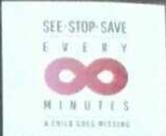


Every **8** Minutes...

a child goes missing in India



Caravan on
“Missing Children Link to Child
Trafficking”

Lower Assam BTC Region Caravan for
“Safe Childhood – Safe Assam”
A Narrative Report

SEE
How many children are
kidnapped yearly in
India?

40,000

(National Human Rights Commission)

STOP
How long does it take for
a street child to be lured
into prostitution?

48 HOURS

(National Human Trafficking Resource
Center)

SAVE
How many children under
age 18 are slaves today?

26%

(www.freetheslaves.net)

Caravan

**Missing Children Linked to Child Trafficking
4th, 5th, 6th & 7th February, 2018**

*Illegal trade of children, especially girls, for domestic and sexual slavery is rampant in
remote and poor villages of BTC Assam*

Call-CHILDLINE (1098)

NEDAN FOUNDATION
Bodofa Nwgwr - 11
Kadamtala, P.O. Titaguri
Dist. Kokrajhar, BTC - Assam
www.nedan.in

www.facebook.com/Nedan.Foundation



NEDAN Foundation

Introduction:

Human trafficking is an age old practice. In early age it was formal and traded human beings in open market termed as slave trade. At present it is done through illegal means. Human Trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world that generates an estimated five to seven billion U.S. dollars each year. It is a violation of human rights. It also violates the right to health care, liberty and security of person, and the right to freedom from torture, violence, cruelty or humiliating treatment. Child Trafficking is an organized crime in which children are apprehended at the source, on the route and at the destination, often to be trafficked or forced into labour or sexual slavery.

There is no greater agony than the helplessness felt by parents whose children have gone missing. A missing child in Indian legal system is generally not considered a heinous crime with little attention being paid, until sometime has elapsed, on recovering the child. The significance of timely recovering of the missing child can only be understood if one empathizes with feelings of the missing child or that of a mother who is unable to locate her child irrespective of the circumstances under which a child goes missing. **This situation is compounded by the fact that there is no adequate data or consistently applied set of definitions to describe missing children as these groups are so heterogeneous.** Therefore, efforts to trace missing children remain slipshod. Unfortunately the child who goes missing is likely to be highly vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation and trafficking. The brutal killing of several innocent children in **Nithari in Noida** sparked off nationwide indignation on the abuse to which the victims were subjected and gross violations of their human rights. It was shame that shook the nation's conscience.

Today whole world is facing this problem irrespective of caste and creed. North East India has become hot spot of Human Trafficking because of the diminishing traditional social value, illiteracy and poor economic condition. Children and Young Girls from North East India and particularly from western Assam are taken from their native places to faraway States of India or outside India for bonded labour and for sex trade. As per the government of India's statistics, 2011 in **Every Eight Minutes** a Child goes missing in our country, while the majority of Missing Children are girls and most of them are from West Bengal and North East India

Children and childhood across the world have broadly been construed in terms of a 'golden age' synonymous with innocence, freedom, joy, play and the like. At the same time, it is also the time when children are most vulnerable, especially when they are very young, because they need to be cared for and protected from 'the harshness of the world outside'. In reality, this is an ideal very difficult to fulfill as not a single day passes without a case in which a child has either been exploited, abused or found to be missing or killed.

Countless children go 'missing' every year. The cases of missing children represent an accumulation of a number of problems, including abductions/kidnappings by family members, abductions/kidnappings carried out by non-family members or strangers, children who run away on their own or are forced to run away due to compelling circumstances in their families and

extended surroundings, children who face unfriendly and hostile environment and are asked to leave home or who are abandoned, children who are trafficked or smuggled or exploited for various purposes, and children who are lost or injured. Undoubtedly, each of these groups of children exemplifies different social problems.

The recently published report of Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights revealed that, since 2012 to the month of October, 2014, a total of 4754 children are still untraced in the State. The **NHRC Action Research on Trafficking**, published by Orient Longman in 2005, has shown that in any given year, an average of 44000 children are reported missing; of them, as many as 11000 remain untraced.

