Meghalaya's matrilineal society a myth, 800 rape cases reported in 10 years

Arijit Sen CNN-IBN
Jan 22, 2013 at 10:10am IST

137 murders, 158 rapes in M’laya in 2012

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: In a clear indication that crime is on the rise in the State, an alarming number of 2381 cases of cognizable crimes under the IPC were reported from the State in 2012.

As per the statistics, 137 murders were reported from the State while a whopping number of 158 rape cases were also reported. 85 cases of abduction were also reported in 2012.

As many as 151 reports of burglary and 548 reports of theft were also recorded in the previous year.

It may be mentioned that out of the 137 murders, 31 were reported from East Khasi Hills district.

With regards to rape, East Khasi Hills led the way with as many as 58 cases being reported in the district; while 26 rape cases were reported from Ri Bhoi.

When it comes to theft, East Khasi Hills once again led the way as the district reported 208 theft cases out of the 548 cases that were recorded throughout the State.

When contacted, East Khasi Hills SP M Kharkung said that a greater number of crimes were reported in the district since it is one of the biggest districts with a large area and a huge population. Migration of people from elsewhere to the district has also compounded the problem, he said.

Reacting to a query about the conviction rates, he admitted that it was unsatisfactory because of pending trials. “We are trying our best to curb growing crime,” he added.

Crimes against women, children in state up by 23.14 pc

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Crimes against women and children in Meghalaya registered an increase of 23.14% in 2013 compared to 2012, according to Meghalaya Governor Dr. K.K. Paul.

In his address to the Assembly on the opening day of the Budget session on Friday, the Governor said that further measures had been taken to prevent, detect and investigate crimes against women and children. The prosecutions of such cases were now being taken up in the Fast Track Courts and a Special Court.

He said units to prevent human trafficking had been set up at Shillong and Tura. Police officials were being
CLIPPINGS: THE ISSUE OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

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THE TIMES OF INDIA
Guwahati

Rapes on the rise in matrilineal Meghalaya

Manish Das, TNN Nov 27, 2013, 08:39AM IST
SHILLONG: Rape is on the rise across the country, and matrilineal Meghalaya is no exception. According to police sources, 151 cases of rape were registered in the state till September alone this year.

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The Telegraph

| Wednesday, Jan 16, 2013 |

East Khasi Hills high on women crime graph
- Civil ens' conference on gender-related issues in Shillong harps on additional security

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Shillong, Jan. 15: Meghalaya’s East Khasi Hills district, with its headquarters in Shillong, is gaining notoriety for crimes committed against women.

Meghalaya police statistics reveal that from January to August 2012, there were 32 rape cases registered in the district, out of a total of 94 rape cases across 11 districts.

The state also reported 146 cases of crimes against women, including rape, during the same period.

CLIPPINGS: THE VICTIMS OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE

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The Telegraph

| May 21, 2013 |

Brutal assault over ‘alleged’ relationship

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: One Rista Nongrum (24) was brutally assaulted in public by one Kristina Mawrie and her daughter-in-law, Amani Mawrie at Rynjah near ITI on May 14 on allegations of an affair between the victim and the son of the accused.

The victim who was shifted to Civil Hospital after receiving a severe head injury and bruises all over her body told reporters that the accused alleged that Non-

Rista Nongrum, who was hospitalized on Monday, in Shillong after being severely assaulted at Rynjah recently. (UB)

rum was going around with her married son, Shanbor Mawrie (26).

"He (Shanbor) was only a friend but later he started spending more time with me than with his wife, and fearing any unwanted consequences, I told him to keep away since he is married but he never listens", she claimed.

It was on May 1 when Kristina came to the victim’s house and threatened to ruin her life. Nongrum said adding... (Contd in P-10)
Rape victim’s family narrates horrific incident
Victim can identify rapists, claims girl’s family

By Lamhruang Nongspung

SHILLONG: The seven-year-old schoolgirl, who was brutally raped by two unidentified persons at a jungle in Malti, is an orphan.

The minor, who is undergoing treatment at NEIGRIHMS, is still traumatized by the incident.

This scribe, who visited NEIGRIHMS on Monday to enquire about the progress of the girl, learnt that she had been adopted by a family after her mother and father expired when she was only two years old.

“We have taken her custody after both her parents expired,” the woman who adopted the girl told this scribe at NEIGRIHMS on Monday.

Informing that she considers the child as her own granddaughter, the woman said that she had sent her to Shillong along with her two daughters, grandson and her youngest granddaughter for studies.

“All of them are staying on their own at Malti. The eldest of the five children is my 12-year-old daughter who is taking care of all of them,” the woman said.

Narrating the horrific incident, the woman said that the young girl was forcefully abducted by two unidentified persons while she was returning alone from school after her examination on May 8.

“It is strange that no one witnessed that the unidentified miscreants forcibly taking the girl from the roadside by closing her mouth,” she said, adding that the miscreants then took her to a nearby jungle at Malti where they brutally raped her.

“After committing the crime the unidentified miscreants again dropped her in the same place from where they had picked her,” the adopted grandmother of the girl said with tears in her eyes.

“When she returned home we did not know that such a thing had happened to her. She only complained of a severe stomach pain,” the woman said, adding that after she kept on

(Contd on P-10)

GH rape victim refuses medical examination

From Our Correspondent

TURA: West Garo Hills police have failed to make any breakthrough into the daring raid on a Garo village by Assam based criminals who not only looted villagers but also committed rape on a teenage girl during the darkness of early Sunday morning.

Also, in a possible set back to the ongoing investigation into the dacoity incident, the 18-year-old girl who was allegedly raped by one of the dacoits during the attack has returned to her village from a hospital in Tura after refusing to undergo a medical examination to confirm the rape.

Fearing social stigma the girl decided (Contd on P-10)
Meghalaya: Woman resists molestation, terrorists blow up her head

Arijit Sen, CNN-IBN
Jun 04, 2014 at 08:24pm IST
Pregnant woman assaulted

Shillong: Nitul D Sangma lodged a complaint at Sheela PS that on May 17 at about 11 am, four persons, Podika S Sangma (39), Heleka S Sangma (25), Gale S Sangma and Pause S Sangma (18) assaulted his pregnant wife Jesina A Marak at Dalia village, Sheela (EKH). The victim sustained injuries and was shifted to Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong.

