

Chief Editor : Deepika Kachhal
Senior Editor : Shyamala M. Iyer
Sub Editor : Vatica Chandra



Joint Director (Production) : V.K. Meena
Cover Design : Gajanan P. Dhope
E-mail (Editorial) : yojanace@gmail.com
E-mail (Circulation) : pdjuir@gmail.com
Website : www.yojana.gov.in
Facebook : https://www.facebook.com/pages/Yojana-Journal

Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides

Rig Veda

CONTENTS

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND PEACE: LEVERS TO OPENING UP REGIONAL ECONOMY Sanjoy Hazarika.....	7	INFRASTRUCTURE SCENARIO IN THE NORTH-EAST Krishna Dev.....	35
DO YOU KNOW?	11	WATERWAYS IN NORTH EAST INDIA Vishwapati Trivedi.....	39
EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT IN NORTH EAST: THE WAY FORWARD Natalie West Kharkongor.....	12	POWERING THE NORTH EAST: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES K Ramanathan.....	41
MISSION SKILLS HEADS NORTH EAST Sanjeev Duggal.....	16	SIXTH SCHEDULE: CATERING TO THE NEEDS OF THE TRIBAL COMMUNITY Chintamani Rout.....	44
NORTH EAST DIARY	20	NORTH EAST INDIA: AN UNEXPLORED PARADISE FOR WORLD TOURISM Saurabh Kumar Dixit.....	47
SPECIAL ARTICLE		A STOREHOUSE OF ECOSYSTEM, SPECIES AND GENETIC VARIATION Arup Kumar Misra.....	51
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH-EAST INDIA NC Saxena.....	22	ENABLING WOMEN TO EXIT BRIDE-TRADE Anis Ur Rahman Khan.....	54
NORTH EAST: DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE LENS OF HEALTH AND GENDER Aruna Bhattacharya Chakravarty.....	29		
FOCUS			
SUSTAINABILITY AND PROSPERITY THROUGH ECO FRIENDLY HARVEST Nirendra Dev.....	31		

Our Representatives : Ahmedabad: Amita Maru, Bengaluru: B.K. Kiranmai, Chennai: A. Elangovan, Guwahati: Anupoma Das, Hyderabad: Vijayakumar Vedagiri, Kolkata: Pompi Ray Chaudhary Mumbai: Umesh Sadashivarao Ujgare: Thiruvananthapuram: Dhanya Sanyal K., Gagandeep Kuar Devgan, Jalandhar: Girish Chander Das, Bhubaneswar.

YOJANA seeks to provide a vibrant platform for discussion on problems of social and economic development of the country through in-depth analysis of these issues in the wider context of government policies. Although **published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Yojana is not restricted to expressing the official point of view. Yojana is published in Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

Chief Editor's Office : Room No. 660, Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road New Delhi 110 003 Ph: 24362971. Yojana (English): Room No. 647, Soochna Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003. **Business Manager (Hqs.) :** Ph :24367260, 24365609, 24365610

Correspondence address of journals unit for new subscriptions, renewals, enquiries has changed. Please contact : Business Manager (Circulation & Advt.), Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Room No. 48-53, Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road New Delhi 110 003(Ph: 011 24367453).Sales Emporia : Publications Division: *Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi -110003 (Ph 24365610) *Hall No.196, Old Secretariat, Delhi -110054(Ph 23890205) * 701, B Wing, 7th Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Belapur, Navi Mumbai 400614 (Ph 27570686)*8, Esplanade East, Kolkata-700069 (Ph 22488030) **A' Wing, Rajaji Bhawan, Basant Nagar, Chennai-600090 (Ph 24917673) *Press road, Near Govt. Press, Thiruvananthapuram-695001 (Ph 2330650) *205 II Floor CGO Towers, Kavadiyuda, Secunderabad-500080 (Ph 27546312)*1st Floor, 'F' Wing, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034 (Ph 25537244) *Bihar State Co-operative Bank Building, Ashoka Rajpath, Patna-800004 (Ph 2683407) *Hall No 1, 2nd floor, Kendriya Bhawan, Sector-H, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024(Ph 2225455) *Ambica Complex, 1st Floor, above UCO Bank, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007 (Ph 26588669) *KKB Road, New Colony, House No.7, Chenikuthi, Guwahati 781003 (Ph 2665090) *SCO 103, Puda Market, New Bus Stand, Jalandhar. (Ph 2224243)

SUBSCRIPTION : 1 year ₹ 230, 2 years ₹ 430, 3 years ₹ 610. For subscriptions abroad the same rates plus Air Mail charges as prescribed by India Post from time to time, as applicable for concerned countries.

No. of Pages 56

Disclaimer :

- The views expressed in various articles are those of the authors' and not necessarily of the government. The views expressed in the articles are of the author and they don't represent the views of their organisation.
- Maps/flags used in the articles are only indicative. They don't reflect the political map or legal representation of the flag of India/any other country.
- The readers are requested to verify the claims made in the advertisements regarding career guidance books/institutions. Yojana does not own responsibility regarding the contents of the advertisements.

An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Institute



R. Bhushan

A Friend, Motivator and
Guide to IAS Aspirants



Dedicated for
IAS
Examination

**Personal Guidance Programme
(PT+Mains+Interview)**

History Optional
(Most innovative
and Safest)

TEST SERIES
PT/Mains
Classroom/Postal



ETF Method
(for your Best Performance)

GS Module⁺⁺
(Paper 1 + Paper 2)



**History & Culture +
Indian Society +
Social Issue + IR**

**Personal Distance
Mode Also Available
for IAS (English/Hindi)**

**12/2, UGF, East Patel Nagar, Near Patel Nagar Metro Station
(Pillar No. 172) Infront of Andhra Bank, New Delhi - 110008**

SAVE WATER



PLANT TREES

Tel: 011-43466138, 9560880587

www.bestias.in



NER-on Path to Progress

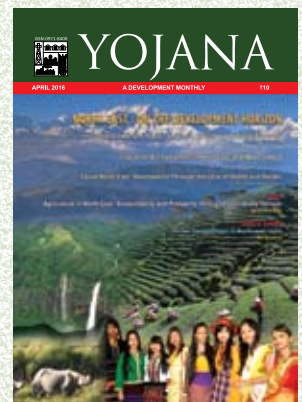
They are fondly called the 'Seven Sisters' - a sobriquet bestowed on them to indicate their cultural and regional cohesiveness. The seven states of the North East - Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, with Sikkim added recently, form the north east frontier of our country - both metaphorically and geographically. As such, they constitute a very crucial factor both from the political and defence point of view. The region borders three international boundaries - Myanmar, Bangladesh and of course the upcoming super power - China. The development of this region becomes all the more important due to this major factor.

Although clubbed in all fora as seven sisters, this region has its diversities in all sectors - ethnically, geographically, culturally and linguistically. An Assamese is as different from a Naga as a Bihari is from a Punjabi and the Bodo would never want to be confused with a Garo! A large portion of the population are tribals, strongly rooted in tribal culture handed down the ages.

With its lovely scenic landscape and wide biodiversity, this region is indeed a tourist's delight. From the national parks of Assam to the water falls and lakes of Meghalaya (land of clouds), the snow laden peaks of the Kanchenjunga to the monasteries of Sikkim, the region has it all by way of natural beauty and cultural diversity. The dances of this region enthrall, while its handicrafts and textiles are popular the world over.

However, this Garden of Eden has a serpent, by way of insurgency, which has robbed it of the benefits of development. Educational facilities and employment opportunities are lacking to such an extent that this region has over the years, seen a massive brain drain to the other regions of the country by its youth for both education and employment. Drugs are another menace in this society, where, young and old alike indulge in this vice. Agriculture is an important occupation here. It is the main producer of tea, ginger, fruits and vegetables. Horticulture is also practised here extensively - the orchids of this region are legendary. Modern means of agriculture are lacking, hence, the agricultural community does not get returns commensurate to effort. Floods are another major threat to the stability of the region with the mighty Brahmaputra flowing through the region. Infrastructure is yet to develop - the main access from the mainland being the Siliguri Corridor, which is flanked by foreign territories.

All these have to be seriously tackled on a priority basis for this important part of the country to catch up with the national mainstream so that the people of this region can benefit and prosper.



SRIRAM'S IAS

IAS 2017 General Studies (Pre-Cum-Mains)

PCM Batch Commences in July 2016

- 10 months long Comprehensive Programme
- Experienced and Senior Faculty
- Thoroughly Updated Class Room Lectures and Study Material
- From Conceptual clarity to Application
- Personal Attention
- UPSC-aligned Test Series: Subject wise and Comprehensive
- Limited Number of Batches
- Limited Seats per Batch
- Support till Success

175 Selections annually on average for many years

22-B, Pusa Road, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60

Tel: 011-42437002, 25825591, 9811489560

**73-75, 1st Floor, Beside GTB Nagar Metro Station Gate No.1, Above Bank of Baroda,
Ring Road, Kingsway Camp, New Delhi. Ph: 8447273027**

Email: sriramsias@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/sriramsias.official

www.sriramsias.com

Inclusive Growth and Peace: Levers to Opening up Regional Economy

Sanjoy Hazarika



Such resolution will give a younger generation of Indians in these areas a space for aspiration, to look to a future that is based on peace, dignity and justice. For it is on the resolution of internal political, social and economic differences, apart from creating physical infrastructure, trade and development, that a robust future of growth for the region will rest

Although there is much talk about the North-east opening up to South East Asia – a topic of conversation, official approaches and conferences since the early 1990s, -- an important factor in opening up the regional economy surely lies in improved political and trade relations with Bangladesh.

This would enable the NER to play a greater role in South and South East Asia as envisaged by the Prime Minister in his declarations in Dhaka and Guwahati at different times as well as by other leaders before him.

In turn, this would mean “looking” South and West for the NER, not East — for in the east stands the long and still uncertain Myanmar wall, coming to grips with the transition from military rule to a noisy, but an uncertain democracy.

The ease of business is slowly improving and a trend setter in this is Tripura, where the state government has got a major Internet Gateway, India’s third, with Bangladesh Government being supportive. Business delegations from across the border are often seen in Agartala, the tiny state’s sleepy capital which is becoming energized. The fact that Tripura has a better record of

governance than the other North-eastern states and a government committed to delivery of services must be a factor. Insurgency is a thing of the past and the much-abhorred Armed Forces Special Powers Act and Disturbed Areas Act were lifted in 2015 by the state government since the state is at peace.

Bangladesh is opening up consular facilities at Bagdogra so that travellers to places like Darjeeling don’t have to travel through a circuitous route via Calcutta.

This is a small but incremental step, as in the past, it was a nightmare to get official permission to visit Bangladesh: the nearest Bangladeshi consular offices are in Kolkata and Agartala. To get a visa involved a round trip of two or three days and an expense of thousands of rupees. The same must be the case for Bangladeshis wishing to visit the region officially (one is not talking about illegal immigrants) and after decades, there finally appears to be progress in efforts to open up consular offices in Sylhet and Guwahati.

Yet, despite all this, there are factors which underline the challenges of the Act East Policy and connectivity as well as seeking international investment into the North-eastern region. It is important to face these

The author is Professor and Director of the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research at Jamia Millia Islamia, and one of the best known commentators on the North Eastern Region who also has launched the innovative boat clinics on the Brahmaputra.

issues directly rather than talk about cosmetic ideas which paper over major difficulties.

For one, it is difficult to shake off the image of a ‘disturbed’ area, which has a history of 60 years of conflict and insurgency. These are among the reasons why the region remains unattractive to investors despite the government’s hard sell campaign. The Centre’s policy towards the region has been mandated by security concerns and consequently, there remains a trust deficit aggravated by a sense of alienation. These have been accentuated by alleged human rights violations by security forces, which have been documented, and by predatory, armed non-State groups.

“It is easy to say that we will connect with South East Asia but how can we do so when we have security-centric borders?” Patricia Mukhim, the editor of the Shillong Times, remarked in 2014. The policy till date has benefitted the coastline states of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu because international trade is predominantly moved by sea; much less goes by land, be it road or rail.

Infrastructure remains poor, compared to other parts of India, and land acquisition — a key for business groups — is tied up in a maze of traditional, political and social networks that are at times, in conflict with each other. In addition, there is a regional growth deficit with the NER falling way behind the better performing states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

A major step in unshackling the NER would be to enable access to the Bay of Bengal, braking out of its land-lockedness. This could happen through connecting the rail line from Agartala via Akhaura in Bangladesh to Chittagong Port. Progress on this has been slow. Discussions about them have gone on for at least two decades between the two sides, with policy experts such as the late BG Verghese pushing for such changes.

Yet, this would give Bangladeshi goods access to Indian markets, especially the North-east, and Indian goods sourced from the NER would have access to Bangladeshi markets as well as international markets through a major sea port.

The National Bamboo Mission has estimated that some 20 million tonnes of bamboo can be harvested every year and lakhs of people can be employed in this field. But there appears to be a lack of urgency at the ground level. The region still imports almost everything – from razor blades and fish to pencils and food grain, from cars to television sets. It remains essentially a market and not a production centre. Raw produce like fruits, vegetables and even cattle are exported to Bangladesh and Myanmar and there are no major processing

While the Act East/Look East Policy is commendable, it has overlooked one basic point. Without a water transport policy capable of moving large volumes of goods by river, the policy will run into the sandbanks of the Brahmaputra. That is why the Transport Ministry’s decision to improve navigation is a key to opening up the area.

units to add value and shelf life to these products.

The criticality of existing human development indicators poses another huge challenge. Official figures say that Assam has the worst Maternal Mortality Rate in India at 300, far above Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. While this is a major improvement above the 490 points recorded in 2005-06 (the figure is out of 100,000 live deliveries), the fact remains that unless this improves, no amount of looking east, west or south will do much to improve basic human dignity and equality, which remains

the primary role of governments at the Centre and states.

Another significant challenge lies in the changing climate patterns brought by global weather changes, leading to outmigration to other parts of India. The Brahmaputra Valley is devastated by floods almost every year and in one recent surge, nearly 350 embankments collapsed. Yet, there is hardly any public debate in the Northeast or in the rest of the country about the efficacy of embankments and the need to find alternatives.

While the Act East/Look East Policy is commendable, it has overlooked one basic point. Without a water transport policy capable of moving large volumes of goods by river, the policy will run into the sandbanks of the Brahmaputra. That is why the Transport Ministry’s decision to improve navigation is a key to opening up the area. After all, the region’s main road and rail networks are adversely affected by water for anything between three to five months of the year. An economic policy that considers the future and the present must incorporate this basic factor – in other words, disaster management needs to be brought into all levels of policy planning and implementation.

But how will this help local communities living along the banks of the river? How will large-scale movement of vessels impact the ecosystems, the fish and fauna, that are so critical to the life and livelihoods of common people?

Few studies inform us about the impacts downstream by the proposed massive infrastructure interventions across the rivers of the North-east. What will happen to aquatic life, the endemic fish species of the region, to water-dependent agriculture and fishing communities? What about the dolphins, one of the most endangered fresh water mammals in South Asia, of which there are less than 400 left?

Yet, there are some sectors where much can be done and done

easily. This is in the ‘soft’ areas where collaborations with South East Asian universities, media and handicraft organizations as well as musical exchanges, performances and celebrations can bring the people of the region closer to each other. Such a Track II process that can better inform and influence the dialogue at the official Track I level, requires support from governments, international organizations and corporations.

In the long run, the challenge of resolving conflict issues between ethnic groups and the State will be significant in several ways, and not just in making the region more attractive to foreign travellers and tourists apart from business (no business group is prepared for the unending strikes and bandhs that cripple the states of the region, for these impact production and profit).

Such a resolution will give our younger generation a space for aspiration, to look to a future that is based on peace, dignity and justice. For it is on the resolution of internal political, social and economic differences, apart from creating physical infrastructure, trade and ‘development’, that a robust future of growth for the region will rest. □

(E-mail: sanjoyha@gmail.com)

Stand Up India Scheme

“Stand Up India Scheme”, approved by the Centre promotes entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes/Schedule Tribes and Women. The schemes provides for composite loans by banks between Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs.100 lakh for setting up a new enterprise in the non-farm sector. These loans would be eligible for refinance and credit guarantee cover. There will be a credit guarantee fund of Rs. 5,000 crore for providing guarantee cover for loans under Stand Up India in next five years. There is also the provision of initial capital of Rs. 500 crore to the corpus in FY 2016-17.

The Action Plan for Startup India envisages setting up of 7 New Research Parks modeled on the Research Park at IIT Madras. Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru in Karnataka has been selected for establishment of a research park in the Action Plan. Similarly, the Action Plan envisages setting-up/scaling-up of 18 Technology Business Incubators (TBI) at NITs/IITs/IIMs etc. NIT Calicut, IISER Thiruvananthapuram and IIM Kozhikode in Kerala have been selected for setting up of Technology Business Incubators.

Subscribe Our Journals Online...NOW

Log on to
<http://publicationsdivision.nic.in/>
in collaboration with bharatkosh.gov.in

I
A
S

AIGS

P
C
S

ADVANCED INSTITUTE FOR GENERAL STUDIES
(G.S. English Med.)

Foundation Prelims Special Batch
Test Series

Weekend batch also available

CONCEPT

APPLICATION

PRACTICE

*A well coordinated team of experienced experts with
contemporary oriented inter disciplinary approach*



R. KUMAR

Rajiv Ranjan Singh

Shamim Anwar

Subodh Mishra

Dr. Surendra Singh

Pro. of Delhi University

Other Experts

Admission Open

7065510007

M-1A, Jyoti Bhawan, Dr.Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-09

YE-310/2015

DO YOU KNOW?

'DESTINATION NORTH-EAST-2016'

The Destination North East 2016 festival was organised for the first time in New Delhi from 12th February to 14th February by the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) and Ministry of Culture. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju.



The main objective of this three day along mega event was to showcase the inherent economic, social and cultural strength of the North East Region (NER) at the national level. The festival will be organised in Mumbai and Bangalore in the coming months as it will serve as a key destination for young entrepreneurs and Start ups projects. Various Central Ministries will also be able to showcase their initiatives in North East India.

The inauguration was followed by sessions on Initiatives taken for Development of North-Eastern Region, Holistic Development of Tourism in the North-East – Exploring the Unexplored and Opportunities

for IT and ITES in the NER. Day - 2 had various panel discussions on enhancing scope of livelihood in North-East, Micro Finance for inclusive



growth, Start-up opportunities and challenges in NER, Growing up value chain from Handloom to Fabrics to Garments, need-based Skill Development and entrepreneurship promotion in NER and positioning the North-East Handicraft in the domestic and international market as a premium brand.



