



‘Sustaining the Pursuit of UN SDG Goals in Post Covid-19 North East India’

**7th eNabling North East (enorth East)
North East India Regional Online Conference**

**Event Report
The 7th eNorth East Award Summit 2019-20**

June 20, 2020

**‘Sustaining the Pursuit
of UN SDG Goals in Post
Covid-19 North East India’**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainties, the 7th edition of the eNorth East Award (eNabling North East Award) was concluded on June 20, 2020. For the first time in the history of the award, since 2010, the award event was held virtually and online. Though the final event was scheduled in December 2019, but due to the then CAA unrest in Assam and other parts of North East India, the event had to be postponed, and it got further postponement due to the advent of the pandemic.

Nevertheless, as a resilient society and souls, we went ahead and collectively we made it happen, concluding the programme successfully. In the midst of stresses, little hopelessness, we all could contribute to hope and positivity while celebrating the good practices of sustainable development in the North Eastern Region of India.

The nomination process was opened in August and concluded in October 2019. We received 104 nominations of development projects across 12 categories in alignment with key UN SDG Goals. With participation from all States of the region, there were nominations from public, private, CSR, and academic institutions. After an internal screening of the received nominations, we shortlisted 45 projects for final presentations and entry into the selection process as winners and special mentions. Thus goes our sincere thanks and acknowledgement to all the distinguished nominees for believing in the value and objectivity of the award platform and joining us.

The honourable Jury did an incredible work despite COVID-19 throwing up gauntlets everywhere. The Grand Jury of 21 Jurors, representing academia, civil service, development and media sectors, assembled in 3 groups on 3 separate days in early June 2020 between June 9 -12, presiding over 10-12 presentations each day with assigned slots of categories. With individual and collective markings, the jury emerged with the final list of 11 winners and 12 Special Mentions as Runners Up. And the honourable jury deserves my and our collective thanks and acknowledgement for doing the most critical job for the award process.

The winners and special mentions diversity has been amazing, depicting an array of challenges, issues, solutions and innovations. Ranging from satellite based election management system for better governance of electoral process, managing e-waste enterprise, maintaining ecological and protecting biodiversity, strengthening livelihood through spices collectives to integrated approach to technology in education, the

list has been impeccable. Here, let us appreciate, congratulate, acknowledge and thank the winners and special mentions for their incredible work and efforts for now and coming days. The finalists who could not make it to the winning and special mention list deserves a special accolade for presenting their best works and innovations and indicating a transformational change in their interventions in coming days, worthy of greater appreciations and recognitions in this and other platforms.

Organising the award programme and having trusted support and cooperation from partners and well-wishers is a big thing. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), especially the North East India Regional Office, has been immensely supportive from day one and supported the award endeavour through this tough time. Here, we express our sincere thanks and acknowledgement for this unflinching support. The support of the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), ICCO India, READ India, and Association of Social Media Professionals (ASMP) has been tremendous and timely. As the main organiser, the North East Development Foundation (NEDF) has tried best to organise the programme.

The final award event on June 20, 2020 enlightened by the dedicated panel discussion on '**Sustaining the Pursuit of SDGs in Post COVID-19 North East India**', has been a great knowledge enhancer and sharer through the digital platform, discussing key issues and aspects of SDGs pertaining to the North East India region in a changed paradigm post COVID-19. The panel discussion, led by key eminent speakers and knowledge bearers, with key note from the Secretary, North Eastern Council, has brought out key areas threadbare that would require serious thinking, planning and action during this COVID-19 and in the aftermath. We want to express sincere gratitude and thanks to the speakers and the key note speaker for their invaluable presence and contribution.

Without a team work and support, nothing is possible. The dedicated and willing team at North East Development Foundation, Digital Empowerment Foundation deserves our special regards and thanks for their immense contribution from day one until the final event closure and delivery in all aspect.

With the conclusion of the 7th eNorth East Award (eNabling North East), 2019-2020 award programme, the way forward is to celebrate, work and pursue further innovations, solutions and remedies to deal with the multipronged challenges thrown open by the COVID-19. We must and need to find new ways and means to integrated digital technology, platforms and solutions in our approaches, works and efforts to mitigate these.

Each one of us carry a greater responsibility at our levels to find remedies to the vulnerabilities across communities, groups, sectors in life, livelihood, income generation, employment, business development, health, improving entitlements access and services delivery to provide succour to the needed ones. It is a collective challenge for us for the collective good to stay, and afloat together and overcome the challenge sooner than later. In this great crisis hour, we stand firm and tall with the authorities and agencies, donors, funders, media, frontline workers, civil society organisations and countless others who are working relentlessly to make the situation normal and habitable once again for our better future.

With this, I am very hopeful and positive that better days are ahead as tomorrow is another day. God willing, we will see brighter and happier days soon! We hope to again join together and organise and participate in the 8th edition of the eNorth East Award in 2021 in later half with reviving our memories, and with greater zeal and fervour.

