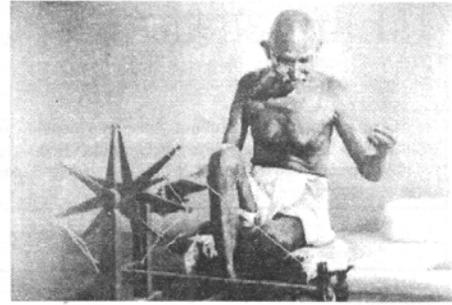


# अिशानी Ishani

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## **Anxiety and Hope**

We are presenting this, the 5th issue of Ishani, with a sense of happiness and satisfaction. The task force at Ishani office is small. Infrastructure is inadequate. We suffer from other limitations too. But these have not dampened our enthusiasm. The main reason behind this enthusiasm is the encouraging feedback from our readers and well wishers and the support from our donors. Both factors together give us the confidence and strength. As these lines are being written, we are getting ready to go to the press.

The last issue of Ishani was the special issue on Tripura with 72 pages in all. This special issue has received appreciation from many quarters. The resources available with us at present will not enable us to bring out special issues frequently. But we do look forward to focus our attention on selected themes and try to produce 2 or 3 special issues in a year. Our present issue is of a general kind and deals with some of the factors prevailing in the North East, which cause anxiety and also those which give hope.

The most prominent factor in the region today is, of course, the climate of violence prevailing in many states. This is a major and complex issue and it does need right understanding and careful treatment. The second major cause of great anxiety is the prevalence of alcoholism, drug addiction and related occurrence of HIV/AIDS. Father Chacko Karinthayil, with his headquarters at Dimapur in Nagaland, is a pioneer in the field of deaddiction. He has kindly prepared an analytical write-up on the subject in response to our request. This article is carried in this issue with the title, "Whither the drug-driven Northeast India?". We invite all those concerned with the region to study this article.

Another important write-up downloaded from the website tells us about the link-up that prevails between drug trafficking and terrorism. The article is titled as "A den of narco terrorism" and is authored by Shri Anil Bhat.

We also would like to draw the attention of our readers to the article, "Two Inspiring Tales from Tuensang in Nagaland". These two stories are the stories of hope. These tell us about the good work of a young Naga couple, Shri Chingmak Kejong and Phutoli in the relatively underdeveloped Tuensang district close to Burma border. The motivating force behind the second story, "The Retrievers' Association", was also the organisation run by this Naga couple. The youth who were ex addicts formed the Retrievers' Association to promote self-reliance through self-employment. As the reading of this

article reveals, the Association has been able to achieve encouraging results. It is, no doubt, a highly inspiring account.

Yet another important matter in this issue is an humble tribute paid to the illustrious Naga leader, Late Sashimeren Aier. His was a unique personality. His painstaking efforts were of major proportions in the formation of Nagaland as a full fledged state of Indian Union. To me personally he was a source of strong support in conducting my mission of service in the strife-torn Nagaland. Ishani salutes the memory of this great son of Nagaland.

Another article which tells about success and hope is the story of Kaziranga sanctuary the centenary celebrations of which concluded only a few months back. It is pride of our nation. The article is prepared by the noted conservationist, Dr. Anwaruddin Choudhury, whose name is familiar to the readers of Ishani. His keen interest in conservation and his rich knowledge of the fauna of the Northeast are of a very high order. Ishani looks forward to be benefited by Dr. Choudhury's contribution on the subject on regular basis.

We are reproducing in this issue an important interview given to a magazine by Shri A.M.Gokhale, the Secretary to Government of India in the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy. The interview deals with the generation of power with the help of "Biomass and associated technologies". This is a subject highly relevant to the Northeast as the region is considered to be rich storehouse of biomass. Shri Gokhale who belongs to the Nagaland cadre of Indian Administrative Service, has a great deal to his credit in the development of Nagaland in particular and the Northeastern region in general.

Professor S.D. Phukan has contributed an interesting article about the three important Bihu festivals of Assam. These festivals are dear to all, old and young, and these are celebrated with veneration and gaiety in rural Assam. The urban Assam also celebrates Bihus with gusto. But it has altered the traditional form. Prof. Phukan deals with this aspect also in his article. One's understanding of Assamiya identity cannot be complete without understanding the meaning and significance of Bihu.

As in the past, we are also carrying in this issue some write-ups on Gandhiana. All the articles deal with the concept of Sarvodaya. Since the writings deal with different aspects of this concept, we are not elaborating further in this editorial note.

We hope this issue of Ishani will also receive the same warm-hearted welcome as in the case of earlier issues.

*Nawitika*

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**"This India of ours....."**

Even since my boyhood, I have been fascinated by this India of ours. It has been mystery often, a revelation sometimes, and the more I have sought to understand her the more I have been impressed by her powerful personality which has endured through the ages. In a sense, my life has been a quest, an attempt to understand this great motherland of ours with its infinite variety and its basic unity. No one who sees a part of India only and not the rest can have a full picture of her. No one who sees the present only and has no realisation of the panorama of her past, can understand her, for our roots go deep down into past of the history of man. Innumerable weeds have grown up from time to time. But they have never succeeded in uprooting those deep root which have fashioned our destiny for good or ill. Out of that distant past, which is history, and the present, which is the burden of today, the future of India is gradually taking shape.

*Jawaharlal Nehru*

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### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

We have published 5 issues of ISHANI uptill now. The issue No. 2 & 3 were published as combined issue and No. 4 was published as the special issue on Tripura with 72 pages.

All the issues have been despatched free of cost so far. Our mailing list has almost reached the mark of 900. We aspire to grow this number to many times more. As we have mentioned elsewhere, we feel encouraged and strengthened by the warm hearted positive response we have received from our well wishers and readers.

Many of the readers have been enquiring about the subscription rate so that they can remit the due amount. We, too, have been applying our mind to this question and have finally arrived at a decision.

The cost of paper, printing and wages here is higher in comparison with the cost in many other parts of the country. We also do not intend to seek advertisement. Taking all these aspects into consideration, we have decided to collect a token subscription Rs 100/- per calender year. The price of a single copy is fixed at Rs 20/- each.

We will continue to mail copies to all the addresses on our mailing list. Those who can send the subscription may kindly do so by M.O., or by D.D. payable at Guwahati in the name of Mahatma Gandhi Ishani foundation (MGIF). Payment may kindly be made by one of the above two modes only. Those desirous of offering voluntary donation may kindly do so. These will be highly appreciated.

As and when any one on our mailing list sends subscription, it will be treated as subscription for the entire year of 2005. They have received all issues published so far and they will continue to receive future issues till the end of December 2005. The subscption for renewal may kindly be sent in January 2006.

— Editor