Day 3 had many performances under various cultural events like North-East folk music and dance choreography, Bihu dance, folk medley choreography, popular rock music of North-East – performance by the Reverse Tragedy Band, Folk fusion and crossover music and Fashion Show by NIFT, competitions for school children such as Quiz, Dance (solo & group) and Singing (Hindustani, Indian Pop, Western Pop and Classical) to showcase

the rich culture and folk dances of North East India. The festival also included Business Summit for sectors like Tourism, Agriculture, Food Processing, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, IT, Handloom & Handicrafts, Livelihood, Micro-Finance and Start ups.



Apart from these events, the festival also had pavilions / stalls from each of the north eastern states showcasing their local fabrics, traditional attires, art work, furniture, bamboo paintings and home made eatables and local delicacies for all to enjoy. □

(Compiled by Vatica Chandra, Sub Editor)
(E-mail: vchandra.iis2014@gmail.com)

Education & Employment In North East: The Way Forward

Natalie West Kharkongor



Above all, the political will, the bureaucratic support and commitment, the good governance, ease of doing business, and the PPPP (Private Public People Participation) Model are significant. All efforts have to be put together to straighten the present educational system, and to create employment opportunities which will reduce migration from north east to other places and also address the issue of insurgency

North East, a region consisting of eight states had a literacy rate of 77.76 per cent which is higher than the national average of 74.04 per cent as on March 2011. In spite of the higher literacy rate, the education system in the North East India is un-organised and suffers from a number of limitations/challenges, especially in the technical field which has caused large number of aspirants of higher education to move outside the region. Largely, the education system is controlled by the State Governments which is not at par with the national level. The States are still following traditional mode of imparting education. Such a stereotyped educational structure has not only caused a huge outflow of students from the region, but has also led to a substantial drop – out rate of 50.05 per cent students between Class 1 to 8 as compared to the national figure of 40.8 per cent during 2011 – 12.

The bookish curriculum together with the lack of technical/practical exposure leads to low employability and unemployment. We have too many high school graduates, degree/diploma holders, post-graduates who are either unemployed or under – employed. Besides, there is a lack of

quality educational opportunities and professional institutes in the North East compared to the rest of the country. The educational system in the North East suffers not only from its inherent negative features, but has also been affected by exogenous factors like bandhs and strikes. There were cases where classes were not held for almost 100 days in a year. This has compelled many parents to send their children outside the region, sometimes at great personal cost, for instance child trafficking. This is one of the factors that has caused the Supreme Court to pass an Order stopping children below the age of 12 years leaving the state of Manipur.

Apart from the unsatisfactory educational system, insurgency is another factor causing students from the north east to leave for other places. Almost all the states in the North East suffer from insurgency either directly or indirectly. Mention may be made of the ULFA and Karbi-Anglong conflict in Assam, Nagalim issue and Naga-Kuki conflict in Nagaland, Chakma Hajong and Arunachalees conflict in Arunachal Pradesh, and problem of insider versus outsider in all other north-eastern states. Cross - border smuggling, terrorism, and the ongoing conflict between the terrorists and the Army has made life

The author is Associate Professor of Economics and Chairperson, Center for Development of North Eastern Region (CEDNER), IIM Shillong. She has twenty three years of teaching experience, twenty years of research experience, and 10 years of consultancy experience. Dr. Natalie received the Broad Outlook Learner Teacher Award from the Prime Minister in 2004 and the Rashtriya Gaurav Award with Certificate of Excellence in 2011. She has presented and published a number of papers related to Banking and Finance, Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Industry, Higher Education, Water Management, Women Empowerment, Health Sector and Green Economics.

in some of the states in North East very difficult and painful. The socio-political unrest in the region which includes mushrooming of militant groups, bloodshed, recurring public strikes, Armed Forces Special Powers Act and corrupt nature of government machineries and the like have been prevalent in the region for the last many decades. Life in some parts of the region is a nightmare – 100 days public strikes in a year, shops and schools closed and public transportation off the road. In many areas, there is hardly two hours of electricity available, water supply is provided once or twice a week, markets and shops closed after four in the evening and deserted streets after 8 pm; anyone can be harassed, picked up, abducted or killed by night patrolling police or militants in some states in the region.

North Eastern people lived in their own villages, towns, cities in midst of all these unrest for years, and people did not desire to go out of their own states until globalization reached mega cities of India. The lure of the benefits of globalization have attracted the younger generation in the North East who started migrating in search of employment, particularly in the BPOs, shopping malls and hospitality industry. In addition, lack of employment opportunities, both government and private have pushed the youth of North East out of the region in search for jobs.

The communal conflicts among the different heterogeneous communities and insurgencies have destroyed hundreds of villages, killed many people and made many homeless and orphans. Many of them are internally displaced, many took the risk to migrate with friends and relatives; and ended up in mega cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Furthermore, north-eastern states having small and big rivers are ravaged by floods and water logging from time to time. Due to inundation of large areas, there are lots of problem relating to transportation and communication resulting in absence of source of

income. Hence, eligible and qualified students without any job opportunities at home are forced to move out to greener pastures. There is lack of modern facilities like electricity and internet. There were times where even the local newspapers failed to reach the remote places. The lack of adequate coverage about the region in the print and electronic media has only added to the problem. Hence, Delhi in most cases is considered to be the most appropriate place to give shelter and livelihood to migrants from the North East.

In order to reduce migration from the north east to the other parts of the country, there has to be a paradigm shift in the educational system entirely. The

In order to reduce migration from the north east to the other parts of the country, there has to be a paradigm shift in the educational system entirely. The focus should be on industry training, quality over quantity, research, and encouraging entrepreneurial mindset like what is practiced in advanced states (industry oriented).

focus should be on industry training, quality over quantity, research, and encouraging entrepreneurial mindset like what is practiced in advanced states (industry oriented). Companies can also come forward to equip the technical and non – technical institutions under CSR initiative to increase the employability rate.

Coming to the scope of creation of employment opportunities by taking advantage of the *Make in India* model and the *Start – Up Model*, the states in the North East have to have ready data on the future demand for jobs (primary, secondary and service sectors, based on the richness: minerals, forests, petroleum and natural gas, water, fishery, sericulture, tourism, etc.) and the future supply of jobs (size of the workforce). The latter will require

a focus on the curriculum (which includes comparative advantages of NER and neighbouring countries; teachers' performance; training during the vacation break (teachers and students); innovative training tools; and skill – focused (identify and filling the gap, hands on training) education.

The strengths of the north eastern states like the large English speaking population, the culturally diverse mix of students, and the high literacy rate have to be mobilized to the fullest. What is needed is an *Action* and not another study. Too many studies and too many conferences, seminars, workshops, symposiums, conclaves, discussion forums organized by many agencies for many years now have not yielded desired outcomes and stopped wastage of resources. All we need now is the right approach and the right strategy. Government departments at the different levels, ICC, FICCI, FINER and the civil society have to brainstorm in transforming North East into an educational and tourism hub in the world. We have had too much of talk about the potentials of the north east in the tourism sector. What we need now is to plan and act. A multi – pronged approach should be undertaken to fast track the infrastructure projects connecting major tourist spots. Incentivize trekking agencies like YHA to promote trekking for tourists and eco tourism. Likewise, creating a hub for adventure sports by utilizing professionals to provide training and good experience in adventure sports. Equally important is the *North East Tourism Policy* to promote sustainable tourism and hence, making north east at par with Goa and Kerala.

The presence of institutional problems creates a need for a strategy to promote community based collaterals for the effective credit delivery system to take advantage of the locational advantages. The region is strategically located with access to traditional domestic market of eastern India along with proximity to the major states in the east and adjacent countries such as Bangladesh and Myanmar. The region is also a vantage entry point for the

South – East Asian Countries. It is for the financial institutions to explore the opportunities, and help to create employment facilities through their banking transactions.

SEZs may be established within the region to capture the economic advantages, especially for tea, coffee, aromatic and medicinal plants, and horticulture products. A strong R&D support system is a sine – qua non for generating demand – driven technologies which are friendly to small holders. For efficient market system, an effective supply chain model needs to be put in place with the help of specialized institution like IIM Shillong.

Above all, the political will, the bureaucratic support and commitment, the good governance, ease of doing

business, and the PPPP (Private Public People Participation) Model are significant. All efforts have to be put together to straighten the present educational system, and to create employment opportunities which will reduce migration from north east to other places and also address the issue of insurgency.

Readings

Bogue, D.I (1971), Internal Migration in O.D. Duncan and P.M. Houser (ed.), The Study of Population: An Inventory and Appraisal, Chicago University Press, Chicago

Chandra, Madhu (2010), North East Migration and Challenges in North East Mega Cities.

Gosal, G.S. (1961) Internal Migration in India: A Regional Analysis, Indian

Geographical Journal Vol. 36, Pp. 106-121.

Mandal, R.B (ed.) (1981), Frontiers in Migration Analysis, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi, p. 25.

Peterson, W, A (1958), General Typology of Migration, Sociological Review, No. 23.

Sabjib Baruah (2005), Durable Disposer: Understanding the Politics of Northeast India, OUP,

Singh, Mahavir (ed.) (2005), Home Away From Home: Inland Movement of People in India Anamika Publisher and distributors (p) Ltd. (MAKAIAS), p. 11.

Trewartha, G.T. (1969) A Geography of Population: World Patterns, John Wiley and Son, Inc., New York. □

(E-mail: nwk@iimshillong.in)



I again congratulate the Yojana team for their valuable work. The edition on Education in Jan issue was as usual very informative to read but it was quite different. It produced the facts about Education and linked it with India's progress. Articles on Transforming Indian Education System and Girl's Education were worthy reading to know the challenges and future prospects. Kurukshetra also dealt with Girl Child and both these journals could be linked with each other.

The Feb issue on Health and its Challenges left the mind to think. The linking of Health to Tribal Areas was the chief focus in this issue.

I am eagerly waiting for March issue on "Union Budget 2016" Congratulations to Yojana Team and I really appreciate their work.

Sakul Garg, Uttarakhand

I am a regular reader of Yojana and Kurukshetra for quite some time now and its great to see these journals intend to spread prosperity of knowledge and to bring out sustainable growth concepts. Focusing on grassroot level issues can definitely play an important role in India's sustainable development, because the real development of a country comes from the rural development. Further, I humbly request you to cover some of the topics like seed banks, sustainable infrastructure to the farming sector, improved biofertilisers, national waterways etc.

Sharath Chandra Kommu, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Response from Yojana Team

Thanks for your valuable feedback on the contents of our journal. It is your appreciation that encourages and motivates us in our work.

We do try to incorporate your suggestions in our journal whenever possible. However, this is just to inform that we have a full fledged journal ' Kurukshetra' which covers rural development and agriculture related issues. We have covered waterways extensively in our issue on Transport sector (November 2015) issue.

Thanks once again

ECONOMICS AT ITS BEST

IAS / IES / UGC

Score in Economics Option : Axiom IAS Pass-outs

Shaweta Dhankhad	392/600	(65.33%)	Neeraj Kumar Singh	379/600	(63.17%)
Arulanandan	363/600	(60.50%)	Ashima Jain	361/600	(60.17%)
Gaurav Agrawal	296/500	(59.20%)	Narendra Kumar	351/600	(58.50%)
Smriti Mishra	281/500	(56.20%)	Madhvi Mishra	262/500	(52.40%)

1ST BATCH
8th JUNE, 2016
11.00 - 1.30 pm

IES 2015 Pass-Outs



RUBY RANI
Rank 3, IES 2015



AYUSH PUNIA
Rank 4, IES 2015



NEHA SINGH
Rank 6, IES 2015



ABHISHEK MEENA
Rank 14, IES 2015

CIVIL SERVICES RANKERS

2015 CSE RESULTS

Madhvi Mishra	IAS	2015	62 nd Rank
Smriti Mishra	IRS	2015	435 th Rank
Nupur Panna	IAS	2015	764 th Rank

2014 AND BEFORE CSE RESULTS

Gaurav Agrawal	IAS	2014	1 st Rank
Ashima Jain	IAS	2007	7 th Rank
Neeraj Kumar	IAS	2011	11 th Rank
Debasweta Banik	IAS	2014	14 th Rank
Chinmayee Gopal	IAS	2014	16 th Rank
Tanvi Hooda	IAS	2014	33 rd Rank
Surabhi Malik	IAS	2011	51 st Rank
Nitin Singhania	IAS	2011	51 st Rank
Rajan Vishal	IAS	2007	60 th Rank
Kumar Amit	IAS	2007	75 th Rank
Shaweta Dhankhad	IPS	2006	109 th Rank
Narender	IPS	2007	155 th Rank
Neeju Gupta	IRS	2008	221 st Rank
Aishwarya Rastogi	IAS	2012	222 nd Rank
Sanyam Joshi	IAS	2012	228 th Rank
Nandesh Shukla	IRS	2006	238 th Rank
Neha Sahay	IAS	2012	245 th Rank
Swani Dikshit	IAS	2012	273 rd Rank
Meenakshi	IRS	2006	319 th Rank
Nandini R Nair	IAS	2012	389 th Rank

and many more.....

IES Rankers

Bishakha Chakraborty	Rank 1	2010
Nikhila Menon	Rank 1	2004
Tulsi Priya	Rank 2	2014
Lipi Parija	Rank 2	2005
Nitika Pant	Rank 3	2014
Preeti	Rank 4	2014
Jaipal	Rank 5	2009
Sukhdeep Singh	Rank 6	2011
Divya Sharma	Rank 6	2012
Nidhi Sharma	Rank 7	2011
Sawni Dikshit	Rank 8	2010
Aarthy	Rank 8	2013
Shamin Ara	Rank 11	2014
Rakesh Kumar	Rank 14	2014
Patyush Kumar	Rank 14	2011
Abhishek Anand	Rank 15	2014
Bikram Nath	Rank 17	2014
Dinesh Kumar	Rank 17	2011
Vijith Krishnan	Rank 17	2013
Kirti	Rank 18	2014
Khayi Lalshingram	Rank 19	2014
Rahul Kumar	Rank 21	2011

and many more.....

UGC JRF Dec. 2015

Shabir Pawar	-	JRF
--------------	---	-----

UGC JRF JUNE 2015

Kajod Meena	-	JRF
Gurpriya Sadana	-	JRF
Shahid U Zaman	-	JRF
Abhilasha Manda	-	JRF

UGC JRF BEFORE JUNE 2015

Kanika Dua	-	JRF
Usha Meena	-	JRF
Nupur	-	JRF
Harsh	-	NET
Kajod Meena	-	NET
Prasanth C.	-	NET
Shabir	-	NET
Shaloo Choudhary	-	JRF
Dinesh Kumar	-	JRF
Pravin Saini	-	JRF
Chitra Verma	-	JRF
Renu Bala	-	JRF
Shridhar Satykam	-	JRF
Fiyanshoo Sindhwani	-	JRF
Sudhir	-	JRF
Vijith	-	JRF
Suraj Gupta	-	JRF

2ND BATCH
8th JUNE, 2016
3.00 - 5.30 pm

UGC NET Pass-outs

Nishtha | Mansi | Satinder | Kriti | Vikas Yadav | Dushyant | Ram Avatar | Priyanka Jhulka | Akshay | Harsimran Singh | Nitika Lal | Jitender Bhandhari | Jaipal | Dinesh Kumar | Neelam Garg | Shayeqa | Praveena Dikshit | Nilotpal Bal | Nidhi Sharma | Swati Saklani | Kaushiki | Sanjit | Rohit Sehrawat | Aashirwad Parida | Vandana Kapoor | Kritika Tiwari | Bobhocha Singh | Rahul Sharma | Sumit Dua | Preeti Chauhan | Deepa Rani | Bipasha Kalita | Alok Kumar Yadav

axiom

a professor's academy for IAS

5/46, Old Rajendra Nagar, Shankar Road, Above Lotto Showroom,
Near Cafe Coffee Day, New Delhi 110060 Nearest Metro Station : Rajendra Place
Mobile: 09811881399, E-mail: maheshlalwani@rediffmail.com,

Postal Course Sold Only at
Axiom (31 Capsules)
Rs. 18,000/- Demand Draft
fvg. Mahesh Lalwani

Test Series Every Monday DIRECTLY UNDER Dr. MAHESH LALWANI

Visit us at: www.axiomias.in

WEEKEND BATCH ALSO AVAILABLE

'Mission Skills' heads North East

Sanjeev Duggal



There is a need to look at the skilling initiatives in the NE region in a different light. The region's population comes with a dominant agrarian mindset. There is an opportunity and a requirement to inculcate need based skill development and entrepreneurship promotion in North East Region. The young and growing population is the region's prized possession and asset and to realize the economic potential the region holds, it is imperative to utilise the demographic advantages and parameters that will lead to market linked skill development

Resonating to the clarion call of the Prime Minister the Skill India, the mission is branching out to all corners of the country.

And with the north eastern region receiving renewed attention from the central government, it is imperative that one of the key central missions of the Government of India, the Skill India mission too, is looking to establish ground there. The NE region has a great potential to develop not just as a self-sustained economic unit of India, but also contribute to the overall economic growth story of the country. The Centre had recently announced to take up its Skill India initiatives in the Northeast in a “big way” by setting up skill development centres and industrial training institutes (ITIs) in new districts. The Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, had urged the industry of the north eastern region to actively participate in skill development of the region and also recommended one member each for all the 40 Sector Skill Councils from Federation of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region (FINER). The minister also proposed to restructure National Skill

Need of the hour in the North Eastern India is:

- Dedicated Government single point of contact (SPOC) needs to be deputed to manage skilling in each of the NE States
- Dedicated Project Lead needed for each state from the Execution Partner (NSDA, NSDC etc.)
- Leverage the Central and State schemes or funds effectively

Development Corporation (NSDC) and include FINER as a member.

The eight north-eastern states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim (added in 2002) and Tripura—are growing fast, educating their people at a rate much faster than the rest of India, reducing their dependence on agriculture and inching towards prosperity. But unfortunately the growth is not creating enough jobs and livelihood opportunities, creating a huge mismatch. To address the region's development challenges, including infrastructure, the Central government created the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

The author is CEO & MD of Centum Learning, a unique profitable training MNC which has received several awards including Highest Performing Partner Award from National Skills Development Corporation for 2012-13 and International Skilling Award from ASSOCHAM. He is Co-chairman of FICCI Skill Development Forum. He was recently invited to share his perspective on skills development at the African Development Conference, organized by Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. He is also a visiting faculty at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and affiliated with several forums and companies as a board member.

in 2004, allocating Rs 2,362 crore to the ministry in 2015-16.

