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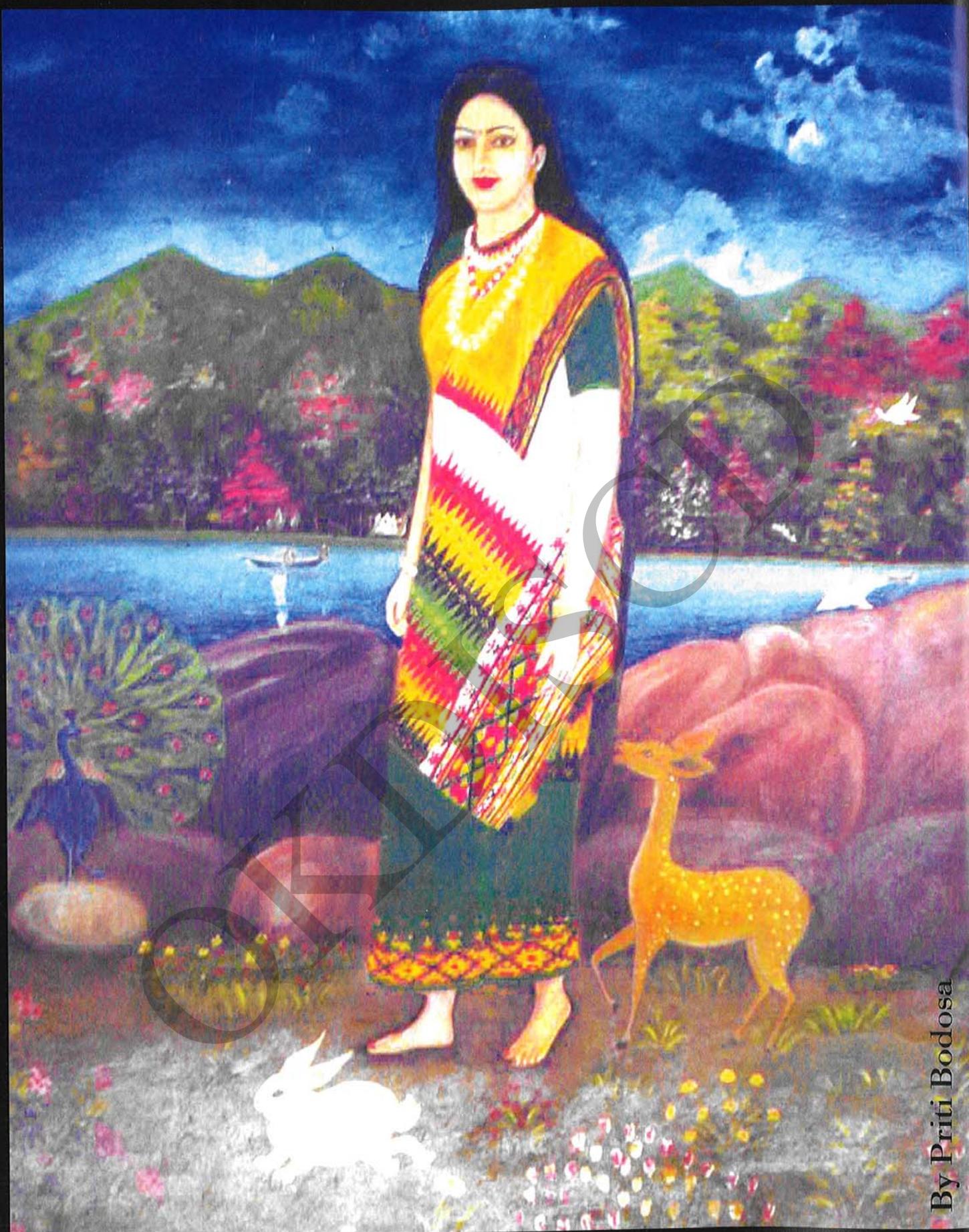
THE

# HUDAANG



Sourabhee :  
Pride of North East

A Monthly News Magazine for NE from North Cachar Hills, Assam



By Priti Bodosa

## Birth Anniversary on March 3

A Portrait of Dimasa Princess Dishru, Daughter of King Hariram Haflongbar, of Hirimba Kingdom.

# South Asia Security

India's political and policy establishments in different political dispensations have yet to recognize that diplomacy not supported by muscular power and muscular power not backed by adroit diplomacy end in failure and embattled security environment. South Asia in the case of India highlights this dictum. India has lacked the will to use power to ensure a stable South Asia security environment.

As a result of Indian foreign policy failures to take charge of India's vicinity as a regional power and further still India's failures to use her political and economic positive points to ensure that the external intrusive powers in South Asia respect her strategic sensitivities, India's embattled security environment to-day has crystallized. These policy failures have been more noticeable in the last five years.

India to be admitted in the global strategic calculus would need first to conclusively demonstrate that it doesn't shy away or is meek and feeble in ordering her own regional strategic environment as the predominant power in South Asia.

India has yet to demonstrate that conclusively to the global strategic community. The recent crises in South Asia have found India wanting in this direction. In the wake of Mumbai 9/11, it was regrettable to observe the Indian Government counting on the United States to politically coerce Pakistan on India's behalf.

With general elections due to April, 2009, the present Indian Government is incapable of exploring fresh policy options to reorder its embattled security environment which has materialised from its own acts of foreign policy omissions and commissions. A new political dispensation, if comes into power should focus over new policy options to reinforce India's regional power status and weight. If the same political dispensation returns to power, it would have a lot to answer on its foreign policy failures and would be well advised too to focus anew in light of the flaws that have constantly come to the surface in the last five years.

India should ensure that India's strategic sensitivities as a regional power is respected both by the external intrusive powers in South Asia and South Asian countries themselves.

India must utilise comprehensive strategic leverages in the backdrop of India's regional power status impeded by United States and China even as Pakistan: India policy should rest on national security imperatives and not dancing with the wolves. With regard to Afghanistan: India's must stress on priorities to assist nation-building not military involvement. India must also realise that a stable Bangladesh is India's Strategic Imperative.

India must contain enlarging Chinese penetration under Maoist Government in Nepal while with regard to Sri Lanka India's national security interests should predominate over domestic political compulsions. Imperatives for India's assistance in capacity building of defensive capabilities must get the upper hand insofar as Bhutan is concerned. India must also realise that war preparedness is a pressing strategic imperative.

*Juthai*



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# Gift Of The Gods

— By *Minist Jidongsa*



*Dimasa girls in traditional attire and ornaments at Central Bishu-Dima Festival, Dhansiri in Karbi Anglong district, about 143 kms (89 miles) from Nagaon Assam, Northeastern state of India on Feb. 13, 2009.*

“*Bishu Dima*” is integral to entertainment of the Dimasa people. Obeisance is paid to god and goddess. The first syllable in the term “Bi” means prayers for well being of the individual or society as a whole. The second syllable “Shu” stands for entertainment in tandem with the playing of bugle called Muri. “Dima” as such is the emphatic identity of the Dimasas.

The traditional form of *Bishu Dima festival* is hom-

age to Sibarai and Gamadi, the preceptor and creator of the universe and god of engineering Bi-swa-garma or Biswakarma as called by other groups and communities for successful cultivation or jhuming or slash-and-burn cultivation. Bishu Dima worship is performed by Khunang (Gaon Bura) or the village headman. This is called “Mido Garba”.

Bishu Dima and its significance relates to the iden-

tity of the Dimasas as a tribe and use of traditional costumes. A girl or a woman is adorned in her traditional attire in terms of *Rigurhijamphaing*, *Rhamai*, and *Rhikhawsha*. Ornaments adorning her wrist and neck consist of *Khadu*, *Phowal*, *Chandrawal*, *Rangbarsa*, *Lig-jao*, *Lig-sim*, *Jongsama*, and *Ligdima*. Dimasa women sport ear-rings called *Khamaothai*.

Observed the Bishu Dima festival since agriculture had started among Dimasa community. Its festival is understood to have been practised since the reign of Dimasa king Bishar Pathipha over the Hidimba kingdom at Dimapur in 11th century AD. Bishu Dima festival is celebrated at the end of the jhuming or slash-and-burn cultivation on the field and ahead of the new beginning of activities of life for the new year. Bishu Dima festival thus marks the significant period of transition in agrarian life of the Dimasas.

Based on the fundamental guidance to love and reconciliation, creation of an atmosphere of friendship and courtesy, rejoicing and blessing, Bishu Dima festival comprises sacrificial service followed by youth (*Naga-Matla*) and other married couples seeking blessings from their own parents. They then go from house-to-house to seek blessings from *Bainoh* or *Gajaibaw* and *Khunang* (Village headman or Gaon Bura) including elderly persons of the village. This is called *Bishu Gaba*.

Bishu Dima basically are of three types: *Jidab*, *Surem* and *Hangswau Bishu*. *Jidab Bishu* can be celebrated at any convenient place over a single day and night without adding *Bishu Gaba* and other entertainment programmes called *Ringkho Damsa* or *Dara bomin*>*Daramin*. *Surem Bishu* is celebrated either at the venue of the festival lead by *Bainoh* or *Gjaibaw*. It can be celebrataed over three-to-five days. *Hangswau Bishu Dima* celebration must have a *Gjaibaw* that has a higher status than *Bainoh* which is celebrated over seven days and nights without a break. The sound of the bugle or *Muri* and beating of



drums called *Kharams* also continue without a break.

*Surem* or the *Hangswau* the youth of the village organize themselves into a body called *Naga-Matla*. *Naga-Matla* is headed by *Naga-Hoja* for boys and *Matla-Hoja* for girls assisted by each other called *Farai* after the *Naga-Hoja* and all others. It's assistances are selected by the *Naga-Matla* and they work in the village at least three times to formally select *Bainoh* or *Gjaibaw*. This *Bainoh* or *Gjaibaw* hosts the *Naga-Matla* or entire activities of the *Bishu*. It's obligatory on the part of the village to organize social service three times over different jhuming processes as a mark

of conferring the designation of *Bainoh* or *Gjaibaw* and the *Naga-Matla* shall render even two-fold service to the village.

*Bainoh* or *Gjaibaw* holds the command of the *Bishu* festival and education including social discipline in as much as lives of the *Naga-Matla* are spent learning to be social, conscious about well-being of society, culture, tradition, religious matters and craft works. Apart from organization of the *Naga-Matla* some groups of males and females of villages organize themselves to work for success of cultivation called *Rgai-Dangba*. This in present times is known as Self-help Group. *Naga-Matla* while preparing *Surem Bishu* or *Hangswau Bishu*, needs a huge amount of funds and they render their service in terms of specific allocation of works from some of the families. This's known as *Hawbwa Manaoba*. This earning from specied works shall be kept for the *Bishu* festival expenditure and in case of the *Naga-Matla* they can work beyond the area specification. This excess charge shall be collected to spend on immediate needs. This is called *Hawbwa khorni suguba*. Beside that it may also be so that, if a person of high profile or calibre in society or some affluent person willingly accepts to render contribution, he may be invited as guest of honour on a special night for him called *Bisingba*. *Bisingba* is followed by prosperity of the concerned person.

It may be said that the *Hangswu Bishu* entailed



*Dimasa children in traditional attire and ornaments during Central Bishu-Dima Festival, Dhansiri in Karbi Anglong district, about 143 kms (89 miles) from Nagaon Assam, North-eastern state of India on February 13, 2009.*

unlimited merriment by the villagers in contrast to that of present times. In present day Dimapur district and eastern part of Karbi Anglong district, formal *Hangswau Bishu Dima* festivals are forbidden. It so happened that during one of the Dimasa king's reign over the Hidimba kingdom capital at Dimapur, there were Dimasa villages in the surrounding area. In one such village *Hangswau Bishu Dima* festival was organized at that time. *Naga-Hoja* of that village was the son of a widow called *Banju Basa*. In the meantime when the festival reached its peak of jubilation, intrusion by enemies led to a national emergency in the kingdom. Deployment of youth called *Kharam Rgai* from the village was urgent for the fortification of the fortress. None of the village youth were obliged to accept the detailment in the village because each youth was supported by his father. But though *Naga-Hoja* was busy enough in the festival he was compelled to go to the *Kharam-Rgai* because he was none to defy the order related to the emergency decision. He felt humiliated and declared in one corner of the main dancing venue called *Baikho* that case of any untoward incident leading to his death he would rise from the dead in the form of a vampire called *Mangber* to take revenge.

He stationed himself on the frontline of the attack and killed all enemies till the wee hours of that fateful night and at long last his courage cost his life. For security reasons, it was propagated that he was killed by a wild *Mithun* called *Mithang* on his way back from detailment. Now this *Mangber* rose from the dead and haunted the *Bishu* venue and celebration which was disrupted. Later this notice reached the king, The king took serious note of the event and meticulously studied the whole episode. Acknowledging the intricacies involved in the *Hangswau Bishu* celebration in such a state of uncertainty, the king passed a decree to ban the *Hangswau Bishu* and youth leader (*Naga-Hoja*) selection from the son of a widow. Thereafter *Hangswu Bishu* was stopped in that region. All activities of *Hangswu Bishu* celebration such as construction of *Nohdrang*, a house for youths and construction of *Fangsla*, a beautiful gate of decorated designs made of bamboo without using a single rope or nail, and all other related activities were stopped altogether in the region. Not much later after this incident capital Dimapur of Hidimba kingdom had to be shifted to Maibang presently in Assam where the Hidimba kingdom started to decorated designed flourish. ■



# Nation At Stake

— By Thangkhlin Doungel



Reposing strong faith in its endeavour for attainment of regional autonomy, chairman, Pro-talk United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) Mrinal Hazarika has said autonomy alongwith regional federalism would create a conducive atmosphere for long-term solution of issues such as that of the Dimasa-Kachari and various other ethnic and indigenous people in Assam.

In a communication to chairman, People's Supreme Council of Dimaraji, Dima Halam Daogah (DHD) Dilip Nunisa, Hazarika said influx of immigrants has created an identity crisis among the greater indigenous Assamese. If this process is allowed to continue then the economic, political and cultural life will be

endangered and the existence of ethnic tribes and groups will be at stake, Hazarika said.

Keeping in view the fact that in the next 20 years till illegal immigrants will become a majority and conspire to merge Assam with Bangladesh through a referendum, Hazarika said Pro-talk ULFA had thus suspended its armed struggle for an independent Assam and resolved to pursue full regional autonomy for Assam alongwith a united powerfull India.

Appealing to people and like-minded organizations to stand unitedly fight against the foreign nationals, the pro-talk leader said those aliens have now become a threat to the region and people. even as ULFA leaders



outside the country had failed to safeguard the identity and existence of indigenous people.

