

# Tbeh Jingshai

kindling a light

Narratives from **NORTH EAST NETWORK**

August - November 2025

Dear Readers,

Welcome back to another edition of Tbeh Jingshai.

The past few months have been filled with collective spirit, youth-led action, and discussions about women-led development initiatives in the North East region of India. Let us explore it together!



A Hope Wall was created during International Youth Day in Chizami, Nagaland — reflecting the visions and aspirations of young people.

We begin this edition carrying forward that same spirit of hope.

## North East Network hosts the First-Ever NER Vikalp Sangam (VS)



In September, NEN hosted the first-ever North East Regional Vikalp Sangam at the NEN Resource Centre in Chizami, Nagaland. The event brought together around 60 participants, including members of VS national team from Kalpavriksh, and West Himalaya VS and individuals and representatives from organisations across Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland for three days of meaningful dialogue on alternatives rooted in local knowledge and community strength. Presentations and discussions on pressing regional issues of NER, discussions about concerns and aspirations of young people were the highlight of the event. The gathering also included a village walk, a visit to the Chizami Community Seed Bank, a session on several bank and government schemes prevalent in the NER, a vibrant cultural evening of music, dance, and storytelling and a farmers' market - featuring local produce, weaves, and handmade products. This gathering was a reflection of the rich, grounded, and diverse perspectives that prevail across the region and the significance of women-led initiatives in development discourse.

## A Day for Our Weavers: #NationalHandloomDay

*Weaving Dreams, Shaping Future*



The campaign was observed across six districts of Assam - bringing together weavers, members of the Mirdan Youth Collective, and support groups. The day featured a heartfelt storytelling circle where weavers shared memories, techniques, and traditions woven into their heirloom textiles. Participants also explored newly launched products from Saneki Weaves and took part in a fun photo shoot session - celebrating the finished creations that emerge from the weaves they produce.

National Handloom Day in Chizami, Nagaland, brought together a vibrant gathering of weavers, entrepreneurs, educators, officials, and community leaders. In the campaign organised by NEN and Chizami Weaves with Li Cheh Kro Weavers Producer Co. Ltd., conversations on weaving traditions flowed alongside discussions on entrepreneurship and financial empowerment. This campaign was organised by NEN & Chizami Weaves with Li Cheh Kro Weavers Producer Co. Ltd.

## NEN Farm School (NFS) Advance Learning Programme - Another journey begins!



17 enthusiastic fellows from Kiphire, Longleng, Tuensang, Shamator, Noklak & Peren came together at Mhainamtsi village for the NFS 6-month Advance Learning Fellowship Bootcamp. Organised by NEN Nagaland and hosted by Rongmei Baptist Association (RBA), this 4-day bootcamp marked the official induction and orientation for the selected fellows who completed the foundational course. This bootcamp has set the stage for a 5-month-long journey of advanced experiential learning.

## Introducing AGRAH - a collective of women farmers in Assam

What began as a small step in community-led farming has grown into a collective with its own identity and purpose through the formation of a Farmers' Interest Group (FIG) named AGRAH – Assam Gramin Regenerative Agriculture Haat, in Nizdala village of Udaguri. With the continuous support of NEN, AGRAH now brings together 24 women farmers who are committed to strengthening local food production, building market confidence, and taking collective action toward improved livelihoods.



## Youth For Change: A Workshop in Meghalaya



In Nongstoin, a two-day workshop on gender, gender-based violence and climate change enabled youth from three districts of Meghalaya to reflect on social norms, power structures and environmental changes affecting their communities. The workshop concluded with young participants developing village-specific action plans — turning awareness into intention for localised change.

## International Day of Rural Women and Home-based Workers Day

Visibilise Women's Work, Strengthen Communities

This year, North East Network brought together women farmers, artisans, home-based workers, and traditional knowledge holders, highlighting their vital contributions in sustaining livelihoods, local economies, and communities during International Rural Women Day and Home-based Workers Day.



## ASSAM

Across multiple districts, women farmers and collectives led lively pop-up markets showcasing organic seeds and woven textiles to pottery, vegetables, and other handicraft.

## MEGHALAYA

The day was marked by the launch of products created by women's groups alongside a vibrant Women Farmers' Market featuring forest and agricultural produce, wine, jam, pickles and handmade crafts.



# NAGALAND



A farmers' market brought women farmers and communities together to celebrate rural women and home-based workers as key contributors to local food systems and local economies.

## Taking Forward Feminist Voices



At the Tea Symposium on Women's Health, Wellness, Safety and Sustainability organised by UN Women in Guwahati, Rashmi Rekha Borah, State Coordinator, NEN Assam, stressed women workers' growing awareness of their rights and the need for stronger workplace safety mechanisms.

