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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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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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AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL/AUTONOMOUS COUNCILS IN THE STATES OF ASSAM, MANIPUR, MEGHALYA, MIZORAM AND TRIPURA

In Assam the following three Autonomous Councils have been constituted in terms of the Sixth Schedule:

- (i) Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC);
 - (ii) North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC);
 - (iii) Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD)/Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).
2. Autonomous Council in Assam cover population of 36,37,562/- (34,23,612 Rural and 2,13,950 Urban) in Karbi Anglong, North Cachar, Baksa Kokrajhar, Chriang and Udalguri Revenue districts.
3. Autonomous Councils viz (i) Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) consist of 30 member (26 elected + 4 nominated) and 27 members (23 elected + 4 nominated) and Executive Committee consisting of Chief Executive Members + 10 Council Members and Chief Executive Members + 9 Council Members respectively. Whereas BTC has 46 members (30 Reserved for ST, 5 for non-tribal communities + 5 open for all communities + 6 nominated) and has Executive Committee consisting of Chief Executive Members + 15 Council Members.
4. The Autonomous Councils i.e. KAAC and NCHAC have legislative powers in addition to Subjects entrusted in Para 3 of the Schedule. KAAC has powers to legislate on additional 20 subjects, which were agreed in the MoU signed in

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1995. Besides, 30 more subjects have been entrusted to KAAC for their administration. Likewise BTC in addition to Subjects entrusted in Para 3 of the Schedule, has powers to

legislate on additional 40 subjects, which were agreed in the MoS signed in 2003.

5. Judicial Powers enumerated in para 4 & 5 of the Schedule are applicable to KAAC and NCHAC.

HILL DISTRICT COUNCILS IN MANIPUR

The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971, an Act passed by the Parliament paved the way for establishment of six autonomous districts in Manipur. In accordance with the powers vested on the Governor of Manipur, following six Autonomous Districts Councils were constituted on 14th February, 1972:-

1. Chandel, Autonomous District Council,
2. Churachandpur Autonomous District Council,
3. Sadar Hills Autonomous District Council,
4. Senapati Autonomous District Council,
5. Tamenglong Autonomous District Council,
6. Ukhrul Autonomous district Council.

The first election to the autonomous district councils was held in the year 1973. So far the 1971 Act has been amended thrice; the first amendment in the year 1975, the second in the year 2006 and the third in the year 2008.

The first amendment to the Act envisaged removal of the Chairman of the District Council by the Government for reasons to be recorded in writing upon passing of a resolution by the District Council by a simple majority of the total membership of the Council.

The second amendment envisaged the following features:

- Notifying areas as urban areas for the purpose of development plan and to execute the works;
- Allotment/transfer/lease of land by a resolution passed by the District Council

The third amendment to the Act envisaged the following:

- Increase in membership from 18 to 24;
- Election Commission of the State to be entrusted election to HDC;

- Constitution of Executive Committee;
- Addition of 9 entries to the list of powers of the autonomous Hill Districts.

Section 2 of the Act vests the following powers with the Autonomous Hill District Council (the words in italics have been added by the third amendment to the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971):

- (i) the maintenance and management of such property, movable and immovable, and institutions as may be transferred to that Council by the Governor;
- (ii) the construction, repair and maintenance of such of the roads, bridges, channels and buildings as may be transferred to that Council by the Governor;
- (iii) the establishment, maintenance and management of schools up to Class VIII;
- (iv) the establishment, maintenance and management of dispensaries and Primary Health Sub-Centres;
- (v) the establishment and maintenance of cattle pounds including such functions under the Cattle-trespass Act, 1871 as may be transferred to that Council by the Governor;
- (vi) the establishment; maintenance and management of markets and fairs and the construction, repair. and maintenance of all buildings connected therewith;
- (vii) water supply and sanitation schemes
- (viii) the construction, repair and maintenance of embankments and the supply, storage and control of water for agricultural purposes including irrigation schemes;

- (ix) the preservation, reclamation and conservation of soil;
- (x) animal husbandry and veterinary dispensaries
- (xi) the management of such ferries as may be entrusted to the charge of that Council by the Governor;
- (xii) the initiation, inspection and control of relief works;
- (xiii) the allotment, occupation' or use, or the setting apart of land, other than land acquired for any public purpose or land which is a reserved forest, for the purpose of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes or for any other purposes likely to promote the interests of, the inhabitants of any village or town situated within the autonomous district for which that council is constituted ;
- (xiv) the management of any forest not being a reserved forest, minor forest produce including fuel and fodder;
- (xv) the regulation of the practice of Jhum or other form of shifting cultivation;
- (xvi) fisheries;
- (xvii) co-operatives;
- (xviii) sports and youth affairs;
- (xix) adult and non-formal education;
- (xx) horticulture and floriculture;
- (xxi) rural housing and schemes under rural development including tribal development;
- (xxii) khadi & village industries and cottage industries;
- (xxiii) small scale industries;
- (xxiv) non-conventional energy sources;
- (xxv) library and cultural activities;
- (xxvi) any other matter which the Administrator may, in consultation with the Hill Areas Committee, entrust to the District Council in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, community development, social and tribal welfare, village planning or any other matter.