From the organisers of the eNorth East Award, let me wish a safe, secured and happy life to each one of you and let us become more resilient.

With sincere thanks, regards and gratitude

Dr Syed Sultan Kazi
President
eNorth East Award
<http://enortheast.in/>
August 24, 2020
Guwahati, Assam

I. Introduction

Sustainable development is the global, national, regional, State, and local priority for all development stakeholders for decades now. Balancing and sustaining development investments and activities at community level has been more critical in 21st century, supported by the MDGs and now by the UN SDGs. Herein, the role of sustainable practices, innovations and examples are assuming critical importance as role models, for sharing, replicating, learning and knowledge purposes. It is here, the role of the eNorth East Award (eNabling North East Award) platform, promoted by the North East Development Foundation (NEDF) since 2010, has assumed significance in creating a North East India regional network and platform of sustainable development and digital practices for manifold purposes over the years.

II. About the eNorth East Award

The e-North East Award seeks to create an ecosystem of development and digital innovations and best practices in North East India by recognizing and celebrating practices that has contributed to desirable development and governance outcomes. The Award is given out in 15 key categories each year. For details Please visit <http://enortheast.in>. The Award platform has been launched in 2010 and since then has been aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

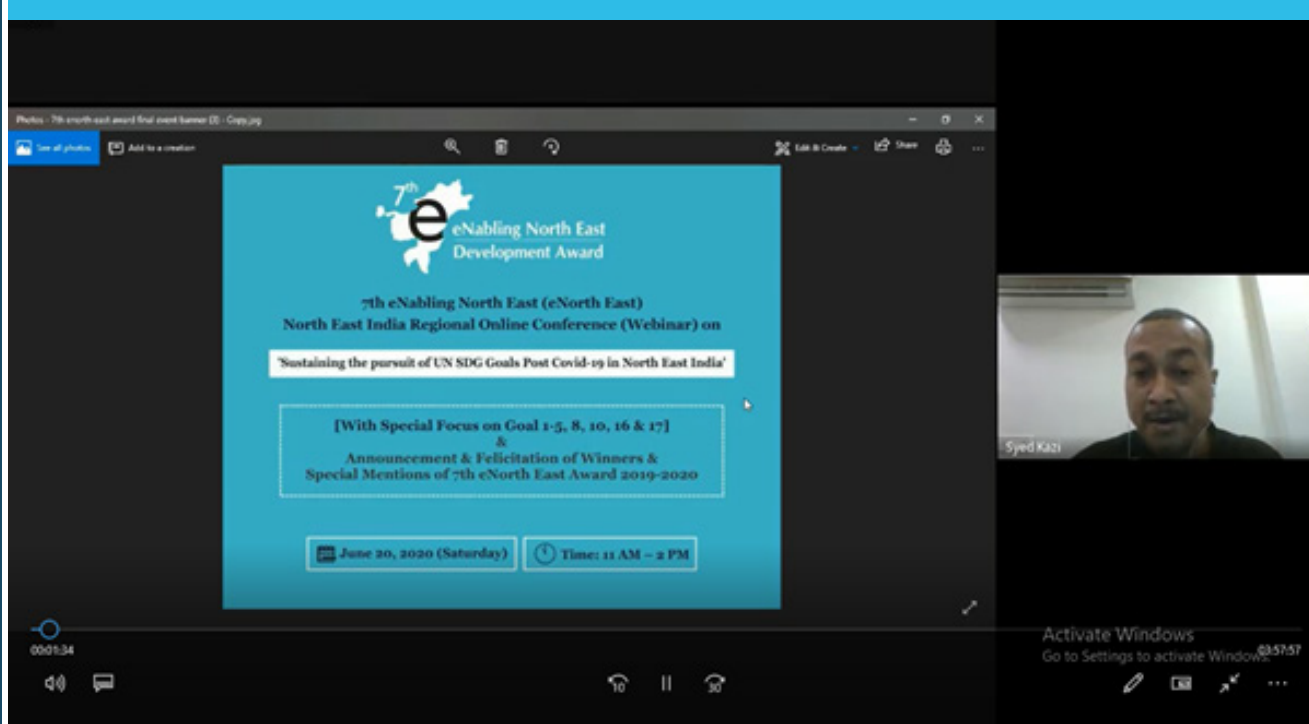
III. The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th edition of the eNorth East Award was launched in July 2019. The nomination process for applying for the award was opened in July 2019 and was open until September 2019. The Jury process to shortlist and select the winners and special mentions was planned in early November 2019 and the final award summit and event was planned in early December 2019 in Guwahati, Assam. However, due to social and political reasons, the final event was postponed until early 2020, but subsequently was postponed again due to sudden Covid-19. Finally, the jury process was concluded online and virtually during June 9 – 12, 2020 and the final event was concluded successfully on June 20, 2020 virtually.