## NEN Documentaries in Samvaad 2025

Two NEN participatory videos — Climate Change: Voices of Grassroots Women and Seeds for Tomorrow — were screened at Samudaya Ke Saath, an indigenous film festival under Samvaad 2025 by TATA Steel Foundation.



## Participation in Women Shape Biodiversity Futures Workshop



Tshekhroweu T. Mero, Programme Associate, NEN Nagaland, participated in the Women Shape Biodiversity Futures: Regional Capacity Building Workshop in Bangkok, organized by Women4Biodiversity.

## A quick update!

NEN distributed bicycles to 17 girls and women across several districts of Assam, with support from AID India (Association for India's Development). The initiative aims to improve mobility and access to education and livelihoods.

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### *Glimpses from the Annual General Body Meet (AGM) 2025*

We also take this opportunity to warmly welcome our new Governing Board member, Smriti Das, and our new General Body member, Nani Kumar Saikia.

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## WATCH OUR LATEST VIDEOS



▷ [Celebrating 30 Years of North East Network](#)

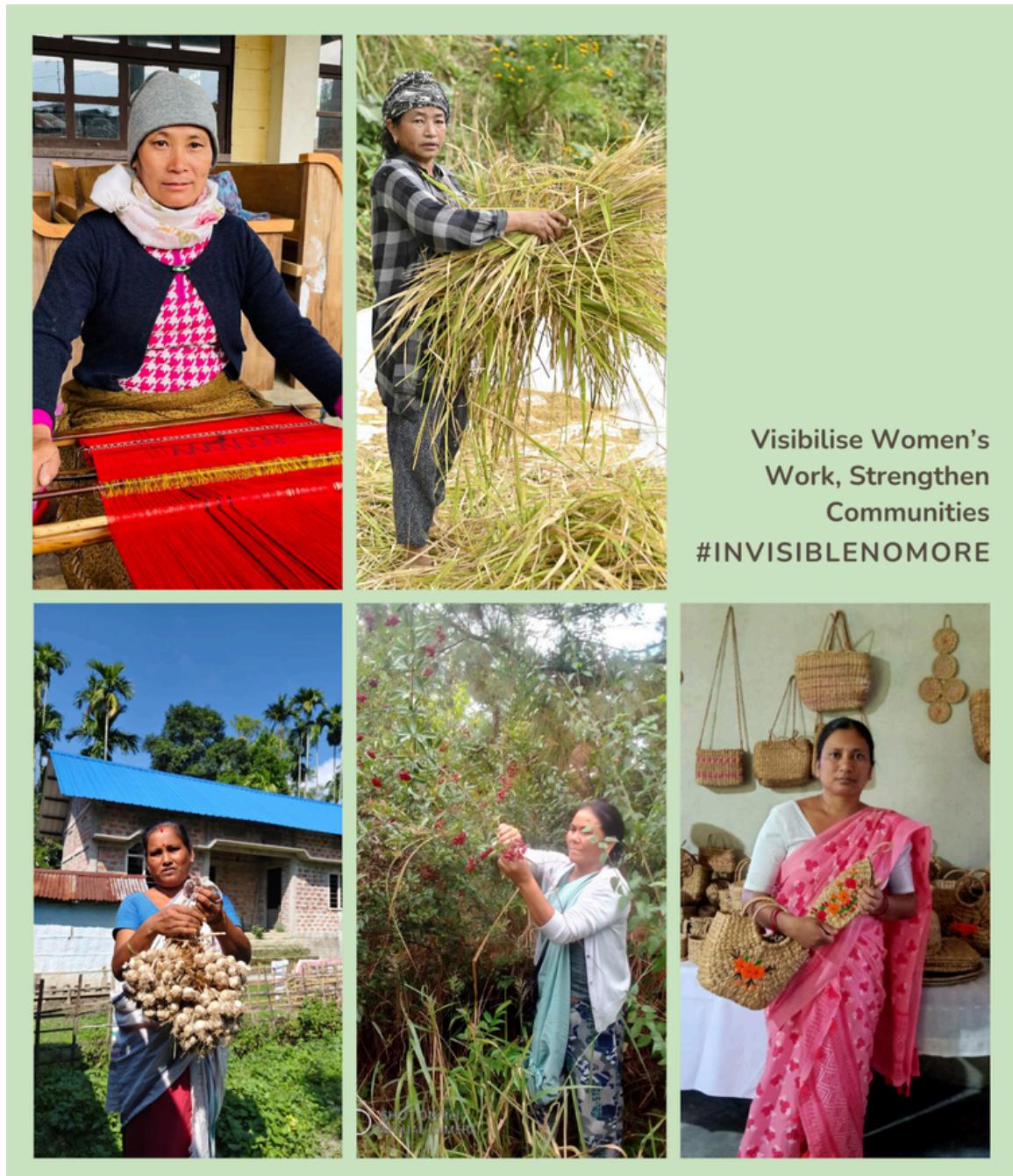
This video is a tribute to the people, partnerships and collective feminist spirit that continue to guide us.