MEGHALAYA

The entire State of Meghalaya except Shillong area is covered under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. In Meghalaya, there are three Autonomous Councils in terms of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, as follows:

- (i) Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC)
- (ii) Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC)
- (iii) Jantia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC)

2. The three district councils have population of Rs. 23.1 lakh out of which Rs. 19.91 lakh is tribal population and cover 7 districts viz.

Khasi Hill Autonomous District Council (Except Shillong Municipal Area)

- (i) East Khasi Hills District
- (ii) West Khasi Hills District
- (iii) Ri Bhoi District

Jantia Hill Autonomous District Council

- (i) Jantia Hills District

Garo Hill Autonomous District Council

- (i) East Garo Hills District
- (ii) West Garo Hills District
- (iii) South Garo Hills District

3. Composition of Autonomous Councils (ACs) (i) Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) ; (ii) Jantia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC) and (iii) Garo Hill Autonomous District Council (GHADC) consists of 30 members (29 elected + 1 nominated), 19 members (16 elected and 3 nominated) and 30 members (26 elected + 4 nominated) and are serviced by Executive Committee consisting of Chief Executive Members + 6 Council Members in respect of KHADC and five each in case JHADC and GHADC respectively.

4. These Councils have powers to legislate on the Subjects described in para 3 of the Sixth Schedule.

5. Judicial powers enumerated in para 4 and 5 of the Schedule are applicable to these Councils.

MIZORAM

In Mizoram, the following three Autonomous District Councils have been constituted in terms of the Sixth Schedule:

- (i) Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC),
- (ii) Mara Autonomous District Council (MADC); and
- (iii) Lai Autonomous District Council (LADC).

2. These District Councils cover two administrative districts, namely, Lawngthlai and Saiha districts. The Kolodyne River forms the boundary between Lawngthlai, which falls to its west and Saiha, on its eastern side.

3. Following the memorandum signed with the MNF, certain amendments were made in the Sixth Schedule vide the 67th Amendment of 1988, as follows:

- (a) Sub-clause 3 was inserted in Paragraph 9, stating that the Governor may direct that the share of royalties to be made over to District Council shall be so made over within one year from the date of any agreement under sub-paragraph (1);

(b) Paragraph 10 was amended to prescribe that no person resident in the district shall carry on any trade, whether wholesale or retail, except under a licence issued by the District Council;

(c) The Lakher Regional Council and the Pawi Regional Council were re-named as the Mara Autonomous District Council and Lai Autonomous District Council respectively w.e.f. 1st May 1989 through notifications issued by the Government of Mizoram.

4. Autonomous Councils (ACs) viz CADC, MADC, and LADC are serviced by Chief Executive Members + 5, 7 and 7 Council Members respectively.

5. CADC, MADC and LADC have legislative powers on subjects entrusted in Para 3 of the Schedule. In addition 20 more subjects have been entrusted to Autonomous Councils for their administration.

6. Judicial powers enumerated in para 4 and 5 of the Schedule are applicable to these Councils.

TRIPURA

In Tripura, there is only one Autonomous Council, namely Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) has been constituted in under the Sixth Schedule, which covers and have jurisdiction over the total areas of all the four revenue districts. The Council was set up in 18 January 1982. Following the 49th amendment of the Constitution of India, the TTAADC was brought under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution w.e.f. 1.4.1985. The principal objective of setting up the TTAADC is to empower the tribal people to govern themselves bring all round development to them and protect and preserve their culture, customs and traditions.

2. There are thirty-five Rural Development (RD) Blocks in the State. Nineteen RD Blocks are within the Sixth

Schedule area and eighteen mixed R.D. Blocks are within jurisdiction of both Sixth Schedule and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) areas.

3. Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) consists of 30 Member (28 elected + 2 nominated), of whom 26 reserved for ST. The executive committee consists of CM + 8 members. The Council has legislative powers on the subjects described in para 3 of the Sixth Schedule. Besides, 19 subjects have been entrusted by the State Government to the TTAADC for their administration.

4. Judicial powers enumerated in para 4 and 5 of the Schedule are applicable to the Council.

MUSIC BRIDGES CULTURAL GAP – PATKAI CHORALE

Formed in 1974, 'Patkai Chorale' is a group of trained singers and musicians versed in various genres of music. Recently the Patkai chorale from Dimapur in Nagaland, presented an evening of music in Delhi.

Mainly known for its rich tradition of choral music, following a rich repertoire of western classical, pop, Bollywood classics, spiritual and folk, this critically acclaimed choir is undoubtedly one of the best in the country. The lively performance of 50 young Chorale artists held the audience spellbound and their thrilling performance provided an example of the immense talent pool that exists in the northeastern region.