Historically and socially, Assam has had no affinity with India being isolated administratively and geographically, he said, adding, ethnically distinct Assam was politically independent for about 600 years (1228-1826) under the mighty Ahom kings. The Treaty of Yandaboo, 1826 signed between two foreign powers—the British and the Burmese had inserted Assam into the framework of British colonialism, Hazarika informed.

Asserting that the people of Assam strongly resented British occupation, Hazarika said ex-rulers who revolted found themselves in solitary confinement at Alipore Central Jail and subsequently in the confines of cellular jail or were hanged in 1832.

The Pro-talk ULFA leader said Maniram Dewan was hanged in 1858. The greater Assamese even revolted beyond 1858. Once land taxes were imposed in 1882. Thousands were catapulted into frontal combat. Two deputy commissioners were victimised even as the Assamese regrouped in 1903 under banner of Assam Association led by the English-speaking elite.

Congress never considered North-East within national parameters of mainland India, he said and added that the greater Assamese joined the Indian National Congress (INC) voluntarily even as the Congress has been of population explosion.

He said the most disturbing development in 20th century, Assam has been of population explosion that increased from 3.3 million in 1901 to 22.3 million in 1991 while India as a country rose from 238.4 million in 1901 to 843.9 million in 1991. Decadal variations in the same period will also exhibit Assam had much higher rate than of India average from 1901 to 1991 which is

54 per cent and the population of truncated, Assam would have been 14.9 million. The huge magnitude of the problem and the serious threat to territorial integrity of the nation from foreign nationals is revealed by the figures below:

**Trend in population growth: Assam-India**  
**Percentage Decade Variation**

Year	Assam	India
1951	19.94	13.31
1961	34.97	21.64
1971	34.95	28.80

Year	No of electors	Percentage of Increase During the year	
1957	44,93,359	—	—
1962	49,42,816	4,49,457	10% ( In 5 years)
1966	55,85,056	6,42,240	12.99% ( In 4 years)
1970	57,01,805	1,16,749	2.09% (In 4 years)
1971	62,96,198	5,95,393	10.42% ( 1 year)
1977	72,29,543	9,33,345	14.82% (In 6 years)
1978	79,74,476	7,44,933	10.30% (In 1 year)
1979	85,37,479	5,63,021	7.06% (In 1 year)

In 1940 Hazarika informed DHD charman Dilip Nunisa the Muslim League in its resolution at the Lahore session openly declared inclusion of Assam in Pakistan along with Muslim-majority Bengal. In 1944 Humayun Kabir (former West Bengal Chief minister, after independence) wrote in 'India' a paper edited by himself: that one can easily visualize a Bengali state comprising about 100 million people and living in a compact area. Such a state would include the present state of Bengal and some of the outlying districts of Assam and Bihar in fact the entire province of Assam may be wholly incorporated in it, he pointed out.

Muslim League president Mohamad Ali Jinnah visited Assam in 1945 and when he was questioned by the correspondent of *Hindustan Standard*, how could he include Assam in his projected Pakistan, as Muslim population formed only 38.6% (including Sylhet), the reply was, "I don't want to enter into controversy; but I assure you, Assam will be my Pakistan." On the eve of partition Jinnah told his private secretary Moin-ul-Haque Chaudhury (a former Congress minister after independence), "Wait, I shall present you Assam on a platter," Hazarika informed.

Indian National Congress on January 22, 1947 ahead of Independence in its plenary session, every

two years, adopted resolutions to variously confer the people inhabiting different provinces (the state were called under the 1955 Act) regional autonomy, residuary and other powers. The mover of the resolution was a personality no less than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Hazarika said. Once the country was partitioned the objective resolution was forgotten quickly. Indian Independence in fact did not mean freedom and liberty. It was a mere transfer of power without a break with the imperialist past. The native stepped into the shoes of the alien, whether in administration, industry, trade or commerce, the pro-talk leader stated.

With the setting up of the dominions of India and Pakistan in 1947, there was no change in the exodus of the Bengali Muslim in Assam. Pakistan (Control) Act and Migrants Act 1950 ensured that inflow of migrants remained unchecked, undetected and unabated. A silent invasion by the foreign nationals from neighbouring countries, the former rebel leader elucidated.

The rate of increase of the Muslims in Assam has been estimated during 1951-61 at 27 per cent as against the natural increase of 22.4 per cent. At the former rate the number of Muslims in Assam on March 1st, 1961 should have been 25,44,816. Thus the number of Muslims that came from East Pakistan stood at 22,0691. Deducting passport holders from the afore-



said number illegal migrants stood at 2,13,739. To aggravate the situation, Hazarika said, attitude of immigrants underwent a radical change with their growing influence as 'vote bank'.

While they permanently settled in Assam, their sympathies lay entirely with Pakistan. This was borne out by the fact that they hoisted Pakistani flags with slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad' in villages near Tezpur and Morajan area of Nagaon during Chinese invasion. When the Chinese were heading towards Bomdila in November, 1962. BN Mullick, chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB) apprised Centre of the national security risk

soon after the Chinese invasion in 1962. Prevention of infiltrators was worked out by taking up the Pakistan (PIP) Scheme. The scheme was devised not only to check but deport infiltrators from Assam, Hazarika pointed out.

Financed by Centre the scheme was to be implemented at the state level. Chief Minister Bimala Prasad Chaliha vigorously implemented the scheme for three years after which Union Home ministry put pressure on Chaliha to go slow as minorities under banner of Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Hind and supported by Chaliha's Cabinet ministers Fakruddin Ali Ahmed and Moin-ul-Haque Chaudhury.

The relaxation of the scheme under ministry of Golap Borbora and Jogen Hazarika and appeasement

policy consistently followed by the party in power accelerated and multiplied the process of infiltration. Vote bank of Congress grew by the day, the Pro-talk ULFA leader stated.

In the wake of liberation of Bangladesh several lakhs of refugees came to North-East India but a few lakhs remained and most of them of course returned and consequently Muslim population rose 24.3 per cent in 1971, the highest for any state of India except Jammu and Kashmir. Hazarika said that another disturbing factor was the demand made by political parties for inclusion in electoral rolls of the names of such migrants who weren't citizens and that too without even questioning the property of determining citizenship status.

Even Pro-India Bangladesh President Mujib-Ur-Rahman had his covetous eyes on Assam when he said: "Eastern Bengal must have sufficient land for its huge population and Assam has full scope for expansion

because Assam had huge resources such as abandoned forests, minerals, coal and others resources. Small wonder that intellectuals of Dacca invoking the Theory of Lebensraum that meant migration from heavily populated places to areas with space. The former insurgent leader said the Muslim population sought to create an independent Banglabhumi comprising Assam, West Bengal and Bihar.

The Indira-Mujib Friendship Treaty multiplied the process of infiltration, cooperation and peace. The treaty had imposed an obligation on Centre to accept all refugees who came to India ahead of 1971. Indira Gandhi told the Rajya Sabha in October, 1980 that if there were any foreigners, they would be settled elsewhere in the country if the Assamese didn't them. No action whatever was initiated by her government nor her successors. Rehabilitation of the migrants is a national burden to be equitably shared by all states of the country, Hazarika apprised DHD charman Nunisa. ■

## Restive Hills

Calling upon the Union Home minister P. Chidambaram to initiate action against the Black Widow responsible for a series of violent incidents in North Cachar Hills district and their alleged links with the ruling party in North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, All Dimasa Students' Union (ADSU), Dimaraji Mohila Samaj (DMS) and Dimaraji Khunang Hosom (DKH) said council authorities had allegedly been misusing funds by financing and sheltering Black Widow cadres.

In a memorandum to the Union Home minister through deputy commissioner, Karbi Anglong in mid-February, the Dimasa organizations alleged that the council members were responsible for free movement of Black Widow cadres in the district.

Alleging that there was enough evidence of involvement of ruling authorities of NC Hills Autonomous Council with extremists, the memo signed by Dima Haram Daogah (DHD) chairman Dilip Nunisa, home secretary Kantho Langthasa and DHD organizing secretary Rongsling Dimasa stated that continued killings, kidnappings, torture, extortion and victimization of hundreds of innocents people in the district have been taking place year after year.

Pointing out fingers at Black Widow extremists of free movement without any let or hindrance, the Dimasa organizations asserted that Government forces including law-and-order authorities of the district have remained non-functional and failed to rein in excesses committed by insurgents of Black Widow till date.

Despite a huge number of army and paramilitary forces including police personnel being deployed in the district at the expense of public money, ADSU, DMS and DKH informed that during tenure of earlier councils also, there allegedly had been instances of funds being provided to Black Widow insurgents. An Enquiry Commission had been instituted by Government of Assam to unearth the truth about the allegations.

Appealing to Union Home minister P. Chidambaram to initiate strong measures in consultation with the state and district authorities concerned against violence and other nefarious activities going on unhindered in the district, the Dimasa organizations said such a measure would usher in peace, safety and development of the entire people of the region, the memorandum added. ■

— By Naba Kr Bora

Israel takes pride in its unilateral actions against Iraq's nuclear installations in 1981. The Jewish State's F-16s had flown in total silence over countries' airspace and destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor. The biggest difference between 1981 and now is that most of the world understands now what Israel understood then. Today the US, the most powerful nation in the world, speaks loud and clear about the threat from Iran. The President early on didn't put the issue on the table and the Europeans weren't involved as they are today. If an international diplomacy fails to halt Iran's drive for nuclear weapons, Israel will probably be part of an international military coalition against Tehran. Military and aerospace officials say the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Air Force is back in operation for weapons of mass destruction sites, in Iran. Israeli Air Force (IAF) is also honing various plans for possible unilateral strikes.

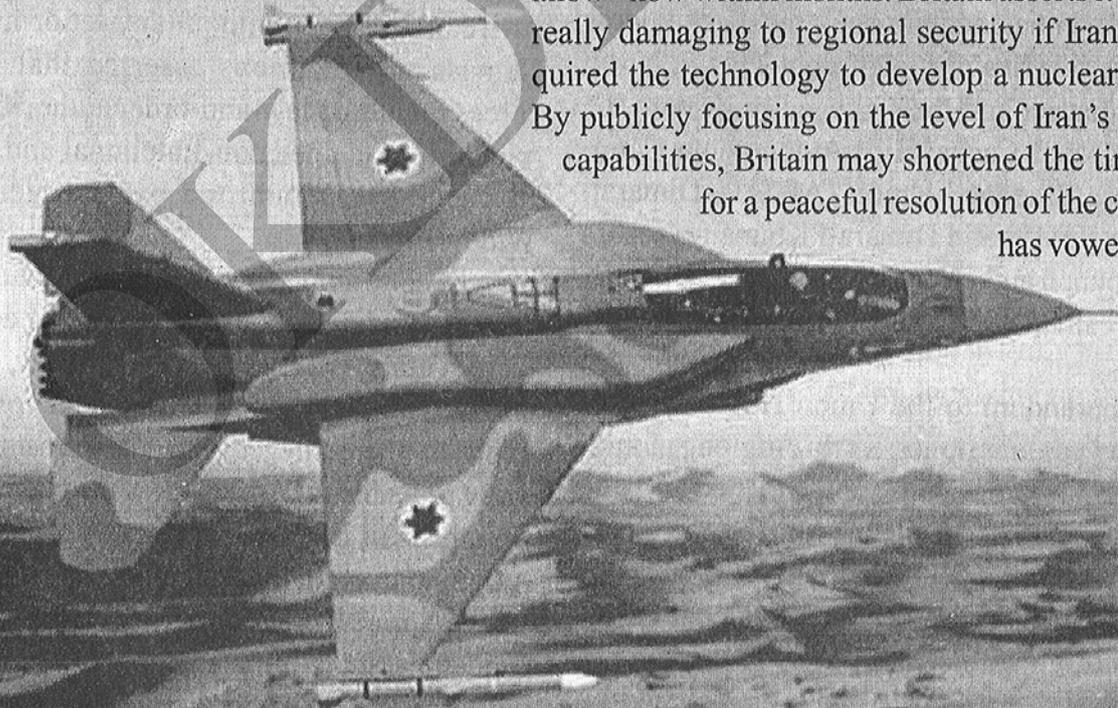
Britain claims Iran could acquire tech-



# Lone Ranger

— *Vijayanta Sharma Pathak*

nological capability to build a bomb by 2006-end. It says while it could take Iran several years to build a serviceable nuclear weapon, it might gain technical know-how within months. Britain asserts it would be really damaging to regional security if Iran even acquired the technology to develop a nuclear weapon. By publicly focusing on the level of Iran's technical capabilities, Britain may have shortened the time-frame for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. Iran has vowed to press



on with its uranium enrichment work while denying it is seeking nuclear weapons. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has concluded that Iran's assurances are insufficient.

### Sky on fire

Pulitzer Prize-winner for breaking the story of My Lai massacre in Vietnam and one of America's top reporters, Seymour Hersh confirms in an article 'The Coming Wars: What the Pentagon Can do now in secret on January 24-31, 2005 in *The New Yorker* that planning for an Iran in-



vasion was in advanced stages. Hersh discovers top US political leaders seriously considering use of 'tactical' nuclear weapons. Philip Giraldi, a former CIA agent says Vice-President Dick Cheney had directed the Pentagon to prepare a big assault against some 450 sites in Iran. Should another 9/11 occur in the US, US forces must be prepared to use 'usable nukes. A school of thought believes Iran is the real prize in the war on West Asia. Iran is the only remaining hurdle for US-Israeli hegemony in the region. President Bush says the world must take Iran's threats concerning its nuclear program and Israel seriously.

Though President Bush has laid all options including military action on the table, European Union (EU) remains concerned that Israel may unilaterally attack Iran's nuclear facilities that are subjects of an EU-Iran negotiation. The talks are aimed at halting Iran's uranium enrichment and plutonium production. Despite Israel's statements to the contrary diplomatic circles in the EU believe that if at any point Israel concludes that negotiations have failed, Israel will bomb key nuclear installations, including Iran's centrifuge enrichment complex in Natanz. Because this is an issue of utmost vital interest to Israel, official circles have assumed there is a discrepancy between Israeli words and deeds. US Vice-President has openly said Israel might 'well decide to act first' and 'might do it without being asked by the US.

### Stonecold

'Israel's Strategic Future', a report by Israeli-based Ariel Center for Policy Research, says the country must adhere to its current policy of nuclear ambiguity. It must, at the same time, do whatever is needed to keep the Middle East free of biological and non-nuclear including to conventional pre-emptive strikes against enemy facilities for developing and producing such weapons. The panel of US and Israeli security experts insist that non-conventional weapon developments in Iran and other regional States should determine, when and in what manner, Israel, Israel departs from its long-standing policy of so-called strategic ambiguity. Under this mid-1960s policy, Israel doesn't confirm or deny existence of its nuclear capabilities.