Tenderlywell gets lifer in 11-yr-old murder case

Convict found guilty of murdering seven-month pregnant girlfriend

By Our Reporter

Shillong: The Court of District and Sessions Judge, Shillong, sentenced Tenderlywell Hynniewta to life imprisonment, besides imposing a fine of Rs. 20,000, and in default of fine to undergo an additional one year imprisonment in an infamous 11-year-old murder case.

On September 6, 2002, Tenderlywell had murdered his girlfriend, Corphilia trial in 2012," Public Prosecutor IC Jha said on Friday, while adding that the hearing of the case had started on Monday.

He, further, informed that Tenderlywell was convicted on two charges.

In the first charge, Jha said that Tenderlywell was convicted for concealment of the evidences under Section 201 of the IPC and was remanded for three years' jail term.
CLIPPINGS: THE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

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Woman allegedly drugged, raped in city hotel
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: City police have registered a case on the basis of a complaint lodged by a woman who claimed that she had been invited to a birthday party and had been raped.

As per the complaint, the woman had on Saturday attended a birthday party on the invitation of one Prince Talukdar, at Greenwood Resort, GS Road, Guwahati. Later, she drank some water offered to her by the accused and fell unconscious. When she recovered she found herself with the accused and No 119 of

14

Cop among 4 held for kidnapping minor girls
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Police on Sunday arrested four people including a PHE engineer and a constable allegedly involved in kidnapping three minor girls (15, 16 and 13 yrs) on Friday last. The persons identified as Tsermoang Sum, J.E., PHE, 30, Khasi Hills, Bishnupur, Restarwell Sum of 1st MLP, In, John Nongkynrih, age 20, andLS, age 20, have been arrested on Sunday in connection with the crime and the Police are also looking into the angle.

Police said that on Saturday evening, the three minor girls were reported missing from Mawlyng, Shillong. Later, it was learnt that the same evening, the arrested persons and a woman, Eun Khanum (32) along with the minor girls had gone to Mawlyng Airport to fly to Guwahati.

Later on Saturday morning, the girls left the boat and boarded a bus for Shillong. However, one of the girls, on reaching Mawlyng, returned home, while the other two proceeded to Shillong and returned home the next day.

When contacted, Police said they are still investigating into the matter.

Another minor raped in State
Fifth case recorded in one week
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: In yet another case of crime against minor girls, a 7-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her uncle, Nepar M Marak, at Gangabandi village in Dhal Tewa, West Garo Hills District on Monday evening.

The case was registered on Tuesday and the victim is being shifted to Tura from the North East Hill Hospital. The Crime Branch has registered a case and has informed the parents.

This is the fifth rape case to be recorded in the State in the last one week. The latest rape case comes a day after reports of two rape cases in Jaintia Hills involving a 7-year-old girl and a 13-year-old girl respectively.

Last week, two more cases had been registered - the rape of a five-year-old girl in South West Garo Hills and the rape of a district who had been sexually assaulted and then murdered.

When contacted, West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner Pravin Bakhshi said the case relating to the rape of the minor in South West Garo Hills would be transferred to the Tura Fast Track Court with the consent of the SWGH Deputy Commissioner soon after the chargesheet is filed.

Bakhshi also expressed concern over the rise in crime against children in ‘matrimonial Meghalaya’ and stressed on the need to conduct awareness campaigns all over the State to make the people aware of the offence and the punishment in such cases.

The increasing number of such alarming incidents in crime against women, especially children, in the State and the frequent occurrence of these offences somehow reflects our acceptance of child rape in matrimonial Meghalaya.5
CLIPPINGS: THE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

Minor held for four rapes
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Police on Saturday last arrested a 12-year-old boy for allegedly raping four minor girls of the same family in the past one year at 4th Mile, Upper Shillong.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Vivek Syiem, informed that the matter came to light only after a complaint was lodged recently by the aunt of the girls. These girls aged between 5 to 9 years underwent medical examination which confirmed that they had been raped.

”This boy has been repeatedly doing this for the past one year until recently when the matter was brought to the notice of the girls’ aunt,” Syiem said, adding that the boy was a neighbour of the girls and used to play together in the same compound.

The accused was forwarded to the Juvenile Court.

Minor raped by uncle
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: In yet another rape case, a 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her own uncle, Starlyne Kharlama on May 4 at Kyrdem in Ri Bhoi district.

According to the police, the victim, a resident of Lumbieng, Umroi had gone and stayed with her aunt at Kyrdem and on May 4, the accused committed the heinous crime when the girl was preparing to go church.

Despite threatening the girl to remain silent, the brave girl reported the matter to her family members and subsequently, an FIR was lodged on Thursday.

The accused is absconding and police are still investigating into the matter.

In another case, one Elbinious Malangiang (20) has allegedly raped a woman (21) in the month of March-April at Umroi, Ri Bhoi.

However, after investigation, police claimed that it was a case of mutual consent and not rape. The lady, who is the wife of the brother of the accused, had an affair with the accused for the past one month in March-April.

The police said that the affair was on during the time when the accused wife was pregnant and it was due to this, that the accused came out of guilt, confessed his sin to his wife.

“After rumors of the same started spreading, the woman who alleged Malangiang of raping her filed an FIR on Thursday,” police informed.

The accused is still under police custody and further investigation is on.

Minor raped by step father
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her step father at Bangladesh Colony under Pynthorumkhrah block on Tuesday evening.

East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police M Kharkrang informed that the rape accused, identified as one Khrawbok Shylla, has been arrested.

Two cops held on molestation charge
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Two constables were arrested on Wednesday on separate charges of attempted rape and molestation.

In the first incident, an armed branch constable Ashu Pathaw of East Khasi Hills was arrested for attempting to rape a woman (28) at Golf Links while she was on her way from NEHU to J stronghold Nongthymama on Wednesday shortly after midnight.

In the second case, head constable Harish Singh of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) based here was arrested for molesting a woman at Khynndai Lad on Wednesday.

Referring to the first case, police said that Pathaw was traveling in a car and stopped the vehicle after seeing the woman on the road and subsequently took her to his house with an intention to commit the crime.

