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07 TEAM ARUNACHAL

EDUCATION

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Deploying an independent agency for ranking schools and evaluating teaching quality in all primary and upper primary schools (**₹1 crore**)

Computer aided learning smart classroom to cover 1500 classrooms under Chief Minister's Adhunik Shiksha Yojana. (**₹30 crores**)



Completion of VKV Longding and commencing classes at VKV Mukto (**₹12 crores**)

RK Mission to establish a residential school at Lumdung in East Kameng District. (**₹15 crores corpus fund & ₹16 crores outlay**)



Completion of Tomo Riba State Medical College and commencing classes from the academic year 2018-19. (**₹45 crores**)

Ekalavya Schools to be opened at Medo in Lohit district and Tirbin in West Siang district. (**₹60 crores**)



Arunachal Rising



/PemaKhanduBJP



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Cover Story **UNDERSTANDING NAGA PEACE ACCORD**



The details of the Naga Framework Agreement or the Naga Peace Accord, which was signed on August 3, 2015, between the Government of India and the Naga armed groups headed by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Issak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) is yet to be made public and much is to be known as what does this agreement actually holds. The talks about the agreement being made public on December 25, 2017, have also gained wings in the recent weeks. If the details published in the NSCN (IM) website is to be believed, then the Naga Framework Agreement which paves the way for the formation of a Greater Nagaland or Nagalim then there is a likelihood that the new 'state' will also include those areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and parts of Myanmar that has a major Naga population and this has led to widespread protests in Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh. However, nothing is final as of it and there is a lot more to be known about the agreement. Northeast Today digs in deeper and brings forth a detailed analysis about the history of the Naga movement and the possible impact the final signing of the Naga agreement might have on the political scenario of the Northeast.

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Special Story **MEDICAL TOURISM AND NORTHEAST**



Medical tourism is a relatively new term for a lot of people reading this, but it's an age old concept. Medical tourism refers to the activity of people traveling from one place to another to get the medical benefits which are not available at their own location. In its initial stages, it meant travelling from developing to the developed Nations in search of better health care and treatment facilities. However, nowadays, the tables have turned in favor of the developing Nations. People from the first world Nations now travel to third world countries to get equally good treatment at a much cheaper price, or for certain medical procedures which are illegal in their native countries. For example, a lot of tourists come in from Europe and Middle East to India for medical treatments at a lesser cost. While people from India go to Nepal for even cheaper procedures.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

NAGA FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT MUST YIELD AMICABLE RESULTS

Mystery shrouds the Naga Peace Accord or the Framework Agreement (FA), which was signed between the Government of India (GoI) and the NSCN (IM) on August 3, 2015. And as the date of disclosure of the details of the FA draws nearer, a sense of fear has gripped the people of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur. It is speculated that as per the agreement, the Naga inhabited areas in these three states may just be included in the proposed Nagalim state. And to make matters worse, the NSCN (IM) in its website have published a tentative map of the new Nagalim state and it shows many areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur as a part of the new state. This has been protested by various civil body organisations of these states along with the respective state governments clearly stating that they would not part with an inch of land from their states to be ceded into Nagalim. The Centre has also assured that no state will have to lose an inch of their land.

The Naga-GoI stand-off is over six decades old and finding an amicable solution to it is the call of the hour. But when nothing about the FA is clear till now, to act and react on the basis of some speculations is not proper. An important question and this juncture, however, is that will the GoI put a blind eye to the aspirations of the people of three states in order to endorse the dreams and hopes of the people of one state who have been fighting for over 50 years? The answer to this question is again a question itself. However, it is a wide belief that the agreement and the formation of Nagalim must not harm the territorial integrity of the neighbouring states.

The details of the FA may be declared towards the end of this month or it may again be stretched into the New Year. But whatever the FA actually and truly holds, will be known only when the report is made public. At this hour, all that we need to do is to sit calm and wait.

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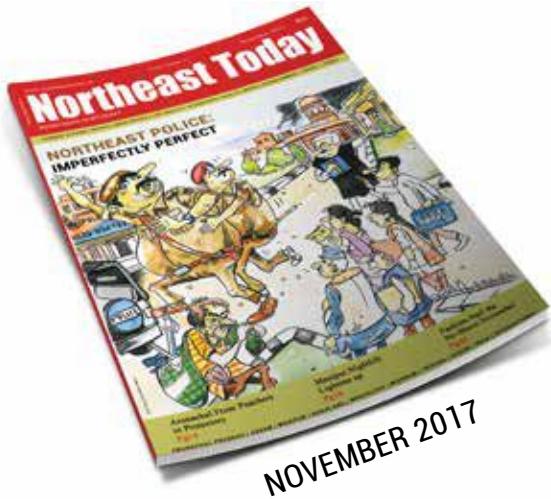


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First of all I would like to thank the entire Northeast Today team for working so hard in bringing out a wide range of stories from the entire region. Secondly, I would like to express my happiness over the cover page design and the cover story of the November issue. I am not a reader of the magazine at all, but when I saw the caricature, I was intrigued. I bought the magazine immediately and read it completely. I loved your choice of wide range of stories. Keep the good job up

Dibakar Sinha, Imphal



Northeast Today is doing a good job in bringing the region forward. I enjoy reading your stories, but here I would love if you give a little more emphasis in doing stories on those tribes and cultural practices of the region that are hardly known to the world. I am waiting to read such a story.

Sonali Barman, Guwahati



Yeah! Thanks a ton for helping me out to choose the beard style this November.

Animesh Das, Nagaon



Yes, the police forces of the Northeast need to better themselves in many regards. Moreover, the government should seriously think of providing them with best of the facilities. Thank you for highlighting the lacunae of the department in the region. Hope this works as an eye opener to the government.

Daniel K Langthasa, Karbi Anglong



Northeast India is a living museum and there is a lot more to explore than what has been done so far. I was happy to see the local mocktails featured in the November issue of the magazine. I will surely try them to quench my thirst in the summer next year.

Monalisha Sohliya, Shillong



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THEY STATED



“One must remember that nowhere in the world has any democracy undertaken such a coercive move, withdrawing 86 per cent of legal tender in one single swoop”

Dr Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister
(Commenting on one-year completion of demonetisation)

“Arunachal Pradesh is our territory, we will go there. The opinion of others on the issue is not a concern for us”

Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister
(In reply to China's object over her visit to Arunachal Pradesh)



“Niti Aayog by its works is only shaping the ideas to protect the interests of the corporate sectors, but it was not forming any concept to give relief to the common and poor people of the country, who constitute major portion of the population”

Manik Sarkar, Tripura CM
(While addressing a public rally in Agartala)

“If we do not go organic, our future will not be safe. Delhi has become most polluted city in the world and we cannot blame others for it. These are warning signs and we must take eco-friendly measures”

Pawan Chamling, Sikkim Chief Minister
(While floating the idea of replacing fertiliser subsidy with incentives to promote organic farming in the country)





“I wasted 23 years of my Political Life being in the Congress”

**Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam Minister and former Congress Leader
(While speaking at a book release event in Delhi)**

“Present time is golden opportunity to resolve Naga political issue”

TR Zeliang, Nagaland Chief Minister

**(Addressing the 18th Biennial Conference of
All Nagaland College Students' Union in Mokokchung)**



“National media not giving proper place to Manipur”

Najma Heptulla, Manipur Governor

**(During an interaction with a delegation of Press Council of India,
Press Association, Indian Journalist Union and Editors Guild of India)**

“Art of Living doesn't act for government agencies”

Ravi Shankar, Spiritual leader

**(After two arrested HNLC leader of Meghalaya claimed them as the volunteers
of Art of Living who were authorised by the Indian government to open peace
parleys with Bangladesh).**



ARUNACHAL ERECTS STATUE HONOURING BHUPEN HAZARIKA

The Arunachal Pradesh government has erected a ten-foot bronze statue of legendary musician and singer Bhupen Hazarika at Bolung village in Dibang Valley district of the State. Sculpted by Biren Singh of Guwahati, the statue was erected in the village this year and would be formally unveiled in the early part of 2018. Arunachal government had allocated Rs 30 lakh for the statue in 2015 as a tribute to the legendary singer.



SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AWARD TO SCIENTIST FROM ASSAM

Ananta Borgohain, a nuclear scientist hailing from Demow in Assam's Sivsagar district, has been awarded the Scientific and Technical Excellence Award, 2016, by the Department of Atomic Energy. The award recognises accomplishments and exceptional achievements in research and development in science and technology and carries a medal, a citation and Rs 1 lakh. He was conferred the award for his contribution to the design of compact high temperature reactor, molten salt reactor and development of high temperature coolant technology.

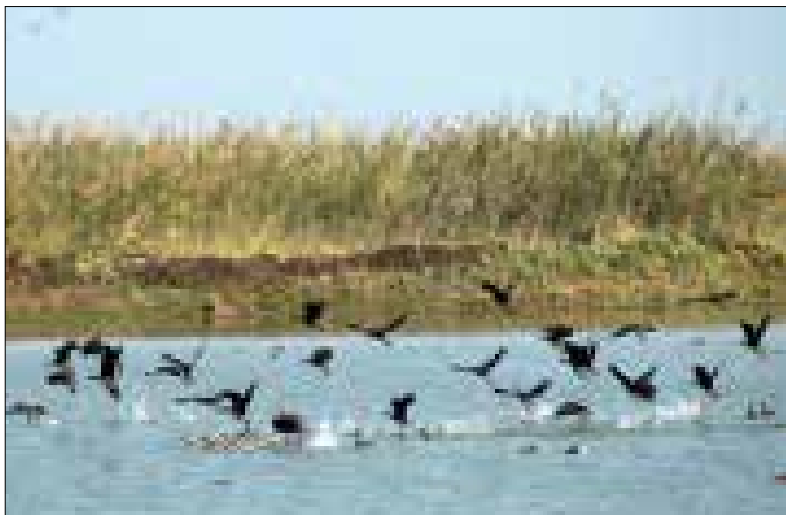


MARY KOM WINS GOLD

Boxing legend MC Mary Kom (48kg) clinched an unprecedented fifth gold medal at the ASBC Asian Confederation women's boxing championships. Up against North Korea's Kim Hyang Mi, the five-time World champion and Olympic bronze-medallist prevailed in a unanimous 5-0 verdict to add another medal to her already crowded cabinet.

MIZORAM AMONG SAFEST PLACES FOR WOMEN

A recent survey carried out by Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI), it has been revealed that after Goa and Kerala, Mizoram along with Manipur and Sikkim are the safest places for women in India. This is the first time that GVI has come up with a research report which analyses the Indian States where women are safer or crimes against women are minimal. The report was published by the women and child development ministry on Wednesday and was prepared by Plan India.



WINGED VISITORS TO LOKTAK DROPS DRASTICALLY

Manipur's Loktak Lake, a Ramsar site housing the only floating wildlife preserve on earth, has recorded a drastic drop in the number of feathered visitors from central and eastern Asia this year. Wildlife officials and activists informed that only about 5,000 migratory birds, many from Tibet and Yunnan in China, were sighted in January this year. This is a fall of about 42,000 from the 2016 figure. Activists believe that the birds might have been troubled mostly by the light-emitting diode or LED bulbs used for fishing at night. And this has led to the subsequent fall out.



PASSENGER HELICOPTER SERVICE RESUMES IN NAGALAND

As per reports, the Nagaland State Transport Department had resumed its passenger chopper service. The service was suspended in the past due to security reasons concerning the usage of Assam Rifles' helipad. The Nagaland State Transport Department maintains a reserved slot for Phek district in its weekly routine. The department has resumed its passenger helicopter service by partnering with Global Vectra Helicop Limited and is looking to cover all districts of Nagaland.



Representational Image

ARUNACHAL'S CHANGING EDUCATION SECTOR

Arunachal Pradesh, over the years, has witnessed development in every sector. And this was even attributed by President Ram Nath Kovind while addressing the valedictory function of 40 years celebrations of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Arunachal Pradesh at Indira Gandhi Park in Itanagar on November 19. Taking a leaf out from Kovind's speech, **Northeast Today** analyses on the changing scenario of the state, especially focussing on its education sector.

NET Bureau

First Few Words

The efforts made by the Arunachal Pradesh Education Department yielded positive results and it brought home the 'Best Performing Small State in Education' for the state at the India Today State of the States Conclave 2017 held in New Delhi recently. State Education Minister Honchun Ngandam along with Special Secretary (Education) Mitali Namchoom were present to receive the award that was presented by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. This recognition comes as a big boost for the state government, which has left no stone unturned to make Arunachal an educational hub- not just in the Northeast but also in the entire country.

Attending the valedictory function of 40 years celebrations of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Arunachal Pradesh at Indira Gandhi Park in Itanagar, Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced the setting up of a Skill

University to provide employment opportunities outside the government space, which Khandu believes will help the youth of Arunachal Pradesh to gain employment opportunities outside the government space.

AAPSU's View

Development of the education sector has always been on the priority list of All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) - the premier student body of the state. Over the years, the student body has put extra efforts and exerted pressure on the government to develop the education sector. In an exclusive interview with Northeast Today AAPSU President Hawa Bagang spoke about the organisation's view and steps that it has taken to develop the education scenario of the state.

AAPSU, in December 2016, had submitted a 17-point-charter of demands to the Arunachal government, seeking Pema Khandu's inter-

vention. Talking about it, Bagang said, “In our 17-point charter of demands to the State government in December last, AAPSU demanded for regular disbursement of payment to SSA teachers, systemisation and streamline of subject disciplines in government colleges, development of Arunachal University at Pasighat, adequate supply of textbooks and other teaching learning materials, timely disbursement of stipend and scholarship etc. I believe that the yardstick to determine the educational sector can be analysed by quality education, quality product or good results of the students.”

“I feel that the improvement of education cannot come from bottom but from the top, the state governments’ strong conviction and political will determine the future course of improvement. When we specifically analyse the educational scenario in Arunachal Pradesh, we have gravely hit three aspects, one the state has very poor infrastructure and other the present concept of requirement of smart class, secondly we do not have quality teacher which is one of the factor for poor results in educational sector and we are looking forward for the implementation for rationalization of teachers transfer and posting, supply of adequate teaching learning materials, textbooks, infrastructure, transparent recruitment policy etc,” the AAPSU president further added.