Danny Yatom, a former director of Israel's legendary foreign intelligence agency Mossad, says Israel can't lead the campaign against Iran since the danger forces the whole world. Yatom says he believed Vice-President Cheney's remark about Israel's 'deciding to act first' was designed to get the EU more involved in efforts to halt Iran's nuclear programme. But shortly after IAEA confirmed that Iran had secretly built an enrichment plant at Natanz, Israeli diplomats told their EU counterparts that Israel would destroy facilities in Natanz by military force unless an international effort to prevent them from operation was successful. The statement of Israeli intentions was confidential. EU concern about Israel intentions is acute because out-



come of negotiations has been highly uncertain and fraught with difficulties.

### Fire-line

The USA, however, increasing pressure on Iran by sending military planes into its airspace to test the country's defences and spot potential targets. Over flights have been reported in the Iranian and Chinese press. Head of Iran's Air Force Brigadier General Karim Qavami declared recently that he had ordered his anti-aircraft batteries to shoot down intruders. But there have been no reports of Iranian missiles being launched. Reports say the idea is to get the Iranians to turn on their radar to enable an assessment of their air defences. The flights were said to be part of the Pentagon's contingency planning for a possible attack on sites linked to Iran's suspected nuclear weapons programme. The flights came after reports of American Special Forces incursions into Iran.

The CIA is said to be doing the politically sensitive work of looking for Iranian nuclear facilities and delivery systems such as long-range ballistic missiles. Doing such work is not the role of the US Air Force's U-2s or Global Hawk UAVs that fly out of Al Dhafra AB in the United Arab Emirates. A senior USAF official has

been quoted as saying the CIA is using I-Gnats and Predators used early in the Afghanistan war. They focus on small areas to find dispersed nuclear weapons development sites. The dates are sent back to Beale in California through satellite similar to global Hawk imagery.

### Treasure trove

Beale is the major intelligence exploitation center from where processed information is distributed, mostly by secure landlines, to other bases such as Indian Springs auxiliary airfield. Predator missions are controlled from that auxiliary airfield. Since both the

Army and Air Force now operate similar Unmanned Air Vehicles 9UAVs, the CIA's small fleet could be operated from the same bases in the theater or from bases in remote areas of Afghanistan or Iraq. Prior to the Iraq war, the US built airstrips in Kurdish-controlled areas of Iraq near the Iranian border that could now be used by UAVs. The number of UAVs in operation including those of Army, Air Force, CIA and British makes it difficult to for anyone to all their flights. The CIA always demands physically separate facilities while conducting UAV flights from the same bases.





Given that the US military is pinned down in Iraq, an attack by the US on Iranian nuclear facilities would be unlikely, according to a former senior UN and IAEA official. He says chances are far greater that Israel would bomb Natanz on its own. Former US national security Zbigniew Brzezinski notes that a unilateral Israeli would be adverse to American interests which could precipitate negative Iranian actions against US interests in Iraq and Afghanistan. Former CIA director, Robert Gates then adds that circumstances were different from those in 1981 when Israel's aircraft destroyed Iran's French-supplied Osirak reactor. A strike in Iran, he says, could lead to higher civilian casualties since most of the country's nuclear installations are located close of or in cities.

### **Kill rate**

While support for air power, dominance is far from unanimous among. Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), lessons from Lebanon tell a different story. After withdrawal from Lebanon, 95 per cent of actions Israel took were from the air. IAF has a kill rate of 60 to 80 percent of all Palestinian combatants targeted for liquidation by Israel's Shin Bet security service and intelligence arms. Improved accuracy and reliability of aerial assassination strikes or precise targeting operations have been attributed to a well refined operational

concept that blends accurate intelligence, improved command and control and advanced technology timing devices ensure that an air-launched weapon explodes in the middle of a moving car rather than the front or rear. The IAF has been constantly working or adding more and more precision to its weaponry to avoid collateral damage and harming of innocents.

During most of 2003, as EU geared up to get Iran to freeze its enrichment program, EU source played down threat of an Israeli attack. These sources now assert that any public assurances by Israeli leaders that Israel won't attack Iran's facilities may not be credible. Reports say Israel's Special Forces are operating inside Iran in an urgent bid to locate its secret enrichment facilities. The forces are said to have found suspected sites last year and suspect that more such facilities exist.

### **Clear danger**

In a war game organized by the Atlantic monthly, experts and ex-officials from the US intelligence, diplomatic and military communities concluded that unilateral Israeli military action would be 'very high risk'. Israeli planes would have to fly over Saudi Arabia and Jordan or over Turkey, also a problem, or over American-Controlled Iraq which would require US approval. Experts outlined more than a dozen known targets as-

sociated with Iran's nuclear programme; most of them dispersed and secreted dozens of meters underneath hardened bunkers. Moreover, the war games identified about 30 so-called aim points in Iran, some 125 of them directly associated with weapons of mass destruction. The rest involved air defences, command and-control facilities and other critical targets.



Former IAF command Major Gen Eitan Ben Eliahu, who was one of F-15 points which provide air cover for Israel F-16s that destroyed Iraq's reactor told a Netanya College's Strategic Dialogue Center-sponsored conference in April, 2005 that critical targets and aim points in Iran are today much more numerous, dispersed and heavily defended. Moreover, the distance to Iranian targets could be double the roughly 1,000 km flown in the Osirak mission. If IAF fighters take off from Israel, it is about 1,600 km each way, Israel would need to add another 20 to 30 per cent to that range, because a straight path is not the most optimum. In terms of range, the mission involves some 4,000 km round trip. Ben-Eliahu told the conference that increasingly capable regional air defences, coupled with presence of hundreds of US and other aircraft operating in Iraq and elsewhere preclude silent, uncoordinated solo operations by the IAF.

### **Trial by fire**

Ben-Eliahu on his April 17 presentation said most critical targets are concentrated in the vicinity of Tehran and 150 km south of the Iranian capital. He also noted that Iran possesses only about 20 ballistic missiles which should not present insurmountable difficulties

when planning attacks. Israel's anti-ballistic Arrow Weapon System (AWS) successfully intercepted a target simulating an Iranian Shahab-3 medium range ballistic missile (MRBM) in the test over the Mediterranean on December 2, 2005. The target, Rafael Armament Development Authority's Black Sparrow, launched from an IAF F-15 fighter, simulated in voluntary maneuvers typical to the terminal trajectory phase of Shahab-3, which separates the warhead and spent booster upon reentry to the atmosphere.

The AWS's Green Pine radar acquired the target after launch. The Citrus tree fire control system tracked the target and launched one interceptor from the IAF's battery in Palmachim Air Force base, South of Tel Aviv. The interceptor acquired the target using its photoelectric sensor and detonated the proximity warhead, spreading a cloud of fragments that destroyed the target. Though Israel has never used the Arrow against Shahab characteristics; Israel now understands it is capable of integrating all existing ballistic in the region.

### **Blood instinct**

Despite complications of longer-range and better and defences and 'unknowns' associated with intelligence, some changes actually work to Israel's advantage, a senior IAF official notes. Today, Israel's command-and capabilities are much more advanced. IAF weaponry, he says, is much more high-tech and long-range delivery platforms such as F-15I and F-16I, now being incorporated, make a vast difference. Israelis have been fighting a war for the last 2000 years. Israeli author has been to develop capabilities by themselves and not to rely on others. This has served the Israelis well. The 1991 Iraq war was the first signal of a need to change the ethos. Even the US used allies in both wars in Iraq, it is also true that if any one nation attempts to throw off its national vitality, the director which has become its own through the centuries, that nation does.

"I am not saying from a technical perspective it (unilateral strike on Iran) can be done. But it would be a mistake," chances of accidental conflict on the way to Iran and back are extremely high. Ben-Eliahu says: "And then of course, we have to ask ourselves, what about the day after? Are we prepared to bear the burden of all the ramifications by ourselves?" ■

# Earth In Dire Straits

— By Pradip Kemprai

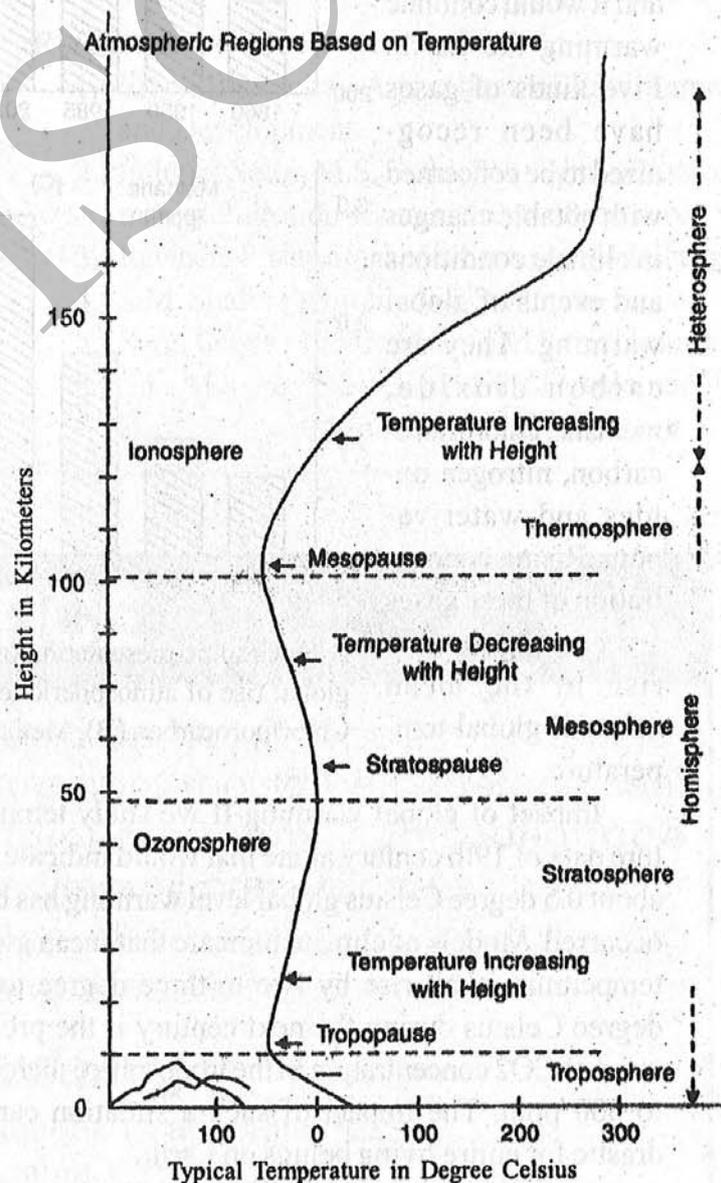
Global warming is now a focal theme among scientists in the context of man-environment relationship. According to the deterministic approach, human life, its health, their socio-economic conditions and others are controlled by their natural environment. Charles Darwin, in 1859, by his book *Origin of Species* laid down the foundation stone of the concept of environmental influence on man and other organisms. Fredrich Leplay postulated that "Society is fashion by environment." William Maris Davis also clearly stated that human activities, racial characteristics and cultural elements are closely related to environment. The concept of environmentalism strongly came up in 1910 when American Geographer E.C. Semple published her book *Influence of Geographic Environment*, where she said that "Man is the product of the Earth Surface."

In the first two decades on the 20th century, the concept of environmentalism was also influenced by three aspects of contemporary scientific thoughts such as Darwinian concepts of natural selection, adaptation and survival of fittest. Application of deductive approaches to scientific enquiry and acceptance and application of the Newtonian concept of cause-effect relationship. During the last two decades, there has been increasing concern about the adverse effects on environment by human society for their development and comfortable lifestyle. Though different environment policies and measures have been formulated locally or at the international level they have not yet been fully integrated with development policies. As such the scientists ring the alarm of danger of Global Warming and Green House effect which will destroy our planet in near future.

In simple terms global warming means increase in the average temperature of the atmosphere, oceans and landmasses or Earth. Our Earth has warmed and cooled many times during its 4.65 billion years of history. At present Earth appears to be facing a rapid warming and most scientists believe it's a result of environment pollution caused by human activities. Chief

cause of this warming is thought to be the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gasses that release carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other substances known as Green House gases into the atmosphere.

Green House effect means the energy in terms of light and warmth that comes from the Sun in the nature of short-wave radiation including visible light when energy strikes the surface of Earth, and changes from light to heat consequently warming our Earth. Earth's surface, in turn, releases some of this heat as long-wave infrared radiation. Much of such radiated heat

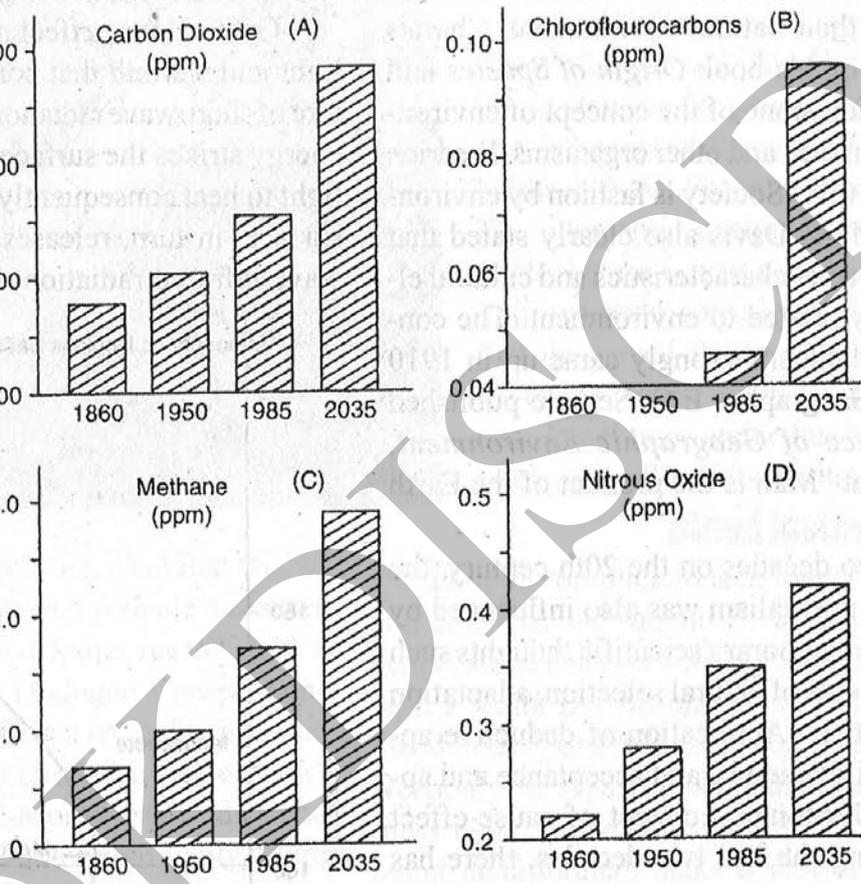


A view of atmospheric regions based on temperature by SM Shafi

goes back to space, but a portion remains trapped in earth's atmosphere by certain gases such as carbon-dioxide, methane, water vapour and others absorbing and reflecting infrared radiation by earth. These gases conserve heat as the glass in the Greenhouse does. Thus it is known as Green House effect. As concentration of these greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increases, more heat energy remains trapped in the Troposphere. All life on earth relies on this Greenhouse effect. Without it Earth would be cooler by about 33 degree celsius (59 degree F.) and ice would cover earth from pole-to-pole. On the other hand, growing excess or Greenhouse gases threatens to tip the balance and it would continue warming the Earth. Five kinds of gases have been recognized to be concerned with notable changes in climate conditions and events of global warming. They are carbon-dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbon, nitrogen oxides and water-vapour. Rising concentration of these gases are causing notable rise in the mean value of global temperature.