Rajesh Bundela, one of the members from the audience said Nagaland is a land of music and he has seen many talented musicians from the region. He added that



their participation in concerts like this one would encourage other performers also.

'Patkai Chorale' troupe has been successfully performing in New Delhi for the past five years. And, the man behind the success is its founder, Lipokmat Tzudir. In 2006, Sangeet Natak Akademi awarded him the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar in the creative arts category for excellence in choral music. Tzudir is dedicated to bringing people together through music.

He said that the greatness of the nation lies in its diversity and each culture; community, religion and race has something to contribute to it. Patkai Chorale now plans to perform in other parts of the country to spread the message of national integration.

PULENO NEIKHA: BUDDING SEPAK TAKRAW PLAYER FROM NAGALAND

22-year-old Puleno Neikha is a Naga who is well known for her skills in Sepak Takraw or kick Volleyball. She hails from Dimapur, and has represented India at various international championships.

Recently she helped the country win a bronze medal at International Senior Sepak Takraw championship in Malaysia. Neikha said she feels great representing India at international level and it's like a dream come true.

Sepak Takraw, a popular sport in Southeast Asia, requires agility and flexibility among the players. In northeastern region, the youngsters have a physique suitable for this sport. Better infrastructure and training facilities will help them hone their skills.



Holshe Khrieo, Coach of Puleno Neikha said the government is helping by providing financial assistance. Funds have been released to conduct matches and to provide better coaching.

Militancy in the region had delayed the improvement of the sports infrastructure in the region. But, with peace gradually returning there is a new wave of development. And this is good news for budding sportspersons in the region. Meanwhile Puleno Neikha who is a role model for other aspiring players in Nagaland is working hard to bring laurels to the country.



CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMME IN NORTH-EAST REGION

1. Civic Action Programme by ITBP

Various activities have been carried out by ITBP under BADP and Civic Action Programme of MHA to integrate the people of border/ far flung areas with the national mainstream, especially in the North-East region of India.

The force is working actively to improve the lives of local population, particularly the poor under Civic Action Programme through centers at Kimin and Tawang.

Activities for livelihood support like computer courses, establishment of community food processing centre, mushroom cultivation unit, hand made paper-making unit have been organised at these centres. Certain other activities like bee keeping, conducting football tournament, village health care programmes and adventure programmes for village students have also

been held recently under CAP (NE) 2009-10 in Papumpare district and under BADP 2009-10 in Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh.

On June 5, 2010, fish seeds and fruit saplings were distributed in several villagers, including Kimin, Durpang, Bello, Kakoi, Shantinagar, Hawa camp, Sher & Model.

Under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) in the month of February, 2010 track suits, sport t-shirts with shorts were distributed to meritorious players in villages Anini, Metaliang, Chaka, Trempa, Moren, Biyanali, Molin and Roing.

Locals appreciated the works done by ITBP for the welfare and initiatives taken by the Units to develop a sense of belonging and cohesiveness.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



World Environment Day was observed at BOPs and HQ 83 Bn BSF Mawpat, A&M Ftr on 5th June 2010 with grate fervor and enthusiasm. 2500 saplings of various fruits and timber value were planted.

2. Civic Action programme by BSF

The Border Security Force celebrated the World Environment Day with great fervour and enthusiasm at BOPs and HQ of 83 Bn in Mawpat on 5th June 2010. 2500 saplings of various trees were planted.

Earlier, on 27th May 2010, 162 Bn BSF held a free medical camp for locals near BOP New Dewanalga, under the civic action programme. A total of 750 civilians/patients were examined or treated and free medicines were distributed.

The 98 Bn of the BSF organized a free medical camp for border population on Indo Bangladesh Border under civic action programme as well when around 1,000 people were examined and treated and free medicines were distributed.

CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMME



Free medical camp for border population was organized near BOP New Dewanalga, 162 Bn BSF on 27 May 2010 under civic action programme. Total 750 civilians/patients were examined/treated and distributed free medicines.

READERS COLUMN

The NE monthly Newsletter is being published in English, Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri and has circulation of 40,000. 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

Note - It is proposed to resort to e-mail despatch of the NE Newsletter. Readers are requested to furnish their e-mail address on donedc-mh@nic.in

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Sir,

I have read the NE Newsletter Vol. XII No. – 4, April, 2010 and I find it useful about many issues of North-East.

I will be obliged of you if you kindly send me English copy of the following address:-
Nayan Goswami



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.

C/o Dhiren Goswami

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2. I would like to inform you that the NE Newsletter is very much useful in my fields of study. I, therefore, request you for regular supply of a copy preferably in Manipur.

Aheibam Monoroma Chanu

C/o A. Harimani Singha

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MHA requests the readers to send their response through e-mail at: nenchiefeditor@nic.in/neneditor@nic.in/donedc-mha@nic.in

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