Government’s Initiatives

Under the behest of CM Pema Khandu, the Arunachal Pradesh government (under the education department) has approved the creation of 1,309 teaching and non-teaching posts, out of which 1,130 post are solely for teaching staff. This list includes 349 science and mathematics teachers.

Moreover, 57 new posts of teaching staff under the State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT), District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) and Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITE) have been created. Another 55 non-teaching staff positions have been created for SCERT, DIET and BITE. The council of ministers also approved 18 new posts



State Education Minister Honchun Ngandam receiving the Best Performing Small State in Education from Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

under the Directorate of Elementary Education.

The Arunachal Pradesh State Assembly recently passed the Kameng Professional and Technical University Arunachal Pradesh Bill 2017 (Amended) and the bill paved way for establishing a private university at Bhalukpong in West Kameng district.

Taking note of the shortage of teachers in several government colleges, Pema Khandu has further announced about the creation of 130 posts for teaching and non-teaching staff in 29 higher education institutes.

The government has also launched a series of signature schemes like the VIDYA Scheme, which was launched for girl students of Class VI for continuing school education. The scheme envisages an initial deposit of Rs10, 000 in their account, which can be drawn with interest after they pass Class XII.

To encourage and recognise the outstanding performance of principals, headmasters and teachers in schools, the Chief Minister’s Award for Excellence in Quality Education has also been announced by the state government.

While speaking at the inaugural function of Dera Natung Government College, Pema Khandu announced that the teachers of colleges and universities in Arunachal Pradesh will receive the benefits of 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC).



Gangyap EMRS Girls Basketball Team

SIKKIM'S GIRLS NETTING STARS

Until a few years back these girls certainly did not think that someday they would become the source of inspiration for many other girls and that a journalist from a distant state would talk and write about them. Well, that's the reality today and this all girls' basketball team from Sikkim is making headlines for all the right reasons. **Northeast Today** speaks to **Siddharth Yonzone**- the man responsible for bringing out that 'extra' from these super talented girls- and finds out more about them and their journey so far.

Bhargab Jyoti Sarmah

First Words

Once they were used to milking cows and gathering woods. But today, they are the shining armour in the world of basketball and they have not just made themselves proud, but also brought laurels to their state- Sikkim.

This all girls' basketball team from *Gangyap*- a small village in Sikkim- had no idea what basketball was till they were introduced to the game by Siddharth Yonzone, principal of Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS),

Gangyap. He not only introduced them to the sport, but instead infused the game to their veins and hence, today, the EMRS Gangyal Girls' Basketball Team is a force to reckon with- not just in Sikkim but in the entire nation.

The Beginning

Initially, Siddharth used to coach boys of a different school but later he switched to the girls after seeing their poor standards. After joining EMRS Gangyap in 2007, he started working with the girls' team. At first they had no

court, no boards. But basketball impressed them so much that they set up a handmade court for practicing. They collected stone chips and packed down the surface with cement.

"The improvement and interest I saw in the girls inspired me to train them harder. Watching the NBA also helped in training them," he says.

Nima Doma Bhutia was the first captain of the team. The team played its first match in Namchi Public School, SouthSikkim on May 2007.

Story So Far

Through various challenges the girls of Gangyap are making Sikkim proud at the national level. Even more, playing basketball proved to be life changing for them. It has given them huge exposure and their basketball journeys have taught them more about realities of life.

“Challenges have been plenty. But playing the nationals is something else. Only Nima Doma and Rinchen Doma have been playing for the Madhya Pradesh state team at the senior level. Sikkim has been recently affiliated to the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) but even then we have not been called to play in the senior nationals as of now. The girls want to play but without the support of those who can help them to play, it is difficult,” bemoans Siddharth.

Journey Continues

Challenges have never bogged these girls down. On the contrary, challenges have made them stronger to overcome obstacles and win medals, awards and since 2007, the team has only gone on to climb the ladder of success without looking back. So far, the team has won the Sikkim State Championship for 10 times.

EMRS Gangyap Girls’ Basketball Team became the first basketball team from Sikkim to win a medal at the national level.

They have won the CBSE North Eastern Regional Champions for the eighth consecutive time since 2010. In 2011 and 2013 they have won CBSE National Champions and in 2012



All Girls Team of Sikkim

they won a silver medal. They are also the silver medallist at the 24th North East Championship in 2010.

Since 2011 the EMRS Gangyap Girls’ Basketball Team has been the winner of the Darjeeling Open Basketball Championship. They were also the champions of the Northeast School Champions held in Mizoram. The team in 2016 won a bronze medal at the CBSE Nationals.

Nima Doma Bhutia, the former captain of the team won Chacha Nehru Sports Award for 3 consecutive times in 2011, 2012 and 2013. She was also adjudged as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) consecutively for three years.

In fact, she has already been called for the national camp twice. Yonzonzone believes that if she gets a chance to represent the country, Nima won’t disappoint. Seeing her wear the In-

dian jersey would be a victory for all the girls who first started this journey. Nima won’t just be playing for herself but all those who helped build that court and their dreams.

Final Words

Breaking the stereotypes, and with the help and guidance from a man who wanted to change the mindset, a few girls from a small Sikkim village have shown the path for many other girls to follow. With some more support from the government, these girls can surely scale many more peaks in the years to come. The change that they have initiated will not go in vain and in the years to follow there would be more girls from Sikkim who would take basketball as a career option and make India proud at the international level.

Photo Courtesy: Siddharth Yonzonzone



Women working inside a candle-making factory in Agartala

BRIGHTENING THE LIVES OF WOMEN

The Northeast region over the years has witnessed a rise in start-ups and other skill-development related entrepreneurship. Following their male counterparts with equal steps, it has been observed that women in many states across the country have created a niche for themselves and taken a lead in setting up various industries based on their learning from different skill development workshops. **Northeast Today** reports on how candle making business in Tripura is empowering women.

NET Bureau

First Words

Skill development entrepreneurialships, over the years, have witnessed a surge not just in the Northeast but across the country as well. From clothing to shoes to candles, a number of products have been manufactured by these entrepreneurs. In Tripura, of the biggest skill development entrepreneurship has been that of candle making and it has helped in empowering women in a great way. Candle making business has opened new avenues helping to boost the local economy. Many businessmen in the state are running candle production units and have employed several others.

“Eight to ten people work here every day and all

those engaged in manufacturing are women. They, after completing their household chores, work here and earn well. Since there aren't many power cuts in the region, so the demand of candles is mainly for worshipping purposes,” reports *Outlook* quoting the owner of a candle production unit Tapan Saha.

“My father started this unit after he gained training about candle making at a workshop held in Assam some 10 years ago. His motto was to engage and empower the unemployed youth of the area. Very little did he realise that his small initiative would one day help in running of 15-18 families,” says AK Das, owner of a candle production unit and a candle retailer while talking to *Northeast Today*.

“Even though power cuts in the state is rare and candles are bought most during the festive seasons or for religious purposes, there is, however, always a competition among the candle makers to make the best and the stylish candles,” adds on Das.

Tales of Empowerment

Candle making industry in Tripura has witnessed a large involvement of women- either as a worker or as an entrepreneur. These women, apart from empowering themselves, have also helped in the growth of the local economy.

Reboti Nandi, a 37-year-old worker at AK Das’ unit, while speaking to *Northeast Today*, says, “My husband works as a helper in one of the garment stores at Jagat Bazaar area. His earning is not enough for sustaining our family of four. Hence, I decided to work here and I am happy that with this little share, we are at least having some savings.”

Another worker, seeking anonymity, said, “I am a child widow and have also been sexually harassed. I was afraid of the society, but always wanted to do something meaningful in life. I took to candle making and it changed my life forever. Even though the initial few months were tough, but with time I have been able to make a name for myself and today I am earning my own bread and butter. I am living a life with head held high.”

Speaking to *Northeast Today*, Ananya Gogoi Baruah, a Guwahati-based candle maker who also

imparts training and conducts workshop, said women in Tripura are quick to learn the basics of candle-making and thus so they have been able to adapt to the demands of the industry.

“I have conducted workshops in each and every state of the Northeast. What strikes the women from Tripura out from rest of others is their zeal and determination. I have never witnessed such enthusiasm anywhere else. They have their own ideas, their own designs and this has actually helped them and also the business to grow,” says Baruah.

“I am happy to know that the candle making industry is helping in empowering the women. Hope, more such initiatives come up in the region and we have more participation of women,” she adds on.

In Conclusion

The candle industry of Tripura is among many such industries that have been promoting Prime Minister’s Skill India (PMSI) campaign. The PMSI campaign is thriving to train over 40 crore people in India in different skills by 2022. It includes various initiatives of the government like National Skill Development Mission, National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and the Skill Loan scheme. It is hoped the more and more skill-based industries and more women find engagement in these industries.





Arrested APSC Chairman and other officials

APSC SCAM: 23 IN POLICE DRAGNET

APSC scam took a new turn this November, when Assam police under the behest of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal apprehended 23 officials (who were) appointed during the Congress regime. Among the arrested include Rajashri Sen Deka, son of former agriculture minister Nilamoni Sen Deka; Gitali Doley relative of former tourism minister Sumitra Doley and Sunayana Aideo, close relative of union minister Rajen Gohain. **Northeast Today** reports

NET Bureau

Throwback

The Sarbananda Sonowal led BJP government in Assam, sticking to its pre-poll promise of uprooting corruption from the state, on November 8, 2017, took a step forward in the direction when Assam police picked up 11 ACS and APS officials from different districts of the state in connection to 'cash-for-job' scam which allegedly took place during Tarun Gogoi's tenure as the Chief Minister. The tainted officers passed out the APSC (Assam Public Service Commission) exam in 2013.

The arrests came after the investigating team headed by Additional SP of Dibrugarh, SS Panesar, received forensic reports

confirming the allegations against 25 officers who were put through a handwriting test in June earlier this year. The handwriting samples were sent to five forensic laboratories in the country. Till the filing of this report, 23 officials have either been arrested or they have surrendered voluntarily before the police after they were found to have adopted unfair means to clear the examination.

The APSC scandal took place during the time when Tarun Gogoi led Congress government was functioning in the state and Rakesh Kumar Paul was the APSC chairman. Paul was appointed as APSC member in 2008 and in 2013 he became the chairman of the commission.

Storyline

The massive APSC cash for job scam was unearthed with the arrest of Nabakanta Patir, an assistant engineer at the Town and Country Planning department in October 2016 on the basis of a complaint lodged by a young dental surgeon Angshumita Gogoi who was demanded cash for job.

On October 25, 2016 Angshumita lodged a complaint at Dibrugarh police station mentioning that Nabakanta Patir had demanded (her) an amount of Rs 15 lakh to confirm her selection in APSC. Based on Angshumita's complaint Dibrugarh police raided Patir's house and caught him red handed. As per the sources, Patir used to collect cash on behalf

of former APSC chairman Rakesh Kumar Paul. Following Patir's arrest two APSC members Samedur Rahman and Basanta Kumar Doley were also arrested in connection with the scam.

DGP Informs

While speaking to Northeast Today, regarding the investigation, Director General of Police (DGP) Assam, Mukesh Sahay, said, "In the first phase we arrested 3 persons- APSC chairman Rakesh Paul and two members- Samedur Rahman and Basanta Kumar Doley in connection with the cash-for-job scam and after few days Pabitra Kaibarta— assistant controller of APSC examination was arrested."

Assam police is now investigating on 25 officers among them 23 has been already arrested.

"Three accused are still absconding which will be nabbed soon," Sahay further said.

He informed that all the arrested officials have been sent to 14-day police custody and charge-sheet has been filed against a few members and the Chairman of the commission.

"Assam police is investigating

the scam in the most transparent way," DGP stated, adding, "Further action will be taken after receiving more answer scripts from APSC."

Assam Congress Speaks

In this regard while talking to NET, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) spokesperson Apurba Bhattacharjee said, "Nothing to be opposed in this regard definitely we welcome this step of Assam government. However, we feel that something has not been taken into investigation where the powerful ministers' names are involved."

"Assam BJP is trying to show that everything has happened during the Congress regime, but the accused are not at all Congress workers or supporters, they are representatives from various works of life," he said, adding, "It is quite unfortunate that despite knowing the fact that a large number of people are involved in the scam, BJP is putting the kin and relatives of Congressmen in the limelight."

Bhattacharjee also questioned why the investigation is silent on BJP leaders' affairs, "1 relative of a BJP MP and 2 relatives of another

BJP MLA have secured their position through unfair means. However, they are yet to be included under the investigation radar."

Further slamming the BJP government for targeting 2013 batch he said, "BJP is certainly trying to malign the Congress' image. We have not rushed to anybody to stop the investigation. But I genuinely feel still free and fair investigation has not done in this regard."

While concluding his conversation Bhattacharjee mentioned that Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has full faith in law.

"We believe law will take its own course and no investigation agency will work in a bias manner," he said.

Last Words

It may be mentioned here that the arrests in regards to this cash-for-job scam will not just end with the arrest of just 25 officials. The investigating team has an aim to track down many more officials who have made their way to the government jobs by paying bribes and as per sources, around 2000 officials might go to jail.

Arrested Officials

Dipak Khanikar (Election Officer, Sivasagar), Hemanta Hillol Saikia (DSP, Jorhat), Jayanta Kr Nath (Asst. Commandant, Bongaigaon wing, 7th APBN), Dwithum Borgayari (CO, Dotoma) Sabbira Imran (Assistant Commandant, 12th APBN, Sonitpur), Raju Saha (Labour Inspector, Bhabanipur), Debojit Bora (Election Officer, Hamren), Harshajyoti Bora (DSP, Border, Guwahati), Pallabi Sarma Chowdhury (Revenue Circle Officer, Darrang), Amarjit Das (Assistant Employment Officer, Sonitpur), Anirudha Roy, (Circle Officer, Kadam, Lakhimpur), Himangshu Chowdhury (Circle Officer, Agomoni), Jatindra Prasad Baruah (Asst Commandant, 8th APBN), Kunal Das (Circle Officer, Banekuchi, Nalbari) and Dilip Kumar Kalita (Assistant Commandant, 5th APBN, Kontilla, Haflong) Sudipta Goswami Bhattacharjee, (Employment Officer, Hailakandi), Rajarshi Sen Deka (Circle Officer, Musalpur, Baksa), Kamal Debnath (Circle Officer, Dhemaji), Jyotimoy Adhikary (Labour Inspector, Dhubri), Sunayana Aideo (Inspector of Tax, Nagaon) Gitali Doley (Circle Officer, Gogamukh, Dhemaji) Rumi Saikia (Circle officer Bengtol, Chirang)

Two officials—Nisha Moni Deka (ACS), and Rakesh Gupta (APS) are still absconding.

