 are as follows:

Financial Support for Raising of Coffee Seedlings

The Coffee Board is extending financial support to the coffee growers for raising of coffee seedlings. Under this programme, different Group Nurseries were raised in all the 7 states of North Eastern Region. A sum of Rs. 19.00 lakh has been incurred to raise 7.50 lakh coffee seedlings.

Infrastructure Development and Quality Up-Gradation

The coffee produced by the growers of North Eastern Region suffers from poor quality due to improper processing, drying and handling. As a result of this, coffee produced from North Eastern Region fetches lower price. Further, the coffees are prone to mould growth due to drying on mud yards and for improper drying. In order to ensure production of quality coffee at farm level, Coffee Board is providing assistance for infrastructure development under the following schemes:

1. Distribution of Baby Pulpers to coffee growers at subsidized rate to prepare parchment coffee.
 2. Distribution of Aluminum Trays to coffee growers at subsidized rate for proper drying of coffee.
 3. Financial Assistance for Construction of Drying Yard.
1. **Distribution of baby pulpers to the coffee growers at subsidised rate**

The Coffee Board is supplying Baby Pulpers to the coffee growers of North Eastern Region at 90% subsidized rate. During the year 2010-11, 111 Nos. of Baby Pulpers were supplied to the coffee growers. The state wise distribution of Baby Pulpers is as under:

State	Liaison zone	No. of Baby Pulpers distributed
Assam	Haflong	20
Meghalaya	Tura	10
Mizoram	Kolasib	45
	Lunglei	15
Nagaland	Mokokchung	04
Tripura	Kumarghat	17
Total		111

2. **Distribution of aluminum trays to the coffee growers at subsidised rate**

The Coffee Board is supplying Aluminum Trays to the coffee growers at 90% subsidized rate. 416 Nos. of aluminum trays are being procured which will be supplied to the coffee growers of different states of North Eastern Region.

3. **Financial assistance for construction of drying yard**

The Board is providing financial assistance to the coffee growers for construction of cement drying yards. Under this scheme, during 2010-11 Rs. 2.808 lakh has been released for construction of 26 Nos. of drying yards.

Release of Subsidy Component Under Expansion and Consolidation

The inspection team of the different Liaison Zones are visiting / inspecting the tribal coffee holding for release of subsidy. The release of subsidy to the eligible growers shall be completed before the end of current financial year (2010-11)

Market Support

Various activities undertaken by the Board under market support are detailed below:-

- a. Collection/ Procurement of coffee from the growers.
- b. Storing of coffee at the collection centre till transportation to the processing unit.
- c. Transportation of collected coffee to Coffee Processing Unit at Guwahati/Kolasib.
- d. Curing of coffee at the Processing Unit.
- e. Transportation of cured coffee to Bangalore and disposal through ICTA auction.

During 2010-11, a total of 180 MT coffee has been cured at Coffee Processing Units at Lokhora, Guwahati and Kolasib. The cured coffee has been transported to Bangalore and around 70% of cured coffee has been auctioned through ICTA auction.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMME IN NORTH EAST BY CPMFs

(i) Civic Action Programme by ITBP

ITBP is actively involved in various Civic Action initiatives as part of border management work in their area of responsibility with a view to create awareness amongst the local population in far-flung areas and to integrate them into the national mainstream. All the border units of ITBP are engaged in such tasks, which lead to better understanding between the force and locals and contribute to the overall safety and security of the area. Recently, following activities were carried out under Civic Action Programme in the North East:-

Furniture items, Sports Kit, Water Filter, Water Tank, Looms, Sewing Machine and Knitting Machines were distributed. Rain shelter was constructed & Foot Ball ground Goal Posts were erected under

civic action programme carried out in North-East areas by units of ITB Police Force.

Women Empowerment Project was successfully conducted with the aim to empower rural women. Modern sewing machines, Knitting machines and candle making machines were distributed to women of villages of North-East. ITBP also provided help and training in the smooth running of sewing machines, knitting machines and candle making machines which were established at Anganwari Centers at Pamoling, Karoliang and Lohitpur under Lohit District. This programme will help in improving the economic condition of rural women.

