Digital Peace

DIGITAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP

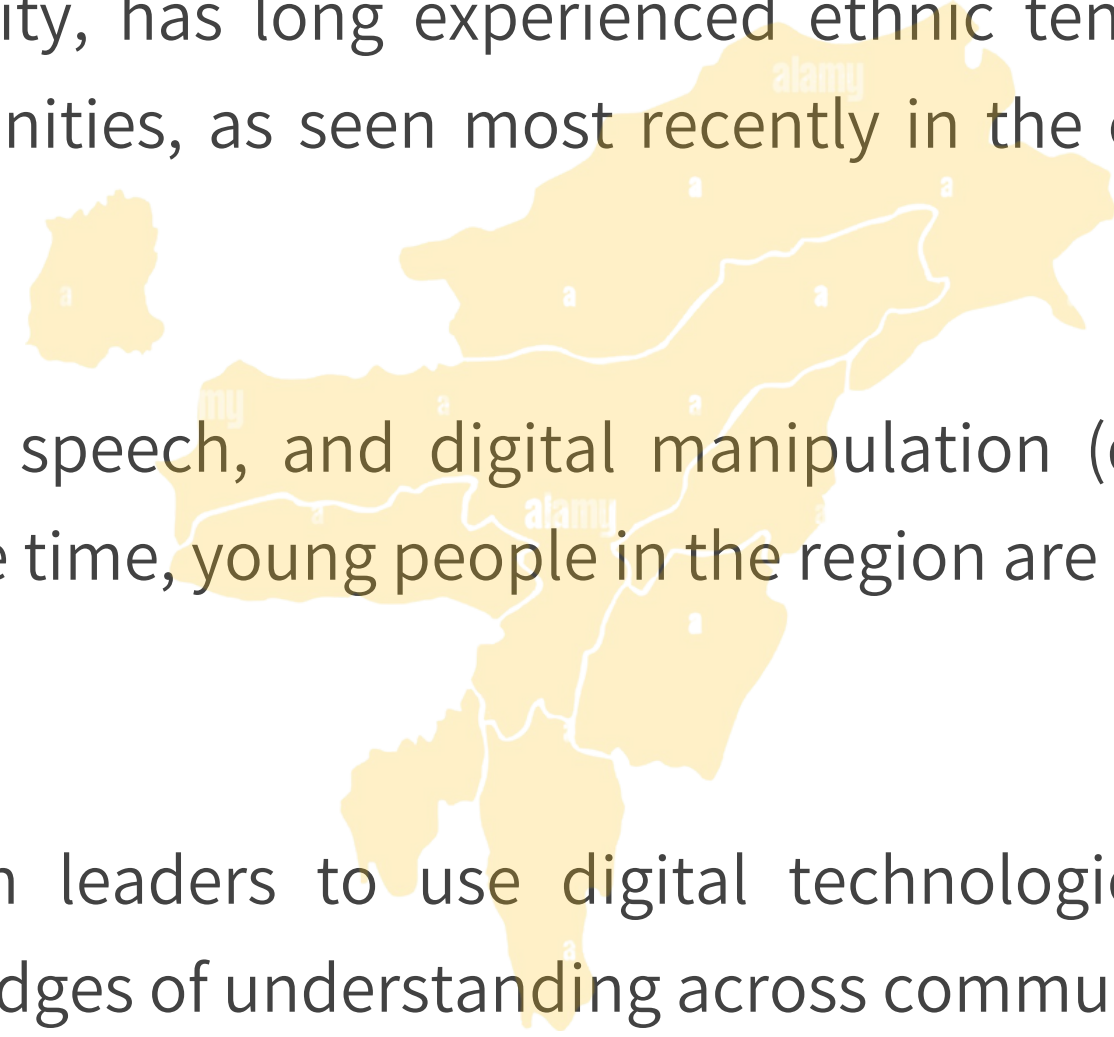**Preventing Digital Conflicts & Promoting Digital Tech for Peace & Development**

Background

The North East region of India, rich in cultural diversity, has long experienced ethnic tensions, identity-based conflicts, and mistrust between communities, as seen most recently in the ethnic violence in Manipur (2023–2024).

In many such instances, misinformation, online hate speech, and digital manipulation (digital conflicts) have intensified on-ground unrest. At the same time, young people in the region are highly engaged with digital tools and social media platforms.

This presents a powerful opportunity to train youth leaders to use digital technologies for peacebuilding, counter harmful narratives, and build bridges of understanding across communities.

About the Fellowship

The Digital Peace Fellowship seeks to turn the mobile phones, cameras, and internet connections of North East India's youth into tools for peace, not polarization.