IV. The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20 Plenary

With the theme of the event plenary ‘**Sustaining the Pursuit of UN SDG-Goal Post in Covid-19 North East India**’, the 7th edition of the eNorth East Award 2019-20 was concluded on June 20, 2020, as culmination of months of nomination process, and three days of virtual jury (due to Covid-19) for selecting the best sustainable development and digital practices of North East India. The final event (held virtually first time in the history of the programme due to Covid-19) declared 23 sustainable development projects (11 winners and 12 special mentions) of North East India as winners and special mentions (runners up) in as many as 12 categories including – Access to Public Schemes, citizen services and e-governance services; Agriculture & Rural Development; Biodiversity and Sustainable Development; Livelihood and Income Generation; Education and Learning; and Health and Sanitation. As a Chief Guest, **Mr. K. Moses Chalai, IAS, Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC)**, graced the occasion along with other dignitaries.

In his introduction, **Dr. Syed S. Kazi, President and Promoter, eNorth East Award**, highlighted the key aspects of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20 programme as held on June 20, 2020, virtually for the first time due to Covid-19 and lockdown limitations. The award event and the panel discussion are the culmination of 3 days of expert jury process of evaluating and selecting the best sustainable development practices in North East India for 2019-2020. The online jury with



21 jury experts witnessed 45 development practices presentations by the shortlisted finalists, culminated by the final event.

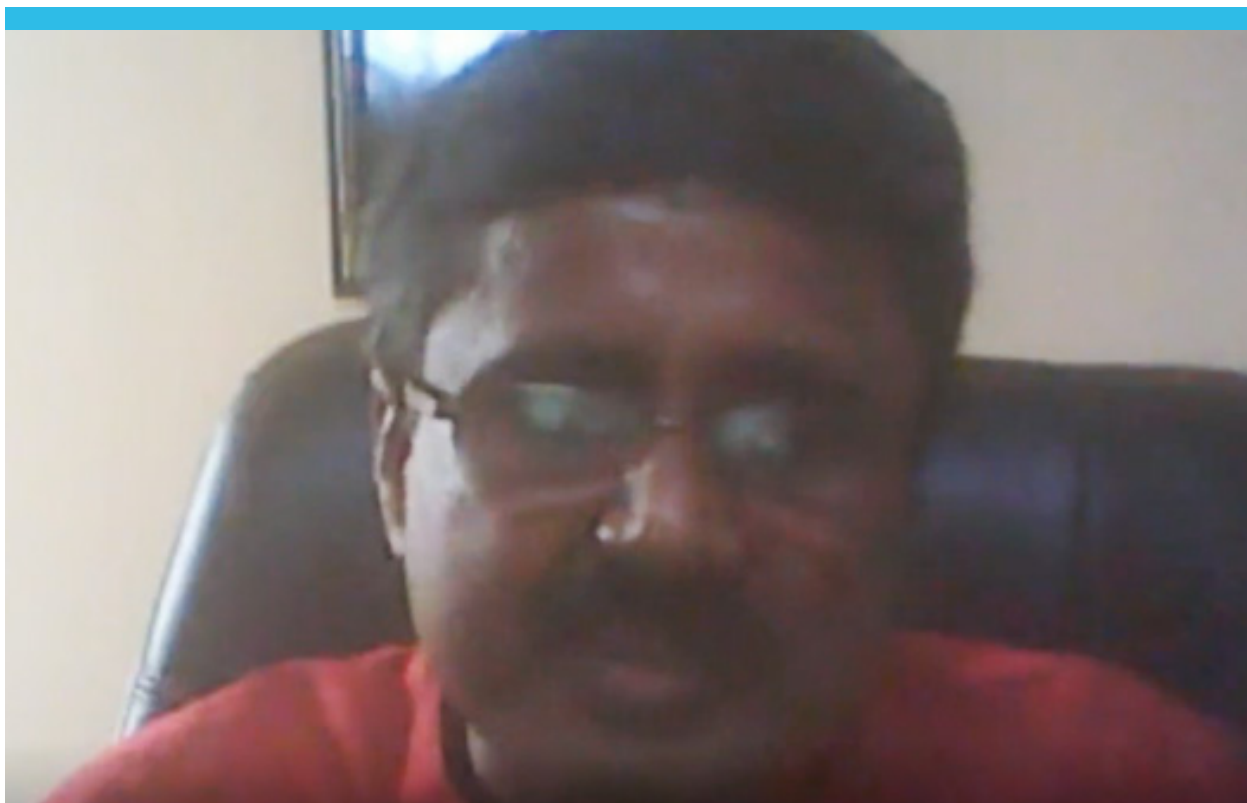
Regarding the plenary session, Dr Kazi pointed at the challenges and limitations that are facing and going to challenge development stakeholders, government, and services delivery agencies now and in Post-Covid-19 scenario. There are already weakening signs of institutions, services agencies, health, and public services delivery systems being exposed, access to critical government schemes and entitlements are affected; education, livelihood, income and social security affected for the vast majority of vulnerable groups and communities. There have already been mixed signs of underdevelopment as reflected in the NITI Ayog's SDG India Index and dashboard 2019-20, launched on December 30th, 2019. Except Sikkim as front runner state in the grade (65- 99), all other Seven States of North East are performer States in the category of ranking (50-64).

