

# the ant

## *Quarterly Newsletter*

### *(April-June)*



### ***A Walk towards a Biodiverse World***

World Environment Day was observed based on this year's theme 'Only One Earth'. the ant organised a biodiversity walk at Bengtol, Chirang with the aim to encourage the local youth from different communities to understand the importance of the local biodiversity and act as stewards of the Earth. Youth from seven different communities - Bodo, Rabha, Rajbongshi, Santhal, Urang, Christian and Muslim - took part in the biodiversity walk to learn about wild uncultivated edible plants. Umwilu Daimary and Bhimaram Hembram, farmers and community knowledge holders from Bodo and Santhal communities respectively, led the youth and shared their extensive knowledge on wild uncultivated edible and medicinal plants. The youth collected 40 species of wild plants from Jambuguri forest and near the banks of Aie river at Ranisunduri under the guidance of the two community knowledge holders. The collected plants were later used to prepare herbarium in their local languages.





## Stop Child Labour Campaign

Child labour is a global issue and only when everyone will come together, we can completely eradicate it to ensure a carefree childhood to all the children in the world. The ant observed World Day Against Child Labour to highlight the importance of creating an enabling and inclusive environment for children to realise their full potential and rights. In solidarity with DKA Austria, the ant Colouring the Rainbow and Bring the Change projects organised events with communities in Chirang and Udalguri districts through activities such as poster making, drama and singing. Children, youth and parents/guardians from Palangsuguri, Goibari and Diputunkubari villages, Chirang, and Garosbasti, Udalguri participated in this campaign.

## Addressing Domestic Violence:

### Felicitation and Recognition of Community Change Makers Domestic Violence Response Groups

the ant, project AVAHAN (Against Violence At Home – Act Now!) organized a felicitation programme for 94 Domestic Violence (DV) Response Groups at Dhaligaon High School Auditorium on 16th of June 2022, for their courageous actions in preventing domestic violence cases within their communities in Chirang District. Brahma Para-Nepali Bosti DV response group from Deosiri was awarded as the best group with a certificate of appreciation and a cash award of 10000 for their courageous act in addressing domestic violence cases. The event was graced by Bobidita Gogoi, Secretary, District Legal Service Authority as the chief guest, and officials from District Child Protection Officer; District Social Welfare Officer; District Project Manager, Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASLRM) and One Stop Centre also attended the event. The main objective of the event was to recognize the response groups and foster collaborations with state agencies like the District Legal Service Authority, District Child Protection Unit, Social Welfare department, ASRLM, One Stop Centre, Health Department and Village Council Development Committees for a safe Chirang District for all women and girls. The event underscored the need for comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to Gender based discrimination and violence against women (GBVAW).



## the ant in Media

অগ্রদূত বার্তা, ১৭ জুন

আমাব খবর, ১৮ জুন

গণ বার্তা, ১৮ জুন





## The Most Ultimate in Action

Click on the picture above to watch 'the Most Ultimate' video

## The Most Ultimate

From 23rd to 24th April and 29th to 30th April 2022, the ant in collaboration with the Ultimate Players' Association of India (UPAI) organised the Sectional and Regional tournaments of 'the Most Ultimate Frisbee' at Rowmari Playground. 9 teams across Chirang, were selected in the Sectional to play for the Regional tournament. Meghna Shankaranarayana, President UPAI, and Abhinav, Ultimate Coach UPAI, supported the ant Ultimate team to run the tournaments. ARONAI team from Kuklung cluster emerged the champion team. Ultimate is a unique sport that maintains no body contact, no referee and is played by both genders in a team. Ultimate operates on the principle of fairness and respect towards others known as Spirit of the Game (SOTG). In the ant, apart from ensuring SOTG and 50:50 gender ratio amongst its players, it also ensures that a team comprises of players from 3 religion, 3 mother tongues and 3 castes backgrounds making 'the Most Ultimate'. This year's Sectional had 219 males and 179 female players, and the Regional had 112 males and 79 female players.

## One Day Nutrition Training Camp at Deosiri

One day training on the basics of nutrition was conducted at the Deosiri, the ant office on 11th June 2022. 17 staff members from the ant MOULD (Making Opportunities to Uplift Lives in Deosiri) and Livelihood Kuklung projects participated in the training. Dr. Swati Singla, a certified nutritionist, facilitated the training. The objective of the training was to introduce basic concepts of nutrition through kitchen gardens in schools and households to increase consumption of fresh vegetables for maximum nutrition amongst communities in Deosiri and Kuklung.



## MITA Spreading its Wings



the ant Mental Health Treatment Alliance (MITA) in alliance with Serendip Guardians, Dimapur inaugurated the new mental health camp at Government Higher Secondary School, Chumoukedima, Nagaland on 11th June 2022. The ant mental illness treatment alliance (MITA) is a low cost no profit/no loss model. Patients receive one month's medicine and medical consultation services for rupees 350 per month. The programme generates its own fund to pay for human resources, logistics services and medicines required. MITA has its presence in 16 district, 2 states with 14 partner organisations.

## New Family Members

We welcome Komoli, Patiram, Sarala, Songit, Sanen, Len, Kiran, Liman, Pranjal, Tularam, Aminur, Premjit, Udang, Dwiji, Komita, Dibbya, Zulfikar, Gwmbwr, Urbal, Rita, Nirmali, Waston, Christina, Nizra, Stefanie Joe, Hapija, Micheal, Solomon, Akhrang, Prabhat, Fwilao, Narsing, Dipak, Marta, Nami Devi, Padmabati, Laimwn, Akash, Rani Venus, Sabita, Tanushree, & Prity to the ant!