This welfare activity of ITBP got the positive response from all corners and was highly appreciated by the locals and will certainly strengthen cordial relation with the local population.

(ii) Civic Action Programme In Ne Region By Assam Rifles

Ser No.	Name of Projects	Amount (in Rs.)
1. Manipur		
(a)	Provision for Sintex tank at remote area of Tamenglong	1,50,000/-
(b)	Construction of additional building for Orphanage at Zion's Children at Mapao Khullen village	3,24,000/-
(c)	Installation of 05 nos solar lights, Laimaram village	1,50,000/-
(d)	Provision for training of local Youth as Health Assistance at Tullhala village	2,00,000/-
2. Tripura		
(a)	Construction of Community Hall at Gobindachari village District Dhalai.	2,50,000/-
(b)	Construction of Community Hall at BhandarIma, Dist - North Tripura	2,50,000/-
3. Mizoram		
(a)	Conducting Aizwal Half Marathan Race for celebration of Golden Jubilee and spreading awareness of people "Say No to Tobacco"	2,00,000/-
(b)	Construction of Khuangcherra Memorial at Ailawng village in memory of First Mizo freedom fighter.	80,000/-
4. Assam		
(a)	Construction of Lodi Heraka Cultural Club at Halflong	5,00,000/-



ORANGE FESTIVAL (TAMENGLONG, MANIPUR)

Tamenglong, Manipur's largest orange growing district organized a splendid two day long Orange festival on the 12th and 13th of December. Large number of people including over 500 orange cultivators participated in this 7th Orange festival despite a bandh called by the Naga Youth Front. Organized by the State's Horticulture department this festival like other orange festivals all over the world, was aimed at promoting cultivation of oranges and encouraging the growers to display and sell their produce. The Manipur festival saw over hundred varieties of oranges. Mr Dihimiang of Khongjarol was chosen as the best grower. He received a prize of Rs 1 lakh from the Chief Minister, Manipur, Shri O. Ibobi Singh.

It must be mentioned here that according to horticulture department's figures, Tamenglong produced about 17, 311 metric tones of oranges in 2008-09 out of the state's total produce of 31,968 metric tones. This figure fell to 15,000 metric tones last year and 12,000 mt this year. In order to stop this decline, a day long seminar on scientific

plantation and management of orange orchards was organized. The Chief Minister assured that the State Government will leave no stone unturned to develop Tamnglong. Already a 146 km road is being built to connect Tamenglong to Imphal at a cost of Rs 64 crore and another road connecting Kangpokpi to Tamenglong is coming up. Other plans including infrastructural development, healthcare improvement and educational plans too are on the anvil. A sports complex was inaugurated on the occasion. To entertain the people, singers and dancers put up many foot tapping performances all pointing to a better tomorrow.

Another highpoint of the festival was the Miss Orange 2010 beauty pageant which saw the coming together of 37 beautiful young ladies cutting across communities and tribes. Widely attended, the contest saw Ms Hoirose Silthou walking away with a prize money of Rs 1 lakh while the 1st and 2nd runners up got Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 respectively.



AUTUMN FESTIVAL, SHILLONG

North East's unique and rich cultural unity in diversity was displayed on one platform beautifully during the recent two day long Shillong autumn festival held in the backdrop of the picturesque Umiam lake in the Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya. Cultural troupes from all the states of NE held thousands of visitors both from India and abroad spellbound for these two days. Craftspeople too put up stalls representing traditional houses on stilts each of which had a



rich array of local crafts for display and sale. Then there were sports for the young and the very young, food stalls and guarantee of fun at every corner.

Adding touches of modernity many rock bands came and performed in the evenings. Foreign tourists who had come in droves to attend this festival, also performed on the streets and on stage.