Police also informed that the (Contd on P:5)
CLIPPINGS: THE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

One held for gang rape of disabled girl at Nongstoin

From Our Correspondent

NONGSTOIN: In a major crackdown, Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) T S Narwell along with one constable arrested two men for gang raping a disabled girl of Mawialang village in Nongstoin on Wednesday.

Sources said that the victim, identified as Mehta, was carried to the local hospital where a doctor examined her and informed the police that the girl was a victim of gang rape. Three occupants of the taxi, Mawialang, were arrested and were sent to the police station for further investigation.

Nongstoin P S Officer informed the OC that the trio was apprehended on the same day when the police received a complaint from the erstwhile owner of the taxi, where the victim was allegedly gang raped.

OC Narwell said that the trio was tricked by the victim's brother who informed an undercover police officer that he was willing to sell the victim's body to the trio.

The OC said that the trio had appointed a taxi driver to drive the victim to their hideout in order to carry out the gang rape.

One of the occupants of the taxi was found in possession of the victim's body, and the other two were sent to the police station for further investigation.

Around 10 p.m., they spotted the taxi parked on the roadside. (Contd on P-10)

Mentally challenged girl raped by uncle in West Jaintia Hills

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Yet another case of sexual assault on helpless victims has come to the fore when a woman lodged a complaint at Jowai police station that in November last year, her brother-in-law identified by the police as Shylla had raped her 14-year-old daughter, who is mentally unstable, at Baratwah, Bagh, in West Jaintia Hills.

The latest case of sexual assault on a mentally disabled minor comes a day after it was reported that a 15-year-old mentally challenged girl had been repeatedly raped by her uncle identified as Bratsan Puroj in West Khasi Hills over the past several months. The girl reportedly became pregnant.

Of late, the State has witnessed a spurt in cases of sexual assault on women and minor girls.

Guy's aide accused of molestation

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: An aide of Meghalaya Governor Rajiv Shankar Mishra has been accused of molesting a minor at his official residence on Monday.

Assam Rifles Deputy Commandant Gour Kuma, who was deputed as ADC to the Governor, allegedly molested the 10-year-old daughter of the Meghalaya Police during a dance group on Monday evening. The girl said that she was repeatedly molested by the ADC.

The ADC had earlier been accused of molesting a minor girl in his residence in the past. The girl said that she was molested by the ADC on Monday evening during a dance group.

The ADC's residence was sealed and the matter was referred to the police for further investigation.

Rape by tutor gives profession bad name

NEW DELHI: A teacher from a Delhi college was arrested on Thursday for allegedly raping a minor girl. The girl, who was a student of the college, claimed that she was molested by her tutor during a private lesson.

The college had earlier expelled the tutor for not following the college's code of conduct. The girl had reported the incident to the police.

The tutor was arrested and is currently being investigated by the police.

(Contd on P-11)
CLIPPINGS: THE PERPETRATORS OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

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NEHU sexual harassment case
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: The High Court of Meghalaya in its August 28 order on the case related to the alleged sexual harassment of NEHU professor AK Das against a research scholar of the University, directed that the disciplinary proceedings of NEHU will be subject to the outcome of the writ petition filed by Das.

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Increasing cases of rape on minors in East Khasi Hills
By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Statistics provided by the Meghalaya police department have revealed staggering figures of rape cases reported in the State, especially rape on minors which are growing at an increasingly alarming rate.

In the past year, approximately 48 rape cases have been registered in the East Khasi Hills, especially of minors, are committed against the children of the lower income group; where both parents have to go to work. The culprit is usually someone well acquainted to the family of the victims.

Reacting to a query, Kharkrang suggested that a facility like a creche should come up where working parents can keep their child safely, while they are at work.
CLIPPINGS: SOCIETY’S REACTION TOWARDS CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE STUDY AREA

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People take to streets to voice protest

Rising crime against women, children

School Children during the public rally on crime against women and children organised in the city on Saturday.

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Hundreds of people from all walks of life took to the streets here on Saturday to protest against the rising crime against women and children in the State.

The public rally organised by the Joint Action Committee (JAC) in collaboration with the local Shillong Shining was the first of its kind to draw a locality to create awareness on issues concerning crime against women in the State and across the country.

The rally was followed by a public meeting wherein the speakers discussed ways and means to prevent all forms of crimes against women and children were held. Speaking at the meeting, Mawryngtiem Women's Convention (MBCW) chairperson Theklin Phanbuh said that it is duty of every parent to ensure the safety of their daughter’s and children.

Phanbuh said while adding that parents should track their children, especially daughters.

She said, “We often understand that parents are busy with their work to run the family. But it is important that they spare some valuable time for their children to know what is going on with their life.”

MBCW while expressing concern over the growing number of rape cases in the State, Added that police were not available to address the growing cases of rape.

While expressing concern over the growing number of rape cases in the State, Additional SP (Crime) Vivek Syiem urged the victims to not hesitate in filing a police complaint.

(Contd on P-10)

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Awareness rally to curb rising social evils

LTS students from different schools of Shillong take part in the rally against substance abuse here on Sunday.

SHILLONG: With an aim to create awareness on the social evils in the society like drug and alcohol abuse, substance abuse, the students from different schools of Shillong and Meghalaya took part in the Save the World through Sports awareness programme held at St. Mark’s College on Sunday.

With an opening prayer, the students were addressed by the words of wisdom and lessons on the importance of giving the youth a bright future, the need for respect and love.

The students also took part in the Save the World through Sports awareness programme held at St. Mark’s College and participated in the rally against substance abuse here on Sunday.

Rotary Club Zillic City Shillong held a rally as part of the awareness programme, which was attended by the students as well as the teachers.

The rally was led by the president of the Rotary Club, who called on the students to be responsible and not fall prey to social evils.

Shillong Region Rotaract Club also held a rally as part of the awareness programme and called on the students to be responsible.

The rally was attended by the students from different schools of Shillong and Meghalaya.

(Contd on P-10)
Dorbar rally to protest increase in rape cases

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: In a noble initiative in the wake of growing crime against women and children in the State and the country, a Dorbar Shnong in the State for the first time has decided to hold a public rally to register its protest against the menace.

The Joint Action Committee on Against Crime on Women and Children in collaboration with the Umpling Dorbar Shnong will organize a public rally in Umpling locality on May 4.