Most of these children are also trafficked and further abused, physically or sexually, and their cases are not even brought to the knowledge of the police. Many of these children come from indigent families who either do not have access to authorities or whose complaints are not treated with due diligence. **The Action Research Study on Trafficking by NHRC has brought out several case studies to establish this linkage between “trafficking” and “persons reported missing”.**

**Total Missing Children below 18 years
Including 2015 & 2016**

State	Male	Female	Total
Assam	939	1474	2413

**Missing and Traced children below 18 years
In 2016**

State	Male	Female	Total
Assam	361	708	1069

Total Untraced Missing Children below 18 years including 2016 and previous year 2015

State	Male	Female	Total
Assam	578	766	1344

Source: NCRB, 2017

These are the reported cases of Missing Person out of which majority of them are children and there are numerous unreported incidences of missing children in India.

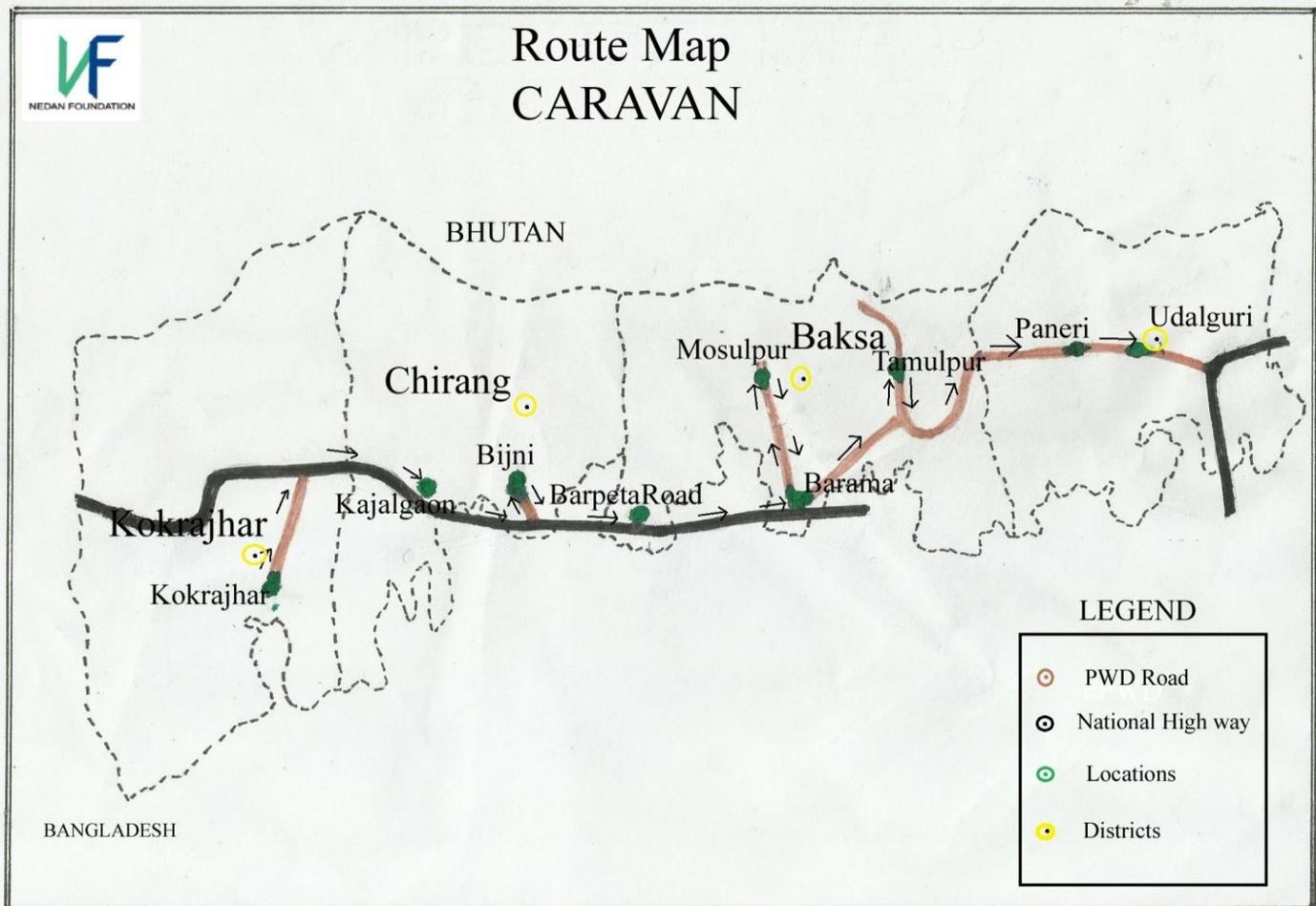
A study by UNICEF, the result of which was published in 2015, identifies Assam as the Country's second highest trafficking zone in the country. It mentions the BTAD districts of

Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri and Chirang as well as Sonitpur, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Kamrup as the most vulnerable districts for trafficking.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ranks Assam as one out of eight Indian States where child trafficking is flourishing unchecked. According to the report number of children went missing from Assam, mostly from the BTAD between 2009 and 2014.

Missing Children from Assam	From	To	Age	Missing		Traced	
	2009	2014	0 – 18 years	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
				5023	2765	2305	1264

Source: UNODC, 2015



Route Map for CARAVAN

Launching of CARAVAN

On the 4th of February 2018 CARAVAN on “Missing children link to child trafficking”, Safe childhood safe children was launched by the honorable Deputy Commissioner of Kokrajhar, BTAD, Assam and honorable additional Superintendent of Police Kokrajhar Mr.Tagu Ram Pegu at 10:10 am KDSA playground Kokrajhar in the presence of media persons, students, students organizations, civil society persons, local public and NEDAN Foundation staffs. At first, the invited guests were felicitated with Aronai (A Bodo traditional scarf worn around the neck) after



which lamp was light by the Deputy Commissioner, Additional Superintendent of Police, NEDAN Foundation chairperson and student from Don Bosco school Kokrajhar. After lighting of the lamp objective of Launching CARAVAN was brief by the chair person of NEDAN Foundation then the chief guest DC of Kokrajhar gave a brief of his valuable words which was followed brief by Additional SP of Kokrajhar. Soon Pledge lead by the chief guest followed by guest of honour and chairperson and the students along with the participants in the CARAVAN was done by putting mark with hands on the white cloth.

After everything was done flagging off ceremony was done by the DC & Additional SP by lifting the green & white flag resembling prosperity and peace respectively. Soon after flagging off March from the KDSA field began at around 10:40 am

March at Kokrajhar district, 4th February' 2018.

Soon after the flagging off ceremony at around 12:20pm the 22 marchers marched at the Kokrajhar market sticking the leaf lets and giving them awareness on child trafficking and the reporting mechanism through childline number-1098, SMSing number-



9229224424 and one stop centre number-9365184698. The continuous announcement in English, Boro and Assamese language was made throughout the march about Child trafficking, child related crimes and its reporting mechanism.

March at Chirang district, 4th February' 2018.

After the march at Kokrajhar the 22 marchers reached Kajalgaon market of Chirang district at 01:30 pm. As it was already planned and informed to the ABSU, Police personals, media house, Deputy commissioner of Chirang, Superintendent of police of Chirang all the marchers were warmly greeted and accordingly the awareness on child trafficking was made along with the All Bodo Students Union through the means of leaflet distribution and briefing of the objectives of CARAVAN and reporting mechanism when there is crime against children by the Program manager himself. As it was a weekly market day the marchers could draw many people for the same. On Sunday weekly market at Kajalgaon many people from interior locations come for trading and other purposes taking this opportunity the program was well executed where the team could reach directly around 2500 populations at the market. Soon after awareness at kajalgaon the entire CARAVAN team of 22 went for lunch at Himalaya Hotel Chapaguri, Bongaigaon.



After lunch the CARAVAN team headed to Bijni town and reached at about 3:45 pm where the team was welcomed warmly by the ABSU members along with the police personals and the public of the area. It was a weekly market day at Bijni town so the CARAVAN team could gather and draw attention of many people in the market area. Accordingly, awareness on Child trafficking



was made by briefing the objectives,

reporting mechanism like childline number-1098, SMSing number and one stop centre number. Soon after briefing the stickers, pamphlets were distributed in the public and banners were pasted on the walls of shops and walls & bridges. By the time it was 4:45pm it was getting dark. So program manager discussed with the CARAVAN team and canceled the



stopping point at Barpeta and directly headed to Barama (Baksa district) for holding night at Barama ABSU office where the team reached at around 6:40 pm at the said venue.