HORNBILL FESTIVAL IN NAGALAND

Nagaland celebrated its annual Hornbill festival with great gaiety from the 1st to 7th of December at the Naga Heritage village. Kisama. Dances by over 19 major tribes of Nagaland, bonfires, beauty pageants, rock contests, chilly

eating contest, and vintage World war II jeep rally were among the highlights of this great cultural festival which saw participation of hundreds of tourists including Indians from other states and foreigners.

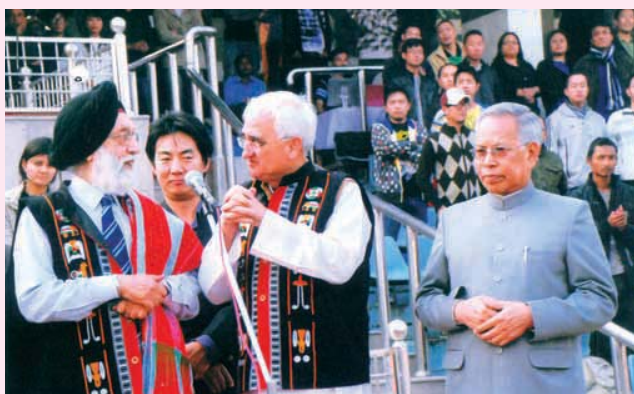


TAMCHON TROPHY

The 4th NE Tamchon Football Trophy contest saw a gala opening on the 4th December in Delhi's sprawling Dr. Ambedkar stadium with much singing and dancing. Chief Guest M. S. Gill, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports: and guest of honour Salman Khursheed, Corporate Affairs Minister were presented colourful Naga jackets and shawls which they appreciated immensely. Both spoke

highly about NE's contribution to India and the role of sports to build friendship and unity.

The Tangkhul Naga Society of Delhi had organized this tournament for the fourth time. It spoke about the role of sports in building camaraderie. Visitors who had come accessorized with the bright Naga shawls and mufflers cheered



even as they witnessed the inaugural match between Wung United and SSPP. Altogether 16 teams from NE participated in this tournament. Alongwith football, visitors were treated to grand show by Naga youth dressed as traditional warriors, a show of stone towing which symbolizes the coming of festivity and feasting, a contest of famous Naga style of wrestling which interestingly sees competitors targeting waist down, and a rich plethora of dances which included a bamboo dance put up by football enthusiasts from Mizoram.

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 Government 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.** The views and write-ups from intellectuals and professionals and others in North-Eastern States are also invited on **specific issues/problems and possible measures for resolution thereto.**

It is requested that articles/columns 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. Papers should not have been simultaneously submitted for publication to another journal or Newspaper. Readers are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (300-400 words) on published articles. All letters should have the writer's full name and postal address. The selected articles will be

suitably incorporated in the monthly NE Newsletter in its subsequent editions and contribution will be welcomed and suitably rewarded.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

1. I shall be very obliged if you kindly send us free copy of the NE newsletter in English language on the following address.

Sd/-
District Youth Coordinator,
Nehru Yuva Kendra,
Jogendra Sarani, Mission Road,
Hailakandi, Assam- 788151

2. Respectfully, I have to state that, I had gone through your NE Newsletter, It is good informative. So, I want to be reader. If you may deliver it to me regularly. I will be thankful to you.

Sd/-
Jitendra Kr. Singh,
C/o Rajib Hazarika,
Niz. Kadomoni, Bairagimoth,
Dibrugarh, Assam-786003

3. We shall be very much obliged, if you kindly send us copy of NE Newsletter (English Edition) for our organization. It gives us an immense knowledge of nearest state and various Government of Indian's Plan and Projects. We shall be very grateful, if you send us it regularly.

Sd/-
Jadav Sarmah,
Village: Nonoi Kumar Gaon,
P.O: Nonoi, 782101,
Distt: Nagaon (Assam)

4. I shall be highly pleased if you kindly send free copy of NE Newsletter in English with immediate effect in favor of my organization.

Sd/-
Diamsa Historical Heritage Foundation,
Cachar Hqs. Swamijee Road,
(Dimasa Para) Silchar : 788001
Assam

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