Speaking to The Shillong Times, Umpling Dorbar Shnong secretary PA Lyngdoh said that the idea for the rally came out as a lot of crime against women and children is being reported from the State as well as the country. "We thought it is time to do something in our own locality," he added.

The rally would commence from Maw-Arling and it will conclude by a meeting at Madam Erbin.

According to Lyngdoh, the idea behind the rally is to create awareness against the crime and the need to eradicate the threat.

The rally would be attended by residents, senior Government and police officials.

"The crime is in its worst stage in Meghalaya as the number of rape cases is gradually increasing in the State," he said.

He also informed that Dorbar Shnong of other localities have been invited to come up and participate in the rally to register stiff opposition to the growing menace of crime in the State.

Women's organization demands speedy trial of rape cases

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: The Meghalaya United Women's Welfare Organization (MUWO) has demanded a day-to-day disposal of rape cases that have been committed in the State as well as the country.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, MUWO president Aroma Lyngdoh said that the Government must also provide judicial protection to the victims of rape cases.

According to the organization, there is need to curb down the rape incidents.

It may be mentioned that the state as well as the country has seen a hike in the number of rape cases against women and minors in the recent past.

The group also said that the police force must change its attitude while taking trials besides which, men must be sensitized to respect and dignity of women at homes as well.

"The same must be sensitized to change their mindset," Thirawa added in the statement.

Awareness programmes on growing rape cases in State

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: In view of the growing number of rape cases, different NGOs, womens' groups, and people's groups have been organizing awareness programmes to address the menace.

Social Welfare Minister Deborah T Marak on Thursday told reporters that the awareness programmes would be organized at every Assembly of the State including Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills from where more rape cases were reported in recent times.

Everyone including women, the boys and the girls were educated over the growing number of rape cases. Deborah also said that the awareness programmes would aim to educate people, especially youth, about the need to report any suspicious activities to the police. She also wanted to include church leaders, NGOs and other members in the awareness programmes as well.

"We want to take the lead in the awareness programmes and that all the stakeholders need to come together to solve the menace. We all need to come together for the solution," she said while highlighting the need for the continuation of the awareness programmes for the protection of women for tackling this problem.
CLIPPINGS: SOCIETY’S REACTION TOWARDS CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE STUDY AREA

CSWO intervenes in harassment case

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Frequent harassment of an ex-husband towards his wife has prompted the Civil Society Women’s Organization (CSWO) to seek police intervention.

Referring to the recent violent act of Marshal Kharssati, who tried to hit his ex-wife, B Myrbhok with his vehicle, the CSWO president Agnes Kharshiing said that the woman and her children became the victims of frequent harassment by the husband and his mother.

Kharshiing alleged that Kharssati hit her with his passenger Sumon on February 5 in Mawryungneng, while she (Contd in P-4)

CLIPPINGS: ADDRESSING WOMEN’S ISSUE IN THE SOCIETY

Women, children most vulnerable to human rights violation

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Governor RS Mooshahary on Friday termed women, senior citizens and children as most vulnerable to human rights violations said that education was the only solution to protect them.

Addressing an international conference on human rights on the theme ‘Human Rights: A Global Challenge’ organised at the Lady Keane College here, the Governor stated that there is a need for special arrangements to protect the rights of women, senior citizens and children.

He was also of the opinion that without education, legislations to promote and protect human rights will not make much of an impact.

Stressing the need for mobilisation of moral and spiritual values, the Governor said, “The type of education which is needed is how to 'unlearn evils,' adding 'education should also create conditions for human rights to flourish.'”

Poverty, illiteracy and superstitions are often known to be the enemies of human rights, the Governor said, while adding that superstition has contributed a lot to violations of human rights.

Turning the Right To Information (RTI) Act as an emerging right, Mooshahary said, “This is a new concept to ensure that governance is accountable, transparent and responsible towards delivering rights to the people.”

Speaking on the misuse of the Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) in certain areas in the North-eastern region, the Governor acknowledged that the power given to the forces under certain conditions has been misused and abused at times.
CLIPPINGS: ADDRESSING WOMEN'S ISSUE IN THE SOCIETY

Mary speaks out against discrimination

AIZAWL: Olympic bronze-medallist MC Mary Kom feels "discrimination and partiality can kill a sportsperson's soul.

Speaking at a press conference after a felicitation by a Delhi-based company here on Saturday night in the presence of Mizoram Chief Minister Lalrinlianva, Mary Kom spoke elaborately on the discrimination faced by sportspersons, and her experience in particular.

"The key to winning Olympic medals is to treat sportspersons equally, focusing on honing their talents by providing full facilities and support," she said in her address.

She spoke critically of the role played by community favouritism, which most took away her chance of entering the Olympic Games, she claimed, when another boxer, L. Santa Devi, was chosen despite not making the mark.

"I sought a re-trial, which clinched it for me," Kom said.

"I had no one to support me as I was the only tribal in a basket full of others of the majority community," she said.

During the felicitation, Lalrinlianva handed over a demand draft of Rs 56 lakh to her.

Fifty-three other Mizoram sportspersons, who excelled in their own disciplines, were also honoured.

The function was attended by a number of former sportspersons and sports enthusiasts.

A former Mizoram player, who played cricket for the state, said the Government should provide more funding to the sportspersons, especially those from tribal communities.

The function also marked the launching of a book on Mary Kom's life titled "Iron Lady of the Ring".

Concern grows over increasing crimes against women in M'laya

Citizens' conference discusses security of women, gender-related issue

Shillong: Concerns about increasing crimes against women in the state of Meghalaya are growing, with the government and citizens calling for better security measures.

A citizens' conference held in Shillong on Wednesday discussed the issue, with participants highlighting the need for increased police presence and effective law enforcement.

Mary Kom, the Olympic bronze medallist, spoke about the discrimination faced by sportspersons in Mizoram.

The conference was attended by representatives from various women's organizations, as well as government officials and police personnel.

Mary Kom said, "Discrimination and partiality can kill a sportsperson's soul. The key to winning Olympic medals is to treat sportspersons equally, focusing on honing their talents by providing full facilities and support."

She criticized the role played by community favouritism, which most took away her chance of entering the Olympic Games, when another boxer, L. Santa Devi, was chosen despite not making the mark. Kom sought a re-trial, which clinched it for her.