March at Baksa district, 5th February' 2018.

CARAVAN team members spent night at Barama ABSU office as it was already informed to the President of ABSU Barama mattress, blankets and two halls one for girls and one for boys was arranged to hold night. On 4th of February' 2018 at 9:30 pm a review meeting was held headed by the program manager, the day's progress was put on the table for discussion and plan for the next day's CARAVAN was also discussed.



On the next day the 5th of February' 2018 after breakfast at around 9:30 am the CARAVAN team started awareness in the market area of Barama by distribution of leaflets, placards and sticking posters on the walls, bridges and shops. While distributing and sticking a briefing was also done about the objective of CARAVAN, reporting mechanism was done to the common people in the market.



Soon after that the team headed to Mosulpur where Bodo sahitya Shaba was held. The team's main objective was to disseminate the awareness of child trafficking to as many populations as it could possibly do. As the programme manager of the team had already informed to the members of Bodo sahitya shaba and ABSU members CARAVAN team went inside the shaba and distributed the leaflets, pamphlets, stickers and



posters giving them awareness on child trafficking, briefing about the CARAVAN and the reason why children go **missing in India every Eight minutes**. After awareness at Mosulpur the team went for lunch

at around 2:00pm at Ai hotel. After lunch at around 3:00 pm the

CARAVAN team of 22 moved towards Tamulpur the next location. At around 4:15 the team reached the said location it was a weekly market day but at that time the people and shopkeepers were moving towards their home even then the



team could draw attention of many shopkeepers and local people from in and around the market. Announcement was made about the child trafficking and how the children go missing from their places. The team members met some of the people around and explained with brief



and told about the reporting mechanism like



childline, SMSing number and One Stop Centre. Along with it the posters, placards, stickers were posted, distributed and pasted on the walls, shops electric posts. Two of the CARAVAN members were constantly taking photographs and live telecast in social media (Face book) of the event right from flagging off and awareness in

different locations. After creating awareness at Tamulpur the CARAVAN team headed towards the Daranga mela for holding night at the Hotel.

At around 9:30pm after dinner the CARAVAN team had a review meeting for the day's activities and the day ahead headed by the Program manager Mr. Ansuma Hajoary. In the discussion it was taken as a resolution to create awareness in the morning at the Daranga mela as the team was holding night at the said location.



As per the plan and resolution the CARAVAN team on 6th of February' 2017 at around 9:30 created awareness in the said



location where the program manager along with two of the team members went to the immigration office of Bhutan and met some of the officers distributed the posters, placards and leaflets giving them a brief of child trafficking and the objectives of CARAVAN. The program manager requested to take photographs with them but they could not provide the same. After which the team pasted

posters on the wall within the Indian territory and distributed the leaflets, placards etc to the people within the area with the slogan 'Stop Child trafficking' Trafficking a child is a worst form of crime in the world". Soon after creating awareness at Daranga mela the CARAVAN team of 22 moved towards Udalguri district.



March at Udalguri district, 6th February' 2018.

On 6th of February' 2018 at around 10:15am the CARAVAN team started the journey from the Daranga Mela and headed towards Tangla and reached at around 12:30pm where the placards,



stickers, posters were distributed and pasted on the walls and shops and to the people who were present. The team members also gave a brief on the child trafficking, Missing children and the mechanism to report through the childline, One Stop Centre and through NEDAN SMSing system number. Continuous announcement was made through the sound system where two speakers were already tied on the top of the winger van which was hired for the purpose of CARAVAN' 2018.

Soon after creating awareness at Tangla the team headed towards Paneri and reached the said destination at around 1:15 and soon the team members pasted the posters of missing children and distributed the leaflets, placards and templates around the paneri market and also distributed to the people with briefing of the CARAVAN, Missing Children, Reporting mechanism through childline number, One Stop Centre number and SMSing number. The entire



process of creating awareness was also done by slogan "Stop child trafficking, trafficking of children is the worst crime in the world, stop child trafficking" in three languages-Bodo, Assamese & English the slogan was played through sound system. After the awareness was done at Paneri the team headed towards the Udalguri town and reached at around 2:35pm and the team was joined by the Chairperson of NEDAN Foundation Mr. Digambar Narzary. And soon the team and other office

staffs of NEDAN Foundation had lunch.