On specific goals, there are signs of worry and concerns regarding activities and programmes in the region. For instance, in Goal 1, 'No Poverty', related to access to social protection and safety nets, access to basic services, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur are still in aspirant category (0-49); in Goal 2, 'Zero Hunger', Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura are still aspirant states; in Goal 3, 'Good Health and Well Being', Assam and Nagaland are the aspirant states along with only Bihar and UP; in Goal 4, 'Quality Education', Assam and Nagaland are aspirant states along with 5 other states from India; in Goal 5, 'Gender Equality', all states of the North East Region including Sikkim are non-performers. In Goal 8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', Mizoram, Nagaland Manipur are aspirant States, ; in Goal 10, 'Reduced inequalities', Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh are still to improve; and in Goal 16, 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions', Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh are wanted in better performance.

According to Dr Kazi, it is critical to note that the NITI Forum for North East India, as constituted in February 2018, to identify various constraints in the way for accelerated, inclusive but sustainable economic growth in the North East Region and also to recommend suitable interventions for addressing the identified constraints, must and should take note of the gap areas as above and involve stakeholders in addressing the continuous underperforming areas of UN SDG Goals in the region. With Covid-19 experiences, stresses, challenges, the development priorities are certainly going to change now and in Post Covid-19 scenario. In this changing priority, compounded by natural calamities like flood, it shall be extremely critical as to how and in what ways and means, the North Eastern States finds mid and long-term solutions to these challenges of basic and fundamental needs. The need for social and development innovations will be more critical in the region as well as role of Civil Society Organisations as key front-line stakeholder keeping in mind traditional knowledge and best practices in the region. Health, education, livelihood, job and income generation and access and delivery of public schemes and social welfare benefits will be areas that will determine a sustainable future for the region.

‘Local Skills, Local Resources & Local Entrepreneurship will be key in North East India’ - Dr Nitya Nanda, Director, Council for Social Development, New Delhi

According to Dr Nanda, the two key areas of concern in the North East Region, at least in few States, are health and education. In some States, education has improved, and few States have also reasonably good health infrastructure going by indicators like number of beds per hospital. In States like Arunachal Pradesh, its issue of accessibility where number of beds per hospital may not be a good indicator. In States like Assam, there are concerns like beds per hospital which is as per national average at 0.5 beds per 1000 people.



Without health and education and women empowerment, we cannot think of development per se. These issues must be thought of and acted upon by the government and cannot be left to the private sector. The Government must invest in quality and sustainable infrastructure, spend money in teachers training and ensure quality of education and orientation of education. Most North Eastern States thinks of big-ticket investment thinking of bringing in big players, but that is not going to happen in relatively underdeveloped region or State. Small ticket investments and focus like small local entrepreneurship will instead work better. Once these small and underdeveloped States shows its capacity to handle and manage small and mid-level investments and promote local entrepreneurship reasonably well, ensure more purchasing power in people's hand, then only big ticket investment will come and

show interests. Let us not put cart before the horse. People must be given confidence, instead of big investor, bringing in small ones and providing opportunities and benefits to the people will be key and to address issues of migration. Based on local natural, mineral resources, investment and investors must be seen. For instance, Assam and the region has plenty of water resources but whether it is utilised to the optimum. Instead of importing fish from other States of India, Assam and the region should and could export fish to rest of India. It is important to involve local communities, local skills, and local resources through local entrepreneurship in such interventions to give a new direction post Covid-19. In a post Covid-19 scenario, it will be critical to focus on medium and small investment and industries, which are willing to invest in the region, and use local skills, training, resources for economic regeneration and gainful employment.



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‘Five Key Learning Lessons from Covid-19 to Build Back a Better North East India’ – Dr Shiladitya Chatterjee, Advisor at Government of Assam, Sustainable Development Goals Centre

According to Dr Chatterjee, Covid-19 has taught five key lessons as to the sustainable pursuit of UN SDGs. Among the lessons, the first is the need to ensure ‘social protection for all’ as part of UN SDG Goal 1 (No Poverty). Covid-19 has exposed massive vulnerabilities (more than 200 million migrant workers; very large daily wage earners; large numbers in informal employment) of a huge segment of Indian population who have no social security and protection cover. This also highlights that India and the States are not spending enough in social protection. The Share of India’s social protection expenditure is just (1.6 %) of GDP, less than countries like Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The second lesson is it has exposed the vital gaps in ensuring food security to millions in India. It has exposed an irony of no food and ration for millions of workers during Covid-19 whereas the country has ample food in its public granaries, and yet much of the poor do not have adequate access. With this is associated the perennial and universal challenge in



aaffordability of nutritious food while malnutrition in the general population especially children (one third are underweight) remains high. While the relief packages for the Covid-19 affected as announced should meet most families’ cereal requirements, their food needs go beyond cereals. The public distribution system (PDS) suffers from inadequacy of coverage especially in urban areas and lack of portability of ration cards making access by stranded migrants problemati-

cal. Thus, India and the North Eastern States must continue to find sustainable and lasting solutions for the above and do the necessary need correction.