"I had no one to support me as I was the only tribal in a basket full of others of the majority community," she said.

She added, "The key to winning Olympic medals is to treat sportspersons equally, focusing on honing their talents by providing full facilities and support."

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On the same day, the Shillong Times published an article titled "Concern grows over increasing crimes against women in M'laya", discussing the increasing concerns about the safety of women in the state.
CLIPPINGS: ADDRESSING WOMEN’S ISSUE IN THE SOCIETY

Compromise in rape cases intolerable: NCW chief

By Itakanyitew Mavrie

SHILLONG: The trend of rape accused and the concerned victim coming to an understanding to forgo the crime cannot be tolerated, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) Mantha Sharma said.

In an interview with The Shillong Times, Sharma said that the trend of ‘reaching a compromise’ by the victim and the accused is not justified and cannot be accepted.

"To reach at a compromise is not justified and the victim herself cannot compromise at any cost. In fact, they should fight and get the accused arrested and punished for the crime," she reiterated.

Despite having a matrimonial set up, Meghalaya is facing a peculiar problem of an unusual rise in crimes against women in the last few years and this is due to lack of implementation of prevailing laws and regulations, Sharma observed.

"The law is there and it is very strong but due to lack of implementation of the laws, women are facing problems," she said.

The NCW Chairperson asserted that the police should be sensitized on such issues concerning women as for running the state commissions, they also take up suggestions forwarded by us," she said.

It may be noted that the Meghalaya Government, on August 30 this year, notified the Meghalaya Victim Compensation Scheme 2011 whereby Rs 50,000 would be provided for maximum limit of compensation for rape victims and Rs 25,000 for injuries causing severe mental agony for the victims.

Reacting to this, Sharma said the government should not only create more awareness on the scheme so that the victims can avail this but also stress on the need to enlighten the women on the prevailing laws, rights and schemes.

NCWC Chairperson Mantha Sharma they play an important role in providing relief to the female victims.

When asked whether the respective governments are implementing the NCW suggestion to contain crime, Sharma said the state commissions and the national commission are autonomous bodies and since the commissions were formed by the government, they are accountable.

Since the Central government through the Ministry of Women and Child Development is pouring in funds

MSWC chief asked to take steps to prevent crime against women

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: The representatives of the women's organisations who met the newly appointed chairperson of the Meghalaya State Women's Commission (MSWC), Thelhin Phanbuh on Wednesday urged her to find out a mechanism to address the alarming rise of crimes against women in the state.

The various women's organisations which includes the CSWO (Agis), freedom project, Lympung Ki Seng Kynithui, Synjuk Kynithui and North East Network (NEN) extended their appreciations and congratulatations over Phanbubh's recent appointment as the new chief of MSWC following the resignation of its former chairperson, Rooshan Warjiri last month.

They handed over a welcome letter to Phanbub while reminding her of the immense responsibility the new role entails and the expectations of the women's movement to see the commission function in an independent and fearless manner.

As per the letter of appreciation to Phanubh, the women's organisation highlighted some of the key issues which needed to be addressed.

The representatives of the women's organisation said there is an immediate need to address the alarming rise of crimes and violence against women and girls by putting in place mechanisms like a specialised Directorate of Prosecution for crimes against women and girls, setting up Fast Track Courts, having in place dedicated investigation Officers for crimes against women and children, particularly sexual offences including rape. Taking up with the government for re-notification of courts in cases of crimes against women and children whereby such cases should not be sent to the District Council courts but directly to the Sessions Court to ensure speedy trial and justice.

This is the first time since the commission was set up that the Chairperson is one who is part of the women's movement.
SHILLONG, JAN 15: A citizens’ conference on women and other gender-related issues stressed on the need to frame effective laws to protect the rights of the women and children, given that recent trend clearly shows that there has been a significant rise in incidents of crime against women throughout the country, including in matrilineal Meghalaya.

“There is a serious increase in crimes against women in Meghalaya which is a matrilineal society that is supposed to be women-friendly. The conference is all about calling citizens to be responsive to such situation and jointly fight against such crimes,” said Kit Shangpliang, the songwriter and musician of Summersalt.

“Through the conference, we want to persuade the government to take immediate steps to stop the growing incidents of crimes against women. The recommendations of the conference will be submitted to the Centre and the state government,” he added. Citizens from different backgrounds, including representatives of NGOs, musicians and artists attended the conference.

According to available statistics, 140 cases of crime against women were reported from across the state in 2012 with East Khasi Hills recording 35 per cent such cases, followed by Jaintia Hills district with 21 per cent.

“A total of 830 cases where women and children were violated were registered in the past 10 years,” said ICARE vice-president Patricia Mukhim. Many more such cases go unreported, she said, adding that the time had come to come up with much more effective laws to stops the rights of women and children from being violated.
CLIPPINGS: ADDRESSING WOMEN’S ISSUE IN THE SOCIETY

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By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: The chairpersons of the state women commissions of the eight Northeastern states on Friday decided to send a proposal to the Union Government for the formation of a ‘task force’ to oversee that recommendations on women-related issues discussed at various intervals bear good fruit.

This decision was unanimously taken at a regional conference on ‘Empowerment of women—an instrument for poverty alleviation’ organised by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi in collaboration with the Meghalaya State Commission for Women and the State Resource Centre for Women, Social Welfare Department here on Friday.

Besides the formation of a task force, they have also decided to ask the government to empower the National Commission and states commission with more judicial power so as to handle and take care of various women issues which are on the rise.

“At present, we are vested with civil power and with time, there is a need to be vested with more judicial powers to ensure that women’s issues are handled more efficiently,” Chairperson of Meghalaya State Women Commission Roshan Warjri said here while summing up the conference.

The leaders of the eight state women commissions also stressed on the need to form an e-group with an aim to make communication better and much easier.

(Contd on P-10)

CLIPPINGS: INITIATIVES TO TACKLE WOMEN ISSUES IN THE SOCIETY

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Mukul launches initiative for safe and secure Shillong

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma said the State cannot invest in development without creating an enabling environment foremost among which is safety and security.

“Development programmes get derailed due to lack of security,” Dr Sangma said.