Impact of global warming-If we study temperature data of 19th century alone that would indicate that about 0.5 degree Celsius global level warming has been occurred. Models of climate indicate that mean global temperature shall rise by two-to-three degree to six degree Celsius during the next century if the present trend of CO2 concentration in the troposphere increases to 600 ppm. The impact of such a situation can be drastic for entire living beings on Earth.

Average surface temperature on Earth is about 15 degree Celsius (59 degree F.). Over the last century, this average has risen by about 0.6 degree Celsius (1 degree F.). Scientists predict further rise by 1.4 to 5.8 degree Celsius (2.5 to 10.4 degree F) by the year 2100. This temperature rise is expected to melt polar ice-caps and glaciers as well as warm the oceans of cold regions. As a result ocean volume will expand and sea level would rise by an estimated nine to 100 cm. (Four to 40 inches), flooding some coastal regions. Even some islands will go down under water. Some regions in warmer climates will receive more rainfall than before, but soil will dry out faster than in the past. This soil desiccation may damage food crops, disrupting food supply in some parts of the world. Plants and animal species will shift their ranges towards the pole or to higher elevations seeking cooler temperatures and species that fail to do so may go extinct. The potential consequences of global warming are so great that many of the world's leading scientists have called for international cooperation and immediate action to counter part the problem.



A-D, Graphic presentation of greenhouse gases mainly responsible for global rise of atmospheric temperature (in ppm), Carbon dioxide (A), Chlorofluorocarbon (B), Methane (C) and Nitrous oxide (D) by SM Shafi

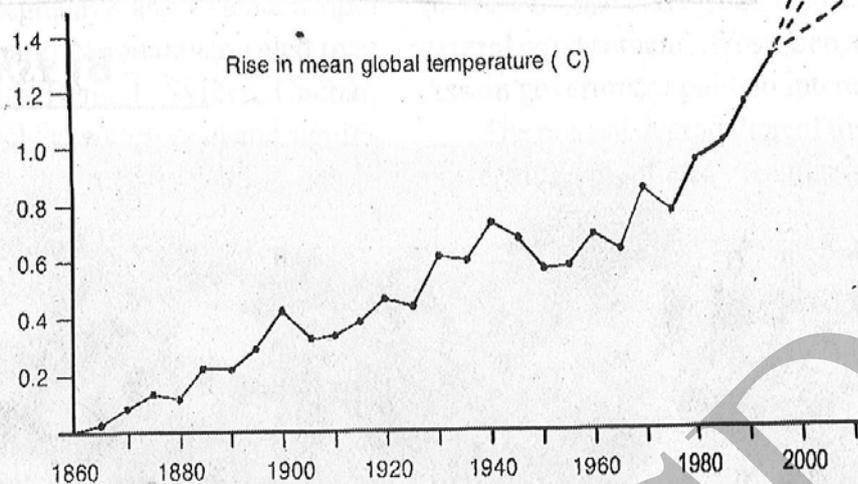
As early as 1896, scientists suggested that burning fossil fuels might change the composition of the atmosphere and that an increase in global temperature might result. The first part of this hypothesis was confirmed in 1957, when researchers working in the global research programme called the International Geophysical Year, sampled atmosphere from the top of the Hawaiian volcano Mauna Loa, the data collected showed that the concentration of Greenhouse gases are increasing. In 1988, the UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization established a panel of 200 leading scientists to consider the matter.

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In its Third Assessment Report, released in 2001, this Inter Government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that global air temperature had increased 0.6 degree Celsius (1 degree F) since 1861. The panel agreed that the warming was primarily caused by human activities that add Greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. In 2001 the IPCC predicted that average global temperature would rise by another 1.4 degree to 5.8 degree Celsius (25 to 10.4 degree F.). In this regard, international cooperation is required for successful reduction of Greenhouse gases.

In 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio-de-Janeiro, Brazil, 150 countries agreed to confront the problem of Greenhouse gases. In 1997 in Japan 160 nations drafted a much stronger agreement known as the Kyoto Protocol. But this treaty was not implemented properly and most critics found the Kyoto Protocol too weak. Global environment collapse is

not inevitable. But the developed world must work with the developing world to ensure that new industrialized economies don't add to world's environment problems and emission of Greenhouse gases. Conservation strategies have to become more widely accepted and with the aid of more developed technology, mistreatment of environment can be reversed for ensuring survival of our planet.



Graphic presentation of rise in mean global temperature of gases in the atmosphere (up to 2000 A.D.), by SM Shafi.

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## NOTICE

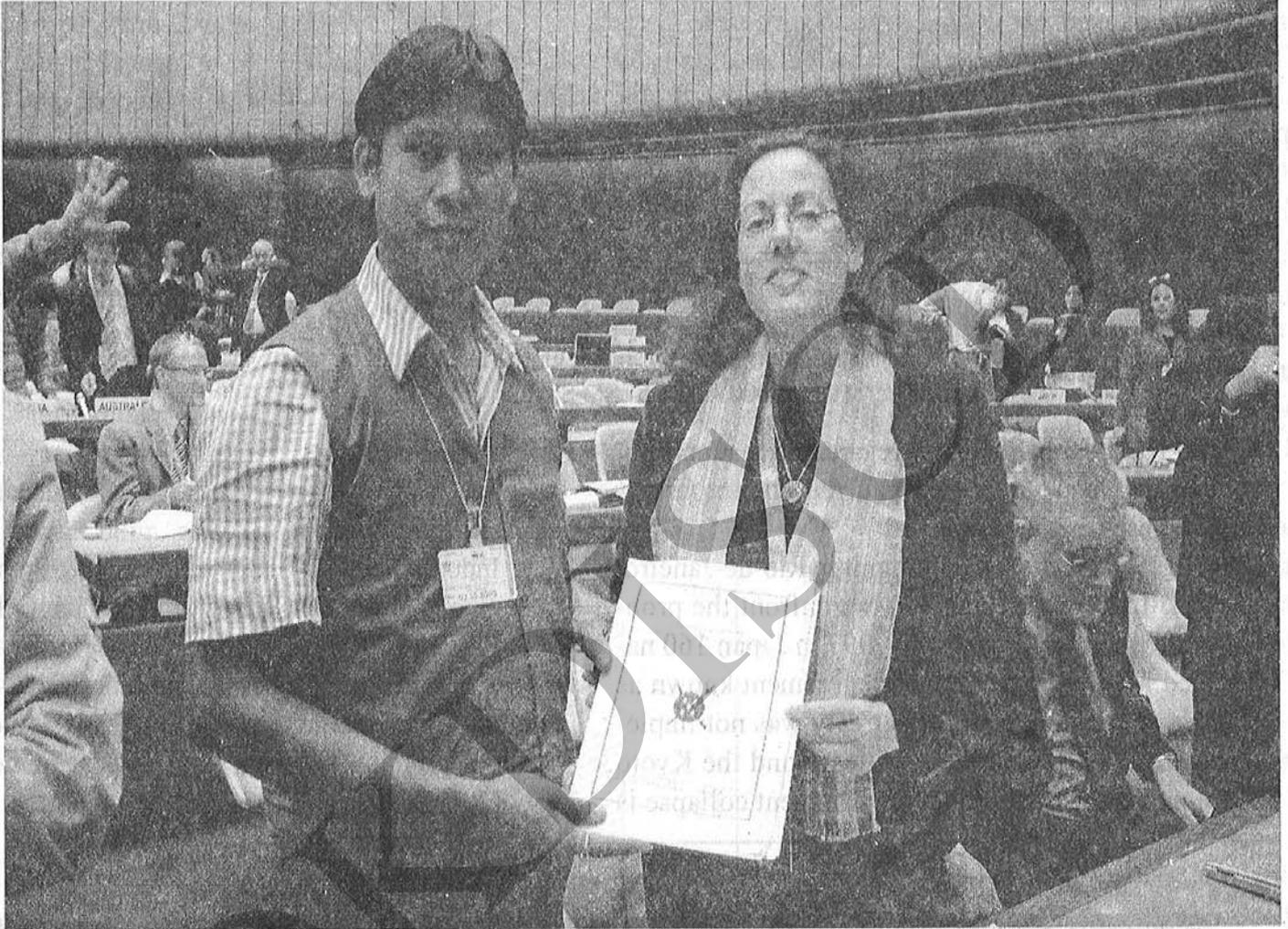
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# Ruins Of Glory

*-By Ishamrangbe Pame*



*All Koch-Rajbongshi Students' Union (AKRSU) president Biswajit Rai at a photocall at Human Rights Commission meet in Geneva, Switzerland.*

Expressing strong resentment over the apathy of Centre and state government towards fulfilling the demand of a Kamatapur state or homeland pursued since 1968. All Koch-Rajbongshi Students' Union (AKRSU) has said security, peace and progress in the state and nation will be possible only if their demand for creation of a state or homeland is granted. In the aftermath of creation of a state and homeland of their own and conferment of scheduled tribe (ST) status on Koch-Rajbongshi.

Submitting a memorandum to the secretary-general, United Nations (UN) in Geneva recently AKRSU said the Koch-Rajbongshi have been struggling for their

rights since 1968 when Centre granted ST (Plains) status by way of a government ordinance on January 27, 1996. With the change in government at the Centre the ordinance couldn't be regularized in Parliament and the Koch-Rajbongshis were still fighting for their rights in terms of demanding ST(P) status, AKRSU stated.

Responsible for birth of the Phoenician civilization in the Persian Gulf area, the great Koch emperor of Pragjyotishpur also known as Kamrupa named Bhagadatta of Bhuma alias Narak created havoc in the Kurukshetra battle. The king was accompanied by 2,18,700 warriors and they fought the war on the side of the Kauravas of Mahabharata fame. This famous

battle took place around 2829 BC approximately, the memo informed.

The Koch-Rajbongshi community founded the Kamata-Koch kingdom in the 16th century comprising entire North Bengal, Meghalaya and extended upto Tripura. Koch king Maharaj Naranarayan ruled over ancient Kamrupa, North Bengal, Sylhet, Cachar, Tripura, Manipur and wielded widespread and significant powers dominating vast tracts of land in neighbouring king-

doms. The proposed Kamatapur state covers a large chunk of the landed territory of districts in Assam. In the present context the Government of India, West Bengal, Bihar, Meghalaya and Tripura had declared and recognized Koch Rajbongshi as more

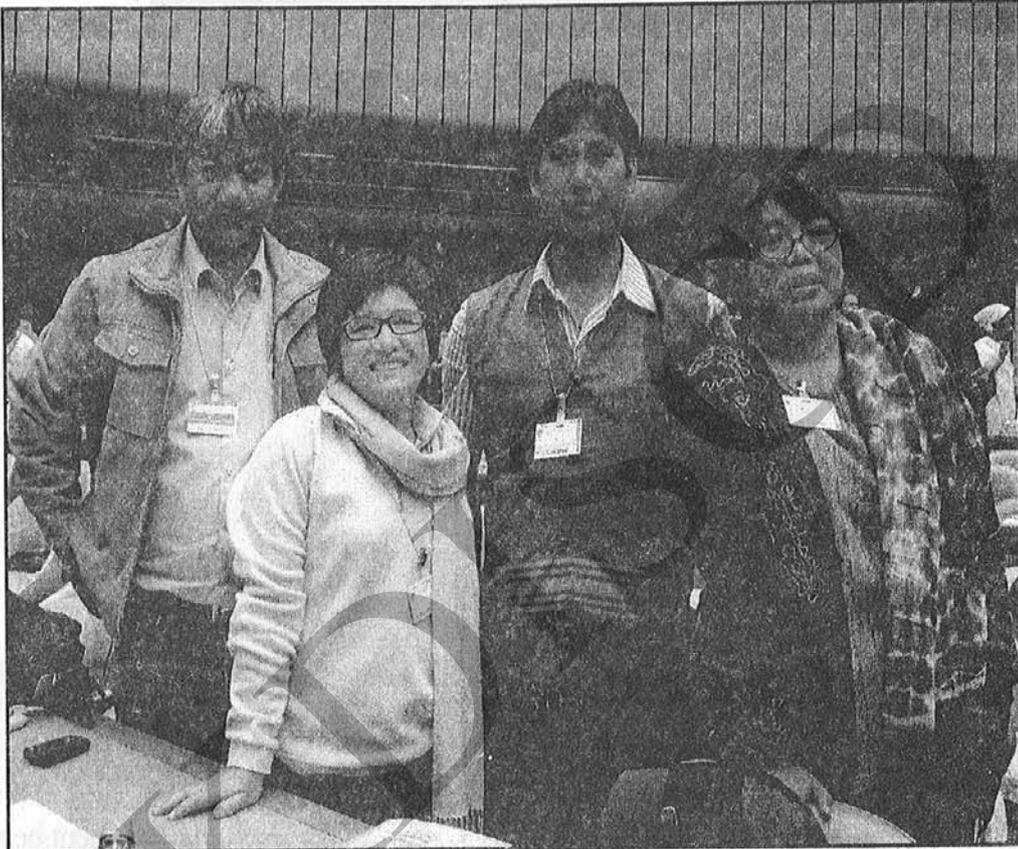
other backward classes (MOBC). In some states they have been given plain tribal status. Thus the Koch Rajbongshi people steadily became minority in each state losing their political representation and identity. They are said to have been reduced to a lower or denigrating position than the plain tribal people of Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura. Their ethnic identity is thus on the verge of dying.