Another lesson learnt is Covid-19 has exposed adverse health inadequacies and enormous gaps in health infrastructure and services delivery. India spends 0.91% of GDP in health, compared to Sri Lanka (1.62%) and lower than other OECD and East Asia and Pacific countries, whereas the WHO says countries must spend minimum 6% of GDP in health services. The concerns are the poor health indicators. There are 0.7 hospital beds per 1000 persons, as against 3.55 per 1000 in countries like Sri Lanka; Nurses, midwives at 1.37 per 1000; and Physicians at 0.74 per 1000 in India, which is much lower. What we lack is basic and running health facilities, health infrastructure, particularly health support staff, nurses, midwives. These imbalances must be addressed to ensure health for all and correct the inadequacies. The need is to prioritise health now and right away.

Reduce inequalities is another lesson from Covid-19, especially for migrant labourers and women (SDGs 5, 10). Covid-19 has starkly demonstrated the utter vulnerability of migrant labourers and daily wage earners and exposed gender inequalities more starkly. Large number of health workforce (nurses and auxiliary workers) are women who were exposed to Covid-19 but bravely tended to Covid-19 patients, women were forced to take on more housework and violence against women has increased. These are certainly worrying issues and needs addressing them at multi-levels.

Covid-19 has mirrored the vulnerabilities of our cities and how liveable they are. While building liveable cities for all including the poor is a priority (SDG Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities), the increasing slums and unsanitary conditions have caused the Covid-19 pandemic to grow and threatening city living. Slums in India constitute 24.24% which is a quarter of population. Going forward slums must be replaced with decent and affordable housing for all urban dwellers.

Overall, Covid-19 has highlighted the stark reality that there continues to be lack of preparedness in sustainable living and inclusion due to slow progress on SDGs which must be corrected as per NITI Aayog's SDG Baseline Report 2018 and second index report of 2019-2020. While most States in North East India overall falls in poor performing categories, the unpreparedness has made us all vulnerable due to Covid-19. It is, therefore, necessary to realise that achieving the SDGs at all cost is a living reality and necessity.

'Investing in Front line workers and fiscal efficacy of institutional services delivery is critical' - Dr. Monisha Behal, CEO, North East Network

According to Dr Behal, gender equality is an important aspect (UN SDG Goal 5), but its cuts across all major SDG goals like Goal, 1, 2, 3, 10 and others. There is insensitivity on the part of the government and corporate houses when it comes to investment on development and the way local resources, water, forest, biodiversity, and people are being treated and involved in the North East Region of India. What is seen is people are being left behind when such major initiatives take place. Lack of sensitivity for the forests, birds, people, is a huge gap in North East India. There is lack of focus and investment on frontline workers like the ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers and ANMs who are fighting the Covid-19 front the front in issues like compensation, salaries, their health precaution needs in a pandemic like Covid-19.



There are increasing issues of fiscal and institutional efficacy in the way shelter homes for women are being run, or the way health care services delivery are being delivered. The issue is seen in behavioural apathy versus positivity in the way human resources are being handled, dealt with in their needs and problems during Covid-19 or in any normal conditions. Thus, when we talk about achieving and sustaining the SDGs in North East India, it is all about how to reduce all forms,