STATEWIDE MIZORAM



Mizoram Football Association

INDIA'S UPCOMING SPORTS HUB

Giving a tough competition to Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who is leaving no stone unturned to turn Guwahati as the sports capital of India, Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla is also trying his best to make the state the sports hub of the country. Subsequently, for tapping the untapped talents Mizoram government has already launched the Catch Them Young policy and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tata Trusts. **Northeast Today** finds out more about the Mizoram government's initiatives and the way forward.

Syantani Deb

Mizoram, which is the considered as one of the most peaceful states of India, is steadily progressing in the sports arena as well. And the credit must go to Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla and his proactive policies due to which the state is one the verge of becoming the next sports hub of India.

While interacting with NET on behalf of the Mizoram government, president of Youth Congress and vice-president of Volleyball Federation of India Lalmalsawma Nghaka, said, "The people of Mizoram are lucky

enough to have Lal Thanhawla as Chief Minister and Zodintluanga as the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs. Both the ministers are avid sports enthusiasts and thus are very proactive towards the promotion of sports in the state."

"Post coming to power, the present Mizoram government has completely improved and modernised the crumbling sports infrastructure of the state," pointed Nghaka.

Further getting candid, Nghaka stated, "Mizoram State Sports Council under the guidance of Sports Minister Zodint-

luanga is trying to make sure that each of the recognised State Level Sports Associations has their own infrastructure and training facilities, so that each sports association can promote and popularise their respective disciplines so that we can find new talent in their respective disciplines."

"Presently, most of the State Level Sports Associations have their own sports halls and training centres," he added.

Catch Them Young Policy

Few years back Mizoram government has initiated a poli-

Renovations and Modernisations

- Lammual playground, situated at the heart of Aizawl city has been renovated and converted into a modern football ground with world class artificial turfs, proper spectator galleries, modern lighting equipments, which enabled night match in the playground. The project was implemented by the Mizoram State Sports Council (MSSC) at the cost of 367.78 lakhs.
- Besides, Thuamluaia Mual playground at Lunglei and Chhnagphut playground in Champhai was also renovated at the cost of Rs. 411.85 lakhs and Rs 412 lakhs respectively.
- Construction of sports stadium at Zotlang, boys hockey ground at Kawnpui and hockey astro turf at Thenzawl.
- Multipurpose Indoor Hall at Mualpui Aizawl, at the cost of Rs. 753 lakhs. This mutli purpose indoor hall is being used for National Championships like Table Tennis, Volleyball, Futsal, Boxing, Shooting etc.
- In Lungle also, multipurpose indoor hall has been constructed at the cost Rs. 600 lakh (aprox).

cy titled— ‘Catch Them Young’. Under this policy training is being provided to young children in various sports disciplines through state level sports associations.

“Catch Them Young Policy has given tremendous dividends as young talents got nurtured properly,” stated Nghaka, adding, “Children of Mizoram are not only making the state proud, rather they are making the entire nation proud with their achievements.”

Due to synergies of good sports infrastructure, a policy to indentify young talent and strengthening state level sports associations Mizoram so far has made tremendous progress in the sports arena.

Besides, the Mizoram State Sports Council and Sports & Youth Services are also mulling to provide good coaches in all disciplines. The two bodies have a dedicated pool of NIS trained

coaches who travel at the length and breadth of Mizoram for giving coaching to the financially backward children.

Role of Mizoram

State Sports Associations

Sports associations in Mizoram have already organised a number of local leagues such as Mizoram Premier League (Football), Mizoram Pro Volleyball League (Volleyball), Mizoram Super League (Basketball), Mizoram Fight League (Taekwondo), Mizoram Badminton League, etc.

These leagues have not only helped the local Mizo players to compete with the best talents of India and abroad but also local players have now started receiving regular salaries from their respective clubs.

For conducting various competitions, training and coaching Mizoram State Sports

Council allocates funds to the respective state associations.

As per Nghaka, through various pro-active policies of state government sports has a viable employment alternative in the Mizoram.

“A number of Mizo football players like Jeje Lalpekhlua, Mama who are currently playing in various premier football clubs of India are earning seven or eight figure annually,” he informed.

“Besides, football Mizo athletes are also making an impact in disciplines like weight lifting, boxing, table tennis, hockey, combat sports etc internationally, with sportsperson from our state bagging podium finishes in International events,” he mentioned.

Final Words

In December 2016, Mizoram government has signed a MoU with Tata Trusts to nurture the sports talent of the state by harnessing the rich wealth of talent and existing sports infrastructure.

According to Mizoram CM, the main aim behind this initiative is to empower the young generation by promoting diversified means of livelihoods and creating development that makes a long-lasting difference.

“I believe Mizoram has full of untapped talents which is difficult to tap without proper infrastructure, State Sports Associations and proactive policies. In this regard, our government has tried its level best to address these issues,” Nghaka concluded.

UNDERSTANDING NAGA PEACE ACCORD



NSCN(IM) Secretary Gen T Muviah (L) and GoI interlocutor RN Ravi (R)

The details of the Naga Framework Agreement or the Naga Peace Accord, which was signed on August 3, 2015, between the Government of India and the Naga armed groups headed by the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Issak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) is yet to be made public and much is to be known as what does this agreement actually holds. The talks about the agreement being made public on December 25, 2017, have also gained wings in the recent weeks. If the details published in the NSCN (IM) website is to be believed, then the Naga Framework Agreement which paves the way for the formation of a Greater Nagaland or Nagalim then there is a likelihood that the new 'state' will also include those areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and parts of Myanmar that has a major Naga population and this has led to widespread protests in Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh. However, nothing is final as of it and there is a lot more to be known about the agreement. *Northeast Today* digs in deeper and brings forth a detailed analysis about the history of the Naga movement and the possible impact the final signing of the Naga agreement might have on the political scenario of the Northeast.

Partha Prawal

First Few Words

Despite assurances from the Centre that no land either from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam or Manipur will be ceded to Greater Nagaland (Nagalim) as the peace talks between the Government of India and NSCN (IM) have picked up space over the past few weeks, a sense of fear, howev-

er, has gripped the people of these states. The main reason for this fear is the NSCN (IM)'s demand to include all the Naga inhabited areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur in the proposed Nagalim territory encompassing an area of nearly 1,20,000 sq km - more than seven times Nagaland's 16,527 sq km area. The demand has been en-

dorsed five times till date by Nagaland Assembly between 1964 and 2015.

Even though the government interlocutor RN Ravi has maintained that the settlement won't alter the maps of any of these states, however, the NSC (IM) has insisted that territorial integration of Naga areas will be part of the settlement.



Naga leaders with PM Narendra Modi and other delegates

And in the middle of these conflicting statements, it is the common people from these three states who find themselves in a soup. Several civil society organisations, student bodies, and the political parties have made it clear that no matter what, they will not allow an inch of their land to be ceded into Nagalim. The confusion has surfaced mainly due because the details of the 'framework agreement' are still in the closet, far away from public view. It is speculated that the details of the framework might be made public on December 25, 2017, and the over six decade long Naga issue may finally reach to a conclusion. But, at this stage nothing can be said with a certainty.

Peeping into the Past

Prior to the arrival of the British into Nagaland the province had no connection either with Indian mainland or Myanmar (erstwhile Myanmar). The first British contact with the Nagas was in 1832 in the Angami region where the Angamis and the British locked horns in a conflict. With superior firepower, the British defeated the Angamis. In fact,

the entire Naga homeland came under the British administrative control in 1866 and after the fall of Khonoma in 1879, an unwritten peace was negotiated between the Nagas and the British. The Naga homeland was excluded from the British India and it came to be known as Naga Hills Excluded Area (NHEA).

India gained its independence in 1947 and accordingly an accord was signed with the then existing princely states and colonies in India. The accord, however, failed to address the nationalist aspirations of several ethnic groups who went on to form numerous independent movement and the movement for an independent and sovereign Nagaland was one of these.

The Naga nationalist aspirations began to take shape much before the World War II. Naga Club was formed and its members and leaders were mainly those who had returned from France and had served in the British Army during the WWI. The Naga Club in January 1929 had submitted a political memorandum (with twenty signatories) to the Simon Commission, demanding for their exclusion from the

'reformed scheme of India'. The memorandum was debated in the House of Commons and it resulted in the exclusion of the Naga inhabited areas from the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935. Nagaland was made an excluded area and the administration of the Naga Hills was left to the discretion of the Governor of Assam. The prime aim of the Governor of Assam was to protect the Nagas from economic exploitation.

From 1939 to 1945, the Nagas intensively discussed with the British government in India for the independence of Nagaland. The discussions were extensively carried forward by the Naga Club. With an aim to unite all Naga tribes under one political umbrella, Naga National Council (NNC) - a political group- was formed in 1946 under the leadership of T Alibi Imti, Angami Zapu Phizo and a few others- all members of the Naga Club. The NNC, after its formation, strongly stated that it would form a sovereign democratic republic called Nagaland.

In June 1947, the then Gov-

ernor of Assam Sir Muhammad Saleh Akbar Hydari, negotiated with the NNC on behalf of the Indian Constituent Assembly and signed a 9-point agreement; the last point of this agreement being the most controversial.

The last point of the agreement stated that, 'after 10 years of the agreement's implementation, the NNC would be asked whether it would wish to rest the agreement for a further period or would it want to reach a new agreement for the future of the Naga people.'

This agreement, however, had a little impact and it can be said it only catalysed the entire naga movement. Hydari, on the very evening of signing the agreement warned the Naga leaders that if the Naga Hills district refused to join the Indian Union, then force would be used against them. Despite the warning the NNC wasted no time in defying it and it declared complete independence of the Naga people on August 14, 1947- a day before India gained her independence. Then with Hydari's death on 1948, the agreement too died.

Attaining Statehood

In May 1951, the NNC launched a plebiscite in Nagaland and 99 pc of the Naga people supported an independent Nagaland. The issue of the Naga independence and the verdict of the Naga plebiscite were put forward to the then Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on March 11, 1952. Nehru rejected the demand for an independent Nagaland. This rejection resulted in repercussions in Nagaland and NNC launched civil disobedience

campaign and refused to pay taxes and boycotted India's first general elections of 1952. Neither anyone from Nagaland stood for the elections, nor did anyone from Nagaland cast their vote.

Even though Nehru in 1951 had rejected NNC's plebiscite verdict or refused to talk on the independence of Nagaland, the NNC leaders, however, saw a ray of hope when Nehru decided to visit Kohima and his March 30, 1953 Kohima visit was greatly welcomed by the people of Nagaland as well as the NNC leaders. Nehru was accompanied by the then Burmese PM O Nu and his personal assistant and hostess Indira Gandhi. The visit of two the PMs was seen as an opportunity by the NNC leaders to present their cause and they prepared a memorandum to be presented to both of them. Nehru, however, rejected to receive any written or oral address on the Naga independence issue. This led to the boycotting of Nehru's programme by a large number of the attendees and Nehru addressed the meeting in front of a handful of people. Following this, there was crackdown on the NNC leaders and a number of leaders were arrested. The entire Naga Hills was declared disturbed and subsequently The Disturbed Area Act was imposed. Nagaland, thus, fell under martial law.

Meanwhile, things took a different turn altogether when Phizo, realising the danger of armed repression, on August 10, 1954 entered into an agreement with the leaders of Free Naga and formed Naga Country Guard-the first armed resistance group- to oppose the Indian armed forces. By

1955, the Indian Army moved into Tuensang. The Assam Disturbed Areas Act, 1955, was introduced to enable the Assam armed police and the Assam Rifles to act without any legal restrictions whatsoever.

On March 22, 1956, the NNC inaugurated its own Federal Government of Nagaland (FGN) - an armed opposition movement-amalgamated with the Naga Homeguard, which was later known as the Naga Army.

While the armed confrontation continued, attempts were made to negotiate peace and thus the Naga People's Convention (NPC) was formed in Kohima on August 26, 1957 to mediate between the warring factions. To work-out a peaceful solution, the NPC drafted out a 16-point plan and it was put before the Indian government. Even though several Naga rebel leaders pointed this plan as a ploy to divide the Nagas along territorial and tribal lines, rounds of talks and discussions for peace, however, continued and the 16-point agreement was finally signed on July 26, 1960 between the representatives of NPC and the Indian government. With the signing of the agreement, it did appear that the issue of Naga statehood was officially recognised. The state was recognised as the full-fledged state of Nagaland under the Indian Constitution on December 1, 1963.

Peace Talks

For the first time in Nagaland, a peace mission was convened on February 24, 1964 and it was initiated by the Nagaland Baptist Churches Council (NBCC),

which was made up BP Chaliha, the then Chief Minister of Assam; JP Narayan, Indian politician and Rev Michael Scott, a British citizen who championed the course of anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. On May 24, 1964, the Federal Government of Nagaland accepted the ceasefire agreement and the agreement was signed by BP Chaliha and was sent to Nehru for consideration on May 26. But due to Nehru's sudden death on May 27, the agreement could not be read by the Prime Minister. After Lal Bahadur Shastri became the Prime Minister, post Nehru's demise, the ceasefire agreement was finally signed on September 6, 1964. The peace talks, however, failed to yield fruitful results and it finally came to an end on May 4, 1966, after Rev Michael Scott was arrested in Shillong.

When Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister, the India-Naga talks took pace and six rounds of talks were held. She was in direct talk with the Naga leaders; however, she straightaway rejected the notion of Naga sovereignty. This led to the rejection of the ceasefire and it turned to a deadlock and it ensued from October 1967 onwards.