After lunch the program manager with two of the CARAVAN team went to prepare for the last Culminating Ceremony at Udalguri District Court Playground. To confirm the Deputy commissioner as chief guest, students and distinguish guests for the program the next day. After, everything was arranged



the program manager confirmed media personals from News Live to highlight and telecast the culminating Ceremony on 7th February' 2018 at district court field.

Culminating Ceremony

On the 7th of February' 2018 at around 10:00am the Caravan team of 22 stated journey from the Circuit house, Udalguri and marched in the Udalguri town stopped in between the market and created awareness by playing the slogan through the sound system tied on the top of the winger van, pasted the posters on the wall and traffic point and distributed



the leaflets, stickers to the common people in the market area along with the brief about the CARAVAN for children, child trafficking , missing children and reporting mechanism through the childline, One Stop Centre and NEDAN SMSing number. After creating awareness in the Udalguri town the marchers moved towards the District Court, Udalguri for the culminating Ceremony.



School students, teachers, NEDAN Foundation office staff, invited guests and the chief guests were present in the field along with media personal from NEWS Live. The Culminating Ceremony started with the felicitation of guests with Aronai and briefing from the chairperson



of NEDAN Foundation Mr. Digambar



Narzary after which the chief guest honorable Deputy Commissioner of Udalguri district Mr. Dilip Kumar Das gave his brief appreciation with the concluding lines after which he pledge on the white cloth by putting a red hand mark and declared CARAVAN end on the 7th February' 2018 at the 11:45 hours.

CARAVAN Reachout

The CARAVAN was launched at KDSA Field, Kokrajhar with the objective to end violence against children, crime against children, to stop child trafficking and to create awareness about the reporting mechanism through childline, one stop centre and NEDAN SMSing number. The total target of CARAVAN was to reach 10 lakhs of population in the four districts of BTC, Assam. The CARAVAN could achieve the mentioned target reaching 10 lakhs of population directly by the CARAVAN Team and through social media and also with the news papers and Mainstream media. The CARAVAN



NEDAN Foundation
4 Feb at 3:18p.m. • 🌐
The Deputy Commissioner of Kokrajhar and Addl Superintendent of Police, Kokrajhar flagged off the Caravan on Missing Children link to Trafficking from KDSA Field Kokrajhar which will cover the four districts of BTAD from 4th-7th February, 2018, having high number child trafficking cases. NedanFoundation Kokrajhar
<https://nenow.in/caravan-campaign-...>
Continue reading



has given the reporting platform to the common people as when the situation arises wherever and whenever crime against children/violence against children is observed by anyone will be able to report through the childline number, one stop centre and SMSing number where the crime of further trafficking of the children and crime against children can be prevented and intervened with the help of police personals, social workers, District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee etc for the best interest of the child irrespective of cast, creed, religion.

Impact of CARAVAN

The CARAVAN which was launched on the 4th of February’ 2018 in all four districts of BTC- Assam and ended on the 7th of February’ 2018 has strengthened the common people, police personals, government officers, Bureaucrats, teachers, students, Student unions, administrators, local leaders, VCDCs and others with a common platform of reporting mechanism through Childline number-1098, SMSing Number-9229224424 and One Stop Centre number-9365184698. It has created overall awareness on Child trafficking, Violence against children, Missing children and to report when any kind of crime is committed or is going to be committed by any of the individual at any location or place.

Within a week after CARAVAN the number of reporting has increased, this has happened due to the convergence of the ruling government and their interest and priority given to the children in

order to stop violence against children and to stop child trafficking in the region. At the time of march the CARAVAN team has pasted the posters & stickers on the walls of the road, bridges, and distributed leaflets and placards to the police personals, vendors, shopkeepers, common people from the localities of the market areas and villages. Through this way of creating awareness the CARAVAN could bring a change in the thoughts of common people who were unknown about the fact of child trafficking and its reporting mechanism to stop child trafficking.