The region has certain distinct advantages with its strategic location having access to the traditional domestic market of eastern India. Also, with its proximity to major states in the east and adjacent countries such as Bangladesh and Myanmar, the region has the advantage for being the vantage entry point for the South-East Asian markets. The resource-rich north east with its expanses of fertile farmland and a huge talent pool could turn into one of India's most prosperous regions.

To realise the economic potential the region holds, it is imperative to utilise the demographic advantages and parameters that will lead to market linked skill development. However, owing to its unique challenges, the conventional market-based solutions may not work here, given the issues related to poor infrastructure and connectivity, unemployment and low economic development, law and order problems, etc.

Though India has the edge of a young workforce, the quality of skills is still a challenge. A survey conducted in 2014 reveals that around 78 per cent of the surveyed employers said they are concerned with the growing skills gap in India while 57 per cent said they currently have open positions for which they cannot find qualified candidates. Of the 14 million people that enter the workforce every year, barely 2 million are formally trained. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship data reveals that only 4.5 persons out of every 100 are skilled, according to the latest National Sample Survey, with the percentage even lesser in the North-East. Countries such as Korea with 96 per cent skilled workforce and Japan having 80 per cent skilled manpower are way ahead.

Lack of skilling models that are workable and can be practiced is one of the major factors hindering the skill development practices in the region. Although many agencies were doing

skill development through various approaches, yet most of them lacked innovation and were not scalable.

Skilling Challenges in the North East

A "Skill University" in the North-East needs to be urgently set up as "engaging" with the aspirations of India's youth is a "challenge". Setting up "Migration Support Centres" at big hubs can provide better retention and career opportunities for candidates. This measure will be more essential for trainees coming from the North-

Jobs and hiring in India needs to shift from being 'qualification based' to 'skill based'. With 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Digital India' schemes being rolled out by the Government, youth and especially women must be compulsorily taught to use computers and be skilled (in any field). Government also needs to take specific steps for differently-abled people and help create job opportunities for them by building relationships with employer and industry groups.

East, hilly states and other difficult areas, including LWE (left-wing extremism)-affected districts.

Employment opportunities can be created swiftly in agarwood plantations in Meghalaya vis-à-vis local resources and livelihood opportunities. The South East Asian countries' business model based on creating a vertically integrated business from the management of plantations to the inoculation, harvesting, distilling and processing of agarwood inputs into a multitude of agarwood end products, including the highly-prized Oud oil can be replicated.

According to a study on development and employment generation potential of the north-eastern states, between 2011 and 2021, the region will have

only 2.6 million jobs. And half of this demand will be in Assam alone, which is about 1,234,357 jobs. As opposed to the low demand, there will also be a supply of 17 million people in 2011-2022, an excess of 14 million job seekers. The region will generate 2.6 million jobs, but the manpower supply will be 16.8 million persons. So there is a need for a twin approach for developing skills for both local employment and for those who seek to migrate.

Another big challenge facing the implementation and execution of any skills development-related scheme is reaching out, educating and motivating youth in the rural and remote parts of the country. With over thirty years of experience in learning and development, we have realized that the only way to increase the efficiency of the employees in the corporate sector is through innovative training methodologies which need to be upgraded from time to time.

I have often talked on various platforms, about how the Government should make vocational education mandatory for women not pursuing full time education. Jobs and hiring in India needs to shift from being 'qualification based' to 'skill based'. With 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Digital India' schemes being rolled out by the Government, youth and especially women must be compulsorily taught to use computers and be skilled (in any field). Government also needs to take specific steps for differently-abled people and help create job opportunities for them by building relationships with employer and industry groups. If the Government can get the major chunk of the above target groups in its umbrella, the dream of empowering and transforming lives will be achieved to a great extent.

Building bridges

There is an urgent need to facilitate introduction of multi-skilling institutes for NE states. Along with this, higher education in the region needs to be connected with apprenticeship. Work based learning will lead the career-

pathways. There is also a need to make skilling attractive, relevant and be able to serve the demand to address the major challenge of migration.

There is a need to look at the skilling initiatives in the NE region in a different light. The region's population comes with a dominant agrarian mindset. There is an opportunity and a requirement to inculcate need based skill development and entrepreneurship promotion in North East Region. The young and growing population is the region's prized possession and asset and to realize the economic potential the region holds, it is imperative to utilise the demographic advantages and parameters that will lead to market linked skill development.

It is necessary to address the issue of employability and design a roadmap for capacity development and skill upgradation in the North East to keep the local talent reap the best of the opportunities and not migrate for employment. A number of sectors can emerge as important sources of employment in the region and it is crucial to identify the relevant education streams and skill sets that need to be developed among the people to enhance their employability.

NE being home to diverse and exotic variety of fruits and other crops could emerge as major centre of food processing industry that can generate huge employment opportunities for the youth in the NE states. Another potential sector with immense opportunities is handlooms that are used for both local consumption as well as for supplies all across the country. Developing skills there with the right kind of technological know-how can add to the overall growth rate of the region whilst preserving the local talent and heritage.


The efforts to promote startup companies and develop entrepreneurship particularly in NE have resulted in favourable changes in the entrepreneurial scenario in the North East. A right ecosystem

- “Vision 2020” targets by North Eastern Council (NEC) and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER):
- Overall GSDP growth at a CAGR of 11.64 per cent between 2007- 09 and 2019-20
- Overall per capita income growth of 12.95 per cent between 2007- 09 and 2019-20
- To support ‘Vision 2020’, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has formulated a strategic plan (2010-16) highlighting:
 - ❖ Building capacities and competencies in critical sectors in the region;
 - ❖ Preparing a plan of action for building capacities and competencies in critical sectors;
 - ❖ Identifying institutes and organisations for imparting training and building capacities in the region;
 - ❖ Setting up of training institutes in the region in important fields through line Ministries, NEC or states;
 - ❖ Augmenting the capacity of the existing training institutes in the north eastern states, and;
 - ❖ Using IT as a tool to upgrade skills.

for the startups has to be created by accessing the right skill, smart capital, networking and exchange, entrepreneurial culture and sound marketing strategies.

Some of the other sectors that could change the face of skilling and employability in the region include hotel and hospitality management, medical and paramedical degrees, agribusiness management, , ITeS, BPO and KPO skills, engineering degrees, business management, vocational skills dealing with automobiles, construction, electronics, plumbing, textiles and apparels etc.

While big-ticket investments may be the overall game changers, what is also important is to empower rural communities to create sustainable institutions so that they manage common activities around microfinance, livelihoods and natural resource management. The need for economic empowerment and partnership development follows close as all these initiatives require a committed effort from both the

public and the private sector to make a countable impact. 

(E-mail: sanjiv.duggal@centumlearning.com)

Parytak Mitra Programme

The Ministry of Tourism has launched Parytak Mitra Programme, for college going students to inculcate appropriate tourism traits and knowledge and to enable them to act/work as Tourist Facilitators (Parytak Mitra).

The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism as part of its ongoing promotional activities releases campaigns in the international and domestic markets and also undertakes other promotional activities under the Incredible India brand-line to promote India as a holistic destination for tourists and to showcase its various tourism destinations and products.

IAS 2017

General Studies Foundation

PRE + MAINS



CLASSROOM

&



ONLINE

- Comprehensive Coverage of Syllabus of Pre + Mains
- Compact Study Material
- Test Series for Prelims & Mains
- Regular & Weekend Classes
- Current Affairs Classes

Batch Starts

20th

July, 2016

**PRELIMS 2016
Comprehensive Classes**



Classes



Study Material



Test Series

BATCH STARTS

**12th April
2016**



**10:00 AM
to 1:00 PM**
(Monday to Saturday)

GS SCORE

Off. No. 6, 1st Floor, Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 (Karol Bagh Metro Gate No. 5)
9953595114 • 9873870114 • 011 - 47058253

For more details, visit at:

www.iasscore.in

YE-315/2015

NORTH EAST DIARY

MEGHALAYA TO BID FOR 2022 NATIONAL GAMES

Government of Meghalaya has proposed to bid for National Games in 2022. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is already providing support for creation and development of sports infrastructure in North East States as there is a great potential for the sports talent available in the region. Under the Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS), the Ministry has approved grant of Rs.87.50 crore for 15 sports infrastructure projects such as multi-purpose halls, astro-turfs for hockey, synthetic athletic tracks, during the period from 2010-11 to 2015-16 (upto 31.12.2015) and released grants to the tune of Rs.53.25 crore during this period in the N.E. region.

Further, financial assistance from National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) has also been provided for sports infrastructure projects viz., Mary Kom Regional Boxing Foundation for Construction of Gymnasium Hall and Procurement/ Installation of GYM Equipment (Rs.5.54 crore) and Dibrugarh University for Creation of Sports Facilities in 10 affiliated colleges (Rs.2.23 crore). Also, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has 5 SAI Training Centres (STCs), 8 Special Area Games (SAG) Centres and 2 Centres of Excellence (CoE) in North Eastern Region, where in sports infrastructure in the form of athletic tracks, hockey turfs, tennis courts, football grounds, multi-purpose halls, basketball courts etc. is available.

DM, MCH COURSES FOR NORTHEAST MEDICOS

Barooah Cancer Institute will introduce two more courses namely, DM and MCh super-specialization courses in Oncology (Cancer) in Guwahati from this year. These courses will be conducted with support from Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, through Tata Memorial Cancer Centre, Mumbai which is a constituent institute of Homi Bhabha National Institute. The introduction of these courses in Guwahati is going to take place in quick succession to the inauguration of another institution under the aegis of Department of Atomic Energy, namely, the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar.

Referring to relatively higher prevalence of cancer in North-Eastern States compared to several other States of the country, this new initiative will provide specialized healthcare to the people of the region, who otherwise have to travel long distance for treatment.

HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN NORTH-EASTERN REGION

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will give a loan of 96,457 million JPY (Yen) in two tranches for widening and upgradation to 2-Lane with paved shoulder and geometric improvements of the following National Highway -54 from Km 8.00 to Km 380.00 in the state of Mizoram, and NH-51 Km. 85.00 to 95.00 and Km. 101.00 to 145.00 in the state of Meghalaya.

Under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) for better connectivity in the entire region, the Centre has taken up various road improvement projects to speed up road construction in the region. The Government has set up the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited to increase the capacity of the agencies involved in the development and maintenance of NH in the Region. The Ministry has also adopted the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode of contract for major NH works in the region, wherein the contractors are required to complete the work within a fixed cost and time.

TIKHOR PARK TO BE SET UP IN GUWAHATI AND SHILLONG

Rs 2 crore have been set aside by the Organizing Committee of 12th South Asian Games to setup Tikhor Parks (Games Mascot) in order to preserve the legacy of the 12th South Asian Games held recently in Guwahati and Shillong. These parks would be set up at Guwahati University and NEHU, Shillong.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR NE STATES

The National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy, 2015 links skill development to improve employability and productivity for inclusive growth in the country. The Policy emphasise upon special attention to border, hilly and difficult areas including North Eastern States to address their needs for skill development and employability. The policy provides for special efforts including earmarking of funds for establishing training facilities in difficult regions and need base subsidisation of skill training for disadvantage groups. These policy interventions are being implemented by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in States/UT's including North Eastern Region. 10 per cent outlay of PMKVY is apportioned for skill development in North Eastern Region. The persons enrolled and trained under PMKVY in North Eastern State during 2015-16 (as on 19th February, 2016) are given below:

State	Total Enrolled	Total Trainings Completed
Arunachal Pradesh	691	646
Assam	22440	17602
Manipur	1046	787
Meghalaya	1523	1378
Mizoram	487	307
Nagaland	1009	649
Sikkim	643	571
Tripura	11303	8374
Grand Total	39142	30314

SHIP REPAIR FACILITY AT GUWAHATI AND RO-RO FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN DHUBRI & HATSINGIMARI ON NATIONAL WATERWAY NO 2

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has initiated action for two major projects on the National Waterway No 2, which is the navigable channel of river Brahmaputra between Bangladesh Border and Sadiya (891 kms.) The projects include development of a ship repair facility (Slipway Project) at Pandu, Guwahati at a cost of Rs 50.76 crore and starting of Ro-Ro ferry service between Dhubri & Hatsingimari from 27th February, 2016.

The slipway project has already commenced on a plot of 3.37 acres of land obtained from the State Government of Assam on 20 years lease and will be completed by December, 2018. The ship repair facility will be capable of handling vessels up to 60 meters in length and 3 vessels can be repaired simultaneously. Till date, there is no underwater ship repair facility anywhere in North east region and all vessels requiring underwater repair have to travel to Kolkata. The facility will be beneficial to IWAI, Inland Water Transport, Govt. of Assam, BSF and the Indian Army and to all other private agencies engaged in Inland Water Transport operation.

The Ro-Ro facility between Dhubri and Hatsingimari will facilitate movement of loaded/unloaded trucks between North bank and South bank of the river and will cut the travel distance from 220 KM to 30 KM. This will help the transport industry in saving fuel and time. Presently, it is being started by deploying 2 vessels of IWT, Govt. of Assam operating through temporary Ro-Ro Jetties, a modern R.C.C. Ro-Ro Jetty construction is already underway in Dhubri at a cost of Rs. 46.69 crore. Simultaneous action is also initiated for stabilization of the channel including the river banks and for construction of 2 modern Ro-Ro vessels with state of the art navigation equipments including specialized infrastructure for movement of heavily loaded trucks, cargo and passengers at a cost of Rs.24 crore. There is also a future plan to introduce such facility through other nodal points on NW-2.

These two facilities will pave the way for development of Inland Water Transport sector in the North Eastern region and encourage the Inland Water Transport users to step into a new era of safe, economic and environment friendly mode of transportation. □

Tribal Development in North-East India

NC Saxena



It is no longer the availability of financial resources but the capacity of institutions and individuals in the North East to make effective use of available resources that is proving the critical constraint to growth. Institution-building calls for strengthening State departments and agencies, as well as promoting fruitful partnerships between civil society and State Governments. Strengthening of institutions of local self-government is particularly important

Of the total tribal population in India, only 12 per cent live in the eight North-Eastern states, but unlike central Indian states where they are in a minority in all the states, tribes constitute more than 80 per cent of the state's population in Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, and hence receive better political attention. For the past several decades however, some states in the North-East have received a continuous flow of economic migrants from neighbouring states and Bangladesh, with the result that demographic balance has been tilting against indigenous population. Tribal population in Tripura declined from 56 per cent in 1951 to less than 30 per cent in 2001. In Arunachal Pradesh, the tribal population declined from 90 per cent in 1951 to less than 64 per cent in 1991. Bodos, a plains tribe of Assam, have become a minority in many districts of Bodo Autonomous Council and lost land to immigrant Muslims, leading often to large-scale violence.

An off-shoot of the population division is the unequal power relations between the tribals and the non-tribals (Ahoms in Assam, Meities in Manipur, and Bengalis in Tripura) who seem to dominate in political and economic

power. Even within the tribes, there is a great deal of diversity. North-East India has over 220 ethnic groups, they all have their own culture and tribal tradition and speak their own tribal languages. This culturally diversity of North-East India also leads to inter-tribal conflict in many states, affecting peace and development.

Sixth Schedule - The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India was enacted so that the tribals, who were in a minority in the larger undivided Assam of the 1960s, could decide their own development models and also safeguard their customary practices and traditions which give them a unique identity. With the creation of tribal majority states of Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya, the context has changed. The Nagas did away with it once they attained statehood. The Mizos apply the Sixth Schedule only in respect of minority tribes within the State of Mizoram. However, Meghalaya has continued with Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) as another political institution that appears to be like a subordinate legislature. These Councils were relevant when Meghalaya was part of Assam, so that tribal areas could have a sense of self-rule and not get lost surrounded by a large non-tribal majority. Now that Meghalaya is a

The author was Secretary, Planning Commission as also Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, and Secretary, Minorities Commission. On behalf of the Supreme Court of India, Dr Saxena monitors hunger based programmes in India. He has chaired several government committees, such as on 'Women's Land Rights', 'Identification of Poor Families', 'Implementation of Forest Rights Act', 'Joint Review Mission on Elementary Education' and 'Bauxite Mining in Orissa'. Author of several books and articles, he advises UNDP on development issues.

separate state with more than 85 per cent tribal concentration, tribal concerns are fully represented in the state power structure, and continuing with the autonomous district councils only creates confusion and duplication.

Another problem is that in the Sixth Schedule areas, there is no other elective body below the level of the Council. Absence of grassroots level elected bodies affects the development of the remote rural areas. Below Autonomous Councils, the traditional institutions at the village level do exist, but they are not democratic in nature, and are clan based represented by the headman such as Syiem, the hereditary Chief of Khasi in Meghalaya. There is a need to bring in elected grassroots level institutions at par with village panchayats of other states. However, a consensus in the matter is yet to emerge.

Economic Inequality - Tribal people mostly live and earn through the hills and forest areas. Along with agriculture, they also depend on weaving and rearing of woolly animals. Most hill communities in the north-east practised shifting cultivation and their socio-political life was regulated by customary laws and practices. However, over the decades due to market penetration, several hill communities have taken to settled cultivation, and community ownership over means of production was gradually replaced by individual ownership, leading to economic inequalities. Laws exist to protect the locals against outsiders, but they could not stop class differences growing within. Today, among the hill communities, some are millionaires while most others do not even have an acre of land to cultivate. Interestingly, the neo-rich tribal elite are vociferous in asserting indigenous rights, not so much to benefit the poorest within communities, but to promote their own interests and keep the exploited poor under control. Privatization of communal lands is often the result of persistent promotion of commercial horticultural and other crops, as well as due to rising land values near towns and along highways.

However, the emerging tribal elite has no entrepreneurial talent to establish industry, and much investment is only in real estate.

Adverse Impact on Women - Privatisation has started increasing the vulnerability of women. For instance, as per Naga customary law, women have no land, property, or inheritance rights. There are instances that if they try to assert possession over land, they are branded as witches and are accused of causing harm to communities. These women are physically and mentally tortured. There is evidence of some being buried and even burnt alive. Cases of witch-hunting have mainly been reported from the Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Nalbari and Dhubri districts. Control over resources, personal enmity with

The structural condition under which land is cultivated (open access or 'free for all') combined with the fact that the elite are able to corner most government funds, has intensified poverty and inequality in these states. Privatisation of land by the elite through enclosure of commons can hardly be viewed as a positive step because its impact on agrarian relations is retrograde. Cohesive social relations therefore co-exist with increasing economic disparities.

powerful members of the community and the prevalence of superstitions are some of the factors responsible for witch hunting.