The Kamatapur state which was an independent state integrated with India only after independence of the country in 1947. Its territory included some parts of West Bengal, Bihar, Meghalaya, Assam and Bangladesh. In 1971 some parts of Kamatapur State were incorporated tagged to Bangladesh. When the Bangladesh was formed and the remaining was divided into Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar. The Gov-

ernment of India also granted C category state to Komatapur but failed to do so. Various organization like AKRSU have been demanding separate state Kamatapur for the community including five districts of West Bengal and eleven districts of Assam, but the central government, West Bengal government and Assam government paid no interest to the demand.

The present degradation of the once-civilized-and powerful Koch of eastern India has been ascribed to

the unholy expeditions by privileged classes, mostly hailing from the so-called upper caste people of Hindu society. The great and historic Koch peoples especially in eastern India are now a divided people bracketed into ST, Scheduled



*AKRSU president Biswajit Rai with delegates from other parts of the world.*

Caste (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and More Other Backward Classes (MOBC) amongst other OBCs by the same India Government during post-independence under the Indian Constitution.

The Koch are an ethnic group of peoples, now under the Hindu fold of the Indian society. It's actually a race but acknowledged wrongly and superficially as a caste. Many kings belonging to the Koch race ruled in ancient Pragjyotishpur alias Kamrup in Eastern India, Deccan in South India, and Sindhu, the westernmost part of India. Basin of the Indus river, Asia Minor, Babylon, Phoenicia-Egypt, Greece on the banks of Irawati river that's the Illawati or what's known as modern Kampuchea or Kambodiya in the east, down to the great Silk Route ahead of the advent of the Christian era over 2,000 years early on.

The route connected Lowang in East China with Phonecia in Europe and western border of Asia including the Caucasus, Hindukush, Kochapani or Asia lake, including Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and others nestled on the snowcapped, ethereal Himalayan ranges.

Divisions and sub-divisions are artificial and capricious, the memorandum pointed out, adding, these divisions are irrational so much so that members of the

also conquered Gouda in alliance with the emperor of Delhi, the famous Mughal Badshah Akbar in the year 1570 AD.

The great Vaishnavite saint Sankardeva, a descendent of a Kayastha family of Mithila origin received royal patronage and protection for propagating new Vaishnavism during the golden reign of Maharaja Naranaryan and his younger brother Sukladwaj who was popularly known as Chilarai. The Koch were there rights from pre-Vedic period down to the middle of 20th century (1950 AD). The memorandum stated that it was during this time that princely states and Zamindari system in India were abolished and merged with independent India.

It was only after independence in 1949 that Cooch Behar State was integrated with the Union of India and given of category state along with the princely States of Ajmer, Bhopal, Bilashpur and Coorg, the communication stated, adding, the integration was the result of an agreement between the Governor General of India and Maharaja of Koch kingdom.

This state of affairs was followed by an attitude of indifference towards the general interest of subjects of the Koch kingdom. Koch Rajbongshi community had thus been suffering from a sense of neglect ever since. It won't be an exaggeration to say that identity of the Koch-Rajbongshi is on the verge of extinction, the AKRSU memorandum intimated.

The Koch at different times were known by different nomenclatures such as Pani-Koch, Kuvachache, Mech, Kombzee, Beratya-Kshatriya, Bhangakshatriyas, Kshatriyas and lastly as Rajbongshis. The last stronghold of the Koch are now found in eastern India. The Koch of other remote corners of the world are now almost allegedly extinct because of integration of the Koch with the peoples of various other places, the memorandum asserted. ■



*ADSU president Prafulla Hafila and AKRSU president Biswajit Rai with a delegate at the Human Rights Commission meet in Geneva.*

same family and parents are divided into ST-SC-OBC and MOBC. The Koch in Assam in present times are backward despite the fact that the community constitutes 33 per cent of the total population of Assam, excluding the declared ST Koch, who are entitled to hardly 2.50 per cent facilities from government and other avenues. The Koch Rajbongshi have been demanding appropriate welfare but all in vain, the memo added.

Another great Koch emperor of Kamrupa Kumar Bhaskar Barman in the 7th century conquered Kalinga in alliance with emperor Harsh Vardhan of Thaneswar. Bhaskar Barman warmly received the famous Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang in the year 646-647 AD. He was a famous Buddhist monk in his country.

Maharaj Naranarayan-Vikramaditya of Kamrupa who ruled between 1533 AD to 1587 AD

## Dimasa Thairili (Poem)

### Dimasa Shol (Proverb)

**“Thiya goba hajai-ya**

**Baiya goba noh jaya.”**

Ebo habasao gomang thaosisi,

Jam ya thihi musu giri.

Daosa, Misa, Miyung, Mithang

Hading, Dikhong, Shamphang, Bonphang

Dain, Saing, Satarai, dongbasikhe

Sangsai basi Shibrai,

Bai gobalai ning masi masi

Jampha langma dong basi.

Thiya gone hajai ya saosi,

Bai-ya gothai dangphuya musu,

Odebani khasao lai, Ha-basao dong dusi,

Shibrai de thiya musu khali,

Bokhe bi’-jahi khasi musu,

Boniha sohi nang Nisi, khasao jaobalai.

**“Jarni yaupha jarni khaulai**  
**Dangre khusi hamya-ne mlai.”**

Habsauha girine subong mlai

Sangshai yaba bausi marshi khe madai,

Dagoi jaubai, Danaisle bai,

Baolai gibin khebo jar lai.

Aaphna khlaiba neng rimphong ni graothai

Phirthi ni khrib khe aaphana baolai,

Blaiya bothukhe sausikhe khilai,

Blaidusi hamba neng danglai.

“Jarni yaupha jarni khaulai

Dangre khusi hamya ne mlai,”

Ebo neng Haindong (Hindu)

ni rimphong ni shibring thai,

Mithi hi graokhe khaha deng lai.

*Jathindra Lal Thaosen*  
*Haflong, NC Hills, Assam.*

### Eaga Sain Khlim

Nini eaga khe maikha dini

Majang shring majangsi

Gathar jakha Aani bomang

Nini yaduri pnang hi.

Ebo Aani muthai thaigni

Thauparilai jengdo dini

Aani ebo thaopari khe

Dosi rainya mathang di

Majang shring majangsi.

Nin eaga sainkhlim maihi

Kha-de, Kha-thik jalang kha—

Oraha Aani khoro tuseng hi

Aani kha majang kha

Ningede Aangke bamkhudi

Khurini nanakhe shlam khudi

Aani hajai gajai jaya

Ningkhe maiya maipnangkha

Majang shring majangsi.

■ *Uttam Chand Barman*  
*Silchar, Cachar.*

### ‘চকুলো’

মোৰ চকুলো বোৰ,

এটোপ-দুটোপকৈ পৰি

তিতি গৈছিল গাৰ দখনা।

মই জাৰত কপিছিলো।

মোৰ মনত জুই

জুই-জুলিয়ে থাকিব নেকি ?

কোনে জ্বলালে অশান্তিৰ জুই ?

মৃত শিশু পুনৰ জীৱিত হ’ব নে ?

ক’ত শিশু জুইক মাতৃ বুলি আকোৱালি লৈছে।

যদি পৃথিৱীয়ে শিশুটিক আকোৱালি লয়,

মোৰ চকুৰ টোপালবোৰে শান্তি পাব।

*দ্বিপন হাসামফুৰা*

*কোমোৰাকটা, হোজাই*

# East-West Affair

— Ringshring Hasnusa



*Kokrajhar MP Sansuma Khungur Bwismwthiari at the dharna in New Delhi by ADSU and ACKHSA in support of speedy completion of Silchar-Lumding BG and Silchar-Saurashtra Maha Sadak.*

All Dimasa Students' Union (ADSU), Central Committee and All Cachar Karimganj Hailakandi Students' Association (ACKHSA) Central Committee have called upon the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to use his good offices for expeditious completion of Silchar-Lumding Broadgauge and Silchar-Saurashtra Maha Sadak.

In a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister ADSU president Prafulla Hafila and ACKHSA president Rupom Nandy Purkayasta said the BG project was initiated way back in 1983 which proposed the BG track between Sukritipur and Lanka avoiding much of the hilly terrain of North Cachar Hills with a total

outlay of Rs. 600 crore. After that came a funny proposal from the Railway Board to connect Silchar with Jogighopa by laying down the BG track, most of which would go through Meghalaya, the memo added.

Considering that the people of Meghalaya objected to the extension of railhead from even Guwahati to Byrnihat, a distance of ten km only, Hafila and Purkayasta said it was unlikely that the state would agree to the laying down of more than two-hundred km of the track.

Charging the Railway Board with acting at the behest of some vested interests, the student leaders said even before the people of Barak Valley and North

Cachar Hills could understand the implication of such a utopian project, the NF Railways came forward with its own proposal to convert the existing MG track into BG without detailing technicalities involved in this project.

It was more than clear that behind all this experiment was the influence of transport lobby, they said,

There is enough reason to believe that various forces, the upper most being transport lobby, have combined together to sabotage the vital rail link, the memorandum alleged.

Militancy has no doubt created serious threat perception which has already taken lives of engineers and workers at different locations. This problem can be

tackled by providing security cover as is being done in Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir. They said Agartala is now linked by rail which was inaugurated on October 5, 2008.

Referring to another national project of the Railway ministry, the student representatives said the 292-km-long Jammu-Srinagar Baromola BG track started in 2001 was thrown open to traffic on October 11, 2008. This track has 84 tunnels and 123 km of rail route passes through tunnels. The expeditious completion of Konkan railway is well known, they said, and questioned the Look East Policy of the Centre.



*Khiren Rijiju, MP from Arunachal Pradesh, flanked by All Dimasa Students' Union (ADSU) president Prafulla Hafila and All Cachar Karimganj Hailakandi Students' Association (ACKHSA) president Rupom Nandy Purkayasta speaking to mediapersons in New Delhi.*

adding, realising communication difficulties of Barak Valley, North Cachar Hills, Tripura and Mizoram as well as Manipur, the then Railway Minister Ram Vilas Paswan laid the foundation stone of Silchar-Lumding BG in 1997. With all fanfare the Prime Minister declared it as a National project and said that it would be completed by 2009. But the pace at which construction work is going on, questions are being raised about the fate of this railway track, the memo stated.

This railway line is regarded as the lifeline of not only Barak Valley but also Tripura and Mizoram. Work on two-or three tunnels has been taken up till now. The most important bridges to be built on Barak and Jathinga rivers are yet to come up. All that till now has been done is an indication of tardy progress of work. No significant progress is visible, Hafila and Purkayasta said.

The same is the fate of the Silchar-Saurashtra East-West corridor. Even after three years of the Gazette notification by Centre for acquisition of land for 130 km of highway out of a total length of 753-km highway in Assam clearly speaks of the sorry state of affairs in the construction of the East-West corridor. The killing of engineers and workers of companies entrusted with the construction of highway has raised similar question of security, the memo informed.

This aspect of security has to be given serious thought if the highway is to be completed without further delay. Apart from various factors delaying the highway project, the indifferent attitude of the state government and lack of seriousness on the ground level are telling on highway connectivity, they added. ■

# Militant Assertion

— By Debo Hojai

Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav has said Assam government has been asked to ensure adequate security in view of the fact that militancy in North Cachar Hills district had hit the Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion project.

Replying to a discussion on Interim Railway Budget (2009-2010) in Lok Sabha, the Railway minister announced a few more new trains, besides sketching out plans for stepping up security in view of terror threats. The Railways proposes to acquire 3,000 AK Rifles for Railway Protection Force (RPF) and a request in this connection had been sent to the Home Ministry, Prasad said.

Referring to projects in North-east, he singled out the broad gauge conversion project, since declared as *A National Project*. The implementation of the Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam project has been disrupted because of lack of adequate security forces. "We have requested the government to provide security to ensure that the project is completed." He added.

The Minister said to beef up security on trains and rails property there was a proposal to recruit 22,000 additional personnel in RPF and creation of Battalions of Special Protection Force. The Rs.10,807-crore Budget was cleared in the Lok Sabha by a voice vote for implementation of Sixth Pay Commission recommendations and to fund various ongoing projects. CPI-M member and chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Railways Basudev Acharya intervened and asked him when the project was going to be completed, even as an anxious Union Heavy Industries Minister, Santosh Mohan Dev looked on.

Responding to Acharya, Lalu Prasad declined to give out a specific time. Government of Assam has been requested to provide security so that the work is completed." He said.

This delay in execution of the Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion and the East-West corridor Projects, both of which pass through the trouble-torn district, has become a source of worry for the Centre. Ministry of Home affairs has drawn up an action plan and even dispatched additional Central forces to the district, besides deploying Assam Rifles into action. The Home

Ministry has in the meantime rejected the request by Assam government to declare truce with the Black Widow group. Black Widow calls the shots in the area in tandem with National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM) to exert pressure on the outfit. The Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur-Kumarghat project have recorded 40 per cent progress. On Lumding-Silchar, the progress of earthwork is 86 per cent even as 308 minor bridges of the total 337 had been completed. Above 4 km out of 10.50 km of tunneling has been completed. The Railways has incurred an expenditure of Rs 1180.75 crore till March 31, last year, while an outlay of Rs 378.95 crore was provided in the last Budget. While Lalu Prasad declined to spell out a deadline, his minister of State Dr R Velu said that the project is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2012. The growing turmoil led the Railways to cut the frequency of the Silchar-Jiribam Passenger from daily to tri-weekly, while two other train services. The Lumding-Agartala Express has been partially cancelled due to security threats. The Railways is however running two short-distance passenger trains. In reply to a separate question by Khiren Rijiju, Dr Velu said all state capitals of the North-eastern region (NER) are proposed to be linked by railway lines, wherever possible. Rail lines in Guwahati and Agartala already connect two State capitals. While Lalu Prasad declined to spell out a dead line, his minister of State Dr R Velu said that the project is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2012.

The growing turmoil led the Railways to cut the frequency of the Silchar-Jiribam Passenger from daily to tri-weekly, while two other train services (Lumding-Silchar-Cachar express and Lumding-Silchar Barak Valley express) have been cancelled. The Lumding-Agartala express has been partially cancelled due to security threats. The Railway is however running two short-distance passenger trains. In reply to a separate question by Khiren Rijiju, Dr Velu said all state capitals of the North-eastern region (NER) are proposed to be connected by railway lines, wherever possible. Rail lines

in Guwahati and Agartala already connect two State capitals. Further works have been taken up for connecting state capitals of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. He added.