On August 31, 1972, the NNC, FGN and Naga Army were declared as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities Act, 1967. On the same day, the Government of India imposed Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. Imposition of this Act, hence, vested immense power to the army men and they could now shoot without having to take permission from seniors, and also conduct house raids and arrests

any person any person against whom there exist an iota of suspicion. And these could be carried out even without having the required documents or warrants. In 1974, Indira Gandhi launched an internal state of emergency and the Indian army was ordered to a fierce crackdown on the underground Naga resistance.

The Shillong Accord and Thereafter

The crackdown on the Naga resistance thus put the NNC and the FGN under immense pressure with the office to negotiate with the Indian government remaining open. A delegation comprising of the NNC and FGN members met with the then Assam Governor Lallan Prasad Singh at Shillong in November 1975. The delegation agreed to accept the Indian Constitution and lay down arms and lead a normal life. The Shillong Accord was signed on November 11, 1975.

However, terming the Shillong Accord as a betrayal and the signatories as traitors, it was denounced by the then NNC Vice President Isak Chishi Swu and Secretary General Thuingaleng Muivah. The Shillong Accord, in fact, led to differences among the various underground groups and as a result the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) was formed in 1980 with SS Khaplang teaming up with Isak and Muivah. The armed conflict between the GoI and the NSCN continued and the group also took over a company of the Assam Rifles at Oinam village in July 9, 1987.

The Indian army counter-attacked launching 'Operation

Bluebird', which incited communal discord- mainly between the Nagas and the Kukis. In April 1988, the NSCN split into two factions- NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K). Khaplang accused that Isak and Muivah had collaborated with the GoI to reject naga sovereignty. An attack on the NSCN headquarters followed where a number of NSCN members were killed. Isak and Muivah, however, survived the attack and gradually the NSCN faction led by them emerged as the strongest Naga resistance force.

NSCN (IM) leaders gained recognition at an international level and they began to participate in various UN gatherings. In 1997, the then Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, initiated a dialogue with the NSCN (IM). On May 30, 1997, a statement was issued endorsing peace process was issued by Isak and Muivah. And as a result on July 24, 1997, a three-month ceasefire was announced with effect from August 1, 1997. Peace dawned at last!

Greater Nagalim

NSCN (IM) secretary general Thuingaleng Muivah, endorsing for a unified Nagaland has always said that there is no greater or smaller Nagaland and that there is just one land which is theirs.

"We do not have greater Nagaland, nor do we have smaller Nagaland. We have just the land that belongs to us: nothing more than that, or nothing less than that. Our land was compact and still it is compact. It has been divided by the external forces, against the wishes and aspirations of the Naga people. There is nothing wrong on

the parts of the Naga people to live together as brothers and sisters. So there is no greater or smaller Nagaland. But the problem is that India wanted to keep the Nagas divided. This is the issue,” Muivah said while speaking for a documentary titled ‘Naga: A Cry for Freedom.’

Similar views echo even now and a majority of people in Nagaland thinks that the areas that are inhabited by the Nagas should come under one administration.

“Look into the history and then you would know that we were never a part of the Indian subcontinent. We were tricked and forced to be a part of the Indian land. Demanding a separation is not wrong. Even Assam wants to be independent. And then there are several other regions as well. I don’t think we are wrong in demanding a separate land for the Nagas,” said EL Jamir, a student from University of Delhi.

“The land was divided without our concern and sooner or later, all the Naga inhabited areas should come under one administrative rule. I am hopeful that this will happen soon and once the Naga Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015 is out, I think there will be a lot to rejoice for the people of Nagaland who have lost a lot in the past five-six decades,” he further added.

Reactions Galore

As reports pour in that the Naga Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015, between the Government of India and the Naga armed groups

headed by the NSCN (IM) draws towards its conclusion, fresh fears have gripped the people of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur as they feel that Naga inhabited areas of these areas may just be ceded into the Greater Nagalim territory. Reactions have started to flow in and right from civil body organisations to the respective governments of these states clearly stating that they will not allow an inch of land of their states to be included into Greater Nagalim.

Speaking to Northeast Today on behalf of the All Arunachal Pradesh Students’ Union (AAPSU), organisation’s deputy spokesperson Nepha Wangsa, said, “It has been learned from reliable sources the protracted Indo-Naga Political dialogue is nearing its final phase. The dialogue is shrouded in secrecy with no information coming out from any quarters, though the state of Arunachal Pradesh is one among the stakeholders along with North Eastern state like Assam and Manipur. Therefore, in this regard AAPSU, while reiterating its earlier representation to the Government of India once again make it clear that any decision that is detrimental to the territorial integrity of the state will not be accepted in any eventuality.”

“AAPSU had made its representation to the Union Home Minister in his visit to Arunachal Pradesh on the occasion of Statehood day celebration on February 20 earlier this year and in May that the indigenous people strongly oppose any move of GoI against the ter-

ritorial integrity of Arunachal Pradesh,” he further said, adding, “The AAPSU and the people would oppose tooth and nail against the settlement of Naga issue if any of the provisions affects the land and people of the state. The AAPSU and people of Arunachal Pradesh support the early solution to the long pending issue of Nagas of Nagaland but not at the cost of Arunachal Pradesh.”

A journalist from Manipur seeking anonymity owing to professional obligations, said, “What the agreement signed in 2015 actually holds is still a mystery. But what we have learned from the media and other sources and the map of Greater Nagalim, which was circulated, it is clear that land from Manipur along with Assam and Arunachal Pradesh will be included in the new state. This again is a violation of rights of the people who have been residing either in Manipur or in Assam or in Arunachal. The Naga inhabited areas in these three states are made of non-Naga people as well. And including them in the new Nagalim territory will be a violation of their rights.”

Samson Konyak, a resident of Naga Village in Sivasagar district of Assam, while speaking on the issue, said, “Even though we are Nagas by birth and still have our clan back in Dimapur, Mon and Kohima, we take pride in introducing ourselves as Assamese. So there is no point in saying that Naga inhabited areas of Assam will join the Greater Nagalim.”

“When I have discussed about the issue with my Naga friends in Dimapur and Kohima, they always feel that at this juncture the historical account of what Nagaland was some 100 years back cannot be taken into account. Nagaland lacks the resources to sustain as a separate country, he says,” added Samson.

“I am a Naga. I support a Greater Nagalim and the unification of the Naga areas. But the question here is as how should one proceed with this unification? I have visited areas in Assam and Manipur where there is a sizeable Naga population. But most of them say that they want to be a part of the Greater Nagalim,” said a Dimapur-based activist seeking anonymity.

Media Coverage

Speaking on the issue, a Guwahati-based journalist seeking anonymity owing to professional obligations, said, “The entire Nagalim issue has been made very complicated by the mysterious secrecy maintained by both central and state governments. As there is absolutely no information available on the contents of the framework agreement, people are free to speculation. These speculations are fuelling rumours like Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh will have to concede a large chunk of their land to Nagalim.”

“Our media is also giving air to these rumours to get ignited into a full-fledged communal clash. Media should be responsible while reporting on such a sensitive issue. The truth is bar-

ring those in power, none of us really know what the framework agreement consists of and speculating about it would make situation worse. There is no dearth of bad blood between communities in Northeast and media should work towards improving the scenario and not making it worse. Right now, I will hope that our media will report this issue as it happens and not speculate too much,” he concluded.

Brooding Over

The secrecy that has been maintained over the 2015 Naga framework agreement has thrown out several questions. Leaders, academicians, and scholars of the Naga issue are forced to wonder as what the frameworks agreement actually amounts to? NSCN (IM) has been accused of selling out to the government on the Naga cause. Some are sceptical about the entire issue and feel that the FA is just an empty piece of paper, with nothing promised. A few is also believe that there is actually no resolution in sight.

There is again a growing perspective among many who have been studying the Naga issue that the framework agreement enables the NSCN (IM) to continue with parallel governments, including recruitment and training, procurement of illegal weapons and running extortion networks.

Another section of the scholars of the Naga issue feels that in settling this decades old issue, there is also an issue of representation. Even though the NSCN (IM) remains to be

the dominant armed group, but there are also other groups like the NSCN (K) and the NNC who claims to represent the Nagas. Moreover, there also exists a difference of opinion among the Nagas, while some support the NSCN (IM), some NSCN (K) and another section supporting the NNC. Even if the details of the 2015 framework of agreement is made public on December 25 or somewhere in the near future, this divisive issue is certainly going to be a thorn in the flesh.

However, the main issue that concerns right now to the three states- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur- is about the possible change in their geography. The Centre, time and again has assured that there will not be a change in the geographical demography of the region due to the Naga Framework Agreement and that the geographical sovereignty of the region will remain as it is and that there is nothing much to worry.

Clouds of ‘ifs’ and ‘buts’ and a lot of speculations shroud the 2015 agreement and things will be clearer only after the Pandora’s Box opens. If the geographical boundaries of the state change, we may stand witness to another political and armed uprising. Centre will certainly not want this. It will certainly like an amicable solution to this decades old issue.

(References: Naga: A Cry for Freedom; Huffington Post, The Indian Express, The Hindu, Hindustan Times)



MEDICAL TOURISM AND NORTHEAST

Medical tourism is a relatively new term for a lot of people reading this, but it's an age old concept. Medical tourism refers to the activity of people traveling from one place to another to get the medical benefits which are not available at their own location. In its initial stages, it meant travelling from developing to the developed Nations in search of better health care and treatment facilities. However, nowadays, the tables have turned in favor of the developing Nations. People from the first world Nations now travel to third world countries to get equally good treatment at a much cheaper price, or for certain medical procedures which are illegal in their native countries. For example, a lot of tourists come in from Europe and Middle East to India for medical treatments at a lesser cost. While people from India go to Nepal for even cheaper procedures.

Sisir

PRESENT SCENARIO:

India is a pioneer in this new form of tourism and gradually Tamil Nadu has become the hub of medical tourism in India. Not only for foreigners, it is also the main destination for domestic medical tourists, i.e. people from different parts of India. This flow of tourists have created quite a few changes in the fabric of Chennai, the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu.

Till about 10 years back, surviving in that

city without the knowledge of their language was a nightmare. Even for the most basics of needs, language barrier was distinctly visible! But now the changes are quite evident, especially in one of the largest private hospitals of India- the Apollo group of Hospitals. Both the doctors and administrative staff are now versed at least in Hindi, if not any other north Indian languages, especially from North or Northeast India. This makes it very easy for the patients to interact and explain the problems to the people in charge like the

doctors and the staff. This has made diagnostics much easier than before, and hence affecting the service in a positive sense.

EFFECTS

The growth of any form of tourism accelerates the growth of almost all other sectors in the region. Apart from just the hospital staff, people from other walks of life are also getting benefited from this growth of Medical Tourism. Supplementary services like accommodation, transportation, food, etc have also grown at the same pace. The region near the hospital has now become a hub for affordable accommodations with self cooking facilities. Transport services like taxi and auto are also flourishing in this region. Food from various parts of the nation is also available here, so as to suit the palate of people coming from other places and that to at a very affordable rate. Most of the people in the nearby

areas, including shopkeepers, hotel staff, eatery owners and even autorickshaw and taxi drivers are fluent in Hindi and some even in Bengali, Assamese, Bhojpuri or Odiya.

SCENARIO IN NORTH EAST INDIA

Guwahati is the biggest city of Northeast India and a hub of all communication in the region. Not only does it have the largest population of this part of the country, it is also equipped with the medical facilities to support them as well. Until few years back, private nursing homes formed the bulk of the medical service of this part of the world. But these establishments lacked the specialist experience and equipments needed for proper medical treatments. This had made it necessary for the people of northeast India to travel to other parts in search of proper treatment. The popular destinations were Chennai, Vellore, New Delhi and Patna. But now this city has multiple



Food stalls and shops near Apollo Hospital, Chennai.



Swagat Hospital, Guwahati



GNRC Hospital, North Guwahati

government and private hospitals to serve the needs of the people of the region.

The concept of medical tourism in the region started back in 1987 with the opening of the GNRC (formerly known as Guwahati Neurological Research Center) by Dr. Nomal Chandra Bora. Started as the premiere medical center for the treatment of any neurological problems, this organization has now got three units in Guwahati, each of them including a multi specialty unit in Amingaon.

Few of the noteworthy ones include Marwari Hospitals, IHR, Apollo Hospitals (formerly international hospitals), Narayana Hridulalaya etc.

But the issue was that GNRC was focused on neurosciences alone. To fill in the gaps and cater to the surgical needs of the region, came the Swagat Hospitals. Being a pioneer of surgery, Dr. Subhash Khanna came out with a brand with the first Modular Operation theatre in the region.

“In Swagat Hospitals we believe in excellence and innovation, with proper care of the patient and safety being the core values. We strive to be the first in our endeavours, different from those who are already working and the best of them all”, says Khanna.

Along with the maximum experience in Laproscopic Surgery, this organization now handles several complex procedures like ERCP (which enables the removal of stones from difficult parts of the liver) and therapeutic use of endoscopy in Northeast India. Apart from quality medical treatments, a comfortable stay for the patient is an important consideration in mind when the Swagat super speciality hospital was opened.

Recently, popular Assamese singer Zubeen Garg announced about his plan to set up a hospital named Health City at Guwahati. “At North-east Health city, we are making the medical procedures of global standards available to people



NH Narayana, Guwahati



Pratiksha Hospital, Guwahati

of Assam and northeast India at very affordable rates. By bringing in hi-tech equipments and state of the art infrastructure, people of this region won't have to go anywhere outside northeast India for treatment. Comfort of the patients is another thing that has been kept in mind while creating this hospital,"said Zubeen.

PROSPECTS

Although, the number of hospitals has grown manifold in Guwahati in the past few years, a lot of people still prefer to go outside of the region for medical treatments. Lack of ample transportation facilities is one of the reasons of the main issues especially for GNRC North Guwahati and Narayana hospitals. Lack of proper quality food nearby the hospital is another problem. But the main issue lies somewhere else. Even today, most of the people working in this sector treat the pa-

tients and their attendants more as an obligation. Accept for a few who normally greet people with a smile, most will actually carry a frowning face. Although the same kinds of equipments are present here, deliveries of reports take a longer time out here due to the lack of proper optimization.