Absence of Land Records- Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, hill areas of Manipur and some tribal tracts of Assam have no written land records system, nor any payment of land revenue. Absence of land records has increased insecurity of tenure of the poor due to rising tenancy and landlessness, increasing concentration

of land ownership in the hands of a few, and declining output from shifting cultivation. The structural condition under which land is cultivated (open access or 'free for all') combined with the fact that the elite are able to corner most government funds, has intensified poverty and inequality in these states. Privatization of land by the elite through enclosure of commons can hardly be viewed as a positive step because its impact on agrarian relations is retrograde. Cohesive social relations therefore co-exist with increasing economic disparities.

Poor Capacity to Spend Funds - Though, the ADCs have constitutional status with certain amount of autonomy in dealing with subjects, they are not backed by adequate funding arrangement. This has made these Councils ineffective in dealing with the allocated subjects resulting in discontentment. The Central Government has been trying to address these issues by providing *ad-hoc* grants to the Councils under special packages or by earmarking funds in the Plan allocations of the State. However, due to poor spending capacity of the Councils, as well as of the state governments, overall expenditure remains poor. For instance, at least 10 per cent of the Central Ministries Budget is earmarked for the development of North Eastern States, and unspent balance is transferred to a non-lapsable pool. However, in actual practice, releases against the total available funds in the pool are not satisfactory. The states are not able to send good proposals to the administrative Ministry, or are not able to spend well with the result that outcomes are not satisfactory.

Similarly, many external projects are languishing for want of completion of various formalities (land acquisition, environmental clearance, etc), leading to poor overall expenditure in those projects. Non-submission of Utilisation Certificates, non-submission of project details/action plan, delay in holding State level sanctioning committee meetings, etc. are the general reasons for low release of funds. Utilisation

of funds requires not only timely releases to the field officials, but needs taking a large number of steps simultaneously: posts have to be sanctioned, material needs to be procured and transported, for which the procurement and tendering process needs to be completed on time. One of the major reasons for low release of NREGA funds in states like Manipur and Nagaland is difficulty in online submission of data at the district level due to poor network.

Activate Planning Departments- Such delays can be avoided and procedures completed expeditiously if the state governments strengthen their Planning Departments. The hard reality is that state planning departments have poor capacity to prepare good proposals for external aid or even for getting more funds from GOI, and thus lose out on external or central assistance.

An energised Planning Department would keep in view, the needs and aspirations of the tribals and within the broad framework of the long term development strategies and priorities envisaged for the State, the Department would formulate Annual and Five Year Plans, undertake regular monitoring and review of the implementation of Plan Programmes, and effect necessary adjustments in the Plans both in terms of physical content and resource

allocation so as to ensure optimum realization of the Plan Objectives.

Other Systemic Issues – Not only tribal regions, but the entire North-East Region with the exception of Sikkim is characterized by low per-capita income, lack of private investment, low capital formation, inadequate infrastructure facilities, geographical isolation and communication bottlenecks. The region is primarily disadvantaged on account of connectivity, viz., road, rail and air connectivity. Power is a big constraint; micro-hydel power and other resources of renewable energy need to be explored in the region. Its own tax collection and internal resources are quite meagre rendering the region totally dependent on central devolution. Local tribal elite prefer to invest in landed property and shy from risky ventures.

In addition to stepping up overall investment by GOI, states must also improve governance and delivery. For instance, Assam's per capita plan outlay for 2014-15 was Rs 5,775, whereas with similar poor population Chhattisgarh's per capita plan outlay was Rs 12,807.

Besides, these states must improve monitoring of outcomes and hold government staff accountable for results. Thus, according to the state

governments, the percentage of severely malnourished children in the north-eastern states is much less than 1 per cent, whereas a survey done by UNICEF has reported a much higher figure varying from 3.5 per cent in Manipur to almost 16 per cent in Meghalaya and Tripura. There is an urgent need to reconcile the two sets of figures. Process reforms are needed so that field data is authentic, reliable and tallies with the evaluated data.

To significantly reduce, let alone eliminate within the next decade or so, the growing gap between growth rates in the country and the tribal pockets of North East India calls for a massive improvement in delivery and governance, and not only increase in the flow of financial resources to the region. It is no longer the availability of financial resources, but the capacity of institutions and individuals in the North East to make effective use of available resources that is proving the critical constraint to growth. Institution-building calls for strengthening State departments and agencies, as well as promoting fruitful partnerships between civil society and State Governments. Strengthening of institutions of local self-government is particularly important. □

(E-mail:naresh.saxena@gmail.com)

Clean Street Food Project

Project 'Clean Street Food' was launched to raise the safety standards of foods sold on streets across the capital city of New Delhi by training 20,000 roadside vendors on aspects of health and hygiene, in the first phase. The project was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in partnership with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train street food vendors at more than 40 centres across Delhi under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) category of the Government's flagship skills training scheme- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Under the Delhi Project, 20,000 food street vendors would be trained, assessed and certified by seven training partners over the next four weeks at 40 training centres set up for the purpose across Delhi. Delhi Food Safety Commissioner and the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) are engaged in mobilization of street vendors across Delhi. The Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Council (THSC), an affiliate of the National Skill Development Corporation, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship will be the training provider under the Project. Food vendors will receive Smart Skill-cum-Registration cards on completion of the training.

This project involves the partnership among the regulating body of the government, corporate and NGOs who have all come together to upgrade the skills of the street food vendors which shall help them enhance their livelihood options also. "Project – Clean Street Food" will change the lives of millions of Indians at the bottom of the pyramid, boost the country's economic development and lead to the rediscovery of India's rich tradition of street food. Skill India and FSSAI along with State Governments will replicate this initiative in other parts of India, based on the experience of the Delhi project.



ANALOG IAS

INSTITUTE

The Most Reputed Civil Services Coaching Institute in **South India.**

GENERAL STUDIES

by **ANALOG IAS** Team

- ♦ **R.C.Sinha** (Delhi)
 - ♦ **Shubra Ranjan** (Vajiram, Delhi)
 - ♦ **Tarique Khan** (Delhi)
 - ♦ **Priyesh Singh** (Delhi)
 - ♦ **Dr.Atul Tripathi** (Delhi),
 - ♦ **Saroj Samal** (Delhi)
 - ♦ **Sanjay Bharadwaj** (Delhi)
 - ♦ **Siva Kumar**
 - ♦ **Bala Latha, Ravi Teja** (IRS)
- & many more **Eminent guest faculty** from Delhi

MATHEMATICS

by **Mr.Srikanth Vinnakota**

CSAT

by **Mr.Srikanth Vinnakota & Team**

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

by **Mr D.M.Ravi Kumar & Mr R.C.Sinha**

for the first time Two stalwarts coming together at Hyderabad

SOCIOLOGY

By **Saroj Samal** (Gold Medalist)

The Professional of wider intellectual acclamation and national reputation

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE ALSO AVAILABLE

****For complete Details visit www.analogeducation.in**

☎ **040-27620440, 040-64646686** ☎ **9912441137/38**

2nd Floor, 1-2-288/32, Indira Park X Roads,
Domalguda, Hyderabad - 500 029.
www.analogeducation.in

3rd Floor, Kamala Towers, Above OBC Bank,
Ashok Nagar X Roads, Hyderabad - 29.
ias.analog@gmail.com

60/17, 11nd Floor, Nr. AXIS Bank, Above
Subway, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 60

Join Us to Join the League of Civil Servants

NORTH EAST IN UNION BUDGET 2016-17

Focus on Organic Value Chain Development, Connectivity and Skill Development

The Budget for Ministry of DoNER has been increased from Rs 2334.50 crore in last year's budget to Rs 2,400 crores in Union Budget 2016 -17. The main emphasis of the Budget allocated for north-east is on the overall development of the region. Provisions have been made for connectivity in north east region, skill development and organic value chain development, among others. The single most important announcement is the exclusive and unique "Organic Value Chain Development" scheme for Rs. 115 crore which is expected to be a game-changer for the entire region. Not only will it help in boosting the enormous unexplored potential of organic entrepreneurship in the region, but would also convert the entire region into a favourite destination for new start ups from across the country to come to north east. North east has become an important destination, with the state of Sikkim being declared as the first Organic State of India by the Prime Minister recently.

A budget of Rs 33097.02 crore has been allocated for the North eastern region across 56 ministries. This is 14 per cent higher than the BE of Rs 29087.93 crore for previous year. Under Non-Lapsable Central Pool Reserve (NLCPR), BE has been increased from Rs 90 crores to Rs 200 crores in 2016-17. The budget allocation for North East Council schemes has been increased from Rs 700 crores to Rs 795 crores this year.

Rs 150 crore have been provided for the newly launched NE Road Sector Development Scheme. This scheme will be helpful in the development of the inter-state roads in the north east. In addition, Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be providing funds for construction and maintenance of roads in the north eastern region.

Budget allocation for North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFC) has been increased from Rs. 30 crore to Rs. 75 crore which will further boost the Prime Minister's Start-up India programme in the region. Similarly, skill development budget enhancement from Rs. 16 crore to Rs. 56 crore will further supplement the Start-up Programme. In addition to all the provisions like 3 years tax holiday and 3 months exit period announced by the Prime Minister, the DoNER Ministry will also offer "Venture Fund" for new entrepreneurs so as to ease their financial liability. Besides the above provisions, emphasis has also been laid on rural livelihood in the north east and BE for this purpose has been enhanced to Rs 150 crore this year.

Showcasing the north east to the rest of India is very important for the development of the region. The budget allocation for this purpose has been increased from Rs 10.50 crore to Rs 17 crore this year, which is almost 60 per cent more than last year's allocation. Ministry of DoNER had recently organized 'Destination North East-2016' in New Delhi during 12th to 14 February, 2016. Now, the Ministry intends to organize similar events, so as to showcase the strengths and the potentials of the North East, especially in the fields of Handicrafts/Handlooms and exhibition / sale of produce of North east. Such events have been planned to be organized in Mumbai and Bangalore in the first quarter of 2016-17.

The main initiative of the DoNER Ministry as a part of the 'Act East Policy' is to provide funds to link Railways between India and Bangladesh. The budget cost for the Indian side is Rs 587 crore would be provided by the Ministry of DoNER.

A special amount of Rs. 10,000 crore for countrywide upliftment of higher education institutions will spare a special share for North Eastern Region and Rs 1623 crore have been allocated to north east for this purpose. Rs 300 crore will also be spared for the Bodoland Tribal Council by the Government.

NORTH EAST: SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

NLCPR Funds Allocated to NE States

Funds available in Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) are allocated to the North Eastern States for bridging infrastructure gaps based on Priority Lists submitted by respective State Governments. About 1569 projects have been sanctioned under NLCPR until February 2016, at a cost of Rs. 14309.23 crores out of which 890 projects at a cost of Rs. 5846.20 crores have been completed and 679 projects at a cost of Rs. 8463.01 crores are at various stages of completion. In addition, a total of 247 projects have been retained during last three years at a cost of Rs. 3867.90 crores. An amount of Rs. 376.61 crores have been released in the current financial year (upto 26th February 2016) for completion of ongoing projects and 17 new projects have been sanctioned for which Rs. 120.97 crores have been released.

Modern Facilities in Border States of North-East

Various steps have been taken to accelerate the socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region. Concerned Central Ministries/ Departments are required to earmark at least 10 per cent of gross budgetary support for North Eastern Region (NER). The Ministry of DoNER and NEC provide funds for bridging infrastructure gaps in NER.

Ministry of DoNER is administering the NLCPR Scheme under which a total of 53 projects in the health sector amounting to Rs. 63313.36 lakhs and 168 projects in education sector amounting to Rs. 145416.55 lakhs, have been sanctioned so far. North Eastern Council (NEC) is also administering schemes under various sectors in North Eastern States. The NEC has 41 on-going projects, with an approved cost of Rs. 17322.12 lakhs in the industry sector, 58 ongoing projects, with an approved cost of Rs. 40870.85 lakh in the health sector and 78 on-going projects with an approved cost of Rs. 24294.98 lakh in education sector.

Ministry of Home Affairs releases funds for development of border areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) scheme. Rs. 27757.86 lakhs has been released in the current financial year to meet the special developmental needs of the people living near the international border.

Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resources Development has sanctioned 630 new schools and selected 3334 schools for strengthening and enhancing the quality of education under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RSMA). An amount of Rs. 122884.36 lakhs has been released since its inception.

Assessment of Infrastructural Constraints in N-E Region

The North Eastern Council has been conducting assessment of the various socio-economic challenges and infrastructural constraints being faced in the North Eastern Region, from time to time. Major ones are Perspective Transport Plan for Development of North Eastern Region which became the basis for the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE), Feasibility Study on Comprehensive Power Transmission and Distribution in North East which formed the basis for Comprehensive Scheme for Transmission and Distribution in NE States, the North Eastern Region Vision-2020 Document, Feasibility Study Report on Poverty Eradication in NER, Comprehensive Tourism Master Plan for North Eastern Region, Health Workforce Development Plan for NER and Study on Air Connectivity in NER.

Since its inception, the North Eastern Council has invested over Rs. 12756 crore for development of the North Eastern Region in sectors such as transport and communication for roads and bridges, bus and truck terminus, airport and air connectivity; power generation and transmission; irrigation and water management; education, community infrastructure and sports; medical and health; agriculture and allied activities; industries; tourism; science and technology, and livelihood.

Physical achievement of the North Eastern Council includes construction of 10949 km. of roads of Inter-State nature and roads of economic importance; 11 Inter-State Bus Terminus and 3 Inter-State Truck Terminus in the North Eastern States. The North Eastern Council also funded 60 per cent of the project costs for upgradation of twelve airports through Airport Authority of India, namely, Guwahati, Silchar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Lilabari, Tezpur, Umroi, Lengpui, Dimapur, Imphal, Agartala and Tezu airports. □



General Studies

It now covers 80% of the entire examination.

Your success depends 100% on GS now.

GS is evolving and getting tougher.

So, what is your strategy for GS?

Worried for GS? Not any more..

Presenting a breakthrough in IAS General Studies preparation



LEARN from those who know the best

India's Top IAS Trainers in consultation with Retired Civil Servants and several newly selected Officers have meticulously planned our courses. Each and every class is going to be taken by this distinguished team. Add to this a team of experienced professors from DU whose students have been getting brilliant ranks in the IAS year after year. It's these extra-ordinary educators who'll guide you step by step. Can you still get a better IAS guidance?

BEST IAS Preparation aligned to the new UPSC demands

All our courses are in 100% alignment to the new demands of the IAS Prelims and Main examination as seen since 2011. With us, you will get much more comprehensive coverage of the syllabus than any of the presently available classroom coaching. Without such a holistic coverage, it is impossible to crack the IAS challenge in the present pattern. We have added weekly current affairs analysis and weekly MCQ and descriptive tests to constantly groom you for the actual challenge.

Features

- Complete solution to IAS Preliminary & Main Examinations' General Studies & Aptitude Test (CSAT) requirements
- Step by step guidance on every dimension of successful IAS preparation
- Comprehensive study material meeting all examination needs
- Weekly in-depth Current Affairs Discussion classes, plus Weekly Tests

New Batches

Foundation GS Course for IAS 2017	From 16 June 2016
GS Prelims Batch - I for IAS 2016	From 01 Apr 2016
GS Prelims Batch - II for IAS 2016	From 02 May 2016

A quality revolution has started in General Studies. When are you going to be a part of it? Don't be left behind. Act now!



Get in touch now, for a better tomorrow

011-65456677

www.momentumias.com

Office: Main Road, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi - 9

YE-317/2015

North East: Development through the Lens of Health and Gender

Aruna Bhattacharya Chakravarty



The discussion on development in the North East region requires multiple lenses, multiple stakeholders, a strong and dedicated political mandate and a continued dialogue with the people of the region. Participation builds empowerment and an empowered population is the key to development

A discussion on development must include an overall understanding of its various dimensions, their overlaps, key components, their derivatives and their effect in the short term as well as in the long term. This indeed is a complex domain and requires expertise and foresight to plan and achieve the right things at the right times and at the right places.

For a country like India which has a predominantly young population, education and health are key components to indicate development and are therefore, sectors that need to be looked into, in the long run. This also echoes in the words of the Nobel Laureate, Amartya Sen, 'You need an educated, healthy workforce to sustain economic development'. Indeed, if India wants to succeed in its long term developmental goals, it has to wisely invest its resources in providing quality healthcare and education to its young generation.

Focus North East: Even though the dimensions of development are not any different theoretically in North East India, but, this discussion takes a unique turn when we shift focus to this region.

The seven states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya,

Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura constitute this region which sits on a complex geo-political zone in the frontiers, sharing borders with Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh, stretching more than 2000 km and connecting to the rest of India by a narrow 20 km wide corridor of land.

One of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse regions in India with each state having its distinct culture and tradition, North East India is home for more than 166 ethnic groups with a wide range of languages. The lushness of its landscape, the range of communities and geographical and ecological diversity makes the North East quite different from other parts of the subcontinent. These diversities in terms of location, population, language, coupled with geo-political factors makes this terrain unique as well as different from the mainland India. These create gaps which run in many layers affecting development in the region as well as pan-India.

What ails the North East?

Slow development in the region has always been attributed to the difficult terrain and to issues of accessibility. But upon zooming in further [read: deeper inspection], there are a number of reasons which are responsible for the slow pace of

The author is an Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi, Public Health Foundation of India. She is a trained medical anthropologist and her academic and research career spans over fifteen years.

development. Socio-political reasons, arising from within the region and beyond, have made it uninteresting for industries to invest in the North East, despite its beautiful terrain. This has led to poor infrastructure facilities, which is the primary pre-requisite for sustainable development.

Political apathy in taking positive steps towards development in the North-East has resulted in a lack of infrastructure, thus allowing excellence to take a backseat and mediocrity to thrive. The lackadaisical approach shown by the mainstream political forces has led to a poor law and order situation, driven by corruption and distortion of social justice. Such scenarios create a negative impact on the population, especially among the youth and their impressionable minds. As “*the young*”, according to Pearl S. Buck (a Nobel Laureate in literature) “*do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation*”.

Drug Use in the Region: With its unfavourable position of sharing international borders and its proximity to the notorious ‘golden triangle’, the North East region has suffered the most (and continues to do so) from the drug menace, compared to any other region in the country. In the recent years, injecting drug users have emerged as a high-risk group with the highest prevalence of HIV.