According to the latest estimate, cost of providing linkages to four state capitals where works are already sanctioned is above Rs 4200 crore. For the state capitals of Sikkim and Meghalaya. Survey has been taken up. Meanwhile the minister of state for railway said that survey work nine new lines has been completed in Assam and the North-east. Out of the completed survey, 30 new line project have been

taken up. Dr Velu added.

Further works have been taken up for connecting state capitals of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. He added. Cost of providing linkages to four state capitals where works are already sanctioned is above Rs 4,200 crore, according to the latest estimate. For state capitals of Sikkim and Meghalaya. survey has been initiated. Meanwhile Union Minister of State for railways said survey work on nine new lines had been completed in Assam and the North-east. Thirty new lines project had been taken up out of the completed survey, Dr Velu added. ■

# Naming Game

— *By Sushil Marak*

Asserting that renaming North Cachar Hills as Dima Hasao Raji would be counter-productive, Dimasa People's Council (DPC) has said that the proposed name change relates to the specific area of the Hasao only and it's probably fraught with a grain of separatism and sectarianism, that is prejudicial to the interests of the district.

A press release issued by DPC said it was unfortunate that tripartite talks between Dima Haram Daogah (DHD) and Government over charter of demands of the DHD since the ceasefire agreement in 2003 hasn't yielded positive results and as such government's hasty steps on renaming the district is uncalled for. Government should instead focus on solution of DHD issue for peace and development in the region.

DPC said North Cachar Hills district is inhabited by different tribe and non-tribe ethnic groups and those are also not satisfied on the proposal to change the name of the district to "Dima Hasao Raji". Those groups have already raised their voice against the issue and under the circumstances renaming may create misunderstanding amongst the people of the region.

Historically the undivided Cachar (Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi), North Cachar, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong and Golaghat districts of Assam and Dimapur district of Nagaland belonged to the territory of Hidimaba kingdom that ruled from Dimapur, Maibang and Khaspur capitals till British annexation in 1832 of Hidimaba kingdom capital Khaspur and in 1854 of Tularam Senapati's country. After British annexation these

territories and their land and people were divided into various parts. Different districts and sub-divisions were created, DPC said, adding, the Dimasa gradually began to be affected by influx of outsiders.

Socially the Dimasa people worship twelve ancestral deities and each of them has their respective area, temple and priest. In N.C. Hills district alone, there are around eight ancestral deities, two in Karbi Anglong including Dimapur of Nagaland and one each in Nagaon and Cachar districts. In pursuance of the above, the Hasao area is the area of a particular deity Hamri. Wangong area is not included in the Hasao, because its chief deity is different. If "Dima Hasao Raji" district is created the Hamri or Wangong area may also claim creation of district for them. Renaming of NC Hills thus shall not work, DPC asserted.

1. That, the North Cachar Hills was a part of Cachar district as it was situated in the northern direction of Cachar and thus it took the name of North Cachar when it was created as a sub-division by the British administration for their administrative convenience. At such partition, Dimasa people's land, polity and economy were scattered and became a minority. Aboriginal Dimasa people gradually lost identity, integrity and culture ever since, DPC stated.

The DPC release stated that renaming won't benefit anybody and instead, there is every likelihood of communal misunderstanding. Government should continue dialogue with DHD for early solution of the long-standing demands and grievances. Amicable solution of DHD problems will definitely settle other problems, the release stated.

Urging government to take initiative to deliver justice and priority towards solving DHD's demands, DPC said that in the greater interest of the public, government should keep away from the controversial move to rename N.C. Hills, the release added. ■



Newly-elected Asam Sahitya Sabha president Rongbong Terang was taken to the Sananvay Kshetra, the main venue of the 70th biennial session in Dhemaji, in a cultural procession that was participated by 50,000 people from various parts of the state and neighbouring countries. Terang was taken in a chariot made

## Rongbong's pledge

— *By Samson Marak*

of wood and bamboo. The rally included several cultural troupes of various ethnic communities of Assam and other states of the Northeast.

In his address to the gathering, Terang said: "Straight from the heart I want to create a new Assamese society together with the people of plain areas of the State."

Taking part in the open session of the sabha on February 17, Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi said that "The flood ravaged people of Dhemaji should feel proud of holding the session in the district," adding, "Assamese



the people to come out and join hands in order to develop art, culture and language of the hill communities.

KAAC EM Sum Ronghang said that in order to protect and boost art, culture and language of the hill districts government provided separate autonomous districts. But even after 60 years of achieving the autonomous council people of Karbi Anglong and NC Hills district could not improve their art, culture and language, Ronghang said.

Referring to the Education department Ronghang said Karbi language books for Karbi medium school were introduced for the first time in Karbi Anglong as a part of development of its literature.

Insisting on the need for protection and development of their respective art, culture and language, Ronghang appealed to tribal communities to come forward with liberal minds. Local MAC and KAAC EM Premala Beypi, former CEM and KAAC EM Bhupen Hasnu, KAAC MAC Hemari Teron and NCHAC EM Kalijoy Sengyung, among others, dwelt on the need for cooperation and unity for development of their language.

## Dimasa literary meet

Dimasa Sahitya Sabha on February 26, 2009 observed its foundation day on the complex of Rudra Singha Sports Compoud, in Guwahati.

Secretary of Forest & Environment, Government of Assam Bhir Bhadra Hagjer said Dimasa language is an ancient language in the North East even as Assamese is and should be utilised to devolope along with Assamese.

Speaking as guest of honour, lecturer of Nagaon Girl's College Dr Jayanta Kumar Sharma said Dimasa has vital contribution towards formation of languages of ethnic groups in the North East. Executive member (EM) of NC Hills council Debojit Thaosen said Dimasa language bears ancient heritage and culture. Dima Halam Daogah (DHD) chairman Dilip Nunisa urged upon DLM, Guwahati branch to hold a seminar for uplift of Dimasa language.

The foundation day was observed in various Dimasa-inhabited areas of Assam and neighbouring states.

The function was presided over by president, DLM, Guwahati Branch Pradip Nunisa. ■

language and literature do not lag behind now. Our language and literature are high standard when compared with that of other states of the country.”

Inaugurating the first open session, Noted litterateur from Delhi Padmashree Satyabrata Shastri said literature and culture of Assam are as old as that of mainland India. Assam's son Dr Bhupen Hazarika is not only Assam Ratna, he should be conferred with Bharat Ratna.”

Outgoing ASS president Kanaksen Deka, vice-president Satish Choudhury, secretary-general Dr Pradip Bhuyan, minister Bharat Chandra Narah, parliamentary Secretary Sarat Saikia, local MLA Sumitra Patir, MLA Bhuban Pegu and Others were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile a day ahead of the ASS session, annual conference of the Dimasa Lairidim Mel was held with a two-day-long programme at Mathikhola, Howraghat in Karbi Anglong district. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) chief executive member (CEM) Joy Ram Engleng attending the open session as chief guest said that both the Dimasa and Karbi communities are backward in the field of literature. He further said that though literature is considered as the backbone of every nation, art, culture and languages of both the hills communities have been lagging behind.

The new KAAC CEM Joy Ram Engleng opined that since Dimasa and Karbi communities are small hills communities Asam Sahitya Sabha should initiate steps for uplift of art, culture and language of the hill communities. He regretted that till-date no satisfactory cooperation from the sabha has been forthcoming despite the fact that both the communities are rich in art and culture.

KAAC CEM also assured to preserve all historical landmarks of Kachari kings. He called upon

# Battle At The Hustings

— By Mukteswar Kemprai

Barring two seats, Lakhimpur and Dhubri Congress on March 12 announced the party's list for 11 seats in Assam that found warhorses on it with the exception of three fresh faces for the Lok Sabha polls.

Intimating about naming names for the two seats on the same night the list of candidates was finalised the day before itself following a meeting chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi that stretched over two hours.

Attended by State Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and party stalwarts, Pradesh Congress president Bhubaneswar Kalita among them, the meeting saw moments of disagreement. Save for Guwahati, Member of Parliament (MP) Kirip Chaliha, Congress has renominated most of its sitting MPs.

Transferring the onus of nominating candidates to the two controversial seats to Congress president Sonia Gandhi disputes and difference of opinion surfaced over Guwahati, Lakhimpur, Mangaldai and Dhubri seats the first list had no woman candidates and only one candidate from the minority community was nominated.

For the first time ever Congress has nominated two candidates from the Koch-Rangbongshi community.

As far as Lakhimpur was concerned one among Rane Narah and Bobeets Sharma is tipped to be nominated. Dhubri is likely to get a candidate from among the minorities.

Congress managed a balancing act by trying to represent major groups such as minorities, Koch-Rajbongshis and other communities.

While Union Heavy Industries minister Santosh Mohan Dev nominated for the Silchar seat Union Minister of State Bijoy Krishna Khandique has been renominated to fight the polls from Jorhat, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya from Karimganj, Biren Sing Engti from Diphu, Moni Kumar Subba from Tezpur and Dip Gogoi from Kaliabor.

While Ghatowar who lost the elections in 2004 was renominated without much deliberation another candidate who also had to forfeit his security deposit in the same year's polls but renominated was Madhab Rajbongshi for the Mangaldai constituency.

Rajbongshi's renomination came about with difficulty for which he had to elicit support from quarters that are a force to reckon with support from PCC president and previous victory from that seat in the past, the sizeable population of Koch-Rajbongshis in the constituency clinched the seat for him.

Rajiv Sharma had the backing of state Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi.

Heavy weights such as Dwijen Sarma, Rajiv Sarma and C K Sarma were aspirants to the Mangaldai seat Health minister and Congress spokesman Himanta Biswa Sarma extended support to Sarma.

Ghatowar's nominee Dr Haren Das had to call it a day when the Chief Minister prevailed upon partymen to nominate Captain Robin Bordoloi.

Gogoi's opposition to Kirip Chaliha's renomination shut the doors for the latter. With most of the seats going to Gogoi's supporters the Chief Minister had reasons to feel comfortable. With the exception of a couple of hiccups with regard to controversial seats his choice of Anil Raja, Captain Bordoloi, Ismail Hussain and candidates for six other seats had a smooth sailing.

PCC chief Kalita said the party tried its best to give representation to as many communities as possible and there was no deviation of the Congress convention to give representation to 30-40 fresh faces.

No candidate from the Youth Congress could wrest a single nomination as the candidate concerned had slim chances of victory at the hustings.

Stressing on criteria for nominating candidates PCC president Kalita said despite the aspiring candidate being from the influential Youth Congress party weighs the winnability factor.

Meanwhile BJP has announced the names of candidates for eight Lok Sabha Constituencies including Mangaldai. They are Bijoya Chakraborty (Guwahati), Rajen Gohain (Nagaon), Kabindra Purkayastha (Silchar), Nilimoy Pradhani (Dhubri), Kamakhya Prasad Tassa (Jorhat), Kulendra Daolaguphu (Diphu), Sudhangshuranjan Das (Karimganj) and Ramen Deka (Mangaldai) ■

# ডিমাসাদের সাহিত্য চর্চা

(ইং ২১ জানুয়ারী, ২০০৯ অনুষ্ঠিত নগাঁও জিলা ডিমাসা সাহিত্য সভাই পাঠ করা ভাষন, লংকা হাসান বার্ন পাথার।)

— বিশ্বজ্যোতি বর্মণ, শিলচর, কাছাড়

(দ্বিতীয় অংশ)

পরবর্তীকালে প্রকাশিত হয় কলঙমা, জংরা, হিড়িম্বাখুরাং, ডিমাখুরাং, ডেরপাই, জালাইখুরাং, হাবহিস্গাউ, সাঙ্গি জালী, জেংকুংমান্দে, গঠাই, ওয়াইফু ইত্যাদি সংবাদ সাময়িকী ও সাহিত্য-পত্র। এছাড়া অনেক কবিতা, প্রবন্ধ, নাটক, গল্প পুস্তক ও প্রকাশিত হয়। নাই নাই করেও অনেক কাজ হয় ডিমাসা লোকসাহিত্য, ইতিহাস নিয়েও। উল্লেখযোগ্য কবি লেখকরা হলেন কুমুদ চন্দ্র বড়ো, নিরুপমা হাগজের, সোনারাম থাউসেন, যতীন্দ্র লাল থাউসেন, উত্তম চাঁদ বর্মণ, বহিম চন্দ্র লাংঠাসা, অনুপমা নাইডিং, পরীক্ষীৎ বর্মণ, ফামীবার বর্মণ, বিশ্বজ্যোতি বর্মণ, মুকুল রঞ্জন বর্মণ, মায়াসিং দাউলাগুফু, শীলভদ্র হাগজের, রমেশ থাউসেন, বিশ্বজিৎ বর্মণ, ফণিভূষণ হাফলংবার, গোপাল থাউসেন, মোহনজয় বর্মণ প্রমুখ। উল্লেখ্য স্বাভাবিক কারণেই প্রকাশিত গ্রন্থগুলোর বেশিরভাগই বাংলা লিপিতে। কিন্তু সেই সত্তরের দশকেই শুরু হয়ে যায় লিপি বিতর্ক। ফলে রোমান, বাংলা, অসমীয়া, দেবনাগরী—এই চারটির মধ্যে কোন লিপি ডিমাসা ভাষার পক্ষে উপযুক্ত হবে এই বিতর্কে ডিমাসা সাহিত্য সৃষ্টির প্রয়াস ব্যাহত হয় এবং প্রাথমিক স্তরে ডিমাসা ভাষাকে ঐচ্ছিক হিসেবে পাঠদানের প্রচেষ্টাও বিঘ্নিত হয়। প্রথমতঃ ১৯৭১-৭২ খ্রিঃ প্রাথমিক স্তরে পাঠদানের উদ্দেশ্যে উত্তর কাছাড় পার্বত্য জেলা স্বশাসিত পরিষদ সোনারাম থাউসেনের 'ডিমাসা পরিষদ', যতীন্দ্রলাল থাউসেনের 'ডিমাসা সাহিনরেনলাই' পুস্তক ছাপায়। পরবর্তীকালে ১৯৭৮-৭৯ শিক্ষাবর্ষে বাংলা হরফে ডিমাসা ভাষা শিক্ষা চালু করা হয় উত্তর কাছাড় জেলায়। কিন্তু ইংরেজি মাধ্যম বিদ্যালয়ের ডিমাসা ছাত্র-ছাত্রীরা হরফের সমস্যায় মাতৃভাষা শিক্ষা থেকে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে, এই যুক্তিতে পরের বছরই তা বন্ধ করে দেওয়া হয়।