Northeast India has a large number of tribes and sub-tribes, thus leading to a variety of languages. Language barrier seems to become a large issue quite often in this region.

Once these problems are handled, Guwahati will also become another hub of medical tourism in India.

(The author is a travel enthusiast who is currently pursuing Masters in Tourism Management in Guwahati)



DELHI POLLUTION: WINTER OF DISCONTENT

Kingson Chingakham

The Delhi Pollution has again brought into the limelight the serious negligence of the policy makers to tackle the environmental issues. The Berkeley Earth Science Research Group has revealed that in a severe pollution condition like what has been experienced in the city, breathing in air with a PM 2.5 content of between 950-1000 is roughly equivalent to smoking 44 cigarettes a day.

According to the Lancet commission on pollution and health, India had the maximum deaths in 2015 because of pollution (2.5 million deaths). The problem of air pollution is so critical in the capital city that ad hoc measures like banning of fire crackers before Diwali, shutting down power plants, or even rationing of vehicles through odd-even scheme have failed to bring down the pollution level. The huge cost the citizens have to pay through health because of pollution needs to be intensively examined and researched to bring a well organized plan.

Whome to blame?

There have been several research and reports

on pollution and climate change that have sprung up in the last few years within the country and abroad. These research papers and reports are more than adequate to bring out an actionable plan that is targeted towards reducing the toxicity in the air. But the lack of consensus among the municipalities, states and central government have failed the citizens again. From a 70 years old democracy, the citizens expect political maturity.

The Graded Response Action Plan came into force this year under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to combat air pollution in Delhi NCR. Though, this is moving towards the right direction, there are problems in implementation and evaluation. The plan outlines different mechanisms that should be followed depending on the severity of the pollution level. For example, banning of diesel generators, increase in the parking fees, intensifying public transport services and increasing the frequency of mechanised cleaning and sprinkling of water on roads. The problem of public transport services have become a public outrage. The Delhi Metro fares have been increasing since the last

few months. There have been no increases in the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses. On the other hand, sprinkling of water on roads take place mostly in posh areas. Some of the measures have been carried out without taking the confidence of the people. For example, the parking fees were raised four times as soon as the pollution level soared.

Major Causes

A report from IIT Kharagpur had revealed that 70 per cent of the sources of pollution in Delhi come from the neighbouring states like Punjab and Haryana (including the National Capital Region). Use of solid fuel in households, in the surrounding areas of Delhi, accounts for almost 20-25 per cent of fine particles. It has posed a question whether the schemes like Ujjwala Yojana- subsidy transfer of LPGs have failed to reach the rural areas. The implementation of the schemes can see a huge re-

gional disparity. Delhi has a very low percentage of solid fuel usage. But in order to reduce the fine particles, sustain efforts are necessary to replace the solid fuels with LPG in the surrounding areas.

Crop burning in the neighbouring states is considered to be one of the biggest sources of air pollution. An alternative to crop burning was thought about. Earlier this year, a package worth more than Rs 3,000cr was recommended by one of the task forces set up under CII-NITI Aayog Cleaner Air Initiative. But there was no agreement between the centre and the state on the sharing of burden of this newly formulated plan to dissuade the farmers from crop burning. The task force suggested of burning of the waste in a brick and clay dome like structure in the absence of oxygen residue. The deadlock between the centre and state needs to be

mediated by a third party. Also, to prevent heavy commercial vehicles from entry in the city, the western and eastern expressway bypass should be completed.

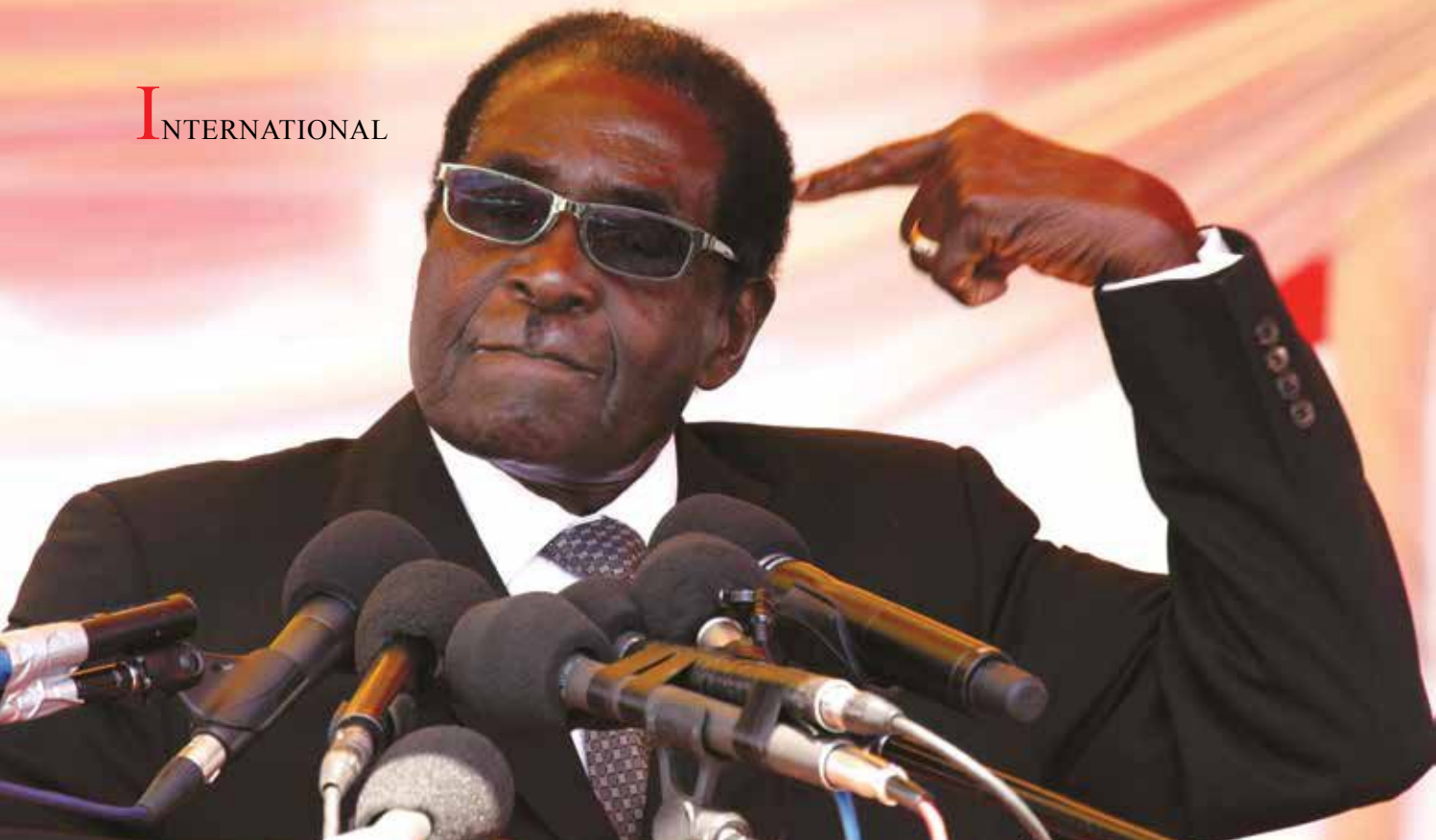
A corrective approach

Studying the recent trends in the pollution level, Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has decided to roll out the Bharat Stage (BS)- VI from April next year, two years earlier from the scheduled date. The BS norms are emission control standards introduced by the government in 2000 to keep a check on air pollution. These standards set specifications/limits for the release of air pollutants from equipment using internal combustion engines, including vehicles. Implementation of the BS V standard that was earlier scheduled for 2019 has now been skipped. BS VI, originally proposed to come in by 2024 was later advanced to 2020.

SOURCE: NATIONAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT VARIOUS PLACES OF NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 28, 2017
TIME: IN AND AROUND 5 PM





Robert Mugabe

A DICTATOR DEPARTS

Bhriгу Talukdar

After 37 years rule of Robert Mugabe, the President of Zimbabwe had to finally climb down from the apex position. Probably one of those rulers who rose as a hero then became a villain in the long run, Mugabe had come to power in year 1980 which was a year of reckoning for Zimbabwe. It was quite some time now that Mugabe had been under the scanner. So much so that his mode of governance was seen to be more and more dictatorial in nature even if Zimbabwe claimed to be a democracy. And to be candid about it there was not much indication that this was about to change for the Zimbabweans. At the same time the machinations and actions of Mugabe was making

him more and more unpopular among both the masses and the public institutions of Zimbabwe. His party, the parliament and the Army were becoming more and more restive of his actions.

The last few years of Mugabe's regime have not been a very comforting one for Zimbabwe. Mugabe was the all powerful man in its politics with no one there to challenge his authority. The Economy of Zimbabwe was virtually in ruins and so on. But as he was getting old and his second in rung Emerson Mnangagwa was getting ready to replace him, Mugabe's wife Grace Mugabe tried to pave her way to power using their lackeys in the parliament. It was then when the political balance of Zimbabwe reached a tip-

ping point and the political moves fell like dominoes in Zimbabwe.

As the machinations of Grace Mugabe were becoming more and more apparent and Robert Mugabe's support for doing so, his 'Zanu PF party' became more and more concerned. Emerson Mnangwa, become confrontational with Mugabe trying to secure his power. But Mugabe hit back with his clout and got him removed him as the president of the party.

However, Mugabe was losing his popular support base among the Zimbabwean public which gave his detractors both in the parliament and the party a window of opportunity to move against Mugabe himself, who was virtually untouchable till this moment. The Parliament

of Zimbabwe prepared itself to impeach Mugabe and due to his lack of support Mugabe could not have fought off easily. However Mugabe was adamant on not giving up power and the position of President-ship of Zimbabwe. It seemed that the parliament and the president were on a path of confrontation leading to constitutional crises in Zimbabwean polity. This confrontation was not simply confined to the halls of the parliament but it spilled over to streets of Zimbabwe as well. The Protests of the people were by and large against president Mugabe.

The Army of Zimbabwe did not remain a passive spectator as this high voltage political drama was unfolding in the streets, ruling party and the parliament. To maintain law and order it had rolled out its tanks on 14th of November. It leads to an escalation that Mugabe had not foreseen

and prepared for. General Constantino Chiwega led this military takeover so that Mugabe resigns from his post. Mugabe was detained but still Mugabe remained adamant perhaps thinking that whatever support he had left would help him weather this political onslaught. But the protests on the street became bigger and bigger and that to against Mugabe. This led to the consequent weakening of the position of Mugabe. He was hit hard again when the parliament tabled the impeachment plan of Mugabe making it difficult for him to be at power. And on November 21, 2017, Mugabe blinked and he resigned marking the end of his thirty seven year rule. The coming down of Mugabe was celebrated all over Zimbabwe and activists claimed this to be the second independence day.

Emerson Mnangagwa was reinstated as the president of the

ruling PF Zanu party and he is ready to become the president of Zimbabwe. But the question lingers is that is he the best possible alternative for the country. He is considered to be as repressive as Mugabe and for his exploits he is known as the 'Crocodile'. At the same the time the new president and the 'new' Zimbabwe under his rule has a daunting task ahead. Zimbabwe needs a stable political government which would provide a platform for the country to progress. The Economy needs a major boost for that purpose. Perhaps it would help that Mnangagwa is seen as pro business. But at the same time the bigger question shall remain whether the populace of Zimbabwe can hope for better tomorrow compared to the past that had to endure under Mugabe.

(The author is a freelance writer based in Delhi)



Zimbabweans celebrate after Robert Mugabe resigned after 37 years of rule



Business Is To Grow Your Business



THE START-UP STORIES

Initiating an idea, starting a new venture and sustaining it for long come with a lot of challenges. The biggest challenge, however, is to survive the initial phase. While most fade away with time, only a few manage to cement themselves. Northeast Today caught up with three start-ups from the region that have proven that they are here to stay and not fade away.



Kingson Chingakham

Founded by 23-year-old Hironmoy Gogoi of Sivasagar (Assam) in 2016, Gaon Ka Khana (GKK) is a food-tech start-up that began as an initiative to serve the interests of the disadvantaged people. It is the first online marketplace enabling certified users to sell foods, traditional attires, and vegetables by setting up a home market and to offer home stay for travellers.

For those who cannot afford to set up shop to sell their

products or for those who have to struggle in streets to sell their products, GKK offers opportunities to become entrepreneur right from the comfort of their homes. GKK helps in driving customers to the doorsteps of the sellers and even have the option to deliver their products at the customer end too.

“Today we have four units in Assam and associate units in Maharashtra. Now we are planning to enter Delhi. There were many

challenges but I didn’t quit and kept living my dream each flying day,” says Hironmoy.

GKK is aiming to create 3000 jobs across Assam as soon as possible. This start-up is currently upgrading the technical project to add more features which will allow visitors to find nearest service centres of GKK online with just a click across Assam. So far, Hironmoy has bagged two national and regional awards and also an international award.



OGO is a car and bike taxi app, which was founded in Guwahati (Assam) by Rahul Sharma and Partha Saikia in July, 2017. Before starting this company, Rahul and Partha were involved in Election Campaign Management. Thereafter, in 2016, they co-founded a self drive car and bike sharing company named “Awe Rides”. It is currently operational in Guwahati, Pune and Chandigarh. Awe Rides was awarded as one of the best start-ups of the Northeast by Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship in January 2017.

“For the passengers, bike taxis are much faster and cheaper than the four-wheelers. College students, working professionals or full time bike riders who own bikes and proficient in bike riding can earn decent income with the help of OGO. Joining is easy and the registration is done usually within 15-20 minutes followed by a short training session,” says Rahul while speaking about the start-up

“The app-based taxi market is monopolised. These companies have surge pricing adding financial burden to the passengers, the drivers are also harassed through high commission model. OGO launched its service with No Price Surge

Model. OGO charges daily Fee of Rs 100 to the Taxi Drivers unlike other taxi aggregators which charges around Rs 500. For Bike Taxi, OGO charges in a reducing commission model which reduces the commission when the income of the Riders increases,” says Partha.