Drug use is a complex subject. There exists an overlap between injecting networks and sexual networks. Within drug use networks, each and every aspect—from the type of substances used, the procuring of substances, and awareness about harm reduction services and accessing services, to the interaction of social, structural, politico-legal barriers—each one of these has the potential to contribute to the complex dimension of drug use in a drug user’s life. India is home to more than 180,000 injecting drug users, a large proportion of who resort to unsafe injecting practices such as sharing of needles and syringes are from this region. Subsequently, this group is

also at risk through unsafe sexual behaviours. These practices and related risk behaviours have led to a rapid and large-scale transmission of HIV.

Overlapping Gender, Drug and Health: The patriarchal social structure, specifically, the position of woman in the society makes it very challenging for women to address and deal with the problems that emerge from drug use. There exists a huge gap between the involvement and power possessed by men and women in relation to social participation in the negotiation of circumstances ensuring safe sex for women. The level of

The level of IEC/BCC [information-education-communication and behaviour change communication] currently available in the community does not equip women to access options that would permit adequate harm reduction for themselves. Under the umbrella of harm reduction, there is great opportunity to create IEC/BCC strategies that would adequately address the needs of women for protection in relation to both sexually transmitted infections (STI)/HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH).

IEC/BCC [information-education-communication and behaviour change communication] currently available in the community does not equip women to access options that would permit adequate harm reduction for themselves. Under the umbrella of harm reduction, there is great opportunity to create IEC/BCC strategies that would adequately address the needs of women for protection in relation to both sexually transmitted infections (STI)/HIV and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH).

In addition to what has already been stated, Female Injecting Drug Users (FIDUs) and Female Sex Workers (FSWs) are facing additional stigma and discrimination. If it is to become

possible to implement harm reduction services in the community in a holistic manner, it will be necessary, we feel, to sensitize communities, service providers, and other stakeholders on issues of specific relevance to FIDUs.

What can be done? Awareness, advocacy, and public debate on drug use, access to health infrastructure by people in the injecting drug and in sexual networks are recommended.

Harm Reduction for injecting drug use requires a multifaceted approach through interventions specific to address clinical, psychological and social issues. Like any other function of behaviour, injecting drug use needs a holistic understanding for (a) reasons of drug use in each individual and influencing factors, (b) available options and opportunities for adopting safer behaviours, and (c) non-judgemental and sensitive family/community support.

Harm reduction programmes for injecting drug use often employ ‘reactive’ measures. However, looking at the complex dimensions involved in drug use and at associated vulnerabilities, it is imperative that those initiating programs understand that a preventive approach (primary prevention) is more effective than a curative one.

Enabling and empowering youth and the application of primary prevention among adolescents should be inoculated. Therefore, it is important to directly focus remediation efforts on adolescents and on youth groups. This is especially true in the families of users, as it is these family members who are most vulnerable to starting injecting behaviours.

Conclusion: The discussion on development in the North East region requires multiple lenses, multiple stakeholders, a strong and dedicated political mandate and a continued dialogue with the people of the region. Participation builds empowerment and an empowered population is the key to development. □

(E-mail: aruna.bhattacharya@iiphd.org)

Sustainability and Prosperity through Eco Friendly Harvest

Nirendra Dev



People in north east also believe that it was creativity at its best when Earth was addressed as the Mother and the earth surface was compared to the lap of motherhood. People in these states are masters of farming and know how to take care of mother and seek all her blessings. They also know to evolve a harvesting system which is acceptable to all and sustainable to the environment

“ **I** will show you something different from either, Your shadow at morning striding behind you; Or your shadow at evening rising to meet you”

These words of poet T S Eliot written originally on a different context seem to sum up well the true face of rural north east India – far flung corner of our country vis-à-vis people’s dependence on agriculture and traditional form of farming. These words perhaps also depict how things have changed over the decades.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of the north east India. Thus, it is imperative to look at the farm sector as a key booster which lays the roadmap on removal of various natural and even man-made impediments like the cycle of violence from which the far-flung region suffers. Agriculture, in fact, has been playing a crucial role for the overall development of the 8 states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura in almost all the fields of economic activity to stimulate accelerated uplift of living conditions.

But the North Eastern Region is one of the most ethnically diverse regions of the country. Each of the 8 states including Sikkim today have

their own culture and ways of farming. We, Indians, have always marveled at the diversity of cultures and multiple civilizations. This peculiarity is India’s strength.

It is wrong to visualize a uniform pattern of farming in the region. Each community is skilled to utilize local people’s farming potentials and the natural resources as a cost effective manner using the locally available resources to overcome the demerits of water shortage vis-à-vis irrigation.

While each tribal and ethnic community has their unique traditional methodologies of water preservation and farming, in a general sense, the region is also known as the home of several traditional water harvesting systems.

Some of these prevalent styles include ‘Dongs’ in Assam, ‘Bamboo drip irrigation’ system in Meghalaya, ‘Wet rice and fish cultivation’ system of Ziro valley of Arunachal, Chakhesang Naga tribes using ‘Zabo’ system in Phek district of Nagaland and ‘Roof top rain water harvesting’ system in Mizoram. The success story of Organic Farming in Sikkim is a story by itself and on merits.

There is another well known and vital salient feature about farming in north east India. It is commonly known as Jhum Cultivation or Shifting

The author is a Special Representative with The Statesman, New Delhi and author of books including ‘Rainbows and Misty Sky: Windows to North East India’ and ‘The Talking Guns: North East India’.

Cultivation. Many cultivators use slash-and-burn method as one element of their farming cycle.

An estimated 85 per cent of the total cultivation in north east India is by shifting cultivation or Jhum. Due to increasing requirement for cultivation of land, there is resilience of ecosystem and this leaves far reaching impact on the ecology.

From ecological point of view again, the entire north east region falls within the sub tropical belt of warm summer monsoon climate and it is found that the local water harvest system not only secures increased crop production, but also stops soil erosion and improve the soil fertility.

However, despite immense potentials and innovations involved in water harvesting, the agro-economy has not seen the northbound graph as visualized in many quarters.

For historical and partly geographical reasons, the agriculture sector remains capital starved in the north east. In a broad sense, north eastern states needs adequate attention to ensure setting up of cold storage facilities, marketing scopes and to stimulate new employment opportunities.

Of course in recent years, since the advent of the new government the agri-sector in the region has come into focus and a series of new and innovative steps under the Second Green Revolution launched few years back is a right step in that direction.

But it will be significant to take note of certain existing hurdles and also the areas that adequate corrective steps. Notwithstanding its predominance in the economy of the north east India, the agricultural sector has remained wanting in the region in terms of yielding results and stimulating the economy.

However, it goes without saying it cannot happen that on its own. Over 75 per cent of people in these states live in rural areas or are dependent



on agriculture as livelihood. But the percentage of net cultivated area of the total reporting (under farm sector) area is less than 20 per cent as against 45 per cent of the total area in the rest of India.

The north east region is lagging far behind other parts of the country in yields (quantity wise) and production of various farm commodities. Therefore the region has to depend on other areas of the country for foodgrain requirements and to make up the shortage of other farm commodities including fruits.

At the same time, it needs to be underlined that the region has immense potential for horticulture and other farm products. The north east India and especially states like Assam account for fair share of India's production of tea, rice, rapeseed, mustard, jute, potato, sweet potato, banana, papaya, a large varieties of citrus fruits, leafy vegetables, herbs and spices.

Meghalaya has immense potential of cashew nuts and fruits like plums while ginger and chilly and bamboo related products thrive in Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur. Nagaland also has immense potential of fruits like pine apple.

Thus, notwithstanding hurdles and limitations, the overall farm scene – agri and horticulture put together - depicts a story of success along with the promises to march towards greater glories.

People as a Resource:

People in north eastern states are basically village based masses. Therefore, it is not without good reason that farming has always struck an emotional attachment with the locals. Even those cherishing white collared jobs in service, industry and government sectors have generally shown inclination towards farming. This affinity has helped to create durable assets vis-à-vis farming requirements with assured generation of employment.

So we have traditional water harvesting systems like Wet Rice cum Fish cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh – that produces rice and fish using limited resources without wastage and without polluting. Thus, it is also an experiment of Organic farming.

In terms of tangible results, Prime Minister on January 18, 2016 has already declared Sikkim as country's first Organic State.

The hard work in Sikkim that stretched through last decade has been able to convert around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land into sustainable organic cultivation.

It has also helped the state in building soil health resulting in sustainable increased crop production and it is largely understood that the programme is likely to boost the tourism industry.



In Phek district of Nagaland, the Zabo system involves harvesting with protected forestland towards the top of the hill, water-harvesting tanks in the middle and cattle yard and paddy fields at the lower side. Here, the water from the pond is passed through the cattle yard before taking it to the rice field for irrigation. The water carries with it the dung and urine of the animals to the fields through split bamboo channels helping in providing good source of nutrition for the crops.

In this backdrop, it will be relevant

to examine how agriculture has been able to bring out multi-phased transitions in the region.

This includes among others –

- a) Removal of unemployment and particularly, under employment;
- b) Ensure enough economic support to meet basic needs like drinking water, rural roads, elementary education, health care and housing for landless, boosting nutrition for the crops;
- c) Moving towards a significant

reduction in disparities of income and wealth;

- d) Achieve higher growth rate and ensuring continued progress.

In the ultimate analysis, the age old understanding about life as underlined in the Assamese literature is that the future and prosperity of any place and people is rooted in its soil. Agriculture truly gives that opportunity to tap the potential.

People in north east also believe that it was creativity at its best when Earth was addressed as the Mother and the earth surface was compared to the lap of motherhood. People in these states are masters of farming and know how to take care of mother and seek all her blessings. They also know to evolve a harvesting system which is acceptable to all and sustainable to the environment.

People's involvement and proper use of natural resources bring in sustainability; and with sustainability there will be progress. □

(E-mail: nirendev1@gmail.com)

Geography/GS

IAS

2016

Neetu Singh

What do you do if you're an IAS Aspirant mired by large number of Geography Centres

Join DIRECTION Squad

Why Geography Optional

For the level field play in the *civil services main pattern, the introduced changes required integrated, logical intellectual and multidimensional* approach.

This asks for absolute clarity and perfection in the basics .The analysis of revised pattern re-establishes prominences of applicable disciplines like Geography. Just like in the Preliminary change Geography has been prioritized in **Main GS** ,near **380 marks** relating to justifies this.

With our established identity of sincere and dedicated approach we extend our wishes to all aspirants, along with the announcement of commencement of **2016** batches.

Geography Optional July Batch 2016

Under the guideline of **Neetu Singh** (Delhi School of Economic)

Features of Geography Main batch

1. 3½ month course with complete syllabus coverage
2. Daily 3 hours class , 6 days a week (Sunday Class Test)
3. Syllabus start with basic geography for concept building
4. Regular Map Marking (Atlas required - Oxford school for India)
5. Complete Study Material (Revised Census & Contemporary)
6. Eight (8) Test included with both topic-wise and comprehensive framing

Online Admission Open 10th, June

More details Login directionias.com

Prelims - Modules

Admission Open
25th, April

- I - Physical Geography (India & World)
- II - Environment /Ecology, Bio-diversity & Climate change
- III - Economic and Social development

Each module classes will be 15 -20 days; 2 hours duration; class will be held daily; modules includes objective question test; Study material with complete coverage will be provided.(These Topic Covers 35-40 Questions)

Ultimate Learning Experience (P) Ltd.



Contact

Hari Bhawan : 14A/103, W.E.A, Karol Bagh
New Delhi - 110005
Ph : 011 - 25719872 , 25719862, 25752444
(M) : 09810382305 mail : info@directionias.com
Visit Us at www.directionias.com

YE-300/2015

Infrastructure Scenario in the North-East

Krishna Dev



Today, the world is looking to engage with the emerging economic hotspot, the East, and it is in North East India that South-East Asia begins. Improving transport connectivity and developing other infrastructure shall have to be the foremost priority for social and economic mobility and market integration. Whereas inter-regional, intra-regional and regional connectivity to mainland India is necessary, critical to improving connectivity are issues of diplomacy and an improvement in border infrastructure and trade facilitation with neighbouring countries

Infrastucture in the North East in view of its unique problems and isolation from the rest of the country, arose as a consequence of the partition in 1947. Prior to Independence, the North East was organically connected with the rest of India through (now) Bangladesh, and to the East to Burma (now Myanmar). Even then, the state of both road and rail infrastructure left much to be desired, but the situation was much better than it is now, with the land connection with the rest of India only through the slender 27-km wide Siliguri ‘Chicken’s Neck’ corridor. With the closing of borders, access to Chittagong port also got severed, cutting the region off from sea routes. In effect, the market and centres of productivity in the North East got separated by a political dividing line, which has had severe repercussions on the livelihood of people in the whole region.

Currently, the entire boundary of North Eastern Region (NER) (96 per cent) is an international border shared with China and Bhutan in the north, Myanmar in the east, Bangladesh in the south and west, and Nepal to

the west of Sikkim. The geopolitical distancing of the region from its main markets and trade gateways led to economic insulation and caused immense structural damage to the NER economy.

Today, the world is looking to engage with the emerging economic hotspot, the East, and it is in North East India that South-East Asia begins. Improving transport connectivity and developing other infrastructure shall have to be the foremost priority for social and economic mobility and market integration. Whereas inter-regional, intra-regional and regional connectivity to mainland India is necessary, critical to improving connectivity are the issues of diplomacy and an improvement in border infrastructure and trade facilitation with neighbouring countries.

The economy of the region is still primarily agrarian with the industrial sector having mainly grown around tea, petroleum (crude), natural gas, mining and steel fabrication, but not quite close to its full potential. Due to inadequate industrial growth, the vast resource base available remains unexploited and the pressure for employment is on the service sector. Transport links can help

The author is a transport sector expert currently working as an independent consultant. He has worked as a consultant to the Planning Commission and was closely associated with formulation of 11th Five Year Plan and Annual Plans for the transport sector. He also worked with the High level Committee on National Transport Policy where he helped to formulate the long term policy. Besides this, he also worked for the World Bank as consultant and worked on formulating the Road sector vision & strategy for the state of Bihar. He has also worked with RITES Limited and conducted the ‘Total Transport System Study’ to project the transport growth and vision for the horizon.

ease out the undesirable pressure by promoting a more balanced growth.

Certain key initiatives of the various governments, such as the 'Look East Policy', 1991 and the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007, and the NER Vision 2020 released in 2008, are efforts in the right direction but these will have to be shored up by concerted efforts. Despite Plan investments in the past, infrastructure development in the North East has been poor, which has also been noted by the NER Vision document as the single biggest constraint to accelerated growth.

The present government has accorded high priority to India's Look East Policy. The Prime Minister during his opening statement at the India-Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) summit held in Myanmar in November 2014 emphasised the importance of the 10-nation ASEAN bloc in a new era of economic development, trade, investments and industrialization. Commerce, culture and connectivity are the three pillars of the policy. He made known to the world that India is not merely 'Looking East', but is now 'Acting East' as well, thus, revising the title to 'India's Act-East Policy' (AEP). The objective is to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels thereby ending the economic isolation of the States of North Eastern Region.

Establishing connectivity with the neighbouring countries and within NER, and development of infrastructure are an integral part of Act East Policy. Until the connectivity with the neighbouring countries and infrastructure within NER (road, rail, inland water transport, telecom, airports, power, etc.) are fully established, the micro and macro benefits of the policy cannot be assessed.

In continuation, inspired by the "Make in India" initiative, a concept paper entitled "Make in North-East"

has also been prepared. The "Make in North-East" initiative will not only generate revenue for North-east, but will also create job opportunities to prevent the exodus of youth which is presently taking place from the region to the rest of the country. This initiative will not only help in promoting industry and business, but will also bridge the psychological barriers and bring North-east closer to mainstream India's brisk march on the road to development and growth.

Establishing connectivity with the neighbouring countries and within NER, and development of infrastructure are integral part of Act East Policy. Until the connectivity with the neighbouring countries and infrastructure within NER (road, rail, inland water transport, telecom, airports, power, etc.) are fully established, the micro and macro benefit of the policy cannot be assessed.

In addition, the North-East is emerging as the destination for new 'Start-ups'. The provision of two years of tax-free facility and 3 months' exit period are unique features of this plan, on behalf of the Ministry of DoNER. This is an added incentive in the form of a "Venture" fund for new entrepreneurs to provide relief from financial liabilities. This will not only boost employability and revenue in the region, but would also offer an incentive and thus attract youth from the other parts of the country to come and participate in the development of the North-Eastern States.

The status of following key projects/schemes initiated for connectivity across the NER in terms of roads, railways, aviation and waterways are as under:

Roads

A. Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North East (SARDP-NE)

The Special Accelerated Road

Development Programme for the North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) is aimed at developing road connectivity between remote areas in the North-Eastern region with state capitals and district headquarters – a three phase project facilitating connectivity of 88 district headquarters in the North-Eastern states to the nearest national highways. This is by far, the most ambitious road development programme for the NER. NHAI, state PWDs and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are the implementing agencies. The objectives are as follows:

- Upgrade National Highways connecting state capitals to two/four-lane;
- To provide connectivity of all 88 district headquarter towns of the NER by at least two-lane road;
- Provide road connectivity to backward and remote areas of the NER;
- Improve roads of strategic importance in the border area and;
- Improve connectivity to neighbouring countries.

This programme has been envisaged to be taken up under three parts as under:

1. Phase 'A' of SARDP-NE approved by the Government envisages improvement of about 4,099 km length of roads (2,041 km of NH and 2,058 km of State roads). Till August 2015, 2,989 km of length has been sanctioned and 1,565 km of road has been completed. The SARDP-NE Phase 'A' is expected to be completed by March, 2017.
2. Phase 'B' of SARDP-NE, covers 3,723 km (1,285 km NHs and 2,438 km of State roads) of road. Phase 'B' SARDP-NE shall be taken up after completion of Phase 'A', which is targeted for completion by March 2017.
3. The Arunachal Pradesh Package for Road & Highways involving development of about 2,319 km length of road (1,472 km of NHs

& 847 km of State/General Staff/ Strategic Roads) has also been approved by the Government. Projects on 776 kms are to be taken up on BOT (Annuity) mode and the remaining are to be developed on item rate contract basis. Till August 2015, 1552 km of length had been sanctioned and 230 kms of road has been completed. The entire Arunachal Pradesh Package is targeted for completion by March, 2018.