The Chief Minister was speaking at an interactive programme with various stakeholders on the project ‘Safe-Shillong’, initiated by the Home (Police) department here on Friday.

Expressing his gratitude to the critical mass of civil society members who attended the meeting, Dr Sangma said “this is a strong testimony of our resolve to achieve a shared objective of making Shillong safe and secure”.

He said similar initiatives would follow in other district headquarters.

A brainchild of Dr Sangma, the initiative aims to install CCTV cameras at vantage points in the city.

“This involves use of technology which is expensive but indispensable,” Dr Sangma said adding that he had cleared the budget of Rs 5 crore for this project a day before the interactive meet on Friday.

Dr Sangma said the gap between civil society and police needs to be bridged in order to create synergy.

The Chief Minister mooted the idea of having a helpline number like ‘Dial 100’ to allow citizens to inform police about incidence of crime by using this helpline number.

The message to potential criminals should be that they cannot get away with crime. Rape and molestation in a matrilineal society is unbearable,” the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government is committed to providing the police with the latest technologies to enable them to handle the law and order in the State in a more effective manner.

While stating that community policing is an important component, he said that the police on its own cannot handle the law and order situation without the support of the community.

(Contd on P-10)
Spl courts to tackle cases against women, children

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma while expressing concern over the rising frequency of crimes against women and children in the State has said that the Government is taking various steps to tackle the menace.

Replying to the debate on the Governor’s Address, Dr Sangma said that women police stations have been set up at the headquarters of the seven older districts and the same would also be set up in the new districts.

He informed that special juvenile police units have been constituted in all the eleven districts of the State in addition to three fast track courts that have been set up at Shillong, Tura and Jowai.

Terming the rape cases as painful, the Chief Minister said that a special court to try cases relating to rape has been set up at Nongstoin and special public prosecutors have been appointed to pursue such cases in each of the four courts.

The Government has also proposed to separate crime investigation from other functions of the police and there will be a dedicated team of officers to deal with investigations alone, the Chief Minister said, adding, “With proper training and experience, over time, this should lead to improvement in quality of investigation and higher convictions.” (Contd on P-10)

‘Women police battalion to be set up soon’

GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU

SHILLONG, APR 24: Meghalaya would soon have a woman battalion in place in order to give more strength to the state police force in thwarting down and combating against crimes against women and children which has at present increasing at an alarming rate.

“The proposal for setting up of a woman battalion in the state is being processed,” a high ranking official in the state home department on request of anonymity said here. Earlier, during the just concluded assembly session, this particular issue had raised concern from majority members of the House who had urged the state government to speed up the raising of women battalion in the state in order to safeguard and protect the women and children from such heinous crimes.

However, even the Chief Minister, Mukul Sangma himself had admitted that the issue is a worrisome phenomena and whole society needs to reflect seriously over the reasons to this even as he stated that “Unless we deal with the root causes of the phenomenon, we would not be able to prevent or stop this from recurring.”

Statistic indicates that in the past seven years there were 269 of rape on minors in (Contd. on P-3)
CLIPPINGS: INITIATIVES TO TACKLE WOMEN ISSUES IN THE SOCIETY

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Women take to self-defence following Delhi gang-rape

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the gang-rape in Delhi that brought thousands of women out on the streets of the capital in unaccredited protest, many women are making a bid for self-defence classes and getting trained in street-fighting techniques to take on attackers.

"After the brutal gang-rape, many women, particularly working women, approached us for self-defence classes," says Makar, a martial arts trainer at the 3 Element School of Arts in Rohini, who runs the academy.

He said the school had already started two batches since the Dec 16 gang-rape and death of a 25-year-old woman. Street fighting is a self-defence technique an individual is taught to tackle at least five to six people with and without weapons.

Makar said the mentor for the self-defence technique was Aikido, which teaches women when, how and where to attack.

"Aikido is an effective self-defence technique that focuses on disorientation of points and nerve points," he added.

Captain (retd) Jagmohan Jot Singh, who conducts self-defence programs in Gurgaon, said he had received tremendous pressure from his parents to leave his well-paying job.

"It was so hard to convince my parents. I drove my own car. But there are days when I get late. As I have to travel for an hour to reach home, my parents insisted that I quit," said Singh who lives in Malviya Nagar and is a home tutor.

He said the Dec 20 incident was a "real shocker.

"This has given the self-defence training. Women should be aware of the risks. A woman should know how to fight back. A woman should be trained when she is young."

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Strategies planned to prevent crime against fairer sex

Shillong: A confluence of noted women NGOs along with noted women activists came together on Tuesday afternoon to discuss strategies to curb the rising instances of crimes against women and children in the State.

Kynhtei Hynniewtrep Association, along with Hasina Kharbhah, former Team Leader of Impulse NGO Network, and RTI activist Angela Rangad, all converged together at the office of the CSWO at Laitumkrah and deliberated over the growing crimes against women and children.

The 23-year-old physiotherapist trainee was gang-raped by six people in a moving bus. She was robbed, stripped and then thrown off along with her friend in the cold December night. She died Dec 29 and was finally cremated Dec 30. The attack, which made news around the world, led to an outpouring of grief and outrage with protests demanding death for the rapists and severe anti-rape laws.

Accusing in martial arts experts, mixed martial arts training is now most sought after and is a combination of arts like Aikido, Muay Thai and Karate among others.

Experts said apart from these known techniques, women are also being taught to take up kung-fu which teaches one how and where to punch. The transportation fare ranges from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500 per month and classes are flexible according to an individual's schedule.

To install the feeling of security among young girls, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) also recently launched a self-defence programme. This is, however, only for South Delhi-based cooperation schools. They can also enroll for the classes.

"We have taken this initiative for the first time. In the self-defence programme, teachers and students from 545 schools in the area will be trained to tackle real-life situations and protect themselves from anti-social elements (ASAs)."
CLIPPING: ONE OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE VICTIMS

Rape victims’ wait for monetary relief prolongs

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Several rape victims have to wait for long for monetary relief as the earlier Meghalaya Victim Compensation Scheme was de-notified by the State Government following the recent cabinet decision to revise the scheme to include all sorts of violence against persons.

It was on March 20, 2012, that the Government officially notified the Meghalaya Victim Compensation Scheme.