“In a three-month-old start-up, when you are doing more than 1000 trips per day, then operational and technical issues are bound to happen. Dealing with these issues is entirely a new dimension of learning for both our operations team and the tech team,” says Rahul while speaking on operational and technical issues. OGO has already launched its services in Nagaon and it will soon be expanding its roots.

Ilandlo is an e-commerce website based in Dimapur (Nagaland), founded by Imtisuup Longchar and Lipokjungla Ozukum. It hosts products of different categories- books, food, clothing and accessories, crafts, home and lifestyle merchandises. It works on a commission-based model where the seller gets the maximum value of their product. It also provides support to the vendors in maintaining quality content as well as a standard packaging system

by offering affordable packaging solutions. The products undergo quality checks at the fulfilment centre where the final packaging is done before dispatching the orders.

Speaking about its beginning, Lipokjungla said, “A humble beginning from our home office, investing with our meagre savings, we started creating everything ourselves- starting from market research, creating the website, acquiring vendors, product photography, inventory management and delivering orders. It is the four Ps of Ilandlo’s start-up story- Passion with a Purpose, Persevering with Patience that we believe has brought us this far.”

“As we look back to the initial days, our story comes as a challenging one because it was a fairly new concept, especially for attracting vendors. With regular interaction, encouragements and assistance, we have seen many individuals and self-help groups growing with us, expanding their product line with improved packaging and labelling systems, pricing strategies and sales,” adds on Imtisuup.

Ilandlo sees huge growth in the region and expects to compete with other existing e-commerce portals across the country.

LIVING TO TELL THE TALE UNTOLD

Writer cum Activist **Paromita Bordoloi** is fighting back the system to build fresh narratives of women. She takes onto writing, performance poetry, theatre activism among others to break away from a stereotypical conditioning which shapes ideas and outcomes around women. For a new gender equal world, the need for new powerful narratives is what drives her quest. In an exclusive tete-a-tete, Bordoloi opens up on how her life has been shaped through passing narratives of fighting back.

Payal Bhattacharjee



NET: Please tell us about your childhood, growing up years and life in Delhi thereafter.

Paromita: I was born and brought up, in Rupai Siding. It is a very small town in Assam close to Arunachal Pradesh. Now sitting in Delhi and doing this interview, the town feels so small and so far that it feels like a dream when I wake to the realities served.

I came to Delhi to do my graduation from Miranda House, University of Delhi in mid 2000s. Since then I am here. Delhi has been a difficult lover. But I know her very well now. Delhi in re-

turn gave me a lot. Assam nurtured a soul. Delhi gave it a voice.

NET: When did you realize your passion towards writing and how easy or tough has it been since.

Paromita: I had this functional ability to think everything in a story format. As a growing up kid, my family thought that I had some mental conditions that made me just stand and stare and do nothing much. But that was my gift. I could see, feel and relate to the world the way I wanted. Without any expectations, my inner world kept evolving without anyone having an ink of the fact that clusters of stars were bursting and new galaxies were making a way in my head and my being. My greatest achievement in its own way has been that I never let that small girl inside me die and to this day I fiercely protect my inner world.

NET: You are part of various talks, meet ups in Delhi where writers collaborate and create a buzz. Do you think the lack of such creative zones in Northeast is limiting the quality of literature from the region?

Paromita: From being on panel discussions to performance poetry meets, these help me to be relevant with the times. I had made a short trip to Assam recently where I performed at Cotton University. It was a poetry session organized by Neon City and it was brilliantly curated.

The necessity of creative zone for thriving local talents is beyond speculation. I am sure such spaces are growing. This time round I visited “The Maati Centre” where a wonderful poetry work-

shop was being run. Personally I see a revival of arts in Guwahati itself and rest of Assam will surely catch up. Writing is a lonely profession. You need to nurture yourself. These meet-ups do that to me.

NET: Who is your literary inspiration? Is there any particular attribute of the writer which you incorporate in your work?

Paromita: I am absolutely in awe when I read Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Toni Morrison or Maya Angelou. They grip my soul and leave it rich.

If there is one particular writer whom I would want to incorporate in my writings is Maya Angelou. Personally, Angelou has a great influence in my life. In many dark times, her writings shone as light that walked me through.

NET: You have taken to street plays and theatre for activism. Can you tell us more on your theatre group 'Aatish' and the kind of work it is been involved in.

Paromita: 'Aatish' was formed by a few alumni of Miranda House. They were all part of the Hindi Dramatic society, 'Anukriti.' I joined the team and it is five years hence. Aatish has performed

all over India, from a range of issues, which includes health, sanitation, education, gender equality and social justice.

Most of our plays talk about gender but one play that we have played across widely is, "Himmat," where we talk about everyday sexism. Sometimes sexism is so deeply ingrained that even though we might call ourselves empowered, we fall into the trap of patriarchy.

NET: How do you perceive the role of theatre in Assam. What do you think can be the role of such mediums in the larger context?

Paromita: Theatre is a great medium of communication. Assam's persistent social evils like witch hunting or initiating awareness on social/health issues, the Govt. can use theater as a medium especially in the remote villages.

With so much of raw talent in North East, the Govt can use street theatre as a mode of communication. It is also financially viable because like onstage theatre it does not need a set up. A few actors and a script can be used as a means of communication. I think it has a great scope.

The author is a freelance writer based in Guwahati





Lt Vijaya and her team members

FROM A WATER PHOBIC TO THE NAVY

Born and brought up in Manipur, Lt. Shougrakpham Vijaya Devi had a fascination of naval uniform since childhood. She is now one of the five members of the first women crew to circumnavigate the world from the Indian Navy. A post graduate from the University of Delhi in English Literature, she narrates how she landed up in the Indian Navy to **Northeast Today**

Kingson Chingakham

NET: Tell us how you landed in the Indian Navy?

Lt. Vijaya: I never thought that I will join the navy. After my post-graduation in English literature, I was pursuing my B.Ed. and came across the advertisement to join the Indian Navy. A post-graduation in English was necessary. So I applied for it without giving a second thought of getting selected or not. My mom was worried when I told her that I had to travel alone to Bhopal for Services Selection Board interview. I followed my instinct after giving all reasoning to my mom's doubt. Fortunately, I cleared all the procedures and here I am today.

NET: How do you feel to be a part of India's first ever all woman crew to circumnavigate the world?

Lt. Vijaya: Being in the team of all women crew to circumnavigate the globe is a wonderful feeling. In the navy, women officers are never deployed at sea, as of now. It is for the first time ever in the world history that a team of women officers from any navy is venturing for circumnavigation; otherwise there are lots of women sailors who sail in the ocean around the world.

NET: On what basis was the selection done?

Lt. Vijaya: On March, 2015, we had a screening done in Goa and around 20 women officers from the navy volunteered. The screening was done on board INSV Mhadei under Captain Dilip Done (retd.) the first Indian to circumnavigate the globe. We were given exposure in sailing the boat and our opinions for the same were taken. After which the directorate had taken their decision in finalising the team. I never got a call directly that I have been selected. But after seven months, during Indian Navy sailing championship (INSA) at Mumbai I met Captain Ashwin Arvind, then INSA director. He asked me if I wanted to become a part of circumnavigation. I told him that I had gone for screening but still haven't received a feedback, and eagerly waiting for the result; to which he said - 'Well then prepare yourself you are in the team, tell your parents and loved ones that you will be busy from now for a long time.'

NET: Once a stranger to sea, what fears and challenges did you face when you started this voyage?

Lt. Vijaya: I have never seen ocean or sea in my life



before joining the service. I use to have water phobia and I am a motion sick person. I am a totally different person now. I learnt swimming during my training period at the Indian Naval Academy. When I joined the team and started sailing in the ocean the challenges which I had to overcome was that of sea sickness. I was the most sea sick person in the team. Initially, I could not eat anything, especially food cooked with butter or ghee and I depended on fresh fruits and vegetables. Feeling sleepy all the time is also one of the symptoms of sea sickness. We have done enough of training that now I don't feel any of these anymore.

NET: This has been a learning experience for you?

Lt. Vijaya: Indeed it's a great learning experience. Circumnavigation has definitely changed my perspectives in life. I used to think the world is a small place but looking at the endless horizon of the sea during my recent travel to Mauritius and Cape Town, made me realise that the world doesn't end in just the mainland but there's the most intriguing part of the World that remains hidden in the depth of these oceans.

NET: Why is the strength of women from the northeast is low in the Navy?

Lt. Vijaya: It is true that from the northeast, rate of female participation in the Indian Navy is

low. I am the third woman from Manipur to have joined the service. From the other northeast states, I have met only one lady officer from Assam. Most of the people in the northeast are aware about the army, but when it comes to the Indian Navy people are generally confused with merchant navy. Even I did not have much awareness about this service. I never thought that an arts student could join the Indian Navy. I used to think it's only for those who have studied science. I am a post-graduate in English Literature and now in defence service. Overcoming such ignorance is necessary to search for opportunities.

NET: Any last personal statement.

Lt. Vijaya: Though I am the only daughter among four brothers, my parents have treated all of us equally. My mother is a wise woman who has always worried about good schooling no matter what. Her decision now leads me to the place where I am standing today. Since my father was in the Manipur Rifles, my mom spent all her time in grooming us. She always helped us out with our lessons until we were independent to do it on our own. I am lucky that I got my family support. But it is a struggle of your own. In life if you want to do something, never lose hope. Be determined and choose the right path towards it.



NORTH EASTERN WARRIORS TO DEBUT AT PBL 2017

The Premier Badminton League (PBL), which kicks starts on December 23, will feature a new team- North Eastern Warriors (NEW). North Eastern Warriors will be captained by Ajay Jayaram while Tzu Wei Wang, Chirag Shetty, Shin Back Cheol, Kim Gi Jung, Prajakta Sawant, Ruthvika Shivani, Michelle Li and Sanyogita Ghorpade are also included in the team. Local talents including the likes of Ashmita Chaliha, Laa Tatar and Maisnam Meiraba will also be accompanying the team for exposure. PBL will continue till January 14 and the competition will take place in five cities across the country. The team is owned by TK Engineering Consortium Pvt Ltd, an Itanagar-based company. The company has resolved to promote development of badminton in the Northeast in a bid to motivate the youngsters to adopt badminton.

ASSAM MULLING TO ESTABLISH SPORTS SCHOOL



The Sarbananda Sonowal-led government in Assam from its very first day had made it clear that it wants to create a thriving space for the budding sportsperson of the region in Assam. Making its intentions clear about providing better opportunities to the young talented players of the state and the region to groom their talents, the Assam Chief Minister recently announced that the government is mulling to set up a sports school and football academy in Assam. He made this announcement while unveiling Guppy- the official logo and mascot of AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship in Guwahati. "It is only due

to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Khelo India' mission we are on the verge of making Guwahati sports capital of India. 'Khelo India' initiative aims to create a competitive sports environment in India," he said, adding, "My government has adopted a number of policies to develop the sports infrastructure of the state." He also informed that under Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana, the state government is going to modernise 500 playgrounds across the state. "Besides, we are also taking steps to establish sports schools and football academy in Guwahati. Sports school is likely to set up in Guwahati," Sonowal said.

MIZORAM GETS 3500 CAPACITY STADIUM



Champhai Zotlang Sports Stadium, a 3500-capacity sports stadium, was inaugurated by Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla in Champhai, a district headquarters in the eastern end of the state. The construction of the stadium has been funded under 10 per cent lump sum grant for the North Eastern Region and is estimated to be Rs 2,238.69 lakh. “This is an important milestone in implementing our promises,” Lal Thanhawla said in his inauguration speech. Champhai Sports Stadium ground is made of astro/artificial turf, 100m long and 60m wide, with a running track surrounding it.

EIGHT MANIPURI POWERLIFTERS TO REPRESENT INDIA

Eight (8) powerlifters, including one reserve, from Manipur will represent India at the Asian Classic Sub-Junior, Junior, Senior and Master Powerlifting Championship to be held at Alampuja, Kerala, from December 4 to 9. It may be mentioned here that on the basis of their previous performances and achievements, Manipur Powerlifting Association proposed 15 players (10 women and 5 men) for the championship. The Indian Powerlifting Federation (IPF), after thorough consideration, approved 8 players which include Lakshmi Ningthoujam (63 kg) and L Pushparani (above 84 kg) in the junior women category; Th Bidyarani Devi (47 kg), Laishram Memoli Devi (63 kg), Naorem Bebita (72 kg) and O Kalpana (above 84 kg) in the senior women category; Soram Sunil (74 kg) in the men’s sub-junior category; Laishram Pusparani (72 kg) senior women reserved.



BCCI REJECTS NADA DEMAND FOR DOPE TEST

BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) has strongly resisted to the pressure build up by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), as it follows the International Cricket Council (ICC) Code which is based on international standards. In a letter to the Secretary, Department of Sports, BCCI clearly states, “It is necessary to clarify that the BCCI is not a National Sports Federation but an autonomous sports organisation affiliated to the ICC, which governs the game of cricket globally. The BCCI is not subject to the jurisdiction of NADA and is required to operate within the rules and regulations set by the ICC. BCCI would like to assure you that it has a zero-tolerance policy to doping in the sport of cricket and is committed to fighting against doping in cricket in all forms. The ICC is a signatory to the WADA Code since 2006 and the ICC Code is required to be adopted and implemented by all its members.”





VOICE OUT

Do you often get compliments for your amazing voice and how play different characters with it? If yes, then here's a little secret- You can actually make money out of your voice. There are many career options that can be undertaken using your voice and one among the list is being a Voice over actor. Voice actors provide the voice for animated films and television shows, narrate documentaries, and do voice-overs for television and radio commercials.

Here are some tips that can help you in achieving a successful career as a voice actor.

NET Bureau

1. Know your voice:

To be successful in this area, the first requirement is definitely to have a great voice and to know its proper use. If you don't know how to get the best out of your vocal cords then no money on the way. Once you have acquired this quality the next move is to market yourself properly. Otherwise you'll be just another impressive voice lost in the noise.