B. East West Corridor

Apart from SARDP-NE, the NHAI is implementing the four-laning of 670 km of the East West Corridor from Srirampur (Assam/West Bengal border) to Silchar in Assam, and the two-laning with paved shoulders from Jowai to Ratcherra (104 km) in Meghalaya under NHDP-III. The slow pace of work on East West Corridor project in Assam has been due to problems in land acquisition, utility shifting by local bodies, tree cutting, frequent bandhs, poor law and order condition, ROB clearance, inadequate deployment of manpower and machinery by contractor in certain cases, forest clearance, frequent restrictions imposed by local administration for collection of construction materials etc. The total length of East-West Corridor Project in Assam is about 670 km, out of which, 580 km has already been completed. The remaining length of East-West Corridor will be completed by December, 2016.

Railways

The rail network (as on 1 April 2012) in the NER comprises 2,661 km out of which 1,601 km (60 per cent) are on Broad Gauge (all due to gauge conversion). Once the gauge conversion projects on hand gets completed, only 20 km of metre gauge will remain as a rump, reminiscent of an era gone by.

Rail tourism is on the anvil, with emphasis on the introduction of eco-tourism and education tourism in the North-Eastern states, the identification of special pilgrim circuits such as the

Devi Circuit, the Jyotirling Circuit, the Jain Circuit, the Christian Circuit, the Sufi Circuit, the Sikh Circuit, the Buddhist Circuit and the Temple Circuit. Specially packaged trains for these circuits have been proposed and private participation will be encouraged.

Master Plan for development of railway infrastructure in the North-Eastern States includes connectivity to all State capitals, uni-gauge broad-gauge network in the region, augmentation of network capacity for handling growth of traffic in future, expansion of network to unconnected areas of the region,

The NER currently has 12 operational airports and the same number of non-operational airports. Efforts are being made at various levels to improve air penetration in the region. North Eastern Council, Shillong, provided Viability Gap Funding to Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India, from 2002 to 2011 to operate ATR-42 aircrafts in the NER to increase intra-NER connectivity, particularly to those stations where commercial services are inadequate.

strengthening international borders and improving trade and connectivity with neighbouring countries.

On 11th August 2014, Meghalaya got its rail connectivity with the completion of the Duhnoi-Mendipathar lines. Three more lines into the region will be completed this year. Southern Assam will soon be brought under the broad gauge network with the start of the longest ever Gauge conversion project between Lumding and Silchar measuring 210 kms.

Twenty major infrastructural projects for New Line, Doubling and Gauge Conversion are sanctioned and ongoing in North-Eastern states. These include 10 National Projects. Together

these major projects cover a length of 2919 km. at a cost of Rs. 38310 crore. The Railways hope to reach all state capitals in the North-East by March 2020.

Aviation

The NER currently has 12 operational airports and the same number of non-operational airports. Efforts are being made at various levels to improve air penetration in the region. North Eastern Council, Shillong, provided Viability Gap Funding to Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India, from 2002 to 2011 to operate ATR-42 aircrafts in the NER to increase intra-NER connectivity, particularly to those stations where commercial services are inadequate. At present, Tezpur, Dimapur and Leelabari only have services of Air India/ Alliance Air. The funding has now been discontinued by North Eastern Council. The NEC has, in August 2013, offered viability gap funding for renewing services to these airports, along with Barapani.

The Government has recently cleared a policy aimed at creating international and regional aviation hubs in the country. It has also approved the constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation, for suggesting various measures to overcome the bottlenecks in the development of aviation hubs at various airports in India.

The new policy not only focuses on developing global hubs in India, but also on establishing domestic regional hubs to cater to the growing air traffic from non-metro destinations in remote areas, including the North East. The government is according high priority to provide air connectivity to remote, difficult and interior areas of the country, and focusing on building and modernising airports in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

Inland Waterways

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has a mandate to develop National Waterways

including National Waterways-2 (River Brahmaputra) from Bangladesh Border (near Dhubri) to Sadiya for the purpose of inland water transport and development of Barak River from Lakhimpur to Bhanga (121 km) as a National Waterway. A number of infrastructure developments have been proposed to expand the inland waterway network linked to NW-2 and improve port facilities. Such initiatives would enable the further development of several cargo routes and ferry service routes along NW-2.

There is also a range of other waterways besides NW-2 that are to be developed and contribute to the economic growth of the North-east and promote Indo-Myanmar cross border trade.

Indo-Bangladesh Protocol: Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit & Trade routes (1700 km) connects NW-1 (Ganga) with NW-2 (Brahmaputra) and proposed NW-6 (Barak). The development of this route would increase options for goods movement to and from the North-

East and peninsular India through the Sundarbans and Bangladesh, improving the accessibility of the North Eastern Region.

Kaladan Multimodal Transport Project: The project, conceptualised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to provide alternative connectivity of Mizoram with Kolkata/Haldia ports through River Kaladan in Myanmar, envisages coastal shipping/ maritime shipping from Haldia to Sittwe, IWT from Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar, and thereafter by road from Paletwa to Mizoram. The project is piloted and funded by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) which appointed IWAI as the project development consultant (PDC). Construction of Sittwe port is in progress.

The focused approach to development, timely completion of projects with support and participation of skilled locals will not only bridge the development deficit, but will also help assuage the deep rooted feeling of alienation.

Readings

- India Transport Report: Moving India to 2032, (2014), Routledge, New Delhi.
- Working Group on Railways, Ministry of Railways, 2012, New Delhi.
- Working Group on Improvement and Development of Transport Infrastructure in the North East, for the National Transport Development Policy Committee, M/o DONER, New Delhi.
- The Economic Times, Various Issues.
- The Hindu, Various Issues.
- The Hindu Businessline, Various Issues.
- <http://morth.nic.in/>
- www.pib.nic.in
- <http://www.makeinindia.com>
- www.narendramodi.in
- <http://necouncil.gov.in/>
- <http://mdoner.gov.in/>
- www.mea.gov.in □

(E-mail: kd.krishnadev@gmail.com)

Subscribe **Employment News Online**

- » DIGITAL EDITION WITH SEARCH AND DOWNLOAD FACILITIES
- » PRINT EDITION

check it out www.en.eversion.in

Waterways in North East India

Vishwapati Trivedi



The Declaration of additional 19 waterways in the North East by the Ministry of Shipping will give a window to the Central Government to plan well and be able to use the rivers in an integrated manner for efficient transportation of goods and humans throughout the North East

The concept of using the waterways in India is not new. From the times of Akbar, waterways have been used for transporting men and material in the Yamuna and Ganga. Later, during the British rule, several waterways were developed in India and many rivers continued to be used as waterways. But after Independence, the emphasis grew on rail and road sector and as a result, the waterways transportation shrunk. In spite of approximately 14,500 kilometers of waterways available, hardly 4500 kilometers were declared as National Waterways till last year. Now, the Government has taken a very aggressive approach towards inland water transportation and declared 106 additional waterways as National Waterways, taking the number to 111 from the existing 5. Of this, 19 rivers are in the North Eastern India. (See Box 1.)

These newly declared National Waterways in the North East will definitely provide a viable alternative and additional support to the transportation logistics of this area.

The navigational potential of the waterways in the North East India is yet to be optimally tapped. The National Waterway 2 (NW2), which is

the 891 Kilometer long portion of the Brahmaputra river starting from Dhubri (near Bangla Desh border) to Sadiya, has always had a great potential, but there has been no comprehensive development of the mighty Brahmaputra as a waterway on which cargo and humans can move safely and regularly. The upper reaches of Brahmaputra near Passighat have a regular flow of traffic on the waterway, but limited by kind, capacity and number of the barges and boats available. The Army also uses the waterway in that section for transporting their vehicles across the river. The starting point of Waterway 2 at Dhubri was a port of some repute in the early parts of the century, but was not maintained. There is a big volume of fish and vegetables that moves in this area, both to cater to the internal demand and that from Bangladesh. (See Box 2.)

The Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route:

The planners, with all their good intentions, connected NW2 to NW1 (Hooghly/Ganges) over the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route, through Bangladesh. But the cross border issues, sailing through Bangladesh, lack of development of the waterway through Bangladesh, lack of availability of draft (technically called the Least Available Depth) throughout the length

The author is Chairman, National Shipping Board. He has held various secretary-level posts in the government. He was also the Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Airlines till it was merged with Air India. He has worked in the International Monetary Fund, Washington DC.

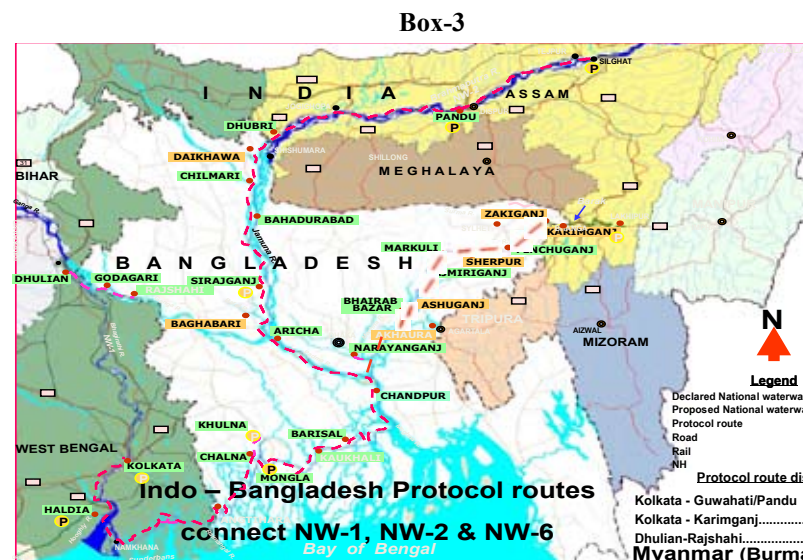
Box-1		
State	No. of rivers / canal	Name of the River / Canal
Arunachal Pradesh	1	Lohit
Assam	14	Aai, Barak, Beki, Dhansiri / Chathe, Dehing, Dikhu, Doyans, Gangadhar, Jinjiram, Kopili, Lohit, Puthimari, Subansiri and Tlwang (Dhaleswari)
Meghalaya	5	GANOL, JINJIRAM, KYNSHI, SIMSANG and UMNIGOT (DAWKI)
Mizoram	1	Tlwang (Dhaleswari)
Nagaland	1	Tizu - Zungki
	19	

Note: Lohit, Jinjiram and Tlwang are in more than one States of NE. Hence, 19 rivers in NE.

Note: Gangadhar is in Assam and West Bengal.

of the Protocol Route (in Bangladesh over the river Padma) prevented it from being a viable alternative. Infact, the transportation of wheat and rice in the Public Distribution System (that is for the Fair Price Shops/ Ration Shops) in the North East could (and should) be taken over the Protocol Route, saving millions of rupees in transportation and saving the congestion on roads. The Food Corporation of India, never took this initiative, or even if they did, never succeeded in using this cheaper mode of transportation to carry food-grains across to the North East. (See Box 3.)

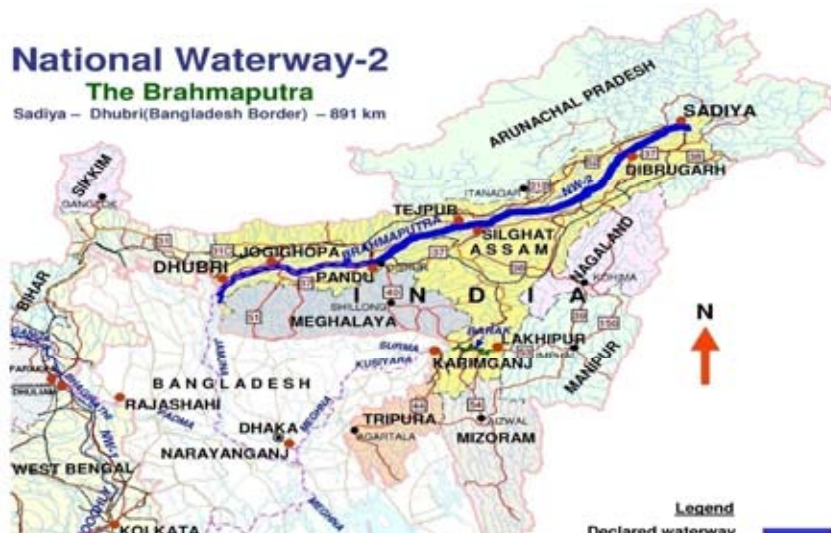
The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), has been planning and building infrastructure on the NW2, but has a long way to go. The jetty being



constructed with a railway siding at Pandu is ready, but there is not enough

cargo movement yet. The IWAI has almost completed a RoRo (Roll-on, Roll-off) jetty at Dhubri, but the jetty on the other bank at Hatsinghmari has some technical problems due to large scale erosion of the embankment.

Box-2



The other part of the transportation through the protocol route towards Karimganj and Ashuganj has remained embroiled in controversy on one account or the other.

The Declaration of additional 19 waterways in the North East by the Ministry of Shipping will give a window to the Central Government to plan well and be able to use the rivers in an integrated manner for efficient transportation of goods and humans throughout the North East.

(E-mail: (E-mail: drvtrivedi@gmail.com chmnsb-ship@nic.in)

Powering the North East: Challenges & Opportunities

K Ramanathan



All the states in the region except Sikkim are facing peaking and energy shortages much higher than the national average. This may appear paradoxical considering the fact that the region is bestowed with rich hydropower and other renewable energy (RE) resources, has high literacy rate and enjoys special category status for funding support. Sustainable development of the region's power sector merits special significance in this context

Avibrant power sector is crucial for the socio-economic development of a region in any part of the world. This is especially relevant in the case of North East Region, which is today lagging behind the rest of the country in terms of a number of socio-economic indicators like per-capita income, electricity consumption, industrialization etc. All the states in the region except Sikkim are facing peaking and energy shortages much higher than the national average. This may appear paradoxical considering the fact that the region is bestowed with rich hydropower and other renewable energy (RE) resources, has a high literacy rate and enjoys special category status for funding support. Sustainable development of the region's power sector merits special significance in this context. The country has also a lot to gain through this.

Ensuring energy sustainability is however not an easy task. A multi-pronged strategy based on a pragmatic appraisal of the opportunities and challenges is needed in this context. Some of the key areas to focus are accelerated development of exploitable

untapped energy resources, assessment of the patterns of demand growth within the region and export potential, expansion of the transmission and distribution (T&D) system and control facilities, efficiency improvements, policy and regulatory framework, governance structure and human resources development

Accelerated Development of Hydropower

90 per cent of the region's estimated hydropower of over 56000 MW is yet to be tapped. Sustainable development of this energy cannot only help meet a large part of the region's energy requirements, but also the green and flexible power needs of the rest of the country. These projects depending on design can also help to meet flood control and irrigation needs.

The challenges often experienced in developing hydropower are high capital cost, long gestation period, concerns of modification of hydrological regions, impact on aquatic habitats, public health and earthquake related damages, resettlement and rehabilitation issues, etc. Law and order concerns and riparian issues and factors such as non-availability of land records resulting in difficulties

The author is Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute, (TERI) New Delhi. Prior to that, he was Member (Power Systems) in the Central Electricity Authority. His work experience spanning over 45 years covers transmission system planning, grid operation, techno-economic appraisal of power projects, regulatory reforms, renewable energy, demand side management, smart grids, capacity building in power system and regulatory aspects, etc. He has co-authored three books including one on hydropower development in India. Presently he is also a Member of the Advisory Committees of CERC and DERC.

in clearly identifying project affected people, delays in obtaining clearances, poor road communication are also often leading to time and cost overruns of projects. Investor interests also get adversely impacted in the process. A recent study done by TERI for one of the project developers had shown fear on the part of local people of losing their culture and traditions, concerns of change from semi-monetized to monetized economy, etc. which are often very sensitive issues. Viability of projects designed on the basis of available hydrology data is also a concern in the context of the hydro-meteorological changes that are being observed as a result of climate change phenomena.

The above challenges are complex and socio-politically sensitive. The strategy in this regard should focus on (a) formulation of basin wise plans and coordinated implementation; b) comprehensive resource vulnerability mapping; (c) sustainability assessment of projects at all relevant stages by suitably adopting the International Hydropower Association's protocol to local needs; (d) transparent and professional environment impact assessment studies; (e) streamlining and expediting of clearances; and (f) adopting a proactive approach for engagement with public and civil society. Politically acceptable solutions to federal and riparian issues should also receive upfront attention.

Development of other RE resources

The other RE resources like small hydropower (SHP), biomass, solar etc. also hold forth prospects of improving power availability and access to remote households. It is estimated that the region still has over 1000 small hydro projects with a potential of 2200 MW yet to be tapped. There is also rich biomass potential, which if tapped pragmatically, could greatly help in rural electrification. Utilization of solar power also offers bright prospects. Master plans have already been prepared for 8 cities as part of the solar city development

program of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Agartala and Aizwal are being developed as pilot solar cities.

The main impediments in speedy development of these resources are remote locations of the projects and associated evacuation problems, lack of investor interest and business models for implementation. A comprehensive assessment of the exploitable resources and pragmatic evaluation of the energy needs of local people is considered necessary in this context. The projects may be designed as off-grid or grid connected depending on the geography, population density and varying power needs and proximity/ access to grid. Development of

...the region still has over 1000 small hydro projects with a potential of 2200 MW yet to be tapped. There is also rich biomass potential, which if tapped pragmatically, could greatly help in rural electrification. Utilization of solar power also offers bright prospects. Master plans have already been prepared for 8 cities as part of the solar city development program of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Agartala and Aizwal are being developed as pilot solar cities.

appropriate business models should also merit attention.

Transmission and T&D system

Evacuation of power from projects located in remote areas to the demand centers spread across and beyond the region would need massive expansion of the T&D system and large investments. It is also likely that utilization of the system is low in the initial years resulting in high upfront tariffs. Uncertainties in generation capacity addition, tough geographical terrain,

getting right of way and duration of working seasons are also factors to be reckoned with.

T&D planning should therefore give special emphasis to (a) long-term generation expansion plans; (b) pattern of demand growth and market evolution trends; (c) development of basin-wise development plans; (d) right-of-way constraints; (e) loss reduction (f) technology up-gradation including induction of smart grid technologies; and (g) scenario based analysis. It would also be necessary to take note of the grid augmentation requirements likely in the context of grid integration of large scale RE. Establishment of well-equipped system control centers also assumes importance in this context.

