



# Tbëh Jingshai

kindling a light

Narratives from **NORTH EAST NETWORK**

April 2026 - July 2026

Dear Reader,

Change rarely arrives all at once. More often, it is stitched together - in a workshop hall where women speak openly about rights long left unspoken, in a village where youth turn waste into compost and possibility, in a training room where a needle and thread become the start of a livelihood.

This edition carries these threads forward—stories of women and youth across Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland building knowledge, skills, and solidarity, one gathering at a time.



# CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT: MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

315 participants  
across 2 states



📍 Meghalaya: In East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, and Eastern West Khasi Hills, 35 women and youth marked Menstrual Hygiene Day with open conversation, and a closer look at sustainable alternatives, including reusable cloth pads handmade by a member of a NEN support group.

📍 Assam: Stigma doesn't dissolve on its own, it has to be talked through. Across Golaghat, Sonitpur, Dhemaji, Darrang, Udalguri, and Kamrup (R), 280 women and youth did exactly that, coming together to question old silences around menstruation.



Every so often, even those doing the work of building community need space to simply be a community. The NEN team stepped away briefly in Sikkim, trading workstations for winding sights and shared moments of rest. Between a retro night that brought out old stories and easy laughter, and conversations that turned, as they often do at NEN, toward gender, the team found room to rejuvenate, bond, and learn together.

## FROM THE STATES



### TURNING WASTE INTO WEALTH, UMSWAI VALLEY

*What if waste wasn't waste at all?* That was the question at the heart of a three-day Capacity Building Workshop facilitated by Shantanu Sen, Secretary General of Green Commandos Forum for youth in Assam. 26 youth got hands-on with composting, recycling, and agroecological resource use. Learning ran both ways—the group also drew on the host village's own community-led waste management systems in Umswai, leaving with practical ideas that they can take back to their communities across Assam, contributing to healthier and more self-sufficient communities.



### STITCHING NEW FUTURES: WOMEN AND MENSWEAR TAILORS' TRAINING

Eight women stepped up to the industrial sewing machine this quarter, as NEN partnered with Cloket on a 30-day Tailors' Training at NEHHDC, Gorchuk. From taking measurements to cutting fabric, finishing seams, and constructing shirts, trousers, and jackets, participants built the technical grounding to take on production-based tailoring work.



### ROOTS AND ROUTES: ANNUAL NEN FARM SCHOOL

From 29 June to 3 July, NEN Resource Centre, Chizami, filled with 21 students from eight institutions spanning Nagaland, Assam, Telangana, and Karnataka. Over five immersive days, they moved between soil and story—studying food webs, composting, and paddy transplantation, seed bank visits, and agrobiodiversity walks, and listening to community elders in the Morungs share stories of seeds and food systems, all in service of understanding indigenous food and farming systems from the ground up.



### LENS ON CHANGE: A CONTINUATION

Across Pathso Nokeng and New Phor Village, Nagaland, 10 participants came together to learn the art of storytelling: exploring documentation, filming and editing while reflecting on issues of gender, climate and environmental action. NEN's Participatory Video workshops are an effort to make grassroots stories visible - stories told by communities, for communities, and through their own voices. The participants are currently working on a film; keep an eye on our Youtube channel for an update!



## WHOSE WORK COUNTS? A CONVERSATION ON GENDER, RIGHTS, AND ENTITLEMENTS

On 4 July, 18 women from the NEN Support Group in Mynni Mawbri, West Khasi Hills, gathered for a session facilitated by Community Mobiliser Arelcy Lyngdoh. An exercise called "Which Way Does the Scale Tilt?" prompted participants to weigh paid work against the unpaid care work so often taken for granted—surfacing gender biases and opening conversations about sharing household responsibility more equally.



## CONNECTING WOMEN TO PRIME

On 22 July, 60 NEN-trained women gathered at the Block Development Office Hall, Nongshillong, East Khasi Hills, for an interface meeting with Smt. Streamlet Sohtun, Deputy Manager of PRIME, facilitated by NEN. The session unpacked PRIME's schemes and how to access them, opening doors for aspiring entrepreneurs to find the resources and partnerships that could grow their enterprises. As an outcome of the meeting, PRIME will support NEN's Farmer Groups with market linkages, publicity, and skills development training.