2. Flexibility:

To have flexibility in your voice is essential as you will be required to play different characters. If you

are not able to manipulate your voice according to the demands of the directors, you are a no-no in this field. The most successful artists are able to accept directions easily and deliver what exactly the director wants.

3. Listen to the Pros:

Sometimes you may find yourself confused and stuck while delivering a script. Whenever you face such a situation just take a few moments and watch some videos of the experts. Listen closely to get an idea of the pace and try to replicate. But,

FASHION



KEEP CALM, BE A NISAOMAI GANGSTA'

College dropouts, **Minakshi Barman** and **Jaydeep Barman**, started a street-wear clothing line, Nisaomai, catering to the 'urban' fashionistas. Going against the societal norms and creating something for the zeal of entrepreneurship, they consider themselves as 'society dropouts'. Talking to Northeast Today, Minakshi tells more about the brand and the collections.

Shrabani Barman

NET: How did you start your business?

Minakshi - Have you been so low in your life that you drink your sorrows away and feel like there's nothing left? It's like a sad song that keeps playing in a loop, a disease that never goes away! That's what Nisaomai is, my rough patches shaped into tangible products. Nisaomai is not a business for us but more like a life-project. After selling a thousand customised MP Laid t-shirts, Jaydeep and I founded our next venture known as Nisaomai E-commerce Limited Liability Partnership in late 2016. As



Jaydeep is crazy about fast cars, we worked with Porsche 911 and launched a “not sorry if I crash you” collection. We love applying ideas into real-time situations. We love doing things fast, fast production, fast decisions and fast out of stock.

NET: Inspiration behind your business?

Minakshi -As I have already mentioned, the greatest inspiration has been my own darkest of days. Every thought and every emotion that makes me feel in a certain way results in the design and the colours. It's a way of expression. I love how our customers, whom we consider as 'Nisaomai Gangsta', understand and accept this crazy concept. Alobo Naga (pop/rock singer), Jantee Hazarika (1st runner-up of India's Next Top Model), Nishant Hagjer (drummer Undying Inc/underside) and all my Nisaomai Gangsta would never have worn our products if I hadn't felt that way.

NET: What products do you offer?

Minakshi -We have t-shirts, hoodies, shorts, raglan T-shirts and lounge pants. Soon we will be introducing phone cases, tote bag, backpacks and some winter stuff. Stay tuned people!

NET: On Instagram, Nisaomai appears to be very open with feelings. I have seen your posts like 'I hate nisaomai'. How personal is that stuff to you?

Minakshi - There was a time when people started hating us for no reason. That's when we came up with the concept of 'I hate nisaomai'. Now that all our lovers and supporters bought 'I hate nisaomai' tees, I wonder what those haters would say- 'I love nisaomai'?! Negative plus negative equals to positive! Mathematically proven, you know (laughs).

NET: How can you relate your products and your community?

Minakshi - Nisaomai is for crazily weird people. The name itself has two meanings in Dimasa- “Our dreams” in Dimasa and we are following our dreams through this project. We welcome all rebellious, misunderstood, eccentric, the lost and the forgotten people with most beautiful soul to your gang Nisaomai.

(Photo Courtesy: Nisaomai)



Minakshi



It's Cookie Time!

NET Bureau

Christmas is here and sugar cookies are a staple. From round to heart, star to pine tree—you can give any shape to this classic Christmas delicacy. You are just 10 steps away from pampering your sweet tooth. Follow these simple steps and the cookies shall be ready for the fiesta.

- 1. Beat unsalted butter and sugar using an electric mixer.*
- 2. Add beaten eggs. Beat in flour and salt until a soft dough is formed.*
- 3. Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces and pat each into a disk.*
- 4. Wrap the disks tightly using plastic wrap and keep in the refrigerator and chill until firm.*
- 5. Take out the wrapped packs and roll out using a rolling pin until the dough is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.*
- 6. Using cookie cutters of your choice cut out the desired shape from the flattened dough.*
- 7. Place the cookies on a parchment-lined baking pan leaving a gap of about 1 inch between the cookies and chill for about 10 minutes. The space helps the cookies from bumping together which may result in browning.*
- 8. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.*
- 9. Bake until the cookies become firm and the edges turn golden.*
- 10. Let the cookies cool down and decorate the way you want.*

Seasons of Melody

When souls plucking the same chord meet each other, melody of the finest form is offered to the world to listen to. Formed in 2015 as a college band, **Seasons** so far has won quite a number of hearts. In conversation with **Northeast Today**, Seasons' vocalist Dhritiman 'Aladeen' Goswami speaks about the band's music and the journey so far.



Partha Prawal

NET: How and when was the band formed?

Dhritiman: Seasons was formed on 2015 winter. I and Teert-hankar (guitarist) were hostel mates and we formed the band to perform at the Amity Youth Festival- the annual fest of Amity University. Many complications and personal interests led to changing members within the band. But, I and Teerthankar stayed confident to continue with the band, this

dream we have! Fardeen Kaki was the drummer for the single 'Kaise Kahu'. We met our bassist Abhishek Mehra at the Sound-Box jam-pad in Noida, when we went for a regular jamming session there.

NET: Why do you call yourself Seasons?

Dhritiman: It is completely related to the varsity of music we will release in the future, which will have multi-genre inspira-

tions. Just like each season has its own flavour.

NET: Do you guys have any nicknames for yourselves?

Dhritiman: Yeah! I am called Aladeen, our guitarist is called Arrow on stage. Mehra Ji is our bassist!!

NET: What are your individual favourites?

Dhritiman: My personal favourites are AR Rahman, Zubeen



Garg, Pink Floyd, The Local Train, and Coldplay. Teerthankar loves Avenged Sevenfold, Synyster Gates (his all time favourite), David Gilmour, Soulmate, As We Keep Searching.

NET: How difficult is it for a musician to not get influenced by one's personal influences while composing for the band?

Dhritiman: It is indeed very difficult, but also a very big positive aspect as we get loads of ideas and creativity flowing within the band, which leads to better sounding music. Our main aim is to reach the audience with our originality and way of music.

NET: Is sustaining as a band difficult than making a solo career?

Dhritiman: Sustaining as a band is much more difficult than making a solo career, since in a band, multiple musicians need to synchronise and sound good at the same time. People refrain from hiring bands for gigs since the setup costs a lot more than it would for a solo artist. But

sometimes challenges are fun.

NET: Tell us something about your song writing and music composition process

Dhritiman: The compositions are done at an individual level at the initial stage, since it leads in sustaining the feel of the song originally meant by the person who writes it. The next stage comprises of discussing and improving the composition and lyrics. And finally chord progressions and production elements are done by Teerthankar.

NET: Tell us something about 'Kaise Kahu'.

Dhritiman: I wrote the song during my high school days for the girl I was dating then. However, she is yet to know about it. It was monsoons, when this song was written and composed. Hence words like "behtihawa" and "dheemibaarish" and other such seasonally related elements have been included. A friend Anubhav Goswami had also been very helpful at the initial

phases of the song-writing.

NET: Something about your future projects?

Dhritiman: We are planning to come out with some cover videos, collaborations with Assamese and international artists and also develop our own YouTube channel eventually, while we work on our own compositions.

NET: Any message for our readers.

Dhritiman: Follow your heart and your passion to reach your goal in life, and practice your art. We are very thankful to Deep Ocean who helped us with the video, and in making this dream a reality. Special thanks to Ssameer to guide us through the studio recording and mix mastering process of the song. The managing team of Talneo has been a real support. And finally, thanks to the Northeast Today for this feature.

Photo Courtesy: Seasons

PHOTOGRAM



Where There's Love, There's Life

Look Into My Eyes





Photographer: Soyam Chhatrapati

Young aspiring artist from Manipur, Soyam Chhatrapati has been courting photography since the past four years. With a background of fine art, specialising in sculpture, Soyam is currently pursuing Online Videography Course from New York Institute of Photography, New York. As a photographer, his forte lies in creative, abstract and macro photography. Some of his photos have also been exhibited in some reputed cities and has won him some distinctive prizes.





NEVER SAY NO TO NOKIA

Nokia made a comeback this year with some of its interesting models. Have a look at the top two models of 2017

NET Bureau

NOKIA 6:

This device is considered to Nokia's comeback in the market. In terms of design, Nokia 6 cannot disappoint anyone as it stands out from the rest of the Nokia phones which all tend to look the same. Its build quality will give you confidence in everyday use.



Nokia 6 Specification

- Display – 5.5 inch Full HD
- RAM – 4GB
- ROM – 64GB + microSD Card Supported
- Processor – SnapDragon 430
- Camera – Rear 16MP, Front 8MP
- Battery – 3000 mah
- Dimension – 154.00 x 75.80 x 7.85 (height x width x thickness)
- OS – Android Nougat 7.0

NOKIA 5:

This model looks more expensive than its price suggests. Nokia 5 is great to hold and use owing to the curved edges. The antenna lines are along the top and bottom and nearly the same shade as the phone's metal body, which conceals them to some extent.



Nokia 5 Specification

Display – 5.2" IPS LCD, HD (1280 x 720, 16:9) and 2.5D sculpted Corning

RAM – 2GB

ROM – 16GB + microSD Card Supported up to 128GB

Processor – Qualcomm Snapdragon 430

Camera – Rear 13MP PDAF, Front 8 MP

Size – 149.7 x 72.5 x 8.05 mm (8.55 with camera bump)

Battery – 3000 mAh

OS – Android 7.1.1 Nougat

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NORTHEAST'S OWN GRAND CANYON: LAITLUM

Raheef Aowal

A barrage of photos on my social media feed, of the same location in Meghalaya, introduced me to Laitlum. I decided to not be fooled by the trickery of photo-shopped and enhanced pictures and check the much hyped destination myself.

A 25 km ride from Police Bazaar in Shillong, towards the sleepy little hamlet of Smit is a sight in itself. Smit village is home to the Khasi King and Queen and houses the traditional throne room. With majestic pines dotting the sides of the road, the scene is straight out of a European post card.

The approach to the famed Canyon is the first view that produces the gasps in unison doing justice to the meaning of Laitlum- "End of the world" or "End of the Hills" in the literal sense. Suddenly the valley drops and the clouds appear, slowly brushing across the flat sprawling tops. On hiking a small distance towards the edge, the Can-

yon spreads below the clouds. The cloud cover is supposedly more in the afternoon and less in the morning. The abode of clouds lives up to its reputation as within minutes, one finds oneself playing hide and seek in the midst of one. The visibility drops and rises as the soft moisture of the clouds are felt kissing the skin. Two falls are visible in a distance and the stream originating from them winds its way through the gorge, like a shimmering snake under the sun.

At 6200 feet above sea level, the indigenous Khasi rock cut steps run along the side of the canyon, are not for the people with height phobia or vertigo. Yet trekking along the narrow pathway is a literal take on 'life on the edge'. The locals use these to hoard bamboo or other raw materials the traditional way, with baskets slung over their head.

Meghalaya's rustic face with children tending to the cattle or indulging in a spontaneous game



of football, adults tending to the farmlands or to little cosy shops made of blacked wood selling home-made wares, are some sights which are a bonus on this trip.

Such untouched sites are in vogue among the present adventure seeking generation. As a consequence, there is a huge rush from the hustling and bustling cities in order to have a date with serenity. The changing commercial value of these villages is resulting in a make-over of the social and economic sphere. Tea shops and tea vendors are the two emerging vocations in the cold misty mountain tops of Laitlum. Warm hard boiled eggs hawked by children and their mothers; complement the weather and also the tummy after a trek in the undulating peaks. As a suggestion, a rug to spread over the grass bustling with butterflies and catching a wink not with clouds above but around you is relaxing at its best.

Promising as a picnic site, the moors are dotted with urban families in the weekends. Rapid increase in popularity is however taking a toll on it ecologically. Plastic wastes and other garbage is being accumulated along with increased footfalls, which will eventually lead to environmental hazards. An effective disposal mechanism must be implemented to keep the area unwanted waste-free.

The sheer majesty of the Grand Canyon at Laitlum is a revelation as to how the Earth never ceases to make us feel its grandeur in full force.

(The author is an engineering graduate, who realized he can do more with the pen than with the calculator. Originally hailing from North Lakhimpur, his love for traveling and penning down accounts started during his two-year stay in Europe during his Masters)

(Photo Courtesy: Author)

DESIRE VS. DEMAND...WHEN DO WE KNOW?



Suniti Barua

What is desire?

A strong feeling of wanting something or for something to happen.
And demand?

An insistent request which has been made as if it's a right. But these overlap for many of us, especially with our loved ones.

The question we contemplate is – “what do I do?” “How do I find a balance?”

There is thin line between the two. Even after a lot of thought we confuse the natural want for a close relationship with an emotional need for one. The best chance of finding a warm, growing relationship would be to approach it from desire, and not demand it.

When we desire something it gives rise to an emotion —you feel more strongly about having that. As the intensity of the emotion increases, it can feel like a “need” to have it. This is when we start demanding from the other, the desire we have.