Efficiency Improvements

Improving efficiency in the demand-supply chain is key to optimal development and performance of any power system. The Electricity Act, Energy Conservation Act and the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency provide requisite legislative mandate and support towards this. There is considerable scope for efficiency improvements in the region and hence, this would be a priority area for action. Development of suitable business models and creation of public awareness would be important in this context.

Policy and Regulatory Support

Supportive policies and regulations and a good governance mechanism are pre-requisite for sustainable development and hence need special focus in the multi-pronged strategy. The policies should facilitate private and public participation, where needed. This can help in mobilizing finance and improving management efficiencies. Periodic policy and regulatory impact assessment studies are also important to understand how the end objectives are being realized and to carry out modifications where necessary.

Human Resources Development

Availability of adequate skilled manpower is another area to focus on. Capacity-building in diverse engineering fields, project management and regulation aspects should merit attention.

Conclusions

Sustainable development of the power sector of North eastern region

presents many opportunities as well as challenges. A multi-pronged strategy is required to address these. Some of the key areas to focus are accelerated development of hydropower and other renewable energy resources, large scale expansion of the T&D system keeping in view the market opportunities, efficiency improvements, creating conducive policy and regulatory framework and an efficient

governance mechanism and human resources development. Sustainable development of the region's power sector is also important from the point of view of improving the energy security of the country, achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets and providing support to large-scale grid integration of solar and wind power. □

(E-mail: kfnathan@teri.res.in)

Scheme for New Entrepreneurs

An Action Plan has been prepared for 22 sectors under 'Make in India' initiative to promote new entrepreneurs in the country. An Investor Facilitation Cell has been created in Invest India to assist and handhold investors. Further, a Startup Action Plan has been released by the Government to create a conducive environment for startups in India which includes:-

a. Simplification and Handholding: Simple Compliance Regime for startups based on Self-certification • Launch of Mobile app and Portal for compliance and information exchange • Startup India Hub to handhold startups during various phases of their development • Legal support and fast-tracking patent examination at reduced costs • Relaxed norms of public procurement for startups • Faster exit for startups.

b. Funding Support and Incentives • Providing funding support through a Fund of Funds with a corpus of Rupees 10,000 crore • Credit guarantee fund for startups • Tax exemption on capital gains invested in Fund of Funds • Tax exemption to startups for 3 years.

c. Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation • Organizing Startup Fests to showcase the culture.

ERUDITION IAS

Learning Simplified

GS ECONOMY

by

VIVEK SINGH (IIT + MBA)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COURSE

- Covers *Economic Development of GS Paper -III*
- Complete coverage of all the topics including *pre & mains*
- **Regular batches (morning & evening) commencing every month**
- 30 Sessions of 2½ hours each
- Weekly tests, discussions & feedback
- Personal attention and interaction with the students about their performance in the class

Office/Contact Address: A 10-11, Mezzanine Floor, Bhandari House (Near Chawla Restaurant)
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9, Mob.: **9899449709 | 9953037963**, Visit us at : www.eruditionias.com

YE-308/2015

Sixth Schedule: Catering to the Needs of the Tribal Community

Chintamani Rout



There is a need to train the members of the District Council and more participation and involvement of people is the need of the hour. It is important to note that a proper assessment and timely review to the whole system is required so that the purpose and objectives of the establishment of the Autonomous District Council can be meaningful and serve the interests and aspiration of the tribal people

Meghalaya was created as an Autonomous State on April 2, 1970 comprising the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District and the Garo Hills District. It gained the status of a full state on January 21, 1972. Local self-government is the foundation of Democracy. The Khasi Tribe had its own traditional socio-political institution which was deeply rooted in their society and today living. It can also be considered as traditional self-governing institutions. These institutions are still responsible for the day-to-day administration of the people. The concept of self-government in the Khasi Hills is centuries old, tribals were looking and managing their essential social affairs based on popular will and consent, freely expressed, for ages.

With the independence of India, the framers of the Indian Constitution recognized the need to protect the interests of the tribal people of North Eastern India, including their interest in the land and forest resources. This led to the framing of the sixth schedule which provided for the establishment of Autonomous District Councils.

Hence, in pursuance of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, the United Khasi-Jaintia Autonomous District Council was set up in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District which was later bifurcated into two autonomous district councils, namely the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) and the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC). The KHADC exercises jurisdiction over the Districts of East Khasi Hills, the West Khasi Hills and Ri Bhoi District. The Garo Hills District Council takes care of Garo region of the State of Meghalaya.

Paragraph 1 of the Sixth Schedule (Article 244 and 275) provides that the Governor may, by notification, create a new Autonomous District; diminish the area of any Autonomous District; unites two or more Autonomous Districts or parts thereof so as to form one Autonomous District; define the boundaries of any Autonomous District; and after the name of any Autonomous District subject to the recommendation of and the decision taken on the report of a commission appointed for the purpose. The Governor is the final authority for the abolition or modification of the administrative areas of the Autonomous District Councils.

The author is the Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Law, NEHU (North East Hill University), Shillong. He has more than 22 years of teaching experience and has attended, participated and presented papers in as many as sixty five National and International Seminars and Conferences. He was also the Chairman of the Board of Under Graduate Studies in Law and Chairman, Board of Professional Studies in Law. He is also a member of the School Board, Social Sciences and Academic Council of the University and the Chairman of the Board of Studies in Law.

Constitution of District Council and Regional Council

There shall be a District Council for each autonomous district consisting of not more than thirty members, of whom, not more than four persons shall be nominated by the Governor and the rest shall be elected on the basis of adult suffrage. There shall be a separate Regional Council for each area constituted an autonomous region under the schedule. Each District Council and each regional council shall be a body corporate by the name respectively of the District Council of (name of the District) and the Regional Council of (name of the Region), shall have perpetual succession and a common seal and shall by the said name sue and be sued. The Governor shall make rules for the first constitution of District Councils and Regional Councils in consultation with the existing tribal councils or other representative tribal organisations within the autonomous districts or regions concerned, and such rules shall provide for the composition of the District Councils and Regional Councils and the allocations of seats therein, the procedure and conduct of business in the District and Regional Councils and the appointment of officers and staff of the District and Regional Councils. The elected members of the District Council shall hold office for a term of five years from the date appointed for the first meeting of the Council after the general election to the Council, unless the District Council is sooner dissolved and a nominated member shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

Powers of the District Council and Regional Councils

The Regional Council for an autonomous region in respect of all areas within such region and the District Council for an autonomous district in respect of all areas within the district shall have the power to make laws with respect to the

allotment, occupation or use, or setting part of the land, other than any land which is a reserved forest for the purposes of agriculture or grazing, or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes or for any other purposes likely to promote the interest of the inhabitants of any village or town; the management of any forest not being a reserved forest; the use of any canal or water-course for the purpose of agriculture; the regulation of practice of jhum or other forms of shifting cultivation; the establishment of village or town committees or councils and their powers; any other matter relating to village or town administration, including village or town police

The District Council for an autonomous district may establish, construct, or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries roads, road transport and waterways in the district and may, with the previous approval of the Governor, make rules for the regulation and conduct thereof and, in particular, may prescribe the language and in manner in which primary education shall be imparted in the primary schools in the district.

and public health and sanitation, the appointment or succession of Chief or Headman, the inheritance of property, marriage and divorce and social customs.

Administration of Justice

The Regional Council for an autonomous region in respect of areas within such region and the District Councils for an autonomous region in respect of areas within the District other than those which are under the authority of the Regional Councils, if any, within the District may constitute village councils or courts for the trial of suits and cases between the parties

all of whom belong to Scheduled Tribes within such areas, other than suits and cases to which, the provisions of this schedule apply, to the exclusion of any court in the State, and may appoint suitable persons to be members of such village councils or presiding officers of such courts, and may also appoint such officers as may be necessary for the administration of the laws made under this schedule. The High Court shall have and exercise such jurisdiction over the suits and cases to which the provision of this schedule apply as the Governor may from time to time by order may specify.

The Regional Council or District Council as the case may be, may with the previous approval of the Governor make rules regulating- the constitution of village councils and courts and the powers to be exercised by them; the procedure to be followed by village councils, or courts in the trial of suits and cases and also in appeals and other proceedings; the enforcement of decisions and orders of such councils and courts; all other ancillary matters for the carrying out of the provisions under this sixth schedule.

Powers of District Council to Establish Primary Schools

The District Council for an autonomous district may establish, construct, or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries roads, road transport and waterways in the district and may, with the previous approval of the Governor, make rules for the regulation and conduct thereof and, in particular, may prescribe the language and in manner in which primary education shall be imparted in the primary schools in the district. The Governor may, with the consent of any District Council, entrust either conditionally or unconditionally to that council or to its officer's functions in relation to agriculture, animal husbandry, community projects, co-operative societies, social welfare, village

planning or any other matter to which the executive power of the state extends.

District and Regional Funds

Each autonomous district council shall have to constitute, a district fund for each autonomous region, a regional fund to which shall be credited all moneys receive respectively by the District Council for that district and the Regional Council for that region in the course of the administration of such district or region, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the constitutions. The Governor may make rules for the management of District Fund, or as the case may be, the Regional Fund and for the procedure to be followed in respect of payment of money in to the said fund, the withdrawal of moneys there from, the custody of money therein and any other matter connected with or ancillary to the matters aforesaid; The accounts of the District Council or as the case may be, the Regional Council shall be kept in such form as the Comptroller and Auditor general of India may with the approval of the President, prescribe; The Comptroller and Auditor-General shall cause the accounts of the District and Regional Councils to be audited in such manner as he may think fit, and the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General relating to such accounts shall be

submitted to the Governor who shall cause them to be laid before the Council.

Conclusion

The District Council in the true sense of the term is the instrument by which it fulfils the aspiration of the tribal people bringing all round development and welfare. The working of the District Council and Regional Council in the State Meghalaya is quite satisfactory and praiseworthy discharging its constitutional duty. It also needs to improve the working culture and electing qualified and efficient people to the council who really want to work for the upliftment of the tribal people. The District Council by virtue of Sixth Schedule can always make laws for the promotion of tribal community in respect of the subject matter, including land, forest, market, trade, custom and usage and it has full autonomy to legislate and administer on subjects like, land revenue, primary education, customary laws etc. There is a need to train the members of the District Council and more participation and involvement of people is the need of the hour. It is important to note that a proper assessment and timely review to the whole system is required so that the purpose and objectives of the establishment of

the Autonomous District Council can be meaningful and serve the interests and aspiration of the tribal people.

Readings

Aggarwal Adish C., Constitution of India, Amish Publications, New delhi, 2014

Hansaria, B.L., Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, Third Edition, Universl Law Publishing Company, New Delhi

Jyrwa, e.,The Khasi and Jaintia Hill District and Khasi States within the framework of the Sixth Schedule, Osmon Publications, New Delhi,1997

Gassa, L.S., The Autonomous District Councils Omsons Publicaton, New Delhi

Jain, M. P., Indian Constitutional Law, Lexis Nexis Butterworth, Wadhwa Publication, Nagpur

Shukla,V.N., Constitution of India, Eastern Book Co. Lucknow

Narwani, G.S., Tribal law in India, Rawat Publication, Jaipur, 2004

Statutory and other authority
Constitution of India

Report of the Steering Committee on Empowering the Scheduled Tribes for the Tenth Five year plan 92002-2007), planning Commission, Government of India (2001) □

(E-mail: drchintamanirout@gmail.com)

River Information System

The Government has launched a River Information System (RIS) between Haldia and Farakka stretch of the National Waterway-1 (NW-1). The system enhances swift electronic data transfer between mobile vessels and shore (Base stations) through advance and real-time exchange of information. RIS aims to streamline the exchange of information between waterway operators, regulators and users. This would facilitate inland navigation safety, improvement in efficiency of inland navigation, dissemination of information to vessels on the status of fairways, provision of virtual aids to navigation and guidance to the vessels and planning of the voyages. This project taken up by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), will start from NW-1 that is being implemented in three phases. The system on the entire stretch is likely to be operational by November 2016. RIS in NW-1 is expected to be beneficial to areas in the following States: 1 Phase-I: West Bengal & Jharkhand ; 2. Phase-II: Jharkhand & Bihar and 3.Phase-III: Bihar & Uttar Pradesh.

North East India: An Unexplored Paradise for World Tourism

Saurabh Kumar Dixit



...the north - eastern region has great potential for developing tourism not just as a self sustaining economic unit of India, but also capable of contributing to the success story of the country, which is reflected by the Prime Minister's focus on this region. However, the region has so far been constrained from achieving its full potential due to lack of infrastructure, lack of proper marketing and branding, travel permit procedures, scarcity of skilled manpower and absence of broad tourism policy for the entire region as a whole

North-East India is blessed by the nature and it lies at the centre of one of the world's richest bio-geographic areas. Tourism has the greatest potential for generating income and employment opportunities in north-east Indian states because NE India is not only featured by the blending of flora and fauna, but it is also exceptionally rich in bio-diversity resources. It is also the treasure house of various economic resources. It has a rich cultural and ethnic heritage that makes it a rich tourist-hotspot. The national parks and wildlife sanctuaries of north-east India attract tourists from all around the world. Further, tea tourism, rural tourism and golf tourism are other forms of tourist attractions in NE India.

Various factors including ethnic and linguistic divide led to the formation of eight separate States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. In many ways, north-east is very much unlike the rest of India. It is an area inhabited by a great number of tribes who speak a hundred different dialects and languages. In Arunachal Pradesh alone, over 50 distinct languages are spoken. The tribal people here have more similarity with those found

in Burma, Thailand and Laos. The infinite variety of its geographic setting, topography, varied flora and fauna and avian life, rare orchids and butterflies, brightly painted monasteries, challenging rivers, the history of ancient traditions and lifestyles, its festivals and crafts make it a wonderful holiday destination.

According to Tourism Ministry data, the flow of foreign tourists to the north-eastern states has been on an upward trend since 2011 and the growth rate in 2013 was more than double compared to 2012. A jump of 12.5 per cent was registered in foreign tourist visits (FTVs) to the north-east in 2012 as against 2011, which further rose by more than 100 per cent to register a growth of 27.9 per cent during 2013 in comparison to 2012, the data states. There were a total of 58,920 FTVs to the north-eastern states in 2011 with the figure going up to 66,302 in 2012. The number of foreign tourist visits to north-eastern States has increased from 66302 to 84820 in 2013 and further to 118552 in 2014. In Assam, there were 16,400 FTVs in 2011 and the number rose to 17,543 in 2012. The following year, 2013, saw the figure rise to 17,638. According to the data, Sikkim drew 31,698 FTVs in 2013 as against 26,489 in 2012. There were 23,602 FTVs in Sikkim in 2011.

The author is Associate Professor and Head, Department of Tourism and Hotel Management, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, and has got vast experience of working with a number of Indian Universities.

Traditional apparel of the indigenous population of North – East India



(Photograph: Dr. S. K. Dixit)

Due to its geographic position, the richness of natural resources and the increasing focus on engaging with the east, the region could become the new growth engine for the country. India's north east region (NER) is endowed with huge untapped natural resources and is acknowledged as the eastern gateway for the country's 'Act East Policy'. In order to get benefit from the cross border trade initiatives, tourism industry in the region need to have cooperation with the neighbouring countries. The region shares international borders with China in the north, Myanmar in the east, Bangladesh in the south west and Bhutan to the North West. While the inadequate land connectivity with the rest of India has been a hurdle, the region's long international border of more than 4,500 km in length can be a great advantage and has the potential to transform the region.

Picturesque Location of Cherrapunjee, Meghalaya



(Photograph: Dr. S. K. Dixit)

since 20th April 1974. Itanagar is situated at the foothills of Himalayas, and the perfect place for the tourists seeking unspoiled natural habitat.

Tawang is a town situated at an elevation of approximately 3,048 metres (10,000 ft) in the northwestern part of Arunachal Pradesh. **Tawang** is approximately 2,085-sq-kms bordered by Tibet in the North East, Bhutan in the Southwest and Sela ranges separate West Kameng district in the East India. **Shillong**, the capital city of Meghalaya is just 55 km from Mawsynram, the world's wettest place. It is often referred to as the '**Scotland of the East**' due to its striking similarity with the Scottish Highlands. The beautiful and historic places of tourist interest include Don Bosco Museum, Butterfly Museum, Botanical Garden, Shillong Peak, Umiam Lake and Ward's Lake.

The Exotic Flora and Fauna:

The north- eastern region of India acts as the transitional zone between the Indian, Indo-Malayan and Indo-Chinese biogeographic regions and is the geographical 'gateway' for much of India's flora and fauna. As a consequence, the area is one of the richest in biological values, high in endemism and holds a large number of rare species that are now under a serious threat. North-east India forms one of the major regions of tropical forests in India, especially the species-rich tropical rain forests. The tropical semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests in the lowlands of this region extend south and west into the subcontinent, and east into Southern China and Southeast Asia. The rich natural beauty, serenity and exotic flora and fauna of the area are invaluable resources for the development of eco-tourism. 13 major national parks and 30 wildlife sanctuaries are the treasure and heritage of the north - eastern India. Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve (Sikkim), Namdapha National Park (Arunachal Pradesh), Kaziranga & Manas National Park (Assam), Keibul Lamjao National Park (Manipur), Murlen National

Indigenous crops produced by the villagers



(Photograph: Dr. S. K. Dixit)

Park (Mizoram), Ntangki National Park (Nagaland) and Nokrek National Park (Meghalaya) are a few wildlife attractions visited by the tourists. Nowadays the state governments are educating the local population about the benefits of organic farming and organic products, which is contributing enormously in increased practice of organic farming and rural / ethnic tourism in the region.

Cultural Attractions: The unexplored heaven of India is well known for its distinct culture and traditional lifestyle. North east region offers a mixed culture of Hindu, Christianity, Muslim and Buddhism. Buddhist Culture occupies an important place and large number of ethnic groups as compared to other religions. Every tribal group of these states has its own distinctive tribal culture, tribal folk dance, fairs, festivals, food and crafts. Fair and Festivals are the integral part of tribes along with traditional dance and folk music. There are numbers of festivals celebrated by various tribes of different states throughout the year. Festival season is the best time to know the culture and traditional costumes of a paradise unexplored called North East India. The major festivals of northeast India are Bihu, Brahmputra Festival of Assam, Hornbill and Sekrenyi festival of Nagaland, Torgya Monastery Festival Arunachal Pradesh, Monolith and Behdienkhlam festival of Meghalaya, Chapchar Kut from Manipur, Ningol Chakouba Festival Manipur and

Kharchi Puja from Tripura.