▷ [Umpohliw Barit](#)

This video shares a glimpse of the journey of NEN initiated Umpohliw Barit - a collective of women farmers from Laitkseh, Meghalaya.

## Visibilise Women's Work - A Photo Series



Visibilise Women's  
Work, Strengthen  
Communities

#INVISIBLENOMORE

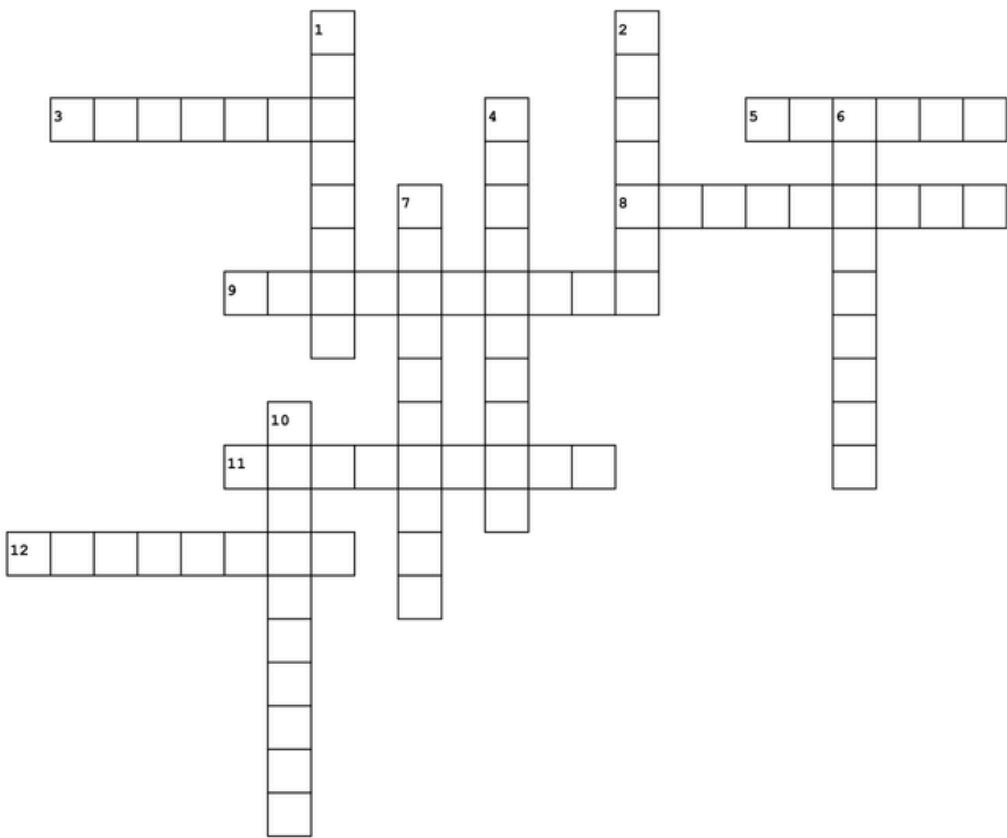
## Weaving Identity - A project for Saneki Weaves

Weavers from Saneki Weaves have created over nine woven artworks for The Voice of Fashion project that reframes the passport photograph through craft. We are sharing with you a glimpse of the process through which a portrait of a woman weaver comes to life, thread by thread.

*More updates coming soon in our next newsletter.*



# Until We Meet Again, **A Feminist Crossword**



## Across

- 3. Being able to make your own choices  
- in how you act, speak, and think.
- 5. Something that can never be compromised.
- 8. Making sure everyone's voice counts, especially the ones from the margins.
- 9. The ability of a person or a community to withstand, adapt to, and recover from difficulties.
- 11. Difference - not as a problem, but as a strength.
- 12. A state of being that can shape a world where no one's less because of who they are.

## Down

- 1. Being able to make your own choices  
- in how you act, speak, and think.
- 2. Something that can never be compromised.
- 4. Making sure everyone's voice counts, especially the ones from the margins.
- 6. The ability of a person or a community to withstand, adapt to, and recover from difficulties.
- 7. Difference - not as a problem, but as a strength.
- 10. A state of being that can shape a world where no one's less because of who they are.

*The answers to this crossword will be revealed in the next edition of Tbeh Jingshai.*

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To learn more about our projects, [click here](#)  
[North East Network](#)

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As we approach the new year, we recommit ourselves to feminist solidarity and women-led change.

**From all of us at North East Network, we  
wish you a New Year filled with hope and  
collective joy.**

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YouTube: [NEN Assam](#) | [NEN Meghalaya](#) | [NEN Nagaland](#)