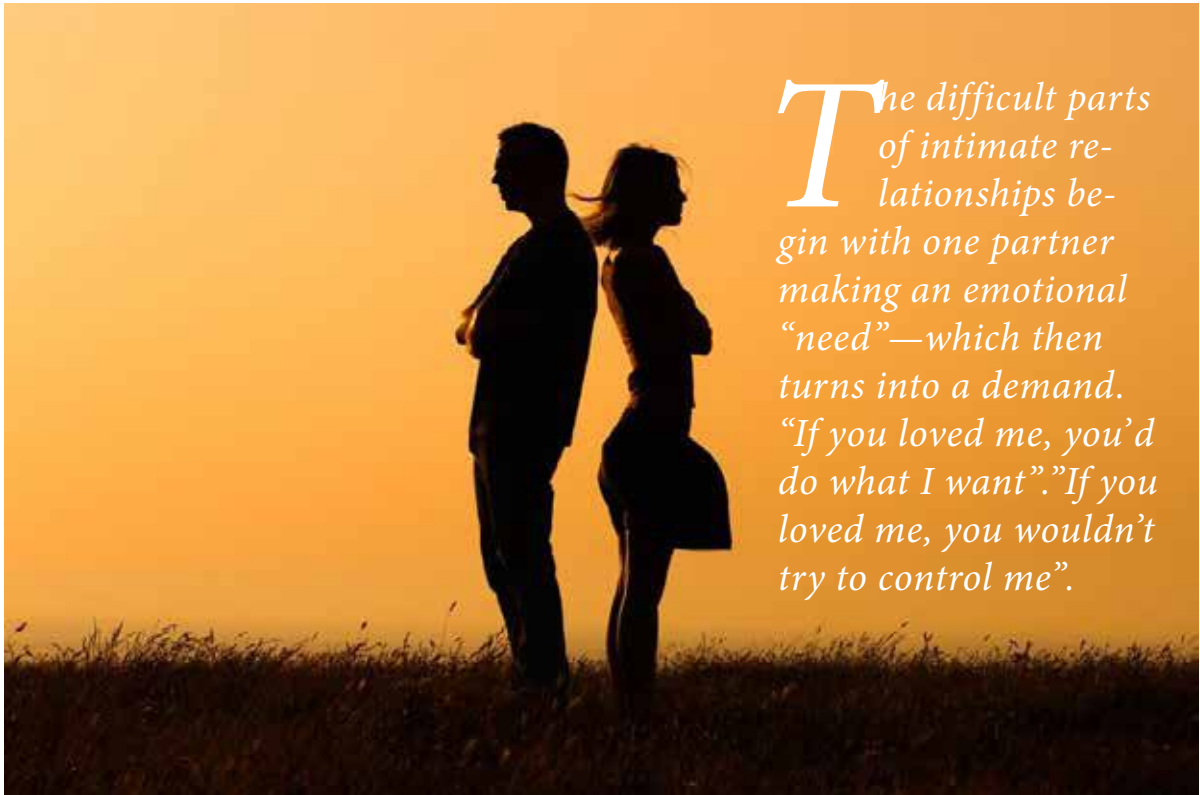
In romantic relationships, we interpret our desires as “needs” and thus place ‘demand’ on ourselves and our partners. It is a cycle of: “I feel it, therefore, I need it, and if I need it, so it has to happen.”

The difficult parts of intimate relationships begin with one partner making an emotional “need”—which then turns into a demand. “If you loved me, you’d do what I want.” “If you loved me, you wouldn’t try to control me”.

Now, what can we do to better explain our desires and not let demand cloud it.

Understand yourself: Understanding this difference between what you ‘want’ and what you ‘need’ or what you ‘desire’ and what you ‘demand’ is the first step one can take towards a mutually fulfilling relationship.

Work on communication: Communicating ones desires, as a desire and not a demand, can be the path for the possibility of a free and beautifully expressive relationship. Desire is appre-



The difficult parts of intimate relationships begin with one partner making an emotional “need”—which then turns into a demand. “If you loved me, you’d do what I want.” “If you loved me, you wouldn’t try to control me”.

ciative, not entitled; if I desire something I am more likely to feel appreciative of it than if I feel entitled to it.

Appreciate your partner’s efforts: “I would want you to take an effort to answer when I call, and I would really very much appreciate it because I would feel more comfortable knowing your whereabouts”. That would be a more clear communication of your desire, than saying “I want you to answer the phone every time I call because I need to know where you are, or what you are doing”. The latter will come across as a pressurising demand wherein the partner might fail to take any efforts as they too may feel that their side of the story is not understood.

Give space to yourself and your partner: Understand that you need time to know yourself and how you are presenting your desires in the relationship. Also, that your partner too needs the same space to understand themselves and present their needs to you.

Change your thoughts to change your feel-

ings: Our feelings lead to the intense need for desire to change to demand. But these emotions have their origin in our thoughts. Watch your thoughts and know when they are changing from a ‘want’ to a demanding ‘need’.

Accept yourself and your partner: Accept and love yourself and your partner for who you both are and what you both desire. This will allow you to know when you are demanding from your partner and yourself things which can be understood more with the thought of desire and appreciation after fulfilment.

All in all, being more aware of these dynamics helps one in the future and for better loving relationships. Remember, you can choose desire over demand. You can choose your own happiness. You have the control over your life, live it to the fullest!

(Author’s Bio: The author is a Psychologist and Psychotherapist)

BONEY M TO PERFORM AT HORNBILL FESTIVAL

Popular German vocal group Boney M will perform at the Hornbill festival in Nagaland on December 10. The Convenor of Nagaland Outdoors Club (NOC) Kethosituo Elvis Mepfuo made the announcement during press a conference. He mentioned that the band would reach Kohima by December 9 and feature the lead vocalist Liz Mitchell along with six other members. The vocal group from (West) Germany will be performing their foot tapping numbers from the late 80's and 90's. The band came into existence in the year 1970 and conquered the music scene with their groovy disco hits.



ISHU AT 23RD KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Utpal Borpujari's debut feature film Ishu was premiered at the 23rd Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF). An adaptation of Manikuntala Bhattacharya's eponymous novel, the movie deals with the issue of witch-hunting from the perspective of a 10-year-old boy. Apart from casting big names like Bishnu Kharghoria, national award-winning Manipuri actress Tonthoingambi Leishangthem Devi, veterans like Chetana Das and Pratibha Choudhury, the film also marks the debut of Kapil Garo as the protagonist.

JOHN ABRAHAM TAKES SELFIES WITH LITTLE FANS AT ARUNACHAL PRADESH

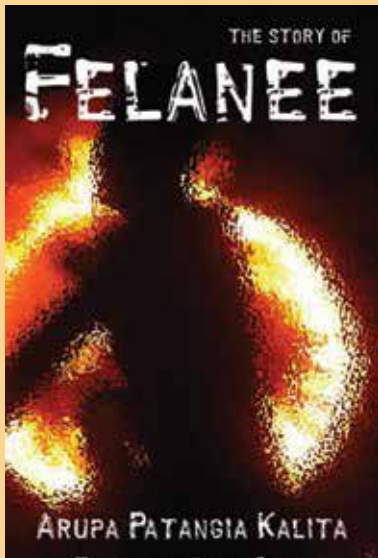
Hunk of Bollywood John Abraham was in Arunachal Pradesh for the shooting of his next movie Parmanu. Apart from the natural beauty of northeast, what attracted John was few kids who were cheering his name. He went to them and took selfies. The actor uploaded a video of the same and captioned "Enroute to Mumbai from Arunachal Pradesh..met some innocence along the way!!!"





FELANEE

ARUPA PATANGIA KALITA, TRANSLATED BY: DEEPIKA PHUKAN



Originally written in Assamese by Arupa Patangia Kalita and translated into English by Deepika Phukan, 'Felanee' is the story of a woman who lives her life sur-

rounded and affected by violent ethnic conflicts. Nickname of the protagonist, 'Felanee' literally means "trash thrown away". It's a heart-rending story of a woman who loses her husband and her home in one round of ethnic divergence, lives her life and brings up her son with the silhouette of violence always hanging over her head and, is threatened by loss all over again when the ethnic divergence grows strong again and takes on new forms. The commencement of the novel is somewhat outlandish – the first chapter quickly passes through the lives of Felanee's grandmother and mother, and then discards them as unrelated to the story. We meet Felanee in Chapter Two, grown-up, married and mother to a seven-year-old, and

we're supposed to know the stories of her mother and her grandmother but have no idea of who she is, what she likes and wants and what moves her. Both these women were affected by cruelty, so this is probably a metaphor for violence erupting through the generations and claiming innocent victims: but it's dealt with in such a perfunctory manner that it adds little to the story. What is raucous though is the translation and poor editing. Another thing that detracts from the novel is the lack of clarification for readers who might not be well-known with the ethnic violence, or even the different ethnicities in Assam. Nevertheless, the book is a good read.

Words: Panchalee Baruah

MOVIE WATCH

BOJHENA SHEY BOJHENA



Produced under Shree Venkatesh Films banner and Directed by Raj Chakraborty, 'Bojhena Shey Bojhena' is a romantic Bengali drama film, portraying two parallel love stories (one that of Soham Chakraborty - Mimi Chakraborty and the other that of Abir Chatterjee-Payal Sarkar) with a common climax. At a time when action movies

turn out to be highest grosser at the biggest box office, 'Bojhena Shey Bojhena' comes as a gust of fresh air to the cine-goers. The story of the film flashes back and shows the lives of four people from different social vein. All four characters are passengers of one of the two buses that meet with the catastrophe. If you notice at first the film sounds like

a multi-starrer romantic film, but it doesn't seem to be like that. While making the film the director did not bother about foreign locations, heavy action shots. He appointed the best cinematographer of Bengali films-Subhankar Bor. The title song of the film was sang by Arijit Singh (his first Bengali break), well known for his romantic numbers like Kabira (Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani) and Tum Hi Ho (Ashiqui 2). The pairing of the cast was unusual who gave their best performance. The climax of the movie is emotional and leaves the audience with teary eyes and also taught them that nobody knows what life has stored for them.

Words: Panchalee Baruah



BRAIN GAME

This month Northeast Today brings for you some questions from the world of sports.

1 He is also called as the 'Goonga Pehalwaan', and was India's sole medallist at Deaflympics. The 28-year-old won Gold Medal in the 74 kg freestyle wrestling at the 22nd Summer Deaflympics. Name him. **MUST GO QUESTION**

2 'Superbia in Proelia' translates to 'Pride in Battle'. On which football team's crest or logo will one find this phrase written? (Manchester City)

3 With is score of 160 against Bangladesh in 2004-05, he became the first player in the history of cricket to score a century against all test playing nations. About who is being referred here? **MUST GO QUESTION**

Identify this famous footballer from the Northeast



4 This former Italian football player was a part of a huge controversy in World Cup 2006 and to commemorate that controversy even a statue was erected in front of the Pompidou Art Museum, Paris, in 2012. Identify the Italian footballer.

5 He was a flying ace and was famous for his solo flights across the Mediterranean without stopping. He fell victim to enemy fire a month before the end of WWI. Something big is named after him the field of tennis. Who is he?

6 In the 1932 Summer Olympics, India beat USA 24-1 and Japan 11-1. Dhyana Chand scored 12 goals while his brother netted 13 out of the 35 goals India scored. This led to them being dubbed the 'hockey twins'. Name his brother. **MUST GO QUESTION**

7 Called as 'poor man's Sobers' and regarded by Tony Grieg as the "best forward short leg". His 53 catches in only 27 matches is the best ratio for catches per test-match among non-wicket-keepers with 20 or more Tests. He is responsible for one of cricket's most celebrated quotes, directed at Geoffrey Boycott, "I will out you bloody." About who is talked here? **MUST GO QUESTION**

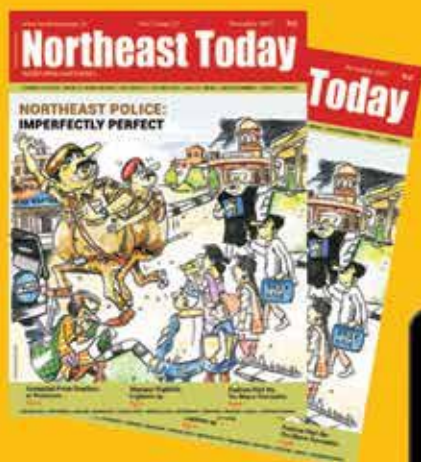
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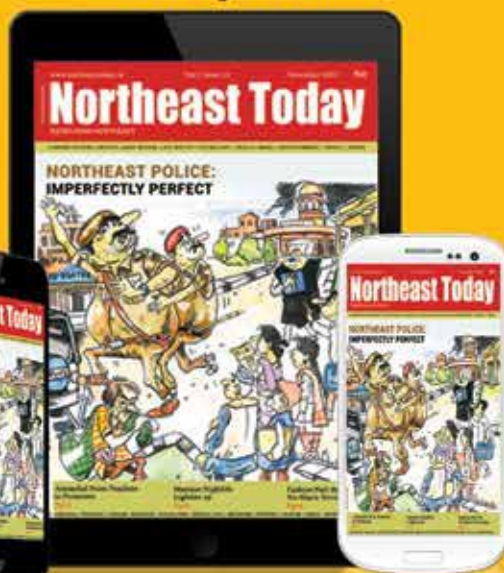


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HOROSCOPE



ARIES (Mar 22 - Apr 20)

You'll be spiritual and intellectual in the coming month. You'll be aggressive when it comes to your investments. Love life will be interesting.



TAURAS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You'll be rewarded for your hard work in this. Salary hikes, promotions, new jobs, new business can all be expected by the bulls this month. Marital conflicts will be resolved.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You'll have a prosperous December. You will be blessed with abundance, prosperity and wealth. Your health can be used with the help of these natural herbal remedies.



CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

You'll need to be very cautious this month. This is because of the Mercury retrograde of December. There will be some confusion regarding important decisions that you need to make.



LEO (July 23 - Aug 22)

You'll be more interested in your own psychological well being this month. You will be innovative and creative in all your ventures. You may feel sidelined at work, or in a project.



VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

You'll do better to work in a team. This month is better spent with your family rather than trying some new business venture. You will be sexually active and make an excellent partner.



LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 23)

You'll struggle to avoid chaos in their lives. You will want to do multiple things at the same time which might leave you angry and short tempered; plan your days in advance.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21)

You'll be in demand this month. Be it your job or your love life, you need not go behind what you desire. Your intuition will work overtime. But you need to definitely take care of your health.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You'll be interested in new love relationships this month. Your job will be stable. This is a month to be enjoyed with your loved ones. You might even be ready to get pregnant.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

You'll have progressive time this month. You will be your. You can also divert your aggression towards exercise and fitness. Financial prosperity too is on the cards.



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 21)

You can have an excellent month provided they are able to have balance. Romance and marriage might face some conflicts. But professionally, you will have a favorable period.



PISCES (Feb 22 - Mar 21)

Though there will be challenges, you will come out a winner. Money flow will be good and career prospects will improve. You are mature enough to take your own decisions without any outside help.

“সমস্যাসমূহ মনতে পুহি নাৰাখি এবাৰ লগ ধৰক”

অসম সন্তান

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