The scheme, which was exclusive for the victims of sexual violence, stipulates that while the rape victims can avail up to Rs 50,000, an amount of Rs 25,000 has been fixed for the injury which causes severe mental agony to women and child victims in cases such as human trafficking and kidnapping among others.

The Government has released money only to one William Nagar gangrape victim.

However, with the State Cabinet on September 4 approving the revised Meghalaya Victim Compensation Scheme to examine all sorts of violence, the old scheme was de-notified.

The scheme will be implemented through the State Legal Service Authority (SLSA).

An official with SLSA said that there are more than 20 applications of rape victims pending to be cleared.

He said that as per the scheme, the person affected will be given Rs 5 lakh.

As per the revised compensation package, the areas of focus have widened as the victims (Contd on P.6)

CLIPPINGS: VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Will govt really tackle the rape issue in the country?

There is little need for the establishment to feel victimised in this case, for only a few such incidents are reported, and a minuscule few attract media attention. And of them, only the likes of a December 16 gang rape or the rape and barbarism inflicted on the five-year-old (broken bottles and candles inserted in her private parts, and left for dead by the accused) attract such public attention...

They are not the type to change the situation. National and State officials have been made aware of the need to provide importance to women's lives...

They are not the type to change the situation. National and State officials have been made aware of the need to provide importance to women's lives...

There are more cases untold, unreported, and unacknowledged. Out of those cases, only a few are brought to light, and only a few are given a nod. But the reality is that there are cases, countless cases, that are not registered.

The time has come where the government needs to come out and change its behavior. The time has come where the government needs to come out and change its behavior.

There are countless cases that are not registered. The government needs to come out and change its behavior.
CLIPPINGS: VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Women need to use the laws available

From Our Correspondent

JOWAI: The Project Director, Mornmukhi Community Social Welfare Association (MCSWA), Dr. JN Chullai speaking as the main speaker during the celebration of the International Women’s Day (IWD) at H.K. Singh School, Jowai said that there are laws to protect rights of women in place but women are yet to make the best use of them.

Lamenting on the slow progress of trial in many rape cases in the district, Dr Shullai said that even cases which were referred to the Fast Track Court, the concerned court is yet to deliver its verdict in spite of prolonging the verdict for many years. This includes rape cases which involves minor victims. Dr Shullai also said that there should be some organization to help the victims and their family to ensure that justice is delivered and as of now there is no support system for the victim and their families, she said.

At a function organized to celebrate the International Women’s Day, organized by Seng Kynhyei Unitarian Church, Jowai (Women Wings of the Church), Dr. Shullai whose organization was involved in working with destitute women, call upon the Women of the Unitarian Church to come out of the four corner of the church and take up women issues to protect the rights of women folk in the region. Dr Shullai called upon the Women of the Church to be proactive as there are many areas which involves protection of women rights that needs to be addressed.

Health Briefs

Facebook considered “social burden” by teens: Study

Facebook is considered more a social burden than a loved networking site by its young users, a recent study has found. The study conducted by New Research Center on children between the age group of 12 to 19 found Facebook was losing its crucial demographic, which long fueled its success. According to the Huffington Post, teens are increasingly abandoning Facebook for other sites like Instagram, Twitter, MySpace where they tend to receive more privacy, which has been a turn off for Facebook due to parents being on the friends’ list. Teens consider the site, overrun by parents and leads to unnecessary social drama. Contrary to the study, Facebook has clarified it is pleased by the high level of engagement by its users especially the young, who are the most active. The study found that teens are continuously revising their friends’ list by deleting and blocking users. They are more likely to delete users from their list than boys. Privacy concerns top the teens’ list. A majority of 60 percent has set their profiles to private as compared to only five percent, who tweak their privacy to limit what their parents see. The report added that teens are concerned about their privacy but are also keen in sharing their personal details like their location, e-mail address and phone number online. Actively, the study found out that out of the teens surveyed, 17 percent have been contacted by strangers. Another 37 percent said the online experience made them feel uncomfortable and scared, while 37 percent said that online made them feel more connected to someone like ANI

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Modern life causing kids’ childhood to end at age 12

More than two-thirds of parents feel that their children are growing up before they become teenagers, a new survey has revealed. According to the study, children are so worried about sex, popularity and their looks they are losing their innocence by the age of 12, the Mirror reported.

16 percent said that their child’s innocence was lost by the age of 10, with many blaming the internet and celebrities. The research, for parenting website Netmums, also found a

influence - with half of girls aged seven to 13 fretting about how many friends they have on Facebook.

Nearly half of parents with daughters that age say they are body conscious and feel under “immense pressure” to be thin. And half of parents said that their son is under pressure. Believe appearance is the most important thing about someone. Netmums co-founder Siobhan Freegard said: “It’s shocking childhood now ends by 12 years old. The pace of modern life is snatching away precious years of childhood — they should be playing for the sheer joy of it without thinking what they look like or whether they’re popular.” (ANI)
CLIPPINGS: VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

NEW DELHI: Despite age-old mechanisms of discrimination against women being gradually dismantled and widespread acceptance of equality in principle, full equality still seems to be a far cry, Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar said today on the occasion of International Women's Day.

"Let us on this day reindulge ourselves collectively to work steadfastly towards achieving an equal and human environment for women," she said.

Ms Kumar said systemic oppression of women is a tragic fact of history.

Restricted to a narrow sphere of activity in society, denied educational opportunities and basic human rights, subjected to violence and frequently treated as less than human, women have been prevented from exercising their true potential, she added.

Echoing the sentiment, Leader of the Opposition Sushma Swaraj said, "We invite today to address women issues, but forgot it thereafter."

She added that the bitter truth is that "we meet 364 days and greet one day on this occasion, but if we are really concerned for the women's plight, we must observe every year as the year of women's safety and discuss women issues on daily basis in the House to pave the way for egalitarian society in an actual sense.

Reiterating to Delhi Gangrape and violence being reported from different parts of the country against women, she said that a lot needs to be done for the social, political and economic empowerment of women and for their safety and security.

Ms Swaraj said only making laws for women was not sufficient for their emancipation as effective implementation of the legislations was necessary.

Expressing concern on increasing crimes against women, senior Congress leader Girija Vyas said there was a need to create an environment where women feel safe and secure.