By building local leadership with digital and peacebuilding skills, the fellowship contributes to preventing or minimising digital conflicts, sustainable reconciliation, civic engagement, and conflict resilience in the region.

The fellowship seeks to contribute to national unity and integrity, strengthening the constitutional values of the Country and contribute to efforts of authorities to ensure peace and development.

Fellowship Objective

1. To empower young peacebuilders in North East India to use digital tools, media, and research for promoting peace, dialogue, and inclusion across ethnic and social divides.
2. To contribute to prevention of online / digital conflicts spiralling on grounds and prevent sufferings and losses for affected ones.
3. To strengthen efforts of the government and agencies to prevent conflicts / violence and promote peace and avoid Internet shutdown like situations and its impacts.

Specific Objective

1. Build youth capacity to use digital storytelling, social media, and ICT tools for peace and reconciliation.
2. Contribute to research on digital peace and the role of technology in conflict and peace processes in the North East.
3. Strengthen digital literacy and online safety awareness, fact-checking, prevention of online / digital conflicts, especially in conflict-prone or sensitive districts.

Key Components & Activities

Training & Capacity Building

- Fellows conduct workshops on digital peacebuilding, online conflict analysis, countering hate speech, and ethical storytelling
- Fellows provide skill-building in digital literacy, cybersecurity, fact-checking, and peace-tech tools

Research & Case Study Development

- Fellows contribute to research & case studies on digital peace and the role of technology in conflict and peace processes through surveys / FGDs / interviews.
- Presentation of findings in peacebuilding forum.

Micro Community Engagement Projects

- Fellows design and implement digital peace initiatives in their communities (media campaigns, community programs)

Mentorship & Networking

- Fellows are matched with mentors from peacebuilding, tech, or journalism backgrounds
- Connect with national / global digital peace networks and platforms

Showcase

- At the end of the fellowship, fellows present projects during a "Digital Peace Showcase".

Eligibility Criteria

- Age: 25–30 years
- Resident of these states in North East India (Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya.)
- Background in youth volunteering, media, education, technology, community leadership, or peacebuilding
- Basic digital literacy (internet use, social media familiarity)
- Commitment to work on a community-based peace project
- Preference given to individuals from conflict-sensitive or affected communities

Fellowship Duration

6 months (including online training, community work, mentorship, and showcase)

Potential Partners

- Local civil society groups and peacebuilding NGOs
- Universities and research institutions
- Tech/digital media organizations
- National and International peace networks (e.g., UNDP, Asia Foundation, IAMCR)

Number of Fellows (Pilot)

14 youth fellows from diverse districts from 7 North East States

Expected Outcomes

- A new cadre of 14 digitally skilled youth peacebuilders
- 14 community-level digital peace campaigns or micro-projects
- 84 training / workshops involving youths and community people, reaching out to at least 2100 participants.
- Research contributions on digital conflict and peace in NE India
- Strengthened regional solidarity and intercultural dialogue

Digital Literacy & Peace Education Workshops

Objective:

1. To train students and youth in basic digital literacy and peace education, for:
2. Responsible digital citizenship;
3. Use the internet and social media safely and smartly;
4. Identify fake news and hate content;
5. Share peaceful messages and respect differences;
6. Understand impact of digital violence and digital peace in lives and communities.

Activities:

1. Workshops in schools and colleges on: Digital violence and its impact; Safe internet use and online behaviour; Understanding and avoiding fake news; How hate speech spreads online; Respecting other cultures and viewpoints; Using social media for peace and positivity
2. Interactive sessions and games on peacebuilding and teamwork
3. Short video screenings on real-life examples of digital conflict and digital peace
4. Creation of 'Internet / Digital Peace Pledges' by students – shared on social media or displayed in schools
5. Train-the-Trainer module for teachers and local youth volunteers to continue sessions after the project ends

Meet Our
Digital Peace Fellows

The strength of the Digital Peace Fellowship lies in its young leaders who are committed to using digital tools for peacebuilding, dialogue, and inclusion. These fellows represent the spirit of resilience and unity from the North East.

JUDITH CHIINNGAIHLIAN

GEORGE THANGMUANSAN

NGAIH LIAN

T. LIANDING

Together, they are working to design and implement innovative digital peace initiatives in their communities, contributing towards harmony, responsible digital citizenship, and intercultural understanding.

Digital Literacy & Peace Education (DLPE) Workshops

DLPE Workshops / sessions have been organised in Lamka town of Churachandpur district of Manipur with local Siamsinpaulpi (SSPP) students' association/ Paite Students Association (Zomi community).