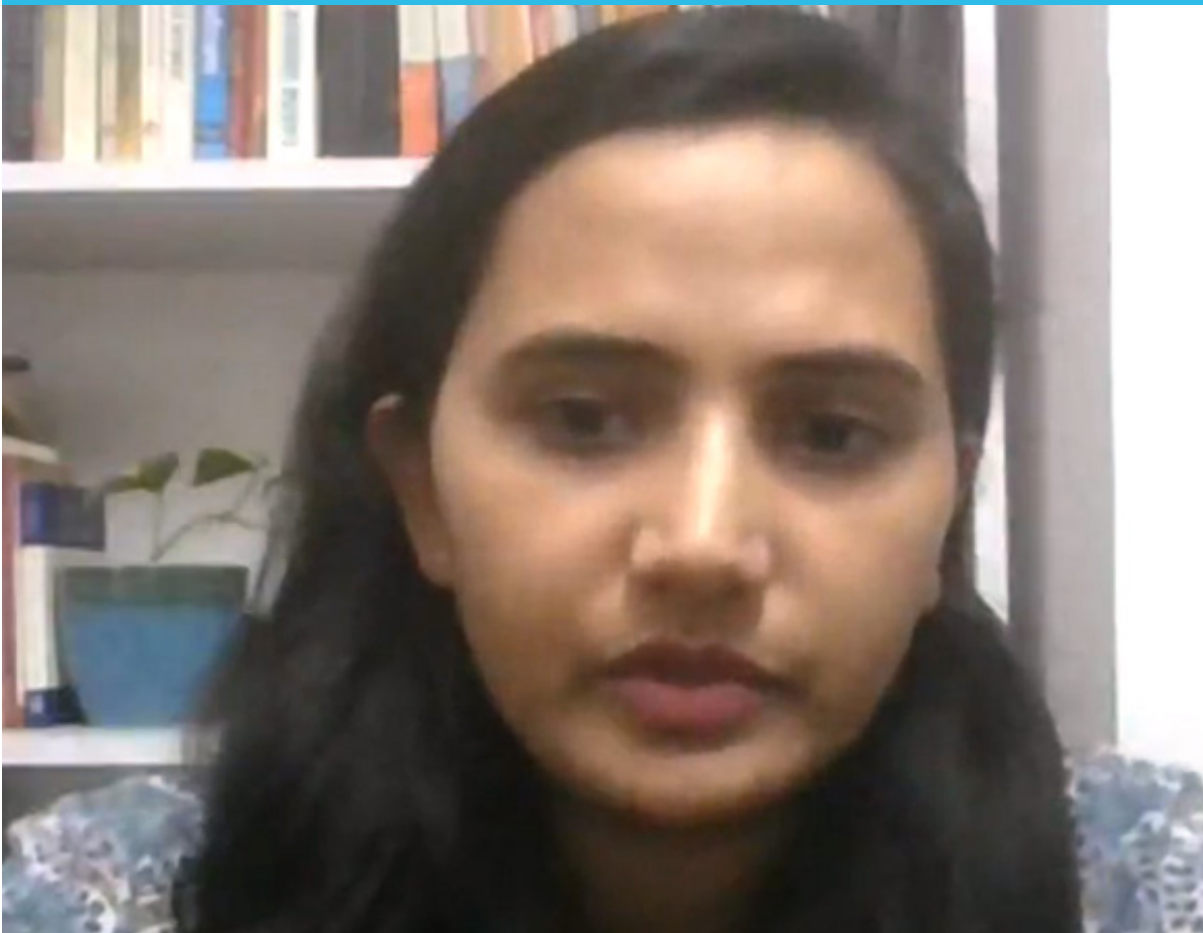
kinds and types of inequalities as above involving the communities, the poor and vulnerable. The issues or challenges of people or community being confrontationist or fighting the government should or must not arise wherein the communities want to associate the government and agencies to deal with problems. The government and corporates can better involve and engage the local communities with adequate and improved information and communication channels and dialogues.

Women / gender inequality is further compounded by overall social and economic inequalities and women continues to doubly suffer due to patriarchal systems and processes. It is all about managing effectively the local human resources. Corporate houses can play a better role in focusing developing the local human resources and enabling them to come out in their own in various skills and capacities instead of only focusing on investing in industries. The government must respond timely and positively with community-based organisations or civil society organisations to make things sustain on ground for mid and long term.



‘Integrating SDGs in all spheres of our thoughts and actions is critical to achieve the goals’ - Supriya Khound,
Project Officer, United Nations Development Programme

According to Ms. Khound, Covid-19 has suddenly changed the way organisations worked and responded to work and challenges. UNDP did a rapid survey with around 100 MSMEs in North East immediately after Covid-19 lockdown to gauge the challenges being faced in a pandemic time. Three key issues emerged – one, how to continue to do business in Covid-19 times: two, market linkages and three, understanding of government schemes. Based on these inputs, UNDP started focusing on design of support system, managerial and knowledge tools for the MSMEs that is simple, accessible, and available in all kinds of simple tools like mobile phones. Another issue that has emerged starkly is health issues and need for restructuring health facilities and services at the lowest level of health units in villages where people are facing severe hardships in dealing with health and other risks.



Then there is the incoming challenge of youths returning to Assam and North East due to Covid-19 and lockdown. The risks and challenges are in absorbing and engaging these returnee migrant youths in necessary skills, jobs, and employ-

ment for their gainful engagement, necessary to prevent any negative repercussion ahead. Public and private stakeholders need to work on this critical problem of unemployment. Covid-19 has also exposed the educational challenge of classes, sharing, online and offline issues. This needs a different way to deal with by involving the parents, local communities with unlearning old practices and adopt new ways and means.

Further, due to history of conflicts and strife in North East India, pursuing and achieving the objectives of UN SDG Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions) is extremely critical in order to achieve other SDG goals

Funding the SDG goals and targets have been a constant challenge from day one. While having requisite funding was an issue pre Covid-19, this has become further problematic and it is difficult to expect that governments will invest in priority on SDGs in this Covid-19 and post Covid-19 changing priorities and challenges. It is here that all agencies, public and private organisations, CSOs / NGOs, and others should come forward in integrating SDGs and goals in their respective organisational and programme visions, actions, priorities, and deliveries. UNDP has been completing a task of mapping of village level resources in Assam and it has integrated the SDGs into it for better actions and deliveries for and by the local communities. Overall, the pursuit of sustaining the SDGs can happen when SDGs moves beyond policy discussions, action plans and frameworks. It must move beyond discussion tables with localising the pursuit at community level. Post Covid-19, this approach must change instead of pursuing the pre Covid-19 frame of thoughts and approaches.

