



Tbeh Jingshai

kindling a light

Narratives from **NORTH EAST NETWORK**

December 2024 - March 2025

Dear Readers,

North East Network (NEN) marked its 30th year on 22nd March, 2025.

We take this opportunity to bring you back “Tbeh Jingshai”, which means "kindling a light" in Khasi. This title once lit up the pages of NEN’s earlier periodicals, and continues to represent the light we strive to kindle through our collective work. At NEN, the past few months have been both a celebration of action and a call for more. Join us as we revisit these moments!

Celebrating Three Decades of North East Network



Former and present NEN members, founding members, and partners gathered on 21st March in Guwahati to celebrate three decades of resilience, hope, and action. The event featured reflections from Dr. Monisha Behal, Seno Tshah, and Darilyn Syiem, the launch of Building Resilient Futures: Gender and Climate Change in North East India, performances by Nirbaak, NEN teams from Meghalaya and Nagaland, the Mirdan Youth Collective of NEN Assam, and some heartfelt music—all woven with warm smiles and cherished memories.



[Click here to watch “North East Network: The Journey Far and Beyond”](#)

Navigating India’s New Criminal Laws- Implications for Women’s Rights and Justice: Assam



Ri-Saw Kun Festival - Celebrating Women Led Eco-Tourism: Meghalaya



NEN hosted a two-day workshop in Guwahati, bringing together 39 participants from Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. Led by Persis Sidhva, Advocate at the Bombay High Court and Director of RATI Foundation for Social Change, the sessions unpacked the implications of India's new criminal laws on survivors of gender-based violence. The workshop equipped participants with critical knowledge and tools, strengthening their capacity to support and advocate for women's rights and justice.

[Click here to read more!](#)

To mark the launch of eco-tourism initiatives led by women, NEN in collaboration with the Dorbar Shnong of Wahlielong and Khartein, Eastern West Khasi Hills (EWKH), organised the Ri-Saw Kun Festival. In the earthy terrains of Wahlielong, EWKH, around 260 participants gathered to celebrate community, culture, and nature. The festival not only celebrated the spirit of eco-tourism but also marked a step towards bringing rural women to the forefront while promoting eco-tourism.

[Click here to read more!](#)

Nurturing Health, Well-Being and Resilience: Sustaining Our Future Together: Nagaland



In its 16th year, NEN's Biodiversity Festival at Chizami, Nagaland, brought together around 480 participants. NEN's journey in Nagaland began with a focus on health, and this year's festival explored the deep connections of health with biodiversity, local food systems, and indigenous knowledge, while celebrating 30 years of NEN. Highlights include the inauguration of the Food Sovereignty Cradle, a community seed exchange, a miniature model-making competition, a booklet launch, and a community potluck.

[Click here to read more!](#)

International Women's Day 2025

Action . Equality . Justice

At the heart of NEN's IWD celebrations were conversations on gender equality and collective action. Standing in solidarity with NEN, diverse stakeholders reaffirmed the need for a united effort toward a gender-just society.



ASSAM

Gramin Mahila Kendras across six districts of Assam engaged over 700 participants in celebrating women's voices, struggles, and triumphs. Marking 30 years of NEN's journey, the events featured cultural performances, plays, poetry, and music.

MEGHALAYA

In Meghalaya, 126 participants gathered for a powerful celebration of 30 years of empowering women. Highlights included the launch of Her-Story: Survivor's Story of Change, special remarks by well-wishers and partners, and impactful testimonies.



NAGALAND



In Nagaland, Nenterprise, in collaboration with NEN, commemorated IWD 2025 by bringing together 120 weavers and 66 students. The event fostered awareness of health and well-being of women and youth.

Leading Conversations on Gender Equality at #IWD2025

"When women are not safe, not free, and not paid equally, the purpose of Women's Day remains defeated" -_Anurita Pathak Hazarika, Executive Director of NEN, on Akashvani Guwahati.

[Listen here!](#)

Junumoni Das, NEN Community Mobiliser of Gramin Mahila Kendra (GMK), Kamrup (R), addressed a gathering at an IWD event organised by Dakshin Kamrup Mahila Santha in Mirza.

Moon Bora, NEN Community Mobiliser of GMK, Golaghat, spoke at the IWD 2025 celebrations hosted by Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL).

Aparna Chutia, NEN Community Mobiliser of GMK, Dhemaji, participated as a speaker at an IWD event organised by Dhemaji Mahila Samiti.

Iaimanda A. Rynksai, State Coordinator of NEN Meghalaya, attended the IWD celebrations organised by the Social Welfare Department, West Khasi Hills as a Chief Guest. She was also present as a speaker in the IWD celebrations organised by the Department of Anthropology, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

Monisha Behal at the 19th National Meet of Network of Women in Media

Dr. Monisha Behal, Chairperson of North East Network, was one of the speakers at the 19th National Meet of Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI) in Guwahati. The meet focused on 'Media, Conflict and Climate Change - Impact on Women'.



Congratulations Moon Bora and Ruhini Saikia

NEN's Community Mobilisers from Golaghat were felicitated by NABARD, Golaghat on IWD 2025. We are incredibly proud of your contributions and this well-deserved recognition!

Exciting news from Umsaw!

We've got kitchen gardens up and running at the Integrated Child Development Scheme Centre. A training was conducted on traditional farming techniques with Anganwadi Workers, farmers, and school cooks. Today, we can see fresh vegetables growing in these gardens accessible to women and children.



Of Colours, Patterns & Ideas

We continue to uplift women weavers across Dhemaji, Darrang, Golaghat, Kamrup (R), Sonitpur, and Udalguri through Saneki Weaves. A 2-day design workshop, organised at Kamrup (R), was a step towards that vision—helping women explore color, composition, and innovation while staying deeply rooted in their weaving traditions.



SANEKI WEAVES: [Click here to explore our products!](#)

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To learn more about our projects, [click here](#)
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YouTube: [NEN Assam](#) | [NEN Meghalaya](#) | [NEN Nagaland](#)

To our donors, partners, General Body members, well-wishers and communities—thank you for standing with us.
Your solidarity keeps us moving forward.