ইতিমধ্যে আবার বড়ো-ডিমাসা-ককবরক মিলে একটি কমন ভাষা-সাহিত্য গড়ে তোলার আওয়াজ উঠে। উল্লেখ্য জনসংখ্যা কম হওয়ার জন্য ডিমাসা ভাষাকে টিকিয়ে রাখা ও সেই ভাষাকে সাহিত্যে উন্নীত করা সম্ভব হরে না বিবেচনা করে দুজন বিশিষ্ট ডিমাসা চিন্তাবিদ ও নেতা জয়ভদ্র হাগজের ও সোনারাম থাউসেন উদ্যোগী হয়ে বড়ো সাহিত্য সভা গড়ে তুলেছিলেন পঞ্চাশের দশকে। এই দুজনই ছিলেন বড়ো সাহিত্য সভার প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সভাপতি ও সম্পাদক। কিন্তু এই মহৎ সুদূরপ্রসারী চিন্তা প্রসূত প্রচেষ্টা যদিও ফলপ্রসূ হয়নি তবু আশির দশকে আবার একই আওয়াজ উঠে এবং হাফলঙে বড়ো সাহিত্য সভার উদ্যোগে অনুষ্ঠিত একটি বড়ো-ডিমাসা কনভেনশনে 'ডিমাসা-বড়ো সাহিত্য সভা' নামে একটি সংগঠন গড়া হয়। সংগঠন থেকে উত্তর কাছাড়ের বিদ্যালয় গুলোতে ডিমাসা বড়ো ভাষাকে শিক্ষার মাধ্যম হিচাবে চালু করার দাবী জানানো হয়। কিন্তু আশ্চর্যের বিষয় উত্তর কাছাড়ের ডিমাসা

জনসংখ্যা সর্বাধিক ও স্বায়ত্ত্ব শাসিত হওয়া সত্ত্বেও ডিমাসা সাহিত্য সভা গঠনের প্রয়োজনীয়তা সেখানে সক্রিয় ভাবে অনুভূতি হয়নি। সমতল কাছাড়, নগাওঁ ও কার্বি আংলং জেলার ডিমাসারাই এ বিষয়ে প্রথম সক্রিয় চিন্তা-ভাবনা শুরু করেন। ফলে বিশেষ ভাবে নগাওঁ ও কার্বি আংলং জেলার ডিমাসাদের উদ্যোগে ১৯৯৯ খ্রিষ্টাব্দের ২৬, ২৭, ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারী তিনদিন ব্যাপি অধিবেশনের মাধ্যমে গঠিত হয় 'ডিমাসা সাহিত্য সভা' নগাওঁ জেলার হোজাই অঞ্চলের অন্তর্গত কোমোরাকাটা গ্রামের হায়ুং খ্রাচিং হাংখন নামক স্থানে। গঠিত হওয়ার পর সাহিত্য সভার কয়েকটি বছর কেটে যায় সাংগঠনিক কাজ কর্মে। পরে এই দশকের মাঝামাঝি সময়ে লিপি বিতর্কের সমাধানের প্রয়াস শুরু করে। সর্বসম্মত না হলেও অধিকাংশের সম্মতিতে ডিমাসা ভাষার জন্যে রোমান লিপি গৃহীত হয় এবং ২০০৮ খ্রীষ্টাব্দের এপ্রিলে উত্তর কাছাড় জেলার বিদ্যালয় গুলিতে ঐচ্ছিক বিষয় হিসেবে ডিমাসা ভাষা চালু করা হয়েছে। প্রথম বছরে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর ডিমাসা বই "Agni Grao" (Phorijen), My Language, The Beginner ডিমাসা সাহিত্য সভার "The Spelling and Glossary Sub-Committee and The Text Book Evaluation Sub-Committee -র সহযোগীতায় Kh. ধীরেন সিং লিখিত পুস্তকটি ভারত সরকারের Central Institute of Indian Language কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত। বর্তমানে 'আনি গ্রাউ' এর প্রাইমার টু-র কাজ চলছে বলে শুনা যায়।

এভাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রত্যেকের প্রচেষ্টায় ডিমাসা ভাষা শিক্ষা চালু হল উত্তর কাছাড় জেলার বিদ্যালয় গুলোতে। পর্যায়ক্রমে অন্য জেলার পর্যাপ্ত ডিমাসা ছাত্র-ছাত্রী থাকা স্থলেও ডিমাসা ভাষা শিক্ষা চালু হবে। তবু হয়তো সহজে লিপি বিতর্কের সম্পূর্ণ অবসান হবে না। কিন্তু এই বিতর্ক যাতে ডিমাসা ভাষার সাহিত্য চর্চার গতিকে ব্যাহত বা শ্লথ না করে তার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় পরিমণ্ডল গড়ে তোলে তা রক্ষা করার উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করতে হবে ডিমাসা সাহিত্য সভাকে। ডিমাসা ভাষার পুস্তক, সাময়িকী, সাহিত্যপত্র ইত্যাদির প্রকাশনা বৃদ্ধির জন্যে জেলা পরিষদ সহ-আর্থিক দিক দিয়ে সচ্ছল ডিমাসাদেরও এক্ষেত্রে পৃষ্ঠপোষকতার এগিয়ে আসার খুবই প্রয়োজন।

আর্থিক সাহায্য সাহিত্য চর্চার ক্ষেত্রে বিশেষ প্রেরণা যোগাতে পারে। এক্ষেত্রে কাছাড়ের ডিমাসা ভাষার সাহিত্য চর্চায় আকাশ-বাণী শিলচরের অবদানের কথাও স্মরণ করা যায়। ডিমাসা অনুষ্ঠানের প্রয়োজনে গান, কথিকা, কবিতা, নাটিকা ইত্যাদি লেখায় ও প্রযোজনায় আকাশবাণী কর্তৃপক্ষের তরফ থেকে কিছু আর্থিক অনুদানের ফলে কাছাড়ের ডিমাসা

ভাষায় অনেক ভাল গান, কবিতা, নাটক, কথিকা ইত্যাদি রচিত হয়ে চলেছে। এগুলো সংগ্রহ করে ছাপিয়ে প্রকাশ করা হলে ডিমাসা সাহিত্যকে সমৃদ্ধ করে তোলার ক্ষেত্রে অনেক অবদান যোগাবে।

তবে সব থেকে যা প্রয়োজন তা হল পাঠক সমাজ গড়ে তোলা। প্রত্যেক ডিমাসাদের নিজেদের মাতৃভাষার প্রতি আন্তরিক মমতা নিয়ে ভাষা-সাহিত্যের উৎকর্ষ সাধনে সক্রিয় সহযোগীতার জন্য এগিয়ে আসতে হবে। এছাড়া প্রয়োজন আমাদের দৈনন্দিন জীবন প্রণালী (Life Style) কে সেভাবে গড়ে তোলা যাতে মাতৃভাষার প্রতি মনত্ববোধ জাগে। না হলে আমরা সাহিত্য সভা করলেও সরকারী আর্থিক সহযোগীতায় ডিমাসা ভাষার গ্রন্থাদি প্রকাশিত হলেও আমাদের মত সংখ্যালঘু ভাষাগুলোকে টিকিয়ে রাখা কঠিন হবে।

ভাষাতাত্ত্বিকরা বলেছেন যে বর্তমান যুগে একটি ভাষাকে টিকিয়ে রেখে প্রয়োজনীয় উৎকর্ষ সাধনের জন্য কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) লক্ষ মানুষ সেই ভাষায় কথা বলতে হবে। ডিমাসা ভাষা-ভাষী জনসংখ্যা হয়তো এর অর্ধেকও হবে না। তবে এছাড়াও একটি ভাষা ও তার সাহিত্য বিকাশের জন্য অন্যান্য অপরিহার্য শর্ত রয়েছে - যে মন একটি সু-সংহত সীমাবদ্ধ অঞ্চলের মধ্যে সেই জনগোষ্ঠীর পারস্পরিক ক্রিয়াশীল যোগাযোগ, আর্থিক সমৃদ্ধি ও সরকারী প্রশাসনিক সহযোগীতা। এই শর্তগুলো পূরণের মোটামোটি ক্ষমতা ডিমাসা ভাষা-ভাষী জনগোষ্ঠীর রয়েছে। তাই নিরাশ হবার কোন কারণ সেই।

বর্তমানে হাফলং থেকে 'Haflong Khurang' নামের ডিমাসা ভাষার সাপ্তাহিকী নিয়মিত প্রকাশিত হচ্ছে। এটি যাতে প্রতিটি ডিমাসা গ্রামে পৌছায় তার ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন। ডিফু থেকে 'Hurkhulai', হাফলং গৌহাটি থেকে 'The Hudaang', শিলচর থেকে সাইনজালী ইত্যাদি সাহিত্য পত্র ডিমাসা সাহিত্য সম্ভার নিয়ে প্রকাশিত হচ্ছে। এ জাতীয় Little Magazine সংখ্যায় আরও বেশী করে প্রকাশ করতে হবে। তবেই ডিমাসা ভাষাকে বাঁচানোর পথ প্রশস্ত হবে।

একটি সমীক্ষায় জানা গেছে যে পৃথিবী থেকে পাঁচ হাজার ভাষা লুপ্ত হয়ে গেছে। প্রতি মাসে একটি করে ভাষার মৃত্যু ঘটছে। আজ থেকে ১০০ বছর বাদে পৃথিবীর ৭,০০০ ভাষার মধ্যে মাত্র ২,৫০০ টি ভাষারই অস্তিত্ব থাকবে। ওয়াশিংটন ডি-সি-র এনভায়রনমেন্টাল সায়েন্স ওয়ার্ল্ড ওয়াচ ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত ও ঐতিহাসিক জীবন-যাপন পদ্ধতি ভাষাগুলো হারিয়ে যাবার জন্যে দায়ী। প্রযুক্তির উন্নতিকেও ভাষা হারিয়ে যাবার একটি অন্যতম কারণ বলে মনে করা হচ্ছে। সম্প্রতি কয়েক হাজার ভাষাকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখতে উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে ইউনেসকো। ২০০৫ সালে তারা এনভেনজার্ড ল্যাঙ্গুয়েজেস প্রোগ্রামের মাধ্যমে ভাষা সংরক্ষণকে উৎসাহিত করেছিল।

তবু ডিমাসাদের মত অতি কম জনসংখ্যার ভাষাকে বাঁচিয়ে রেখে উৎকর্ষ সাধনের প্রচেষ্টা অব্যাহত রাখার জন্য সর্বাগ্রে প্রয়োজন নিজেদের মধ্যে সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি। Globalization এর চাপে সংখ্যা লঘু ভাষাগুলি আজ সঙ্কটের মুখোমুখি দাঁড়িয়ে আছে। নিজেদের অসচেতনতা সেই সঙ্কটকে আরও ঘনীভূত গড়িয়ে তুলেছে। তাই আমরা যারা ভাষা সাহিত্য সভার হয়ে কাজ করি আমাদের এই বিষয়টিকে গভীর ভাবে অনুধাবণ

করা হবে এবং সে অনুযায়ী কর্ম পরিকল্পনা ছিন করতে হবে।

ডিমাসা ভাষা প্রাচীনতম ভাষাগুলোর মধ্যে অন্যতম একটি। সংস্কৃত সহ বাংলা, অসমীয়া ভাষার উন্নয়নে এই ভোট-বর্মী থেকে সৃষ্ট ভাষার বিশেষ অবদান রয়েছে বলে পণ্ডিতরা অভিমত ব্যক্ত করেছেন। 'বাঙলা ভাষার কুলজী' প্রবন্ধের প্রেক্ষিতে একটি সমালোচনার উত্তর দিতে গিয়ে প্রবন্ধ লেখক ডঃ সুনীতি কুমার চট্টোপাধ্যায় বলেছেন, "যদি বাঙালীর ভাষায় দ্রাবিড়-বোড়োর ছাপ থাকে তা হলে দ্রাবিড় বোড়োর প্রভাবের কথা মনে করা অসংগত কি?" (আর্য-অনার্য-সবুজ পত্র ৭ ম বর্ষ ১ ম সংখ্যা বৈশাখ ১৩২৭)। এই প্রসঙ্গটি এখানে এই কারণে উল্লেখ করেছি যে ডিমাসা ভাষা যখন অন্য ভাষার উৎকর্ষ সাধনে বিশেষ অবদান যোগাতে সক্ষম তখন এই ভাষার উন্নয়নও নিশ্চয় সম্ভব। ডিমাসা ভাষা-সংস্কৃতি-ইতিহাস নিয়ে যারা কাজ করেছেন ও করছেন তাঁদের প্রত্যেকের সুচিন্তিত অভিমত এই যে একটি ভাষার মধ্যে যে যে উপাদানগুলো থাকলে ভাষাটি সাহিত্যে উন্নতি হতে পারে তার প্রত্যেকটিই রয়েছে ডিমাসা ভাষার মধ্যে। তাই নিরাশার কিছুই নেই। আশায় বুক বেঁধে উৎসাহ ও উদ্দীপনা নিয়ে আমাদের কাজে ঝাঁপিয়ে পড়তে হবে। আবারও বলছি এরজন্যে প্রাথমিক প্রয়োজনটি হল আমাদের দৈনন্দিন জীবন শৈলী Life Style র পরিবর্তন। তাই আমার বক্তব্যের শেষে প্রাসঙ্গিক বিবেচনায় উল্লেখ করেছি মাখনলাল বর্মনের লেখা কবিতার কিছু অংশ -

দাখাজা, দামিনি, দাবাই, দা-রাজাব  
খা'দুখু ওয়াইমুসা নাংবা-বিং দিনিহা।  
নাইছাগো মা'মা'ডে ব্লাইয়া গ্লাইকা  
হাজিক-মা' হারাংমা' দাওবুহি দিনিহা।  
হাংলিকমা' দাইনয়াউহি জগডিখা হাং  
দংলাডু গালায়হী মা'মা'ডে ফরং নিপ্রাং।  
মুডিরু গুন্ডিরু মরেরে যামঠনসি,  
ঠাওপায়কা মা'মা'ডে দুহাডে গ্লায়হী।  
সুগুডি, বাম্বুদি ব্সাঠু দং-কাডে  
সিং নায়দি গ্রাউঠাই মায়া নাংখো ঠাইসিলায়  
দারায়বো সেংফংবো ডিমাসা দংবালায়;  
লংহাদি, জাদিখে জুলুখে বসুরখে হারিখে,  
রাজীরাও দংখাডে নাইপায়ঠিং মা'মা'খে।  
সামহিঠা হ'জায়, রিখীহি লাবুদি জনঠাই,  
নাই স্মা-খারঙ্গি, লাবু মলি মাঠাং ফায়।