Hailing Finance Minister P Chidambaram for presenting an exclusive women bank and "Nidhaya" scheme for women, she said some sincere efforts need to be done (Thoda hai Thoda ki zarurat hai).

She also voiced concern against the indirect representation of women in the media like advertisements and sought changes in NRI Act as NRIs come here, marry Indian girls and leave behind abandoned and rehabilitated of abandoned women.

She also demanded realisation of 2013 as year of women safety by the Government of India.

Asserting that women ought not to be treated as a subject of property but an object, she urged all parties to work for women's cause irrespective of differences.

Sushila Sarj (SP) said there is a need for women to feel safe and secure in the society from the moment of birth till the moment of death.

Dr Lalitha Bhosle, Dean of Commerce, said the importance of women in the society cannot be underestimated.

"In every sphere of life women have made their own identity, from the kitchen to the temple to the Parliament," she said.

Breaking silence: The ‘Women’s Question’ in our times

Women’s question: An inherent right

Women, breaking into public space has been so long a challenge. A woman in an Indian family is mostly expected to be a daughter, a wife and a mother but hardly has been seen as a human being. She has been secluded away in her home and not allowed to step out of the home without taking the consent of ‘men’ in her life. Is this womanhood or should we say ‘womanhood’?

The 49th year of women’s liberation, women have been the backbone of this fight. They have broken through all the conventional stereotypes and have stood up against all odds.

Women’s question has become a burning question for the world. Women empowerment has become a burning question in the world. It is not just a question of women empowerment but also a question of human rights.

Women’s question: It is not just a question of women’s rights but also a question of human rights. Women’s question is a question of humanity.

Women’s question: It is not just a question of women’s rights but also a question of human rights. Women’s question is a question of humanity.
Need to teach our sons to respect women: Minister

NEW DELHI: Taking note of the large number of crimes against women in recent days, Minister of State for Home Affairs RPN Singh, on Wednesday, said there was need to educate children to respect women.

"Humans have become beastly. There are rapes in schools, families. According to reports, 90 percent rapes are done by people who are known to the victim," Singh said, while replying to supplementary during question hour in the Rajya Sabha.

"We need to teach our children, our sons to respect women," the minister said.

The minister also said that government, at different levels, was providing women self-defence training.

"In 2012, 9,790 women have been given self defence training in Delhi. Delhi Police has also organised training programme for women cab drivers," the minister said.

He said that all states have been asked to recruit at least 33 percent women in the police forces. "Delhi Police will also be recruiting 522 women," he said.

As per information provided by National Crime Records Bureau, a total number of 2,03,804, 2,13,585 and 2,28,650 cases of atrocities against women were registered in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Singh said that stringent action can be taken under the Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2013, which was promulgated in February. (Agencies)
CLIPPINGS: VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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Kids who spend hours online every day ‘see world only in 2D’

The culture of encouraging children to use computers from their earliest years is harming their brains, experts have warned.

Baroness Greenfield from Oxford University issued a stark warning over the growing trend of primary school age children being put in front of screens for hours on end at computer boards and ‘juvenile social networking’.

According to her, children cooped up indoors staring at screens were likely to have a ‘different mindset’ as compared to those who played out.

She also warned that children who spend hours online every day grew up only seeing the world in 2D, whereas those with a proper balance between computer use and the wider environment ‘live in 3D’.

The neuroscientist’s warning comes days after the world’s first 3D space station was revealed.

‘There are attempts to get every young child into peerless social networking under parental supervision, but they are not exposed to anyone saying kids are too young to be on the internet,’ the Daily Mail quoted Baroness Greenfield as saying.

‘One shouldn’t be surprised if a child playing in a park, or in the streets, has a different mindset from a child limited to their room. I am worried about what amount of time a child spends in front of a screen. I feel they are not living a full life, they are seeing a 2D life,’ she said.

‘She said that the brain is “incredibly sensitive to the environment. Therefore it is crucial to think about what environment young children are in. The 21st century environment is unprecedented, for parents and teachers and for all of us, society is to shape the environment for children to put up with that as well,” she added. (ANI)

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Gender discrimination and the family

The Delhi gang rape has been an emotive response across the genders. A piece by Barnes Mawrie asks us to reflect on the rights of the Indian woman. Her horrifically pathetic situation such as the abuse of reproductive rights even the right to life. Every foetus of the future child are killed in the womb. The 3D endowments of the female nature are nothing to be ashamed of or to be viewed as ‘dirty’ or some-
Rampant rape and societal response

If at all an awakening is needed in this state and among its people then it would have to be in the area of sexual abuse of which rape tops the list. Increasingly the rape victims are children who have not even reached menarche and are unaware of the consequences of rape except for the physical pain.

Women are not the weaker sex

By Jenniefer Dkhar

Shakespeare writes in his play Hamlet “the world is an unweeded garden, that grows to seed: things rank and gross in nature.” The good and the bad thrive together. We are a society that as 3 years being raped and even murdered. It is baffling to the mind to even hear of such cruelty on a child who could barely speak.

The question that comes to mind is what has become to this world?
CLIPPINGS: ADVERTISEMENT LINKED TO SEXUAL ACTIVITIES NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THE YOUNG AGE GROUP

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CLIPPING: INFLUENCE OF TECHNOLOGY

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There has been quite a buzz of talk ab out sex tapes involving two teenagers that was recently "leaked" in Shillong. According to some media reports, the young man in the video, who was reportedly also the boyfriend of the girl, was responsible for the leak. There was also suspicion that he had drugged her, although that was never ultimately proved. Various women activists had respon ded to the event by sending State intervention, instructing the police to arrest the

Sex Tapes and the complacency towards violence

By Gertrude Lamare

It is fascinating how the commentary on the episode largely turns towards recognition of the general moral degeneration of youngsters and more so women of "our" society. Of course, the sexual engagement of the two teenagers can be critiqued when glanced through legal lenses since the age of consent in India is sixteen (according to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2013) and the girl in the video is which now looks a lot like an "indecent" and "perverse" individual. Discrimination on the grounds of gender is thus evident in the manner in which the girl becomes the target of public excoriation. This is supportive also of the ridiculous opinion that it is "natural" for boys to be easily sexually excited but not for girls. It becomes understandable if boys act on the urge at any cost but if a girl does it, the

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