## FROM THE FRIDAY FORUM

**Sip, Paint, Connect:** Brushes replaced laptops as Baishali organised a sip and paint session at the NEN Head Office. The team took a moment to slow down, painting bookmarks for themselves and for the NEN library, with conversation flowing as freely as the paint.



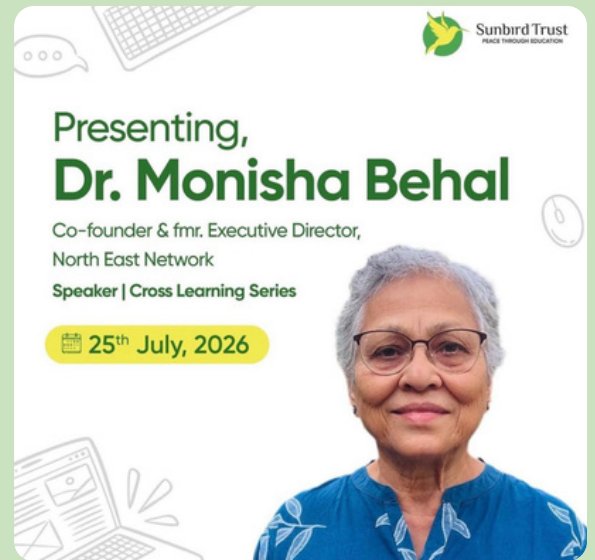
**Session on Food Nutrition:** In Nagaland, our team traded routine for reflection with a session on Understanding Food and Nutritional Security – and it turned out to be as engaging as it was eye-opening. The conversation dug into how food security, nutrition, and gender are interconnected - how socio-cultural practices, unequal access to resources, and the everyday weight of household and care work quietly shape whether women get to eat well, or eat last.



## TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Monisha Behal, Chairperson of NEN, invited as a speaker at Sunbird Trust's Cross Learning Series.**

Her session offered insights into building resilient communities and empowering local leadership, drawn from a journey that continues to shape the region's social change landscape.



**Pamchingla Kumrah, Nagaland State Coordinator, was invited as a panelist for two sessions at the Workshop on Evolving Strategies for Strengthening Agroecology in the Northeastern Region, held in April in Guwahati.**



**We are proud to share that NEN Community Mobiliser Batskhem Lyngkhai has been selected to serve as an ICC member in the Office of the Superintendent of Police, Nongstoin, West Khasi Hills, from 30 June 2026 to 30 June 2029.**



**As part of our ongoing efforts to promote safe and equitable workplaces, Anurita P. Hazarika, Executive Director of NEN, facilitated POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace) training sessions at The Assam Tribune and Royal Global University.**

**She was invited to facilitate sessions on Roles and Responsibilities of Protection Officers and Service Providers under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 by the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development (SPNIWCD), Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), and an Intergenerational Adda on Gender and Patriarchy organised by the Akam Foundation.**

## FEMINISM IN PRACTICE: REFLECTING, LEARNING AND UNLEARNING



NEN team recently came together for a multi-day workshop on Feminist Practices, to reflect on feminist histories, principles and their application within the organisation. Facilitated by Anupriya Ghosh and Chandrayee Dey from Jagori, the sessions explored feminist movements globally, in India and across Northeast India, highlighting the region's rich but often undocumented histories of women's collective action.

Moving beyond theory, participants examined NEN's own practices through a feminist lens, reflecting on power-sharing, intersectionality, leadership, relationships, accessibility and collective care. Through group exercises and creative zine-making, we identified existing strengths, challenges and opportunities for strengthening feminist practice across NEN.



Through [Saneki Weaves](#) - a livelihood initiative of NEN, we strengthen rural livelihood of women in Assam while celebrating the richness of local resources and skills in every product we make.



We launched **AGRAH Mustard Oil**, nurtured and harvested from the fields of Nizdala village in Udalguri (Assam), created by a collective of women farmers. Grab your bottle from our head office in Guwahati!

📍 North East Network, J.N. Borooh Lane, Jorpukhuri, Guwahati



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As we conclude this edition, we carry these reflections forward in our work.  
May we collectively continue working for a gender-just world.

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



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