কবিতার মর্মার্থ হল, আমাদের বা মাতৃভাষা এখন মৃত্যু-শয্যা শায়িত, এখন আনন্দ-আত্মদ করার সময় নয়, মায়ের সন্তান যারা আছে সবাই এগিয়ে এসো, গণত্বকারের কাছে যাও পূজা-পাঠের ব্যবস্থা কর, কবিরাজ ডাক্তারের কাছে ছুটে যাও ও শুধু-পথের ব্যবস্থা কর।

আমাদের সমষ্টিগত সংঘবদ্ধ প্রয়াস আমাদের প্রত্যেকের মাতৃভাষাকে বাঁচিয়ে রেখে এর সমৃদ্ধি সাধনে সক্ষম হোক এই আন্তরিক কামনা করছি। জুঠাই।■

# প্ৰাচীন কছাৰী ৰাজধানী ডিমাপুৰৰ স্থাপত্য

## ভাস্কৰ্যত জনজাতীয় প্ৰভাৱ

— প্ৰমোদ বৰা, কামপুৰ, নগাওঁ

কছাৰী সকলে অসমৰ মধ্যযুগত নিজস্ব কৌশলেৰে ইটা তৈয়াৰ কৰিব জানিছিল। ১২০০ খৃঃৰ আগৰ পৰাই ডিমাপুৰত কছাৰী সকলে ইটা প্ৰস্তুত কৰি নগৰ নিৰ্মাণ কৰিছিল। আহোম সকলে ডিমাপুৰক ইটা নগৰী বুলিছিল। ইং ১২৩০ চনত হেডম

ধেনুভিৰীয়া আকৃতিৰ ওপৰখিনি জোঙা গাঠনিৰে সু-সজ্জিত এটা ইটাৰ সুদৃঢ় তোৰণ আছিল। তোৰণত দুখন গধুৰ দুৱাৰ

লগাবৰ বাবে প্ৰয়োজনীয় কজা বহুৱাবলৈ খাঁজ কটা আছিল।

কছাৰীসকলৰ এই স্থাপত্য বিদ্যা নগা আৰু হিন্দু সংস্কৃতিৰ প্ৰভাৱেৰে পুষ্ট আছিল। তেওঁলোকে নানাৰকম চিত্ৰ খোদিত কৰি শিলৰ স্তম্ভ প্ৰস্তুত কৰি গৃহ নিৰ্মাণ কাৰ্য্যত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছিল। ডিমাপুৰ নগৰখনৰ ভগ্নাৱশেষবোৰে নিঃসন্দেহে প্ৰমাণ কৰে যে কছাৰী সকলৰ স্থাপত্য-বিদ্যা যথেষ্ট ওখ খাপৰ

ডিমাহা ৰজাৰ ৰাজধানী ডিমাপুৰৰ শিলৰ বিজয় স্তম্ভ।



ৰাজ্যৰ ৰাজধানী ডিমাপুৰ নগৰ সজা হৈছিল। সেই সময়ত ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ সজা কামত ইটাৰ ব্যৱহাৰ আহোম সকলে প্ৰায় নাজানিছিল বুলিয়েই কব পাৰি। তেওঁলোকৰ ঘৰবোৰ কাঠ আৰু বাঁহেৰে সজা হৈছিল আৰু বেৰবোৰ মাটিৰে লিপিছিল। কিন্তু কছাৰী ৰাজধানী ডিমাপুৰ সেই প্ৰাচীন কালতে তিনিওফালে ওখ, প্ৰায় দু-মাইল দীঘল ইটাৰ প্ৰাচীৰেৰে ঘেৰা আছিল আৰু চতুৰ্থ বা দক্ষিণ ফালে আছিল ধনশিৰি নদী। দক্ষিণ ফালেও ইটাৰ প্ৰাচীৰ আছিল বুলি প্ৰবাদ আছে। সম্ভৱতঃ কালক্ৰমত ধনশিৰি নৈয়ে এই প্ৰাচীৰ খহাই নিলে। নগৰৰ পূৰ্বফালে

আছিল। ডিমাপুৰৰ পূৰ্বে প্ৰায় ৫০ কিঃমিঃ দূৰৈত 'কাছমাৰী' নামৰ ঠাইতো কছাৰী সকলে নৱম শতিকাত ৰাজধানী পাতিছিল। কাছমাৰী নগৰৰ ভগ্নাৱশেষৰ স্থাপত্য-ভাস্কৰ্য্য ডিমাপুৰৰ স্থাপত্য-ভাস্কৰ্য্যৰ লগত মিল আছে। আশ্চৰ্যজনক ভাবে পুৰাতত্ত্ব বিভাগে ডিমাপুৰৰ ভগ্নাৱশেষৰ ওচৰত স্থাপন কৰা ফলকত বংগীয় মুছলমানৰ প্ৰভাৱহে ডিমাপুৰৰ স্থাপত্য-ভাস্কৰ্য্যত পৰিছে বুলি উল্লেখ কৰা কাৰ্য্য কিমান সমীচীন হৈছে এই বিষয়ে বিতৰ্কৰ আৱশ্যক হৈছে।

প্ৰকৃততে সেইকালছোৱাত কছাৰীসকলৰ লগত বংগীয়



ডিমাছা ৰাজত্বৰ কাছমাৰিৰ শিলৰ স্তম্ভ।

মুছলমানৰ সম্পৰ্ক থকাৰ কোনো ঐতিহাসিক প্ৰমাণ বৰ্তমানলৈকে পৰিলক্ষিত হোৱা নাই। ডিমাপুৰ নগৰৰ পূৰ্ব-দিশত প্ৰকাণ্ড দুৱাৰ আৰু ভিতৰত অন্যান্য বহুতো ধ্বংসস্তুপৰ মাজত বগা শিলত কটা প্ৰায় ১২ ফুট ওখ আৰু পাঁচ-ফুট পৰিধিৰ দুশাৰী খুটা আছে। এই ভগ্নাৱশেষবোৰত ইংৰাজী "V" আকৃতিৰ কিছুমান খুটাও আছে। এই খুটাবোৰ মৃতকৰ স্মৃতিচিহ্ন বুলি অনুমান কৰা হয়। কোনো কোনোৱে এইবোৰক ৰণত জয়লাভ কৰাৰ পিছত স্থাপন কৰা বিজয়স্তম্ভ বুলিও কয়। অন্যান্য ভাস্কৰ্য্য সমূহৰ ভিতৰত হাতী, কুকুৰ, পহু, চৰাই, পদুম ফুল আৰু কিছুমান প্ৰকৃতিৰ চিত্ৰ আদিও আছে। এইবোৰে কছাৰীসকলৰ জনজাতীয় স্তৰৰ ধৰ্ম বৈশিষ্ট্য স্পষ্ট ৰূপত দাঙি ধৰিছে। ইয়াত বংগীয় মুছলমানৰ প্ৰভাৱ ক'ত?

Dr. Hamlet Bareh, Dr. K. Baruah আদি গৱেষক পণ্ডিতে কছাৰী হিন্দু-নগা সংস্কৃতিৰ প্ৰভাৱেৰে ডিমাপুৰৰ স্থাপত্য-ভাস্কৰ্য্য সমৃদ্ধ বুলি মত প্ৰকাশ কৰি গৈছে। Dr. Hamlet Bareh, Editor, "Gazetteer of India, Nagaland, Kohima District," has maintained that the architectural designs of Dimapur was the product of cultural assimilation of the Kacharis and the neighbouring Naga Tribes". (Gazetteer of India, Nagaland, Kohima District (Ed.), 1969, P.-22। গৱেষক B.N. Bordoloi এ তেখেতৰ The Dimasa Kacharis of Assam গ্ৰন্থত সঠিক ভাৱেই লেখিছে "Inside the enclosure there are two rows of carved

pillars of sandstone overaging about 12 feet in height and 5 feet in circumference. There are carious V-shaped stone pillars (monoliths) varying from 13 to 16 feet in height and in circumference 14 feet to 23 feet which are apparently memorial stones. The V-shaped stone pillars of the Kacharis at Dimapur closely corresponded to the similarly V-shaped posts protruding from the roof of a wealthy Angami Naga (P-20).

Dr. B K Barua in his book "A cultural History of Assam" mentions the Presence of three types of sculptural designs or ornamentation, namely architectural, geometric and floral in Assam. (Early period, 2nd Edn. Guwahati, 1969, P- 201). Dr.

Hamlet Bareh এ, " In the pillars of Dimapur besides geometric and floral ornamentation, there are figures of animals like elephant, deer, and dog and birds like, duck, peacock etc. Dr. Hamlet Bareh to this type of ornamentation as Kachari -Hindu symbolism." (পূৰ্বোক্ত, পৃঃ ২৩)।

পদুম পুখুৰী, বামুন পুখুৰী, জোৰা পুখুৰী, ডিমা খাৰনাই আদি কেইবাটাও কছাৰী ৰজাই খন্দোৱা পুখুৰী ডিমাপুৰ নগৰত আছিল। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত দুটা প্ৰায় ৩০০ বৰ্গ গজমান আয়তনৰ পুখুৰী আছে। অধ্যাপক J.H. Hutton-ৰ মতে, the presence of a twin tank to a fertility significance based on the Naga belief that a pair is a unit of nature." (H. Bareh, Gazetteer of India, Nagaland, Kohima District, Kohima, 1969, P-23)।

আংগামী নগাসকলৰ উপৰিও জেমী নগা, বেংমা নগাসকলৰ লগতো সেই সময়ত কছাৰী সকলৰ ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্পৰ্ক আছিল। সেই সকলৰ প্ৰভাৱৰ পৰা কছাৰীসকল মুক্ত নাছিল। যদি কোনো প্ৰত্নতত্ত্ববিদে ডিমাপুৰৰ স্থাপত্য-ভাস্কৰ্য্যত বংগীয় মুছলমানৰ স্থাপত্য-ভাস্কৰ্য্যৰ মিল দেখিছে সেয়া কাকতালীয় হে। ইচ্ছাকৃত অনুকৰণ নহয়। ডিমাপুৰৰ স্থাপত্য-ভাস্কৰ্য্যত কছাৰী সকলৰ 'স্বকীয়তা' স্পষ্ট আৰু ইয়াত হিন্দু আৰু জনজাতীয় প্ৰভাৱে পৰিছে বুলি দৃঢ় ভাৱে কব পাৰি। পুৰাতত্ত্ব বিভাগৰ ফলকখন সংশোধন কৰাৰ বাবে বিভাগীয় কৰ্তৃপক্ষক ডিমাছা জাতীয় সংগঠনবোৰে পৰামৰ্শ দিয়া ভাল হ'ব বুলি আমাৰ ধাৰণা। ■



Tripura Maharaj Pradyut Bikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Debbarma presented Holy Sword (*Seng*) to Dimasa King Dharmeswar Konwar Hasnusa on December 21, 2008 During Tring Festival at Agartala, Tripura.

# National Bamboo Mission

Under the Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation, Govt. of India

## Let's grow with BAMBOO

**M**inistry of Agriculture, Government of India has launched the National Bamboo Mission. It envisages increase in the area under bamboo plantation of selected species with intensive management so that the yield improves from the present 3 tonnes per hectare to about 18 to 20 tonnes. The total area to be covered in the 10th and 11th Plan is 1,76,000 hectares in both the forest and non-forest land. In order to technically support them, NBM has designated four zonal Bamboo Technical Support Groups (BTSG), whereby, Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre has been designated as the BTSG for the states of the North Eastern Region and the eastern states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Orissa.

### Highlights of the mission

• Plantation Development • Handicrafts Development • Craft Bazar & Marketing • Capacity Building & Training • Research & Development

### Target Groups

• Farmers • Self-Help Groups • Non-Governmental Organizations  
• Cooperative Societies • Panchayati Raj Institutions • JFMCs

### Norms of Assistance in plantation

#### Nursery raising in both Forest & Non-Forest Area:

Rs. 2.73 lakh by public sector & Rs. 0.68 lakh by private sector for Centralized Nursery (0.25 ha), and Rs. 0.065 lakh for Kissan/Mahila Nursery (0.10 ha).

#### Commercial Plantation

(Forest Area): Rs. 25000/ha. through JFMCs.

(Non-Forest Area): Rs. 8000/ha by NGOs, SHGs, Farmers subject to maximum of 4 ha. per beneficiary

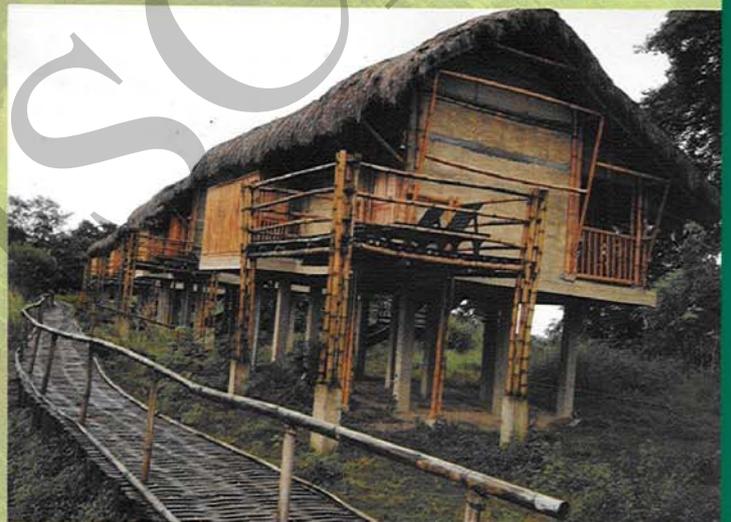
#### Improvement of existing stocks in Non-Forest Area:

Rs. 8,000/ha subject to maximum of 4 ha. per beneficiary.

[www.bamboobazar.com](http://www.bamboobazar.com)



This site is a single stop shop for bamboo products. This web based application has two distinct parts. One is the bamboo bazar where different bamboo products are displayed category wise and the other is a Database Management System which is divided into three parts, i.e. Action Plan Management, Units Monitoring and Markets Management.



For further details, please contact:

- **The Mission Director (NBM)** and Horticulture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Horticulture Division), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001, Ph.: 011-23381012
- **State Mission Director** in the Deptt. of Forest/Agriculture for the respective state.
- **Bamboo Technical Support Group - Cane Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC)**, Zoo-Narengi Road, Narikal Basti, Guwahati-781024, Assam, India, Ph.: 0361-2410242/2410886, Fax: 0361-2410250, E-Mail: [bts@canebambooo.org](mailto:bts@canebambooo.org); [bts\\_cbtc@yahoo.co.in](mailto:bts_cbtc@yahoo.co.in); Website: [www.canebambooo.org](http://www.canebambooo.org)



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