Conclusion

The CARAVAN was successfully organized by the team of 22; there had always been difficulties in the journey of four days CARAVAN' 2018. Time management was one of the hurdles in the journey for which the location "Barpeta" had to be left without giving awareness in that location for which alternative location "Daranga Mela" was taken as one of the location for creating awareness. As it an area sharing boundary with Bhutan, it was a perfect location for the reach out March crime against children and anti child trafficking campaign. As per the source of local people frequent activities of cross-border trafficking is seen in the region. The road condition was also one of the hurdles for delay in reaching the schedule location; the team had to go in the speed of 25 km/hour as the PWD roads in the interior villages are worst in condition.

The CARAVAN organized by NEDAN Foundation could draw as an active membership as anti-child trafficking in all the four districts. The ABSU, Teachers, Shopkeepers, Vendors, students, common people, government officers, Bureaucrats, DCPU, CWC and many others gave their commitment by pledging 'Stop child Trafficking' and are ever ready to gave a helping hand in stopping this evil practice of Child Trafficking. This was just a beginning where the NEDAN Foundation is committed to end child trafficking in whole of North-east region so in the coming days it is committed to organize CARAVAN in all of North-East states and continue to fight the evil against children and to stop child trafficking as a whole.

Program Schedule
Missing Children link to Child Trafficking
Caravan

Day-1, Sunday, 04/02/2018			
Sl No	Time	Agenda	Facilitator
1	9.00 Am	Arrival at KDSA playground Kokrajhar	
2	9:30am-9:40am	Welcome Address	Dwimalu Narzary
3	9:40am-9:50am	Felicitatation of Guests	Nijira Brahma
4	9:50am-10:10am	Objective of the program	Digambar Narzary
5	10:10am-10:40am	Flagging of the program by Chief Guest Sri. Niranjan Boruah (Honorable DC of Kokrajhar), Additional SP of Kokrajhar Sri. Tagu Ram Pegu.	Ansuma Hajaory & Roshan Lakra
6	10:40am-11:30am	March from KDSA playground to Kokrajhar town	Ansuma Hajoary, Roshan Lakra & Rijut Basumatary
7	12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch	Rijut Basumatary, Sikwna Brahma , Sonali Basumatary
8	1:30pm-2:30pm	March at Kajalgaon	Khonthaigiri & Mono Brahma
9	2:30pm-3:30pm	March at Bijni	Ansuma Hajoary, Sikhwna Brahma& Roshan Lakra
10	3:30pm-4:00pm	Tea	
Holding Night at Barama ABSU Office			
Day-2, Monday, 05/02/2018			
11	10:00am-10:30am	Arrival at Barama	
12	10:30am-11:30am	March at Barama	Mono Brahma, Kontaigiri Dwimary, Khonthai Brahma
13	11:30am-12:30pm	March at Mosulpur (Baksa)	Mono Brahma, Kontaigiri Dwimary, Khonthai Brahma
14	12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch	Khonthaigiri Dwimary & Shikwna Brahma
15	2:30pm-3:30pm	March at Tamulpur (Baksa)	Ansuma Hajoary, Nijira Brahma & Roshan Lakra
16	3:30pm-4:00pm	Tea	
Holding Night at Daranga Mela Hotel			
Day-3, Tuesday, 06/02/2018			
17	10:00am-10:30am	Arrival at Paneri	Sikhwna Brahma

18	10:30am-12:30pm	March at Paneri (Udalguri)	Laimwn Daimari ,Sonali Basumatary & Nijira Brahma
19	12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch	Laimwn Daimari, Khonthaigiri Dwimary, Sonali Basumatary
20	1:30pm-2:30pm	March at Udalguri town (Udalguri)	
21	2:30pm-3:00pm	Evening Tea	Khonthai Brahma & Khonthaigiri Dwimary
Holding Night at Udalguri Circuit House And Hotel Day-4, Wednesday, 07/02/2018			
21	09:30am-10:00am	Arrival	
22	10.00am-10:10am	Felicitation of Guests	Sonali Basumatary & Laimwn Daimari
23	10.10am-10:30am	Culmination Ceremony at District Court Playground Udalguri by Sri. Dilip Kumar Das honourable Deputy Commissioner of Udalguri.	Digambar Narzary
24	10:30am-10:40am	Vote of Thanks	Ansuma Hajoary
25	11:00am	Return Journey to Kokrajhar	