Music and dance festivals like Hornbill National Rock Contest and folk music and tribal dance festivals are organized across the states. Tribes of North East India use some musical instruments like Tamak folk drum, flute, Khamb and Lambang which are made of bamboo. Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures (Shillong), Kamakhya Temple (Guwahati), Tripura Sundari Temple (South Tripura District), Monasteries of Sikkim, Lord Krishna Temple (Imphal), The Catholic Cathedral (Kohima) are prime cultural attractions of the region.

Cuisines: Cuisines of north - east India offers foods that reflect the culture and lifestyle of the region. Food culture of this part of the country is invariably different from rest of India because of the traditional

food habits of the ethnic tribal population. The delicious dishes of this region are not laced with oil or spices. The locally grown aromatic herbs make them more appealing. Lightness, ease of preparation and simplicity are the hallmarks of north-eastern food. Assamese, Manipuri, Tripuri, Naga, Arunanchali, Sikkim, Mizo and Meghalayan cuisine are broad categories of foods relished in north - eastern India. The staple foods of the states are rice along with dry fish, spicy meat, local herbs and lots of green vegetables. Chicken, Mutton, Duck, Pigeon, Dog are some most popular non-veg dishes from north east along with a variety of rice beer. The unique food items of the north - east India are Jadoh, Momos, Ki Kpu, Aakhol Gh or, Bai, Sawchair, Thukpa Tung-rymbai and pickled bamboo shoots.

Government Initiatives: Government of India is striving very hard to promote the tourism destinations of north - east India on the global map. For the development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has introduced two new schemes in 2014-15 "Swadesh Darshan for integrated development of Circuits around specific themes" and "PRASAD for National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive". They are Coastal Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, North East India Circuit,

Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures, Shillong Demonstrating the Cultural Chattels of Bhutan



(Photograph: Dr. S. K. Dixit)

Himalayan Circuit and Krishna Circuit identified under Swadesh Darshan Scheme initially. Seven more circuits viz. Desert Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wild Life Circuit and Rural Circuit have recently been identified under the scheme. Under PRASAD scheme 12 cities have been identified. Kamakhya in Assam features under PRASAD scheme. 10 per cent of the plan allocation of the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India is earmarked for North Eastern States. Of the funds allocated to the Ministry, funds earmarked and spent for North Eastern Region in the last three years are as under:

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Plan Allocation	1050	950	980
10 per cent earmarked for NE	105	95	98
Amount Released	145.93	113.72	149.16*
Percentage %	13.89	11.97	15.22*

*: Provisional

Source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Tourism

Therefore, the north - eastern region has great potential for developing tourism not just as a self sustaining economic unit of India, but also capable of contributing to the success story of the country, which is reflected by the Prime Minister's focus on this region. However, the region has so far been constrained from achieving its full potential due to lack of infrastructure, lack of proper marketing and branding, travel permit procedures, scarcity of skilled manpower and absence of broad tourism policy for the entire region as a whole. □

(E-mail: saurabh5sk@yahoo.com)

Online Initiative for LPG Distribution

Online services to LPG consumers are provided through www.Mylpg.in, which provides various services under single umbrella such as Web Booking with online payments, Online application for New LPG connections with only payments (Sahaj), Online facility for Double Bottle Connection Booking, Preferred time delivery, Online Portability, Locating nearest LPG distributor online on Google maps, Online request for Mechanic service, Information on 5 Kg Free Trade LPG (FTL), LPG connection for Piped-Natural-Gas consumers, Online Surrender Connection request, enrolment to "GiveItUp" subsidy, Rating of Distributors, Submission of Feedback/ Grievances and important contact information. Also, consumers are provided with Mobile applications for online transactions.

So far, more than 2 lakh LPG connections have been issued using on-line facility and approx. 10 lakh LPG consumers have booked refills by using this facility. Nearly 1.15 lakh consumers used on-line logging to voluntarily opt out of subsidy under 'GiveItUp' campaign. Valuable suggestions/ comments are welcomed and are considered for improving the customer oriented services.

www.afeias.com

Free IAS Preparation

Free guidance for IAS Exam by Dr. Vijay Agrawal on his website

Here you will find -

- Daily Audio Guidance
- Newspaper Analysis
- Exam related Articles
- AIR News
- Videos
- Knowledge Centre
- Important Newspaper Clippings
- Free Mock-Tests

Listen to Dr. Vijay Agrawal's Daily Lecture

Logon to: www.afeias.com

Dr. Vijay Agrawal's book

"How to Become an IAS"



A must read for all IAS aspirants

Available at all leading bookstores

A Storehouse of Ecosystem, Species and Genetic Variation

Arup Kumar Misra



The region, comprising of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, is in fact, a confluence of three major bio-geographical realms of the world, viz. Indo-Malayan, Indo-Chinese and Indian realms. The floral and faunal diversity of this region is internationally acclaimed due to the presence of all necessary climatic, edaphic and altitudinal variations. About 70 per cent of the Northeast comes under hills and mountains, while the rest 30 per cent falls under the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley systems, which together nurture an amazing biodiversity

Experts have classified the organic world according to richness of biodiversity of different countries or bio-geo-physical regions. In this list, there are 12 “Mega Diversity” countries, which together hold maximum species of flora and fauna of all hues at all levels. India is a prominent member of this group along with Brazil, Columbia, China, Mexico, South Africa, Russian Confederation, Indonesia, Venezuela, the USA, Ecuador and Australia. Needless to say, the topographical and climatic variations within India itself are so massive that India presents a great case study of global biodiversity. From snow-capped Himalayas to plains at sea level; from islands and tropical rainforests to hot deserts and alluvial plains, almost all types of features co-exist in the sub-continent.

In this kaleidoscopic scenario of India, the North-eastern Region assumes the most important status in terms of eco-system biodiversity. The region, comprising of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, is in fact, a confluence of three major bio-geographical realms of the world, viz. Indo-Malayan, Indo-

Chinese and Indian realms. The floral and faunal diversity of this region is internationally acclaimed due to the presence of all necessary climatic, edaphic and altitudinal variations. About 70 per cent of the Northeast comes under hills and mountains, while the rest 30 per cent falls under the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley systems, which together nurture an amazing biodiversity. An example of only the diversity of vertebrates of this Region is given below:

Biodiversity of the Brahmaputra Valley:

Being located in the transitional zone of Oriental and Asiatic zoogeographical realms, the Brahmaputra valley is characterized by tropical rainforests, deciduous forests, riverine grasslands, bamboo orchards and numerous wetlands. The Brahmaputra, geologically, the youngest among the major rivers in the world, travels 2880 km from its origin in the young Himalayan range flows through the Tibet and India and finally merges with the sea in Bangladesh. It is astonishingly wide at some areas, especially in Upper Assam near Dibrugarh the river is 16 km wide, whereas in lower Assam at Guwahati, the river is just 1.2 km wide. Brahmaputra which is mainly a glacier

The author is the Director of Assam Science Technology & Environment Council (ASTEC) and also Director of Assam Energy Development Agency (AEDA); both nodal agencies of Govt. of Assam. He has presented technical papers in a number of international conferences. He also has about 25 papers published in journals and presented in conferences in the country, besides over hundred articles in popular journals.

STATES	Mammalia	Aves	Reptilia	Amphibia	Fishes
Arunachal Pradesh	241	738	78	39	143
Assam	841	192	128	67	232
Manipur	69	586	19	14	141
Meghalaya	139	540	94	33	152
Mizoram	84	500	71	13	89
Nagaland	92	492	62	10	108
Sikkim	92	612	31	21	64
Tripura	54	341	32	20	129

(Source: The Vertebrates of Assam, 2015, published by Assam Science Technology & Environment Council and ENVIS Centre, Assam.)

fed river, has also the distinction of being the river with the highest sediment yield of 852.4 t/km²/y in the world and second highest water yield at delta, next only to Amazon.

The Brahmaputra valley is largely an alluvial plain with total estimated area of 56,33,900 sq. km. out of which, a large segment has been lost over the years due to deforestation in the upper catchment resulting in severe bank erosion. Nevertheless, the four distinct physiographic units, i.e. the northern foothills, the north & south plains, the floodplain and char areas (river beach), and the southern foothills present a rare picture of biodiversity and huge endemism. The best exhibition of Assam's floral and faunal diversity can be seen in its 5 National Parks at Kaziranga, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Orang, and Nameri. The first two are also UNESCO World Heritage Sites of this valley. Besides, the Wildlife Sanctuaries at Pobitora, Garampani, Gibbon, Burasaopri, Chakrashila, Sonai-Rupai, Bornodi, Laokhowa, Joydihing, Panidihing, etc. are famous for many exotic species and migratory birds. Kaziranga is the home of the rare one-horned Rhinoceros, besides Royal Bengal Tiger, a variety of deer, wild buffalo, kingfishers and other avifauna. Manas is a unique spot in India where many endangered species like Golden Langur, Pygmy Hog, Hoolock Gibbon, variety of Floricans, Parrotbills, Ibis, Egrets, Herons, Cormorants and Fishing Eagles are frequently sighted by the visitors. The Manas river separates India and Bhutan, where Gangetic Dolphins are still found. Nameri has gained international repute for having a flock of the world's last White-winged Wood Ducks. Likewise, every reserved area and uninhabited places of the valley contains some of the natural wonders.

Cormorants and Fishing Eagles are frequently sighted by the visitors. The Manas river separates India and

Manas is a unique spot in India where many endangered species like Golden Langur, Pygmy Hog, Hoolock Gibbon, variety of Floricans, Parrotbills, Ibis, Egrets, Herons, Cormorants and Fishing Eagles are frequently sighted by the visitors. The Manas river separates India and Bhutan, where Gangetic Dolphins are still found. Nameri has gained international repute for having a flock of the world's last White-winged Wood Ducks. Likewise, every reserved area and uninhabited places of the valley contains some of the natural wonders.

Bhutan, where Gangetic Dolphins are still found. Nameri has gained international repute for having a flock of the world's last White-winged Wood Ducks. Likewise, every reserved area and uninhabited places of the valley contains some of the natural wonders. Deepor Beel (a Ramsar site inside the city limits of Guwahati) is a paradise of migratory birds like white capped Redstars, Folktails, Cormorants, Ruddy Shelduck, Ibis etc.

Assam had very rich forests with huge timber and bamboo resources. But unplanned exploitation and insurgency in some pockets depleted these forests resulting in a blanket ban on cutting of trees by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in late Nineties. Hundreds of plywood industries came to a grinding halt affecting the economy of the State in last two decades. Still the valley is famous for Sal tree forests, rare orchids, rich bamboo varieties and fruiting as well as non-fruiting trees. *Nahar (Messua ferrea)*, *hollock (Terminatia hollock)*, *Sai (Shorea robusta)*, *Mekai (Shorea assamica)*, *Cham (Artocarpus chaplasha)*, *Bansom (Phoebe) Bakul (Minosopelengi)*, *Teak (Tactona grandis)*, *Silikha (Terminalia chebula)*, *Bhomora (Terminalia bellerica)*, *Arjuna (Terminalia arjunica)*, *Sonaru (Cassia alata)*, *Simalia (Salmolia malabarica)*, *Kadam (Kadamba)*, *Gamari (Gmellina Arborea)*, *Agar (Aquillaria agallocha)*, etc. are widely spread and abundant in Assam. Evergreen plants like Bamboo, Nahar, Bakul, Cham, Mango etc., and semi-evergreen Terminalia species together provide an evergreen canopy to the forests. On the contrary, the low-lying riverine belt of Brahmaputra is characterized by pure tall grasslands of Savanna type.

Biodiversity of the Barak Valley:

Barak valley, consisting of three administrative districts (Cachar,

Karimganj and Hailakandi) in the Southern part of Assam belongs to the Indo-Burma hotspot with rich biodiversity. Like the Brahmaputra valley, Barak is also of alluvial origin that supports wide variety of plants and animals, has many tea gardens like Brahmaputra valley and supports a luxuriant growth of vegetation. The total area of the valley is about 6962 sq. km. and it is characterized by lots of scattered isolated low hillocks (maximum height 100m) known as “tilas”. On the other hand, the middle part of the valley holds numerous swamps, beels and jhils, which are typical wetlands of the region. Like the main river Barak, its tributaries like Jiri, Madhura, Jatinga, Larang, Sonai, Rukni, Ghagra, Dhaleswari and Katakhal also nourishes the South Assam with a vibrant eco-diversity; most notably the ox-bow lakes present on both banks of Barak.

The land use land cover (LULC) area of Barak valley may be described as a rich mixture of evergreen forest, semi-evergreen forest, mixed moist deciduous forest, scrub forest, degraded forest, agricultural land and tea gardens. The valley has 14 Reserve Forests and 1 Wildlife Sanctuary known as Barail WS, although another sanctuary “Dhaleswari” is waiting for sanction. These jungles and hills are habitat to tiger, elephant, Malayan capped langur, hoolock gibbon etc. Growing population and human depredation have indeed taken a heavy toll on the flora and fauna of Barak valley. The famous Asian Elephant is almost extinct; while very less

population of once-abundant hoolock gibbon, Phayre’s leaf monkey, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, masked finfoot, etc. are remaining in these forests. Environmental problems with ecological disasters in Barak valley are no different from the Brahmaputra valley.

Biodiversity of Majuli Island:

Majuli was once the largest river island in the world with an area of 1250 sq. km. supporting a population of over 1.5 lakh. But increasing bankline erosion in the southern bank and expansion of channel bars on northern banks have created havoc to this seat of “Vaishnavism” in Assam with a rich heritage of culture dating back to the 16th Century A.D.. Today, we are left with only about 425 sq. km. area with elevation of the island varying from 60 to 85 m above MSL.

Three important rivers, viz. Kherkutia Suti (stream), the Subansiri in the north and the Brahmaputra in the south create a garland for Majuli, which in turn supports about 155 small and large Beels (wetlands) to break the monotony of flat relief. Majuli is a paradise of birdwatchers, with a rich diversity of storks, pelicans, cranes and whistling teals. The islands are having certain endemic fishes like *Badis badis*, *Chaca chaca*, *Ompok pabo*, *Channa barca*, *Tor tor*, *Chitala chitala*, etc. Besides these, 15 different medicinal fish species have been identified for treating various diseases among the Mising, Nepali, Deori, Kachari and Koch communities.

Rice ecology and geo-environment of Brahmaputra valley in the wetland soils of Majuli present a very unique picture in this region. More than 100 varieties of rice are cultivated here; almost all without any chemical fertilizers or pesticides. By itself, Majuli is an independent and distinct identity within the State of Assam, which attracts a lot of Indian and foreign tourists due to its remaining patches of biodiversity, like Alengi Chapori, Kamalabari Mising, Kamalabari Satra, Suniya Chapori Tunimukh village, etc. More than 250 species of bird has also been recorded in Majuli by the ornithologists. The most widely observed species are spot-billed pelican, lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, Bengal florican, white-backed and slender-billed vulture, Pallas’s fish-eagle, etc.

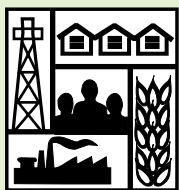
References:

“Tectonic controls on the morphodynamics of the Brahmaputra River System in the Upper Assam Valley”; Lahiri and Sinha; Geomorphology (2012)

www.biologydiscussion.com/essay/impact-of-floods-on-biodiversity-in-the-brahmaputra-valley/2111

Review of Biodiversity of North East, S. Chatterjee, A Saikia, P Dutta, D Ghosh, S Worah asmenvis.nic.in (Official website of ENVIS Assam Node at ASTEC) en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_of_Assam □

(E-mail: arupkmisra@gmail.com)



YOJANA

Forthcoming Issue

May
Differently Abled

Enabling Women to Exit Bride-Trade

Anis Ur Rahman Khan

Zahida, 40 is overcome with sorrow as she recalls with a sense of bitterness, how she was taken far away from her home in Assam, forced into a life of extreme humiliation and loss of dignity. “My own brother for a paltry sum of Rs. 2,000 married me off to Khursheed from a village in Haryana!” she laments.

There are hundreds of women driven by desperate circumstances who find themselves caught in a web of promised marriages in areas far from their own villages, mostly outside their state. The marriage however is only a cover up for an ugly truth –of bride trade or bride trafficking. The ‘marriage’ is nothing short of being ‘sold’ to a man for a sum of money, a transaction that often involves the immediate family members or relatives of the woman, as in Zahida’s case.

Bride trade is akin to trafficking for sex. Girls and women are ‘sourced’ as ‘brides’ from states including Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. They are then brought to Haryana, Punjab and other ‘destination’ states to be ‘married’ rather to be ‘sold’ as brides and then treated as a sex object, domestic worker and literally a slave.

According to Shafique ur Rahman Khan, Founder and Executive Director, Empower People, a Haryana-based NGO focusing on rescue of victims of bride trafficking and honour crimes against women, “Each time, a woman is ‘sold’ as a bride, she is required to fulfill all the duties of a ‘wife’ without being given either the rights

or the privileges of a married woman.” Says Khan, the majority of these women have no voice in household matters and are not allowed to attend festivals. Several women do not even figure on the Electoral Roll.

The organisation began its work in 2006, works not only with victims of trafficking but focuses equally on those who are vulnerable to being trafficked. The emphasis is on the creation of supportive networks and this has led to active engagement with religious/ethnic leaders, community members and other stakeholders.

A study conducted by Empower People in 2012-13 showed that amongst the women, trafficked majority (79 per cent) were from Muslim families. 17 per cent were from ST and 4 per cent from the SC community. The study also showed that even if a woman exits the network, she is liable to be trafficked again. 56 per cent women have been trafficked twice, 21 per cent women have been trafficked three times and 6 per cent women more than thrice. The team at Empower People, understood that there have to be safeguards to prevent a relapse into trafficking. A powerful safeguard is to secure their identity proof. Without this, they remain nameless, faceless and without any official identity and even if they have been rescued once



but once again find themselves in vulnerable circumstances that drag them back into the trade.

The organization stresses on establishing the identity of trafficked brides by registering them in the Electoral Roll or enabling them to get a ration card. Empower People facilitated the process of getting an identity proof. They gave her information on the legal aspects of her situation and then inducted her into a vocational training programme to enable to learn a skill, earn a living, and live a life of dignity.

Trafficking is a reflection of extreme vulnerability of women and girls, especially from marginalised communities and is indeed a horrifying aspect of an unequal society that treats women as ‘commodities’. By addressing the mammoth issue of trafficking in a small way, Empower People is enabling hundreds of women such as Zahida to find their way back from its grip to a more secure, safer, dignified existence that was their right in the first place.

Charkha Features