## New Internal Complaints Committee Members

*under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013*

Ms Enakshi Dutta (Chairperson)  
Ms Nani Bhagat (Member)  
Mr Sattar Ali (Member)  
Ms Nijwra Narzary (Member)  
Ms. Anurita Hazarika (External Member)

## What's happening at IDeA?

### Joyful and Participatory Teaching Learning Method Training

Training on Joyful and Participatory Teaching Learning methods was organised between 27th to 30th April, 2022 by the ant-IDeA (the Institute of Development Action) at Bengtol for the Friends Across Barriers project team and teachers from 21 Government Primary Schools. The project aims to strengthen social cohesion by working with children, youth belonging to multi ethnic communities. The training was delivered by Jodogyan Siksha, an organization that have been working with different government and private schools across the country towards making mathematics a fun subject to learn. One of the participant who is a primary school teacher shared, "I came here as subject teacher and now going back as a confident Math teacher."



### Workshop on Livelihood Promotion

IDeA organised a residential workshop on Livelihood promotion from 21st to 25th May 2022 for Caring Friends Incubation Partner organisations from Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. The main focus of the workshop was to train the partner organisations on real-time interactions and engagement with Self Help Group (SHG) and Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) members, and observation of livelihood activities such as intercropping & multi-cropping. IDeA aims to support voluntary organisations in Northeast India through capacity building, networking and grants for innovative equitable and sustained changes.



### Exposure Visit to Nepal

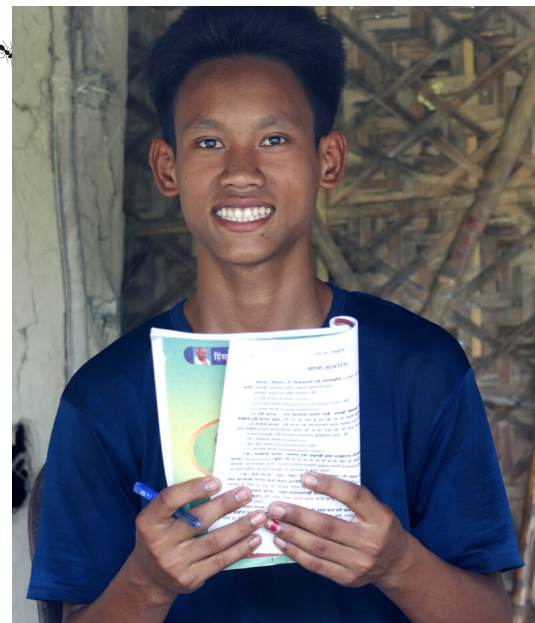
12 members from IDeA had the opportunity to visit Nepal for seven days in May 2022 – June 2022 as a part of an exposure trip. The team interacted with seven Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Kathmandu and Pokhara working on Child Rights. The objective of the trip was to enable the team to build knowledge and understanding of the extensive Child Rights work happening in Nepal, learn the elements of their programmes that can be incorporated into the Child Rights Projects being implemented by IDeA and its partner organisations in Northeast India.





### ***It Takes A Village to Raise a Child***

Seven years ago, Ransai Basumatary's parents were worried for his education and future. Since he was a kid, Ransai has been interested in studies, but due to lack of proper schools in his village No. 4 Sonapur, Kuklung, Chirang, he was slowly losing interest and focus in his studies. No. 4 Sonapur village is a forest village located on Indo-Bhutan border and in the entire locality there was only one venture school (non-provincialised) school attended by the children of that village. The venture school was also fighting for its own survival as it lacked infrastructure and regular paid teaching staff. Last year, this too closed down due to absence of any teaching volunteers. The parents, earning most of their income from selling vegetables and daily wage labour, could not afford to send their kids to private schools. Education is every child's right, and in today's highly globalized and privatized world, where would poor parents go to ensure their child's right to education.



In 2015 when Ransai was almost on the verge of dropping out from education, he was enrolled into the ant Child Development Centre (CDC). CDCs were started in 2015 under the project Shiksha in Deosiri and Kuklung situated in the foothills of Bhutan to encourage learning beyond formal schooling through activity-based learning after school hours to create an enabling learning environment that is missing at home. The centres were started in collaboration with the village community – parents, village elders and community organisations like student bodies. The ant provides the centres with teachers, teaching materials and facilities for games, while the village community monitors the working of the centres. These extra classes at CDCs also helped Ransai in grasping certain learning concepts. "Since I joined the CDC, the classes have improved my understanding in concepts from subjects like maths and science. And when I joined Janata High School for my higher studies, the extra classes in the CDC aided in my learning. Every day after school I would go for the CDC classes where they would teach us three subjects – Maths, Science and English". A month till his exam started, Ransai would study till late at night and his mother or father would stay awake with him. With his hard work, determination and support from CDC lessons, Ransai was able to achieve his goal of securing 1st Division in the HSLC examination. Ransai aims to be an IPS officer in future and hopes that like him many other kids from the disadvantaged families from the village would benefit from the free CDC classes and fulfill their dreams.

### **Upcoming Activities**

- **Training of staff members on conscious citizenry by IDeA in collaboration with Kshetra**
- **Awareness and training programs on suicide by MITA**
- **Youth for Gender Equality Campaign by Friends Across Barrier (FAB)**
- **Summercamps with children across Chirang by the ant**