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‘Need for North Eastern Council to revisit and reinvent and position itself strategically as a trendsetter in the region’ - Mr K. Moses Chalai, IAS, Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC), Govt. of India

The world and societies are changing with the Covid-19 pandemic. It has impacted in all ways and even in how we engage, participate, and communicate through virtual meetings and networks. The North Eastern Council (NEC) holds an especially important role as a unique regional body unlike any other regions of the country. There have been key initiatives at the behest of NEC in close to past 50 years of its existence including unique institutions created in health, police academy, medical and research institutes, infrastructure, and livelihood programmes like NERCRMP. NEC has supported in creating more than 11000 km of road in North East, 6000 plus power lines set up and power generating agency like NEEPCO created. Now, there is need for NEC to revisit and reinvent to position strategically as a trendsetter in the region. The States in the region are doing well and gearing up to undertake major initiatives and NEC is strongly associated with many of these interventions.



The States in the region are at varying levels of development and growth. Now time has come to look at new ways of doing things and overcome traditional ways in development in terms of – technology, productivity, services delivery as things are changing fast forward elsewhere. In the last few decades, much has changed in technology and productivity. For exam-

ple, in the horticulture sector, due to infusion of new technology and productivity, high yielding seeds, products have been possible. However, we are continued to be challenged by general, still relatively lower productivity, smaller holdings, difficult challenges in hilly states, and therefore, the region has got many development challenges to address. We need to identify them and see how we can bring technology, innovations, and other ways of doing things, for development, better outcome and breakthroughs.

We need to see how we can be more realistic in our approach to development. One thing is marketing is a big issue. Our traditional aggregators, businesspersons are not farmers friendly or trade friendly and are found to be often exploitative. Many times, the strongholds of the aggregators are so tight that the farmers and communities are perpetually exploited or put at disadvantageous situations. We need to look at this, go beyond the old ones, and find new aggregators, and surely with new way of doing business and profit by taking all along and profits sharing.

When we talk of development, we miss out many nuances and those can pull down things. Transportation and movement of goods is improving but much needs to be done. One, in the infrastructure domain, there are many issues and problems not talked about in transportation of goods. Unless there is smooth goods and services movement, development cannot take place. Transportation of goods from Delhi to Guwahati is cheaper than Guwahati to Kohima or Imphal or Aizawl in the region. The reason for this escalating cost is the illegal collections by state and non-state actors and this is not usually talked about. States are trying to deal with this and minimise the adverse impact. There are issues like these, and we need to diagnose the issues and handle them realistically and correctly. These are unseen and unrecognised risks and challenges and if we overlook and these could be silently killing our efforts.

There is need to focus on rural development technology that is low cost, accessible, easily adaptable and managed by the users and communities. The North East Region has missed out the first, second and third industrial revolutions largely except for few developments in the region in personal computing, and the Internet—the digital revolution. But we can surely step in the fourth industrial revolution characterized by new technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, robotics, 3D printing, the Internet of Things, and advanced wireless technologies, among others. We have to put our heads together in this as we have educated, creative and innovative youths and overall, all the traditional big attempts to catch up with larger hard investments did not work out

much. At NEC, we must self-assess and see what we can do strategically without repeating things or reinventing the wheel again. As States in the region are gearing up on key efforts, NEC can play a great supporting role.

The region has scope to be a key player in regional cooperation at least with key countries around the region, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. While many States like Assam has been active in regional cooperation efforts, at NEC, the efforts have been through its plenary meet deliberations and coordinating with key ministries and departments like the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and the Ministry of Commerce. NEC at best is playing its role in facilitating regional cooperation with and through the States. Further, considering North East India having scope to be a hub of South East Asia, not much has moved on this front. There have been efforts in summits in countries like Thailand in Bangkok in 2018 with NEC support. There are issues in what is brought to the table of discussions in such platforms and how the North East delegation teams are prepared and equipped to deliberate and benefit from such exchanges. The recent business summit with Bangladesh in Guwahati in Assam is a positive sign with post-summit results tricking in movement of goods, business dealings and commerce.

The issue of intended benefits reaching or not reaching beneficiaries is a real one in the region. The NEC is aware and updated on this subject very closely. There is no doubt that the systems need continuous improvements to plug the gaps in processes and services delivery. Things are improving and improved in recent times and people within the system have taken strong measures in this and making things happen. In this, technology is playing accelerating role through programmes like PM Jan Dhan yojana, Aadhar linking, DBT and others which have strong checks, balances, and verification processes. Even in ministries like the Ministry of Women and Child Development, it is through technology assistance that solutions to deal with real time malnutrition related data, information, growth, monitoring is being captured today. There are agencies like the North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) in Umiam in Meghalaya that NEC has partnered with to monitor projects through satellite imageries and technology.

The region has scope and potential in small scale industries, but we also know the challenges. The BPO scheme did not work in the region due to major connectivity issues and hilly terrain. The scope for smaller industries, local market and local products must be focused heavily. Also, we need to see how the 5 G technology, Internet of Things, Machine Learning and other offerings of the fourth industrial revolution can

be tapped in the region.

The region is still dry in investments except for States like Sikkim which is doing well in few core industries like pharmaceuticals. Attracting investment in the region has been a tried and tested challenge. Even existing industries in the region are not ploughing back capital and thus any scope for capital regeneration is limited. Bankers are generally shy, and they are shyer in the region to give loans, credits for industrial or enterprise developments. Investment from within and without is limited and FDI is very low and negligible and states are struggling, jostling in ease of doing business and results are not happening. We need to improve ease of doing business. The digital space in North East cannot be overlooked or bypassed any longer and needs to be given priority for investment and development.



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‘Post Covid-19 the focus shall be on PPP mode on procurement and retailing of products through fresh outlets and thereby support sustainable livelihood and income generation’ - Manoj Das, Managing Director, the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC) & Head, Advisory and Consultancy and Business Facilitation Departments, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi)

The role of government agencies like North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) is critical in any crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic. To make it more relevant, the role of NERAMAC should not be processing of products and instead play more of a facilitating role in processing and marketing of products in a new mode of Public Private Partnership (PPP). There are many challenges being faced as the commodity market is controlled by big players who run on cash and quick decisions unlike in government agencies. Post Covid-19 the focus shall be on PPP mode on procurement and retailing of products through fresh outlets and thereby support sustainable livelihood and income generation of producers. The NERAMAC plans to start 100 NE Fresh outlets and work in 30 villages with the ‘One Village, One Product’ scheme in the North East and pitching the same with the State governments.



To have inclusive development, the focus must be from grass-roots level upward. While other experiments have failed due to lack of infrastructure, no market, no Mandis, little or few cold chains, no processing facilities as required, no sorting, no grading, most of the perishable resources including vegetables and fruits are enormously being wasted. The new ways of doing things must include adoption of new technology like solar dryer technology to preserve, store, dried and preserved for some time. There are ways to ensure frozen products through IQF freezing tech to increase self-life. The need for accredited lab, nuclear erudition centre set up where vegetables and fruits will have long life with increase in marginal profit are needed. The North Eastern Council (NEC) has been supportive and NERAMAC is working on sustainable development project including bee keeping towards sustainable livelihood through PPP mode instead of direct manufacturing, help locals in marketing local products, work on small manufacturers, aggregate and market under NERAMAC.

Marketing is lacking in the North East India and that is where our strength should be enhanced, help people or consult them for high value products, like water melon, black and green gram, high value rice production, jasmine rice, sticky rice, black, red rice and others. The region can work for import substitution of low-priced category fruits like dragon fruit imported from Thailand to cities like Kolkata, Delhi, but instead these can be grown in the region because of the agro-climatic conditions here. Fruits like Guava, papaya, exotic fruits from NE like rock fruit, elephant apple have potential in Indian markets and other countries. Land is the strength of the region and productivity can be increased through cash crops, high value fruits and medicinal plants through proper planning and engagement of the local communities.



7th

‘Need to shift power dynamics in the hands of the people in a Post Covid-19 scenario’ – Ritupon Gogoi, Executive Director, Foundation for Social Transformation, Guwahati

Covid-19 has exposed how ineffective is the current system is in dealing with the pandemic. The old model that we have been working or the old system that we believed in appears no longer effective. The current challenge is how to survive and thrive from the current crisis. To achieve the SDGs, the most important goal is the Goal No. 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This means any kind of meaningful partnerships in relation to technical, donor-donee, development aid, knowledge and such partnership is critical amongst the regional, national, local, global agencies regarding the North East Region of India. If the partnership is driven on equality, trust, and concept of good life then many things can be realised on ground.



The focus must be on rebuilding lives with a healing touch as the larger society is wounded, affected by scarcity, migration, apathy of the system, lack of adequate responses to the whole pandemic crisis. Alliances of development in a new changed environment can support meaningfully the development aid and system with focus on the local communities as first responder addressing their capacity, trust, their potential to resilience. To make the community resilient, what is required is to invest in building assets, capacities, and trust. Development organisations cannot work in a pre Covid-19 planning or design or thinking as dynamics have changed by now. The focus can be on building and strengthening the processes,

invest in resilience of the capacity of the people. In a specific case, real time and relevant data of returnee migrants can or could have helped authorities to act and execute better.

Another key aspect is people no longer wait or depend on the development organisations. At most the development agencies can be facilitator, enabler instead of being saviour to help in building local resources, capacities to face any pandemic crisis like Covid-19. In the medium and long term, the focus must be on investing on the systems and on the people. There are three key areas to concentrate – one, let people decide what they need instead of us deciding; two, let the top policy and programme decision makers come to the bottom communities, engage them and then decide best solutions as we cannot implement things that cannot give people hope and trust; three, the power dynamics have to change and shift to the people and the communities for sustainable solutions to their problems.

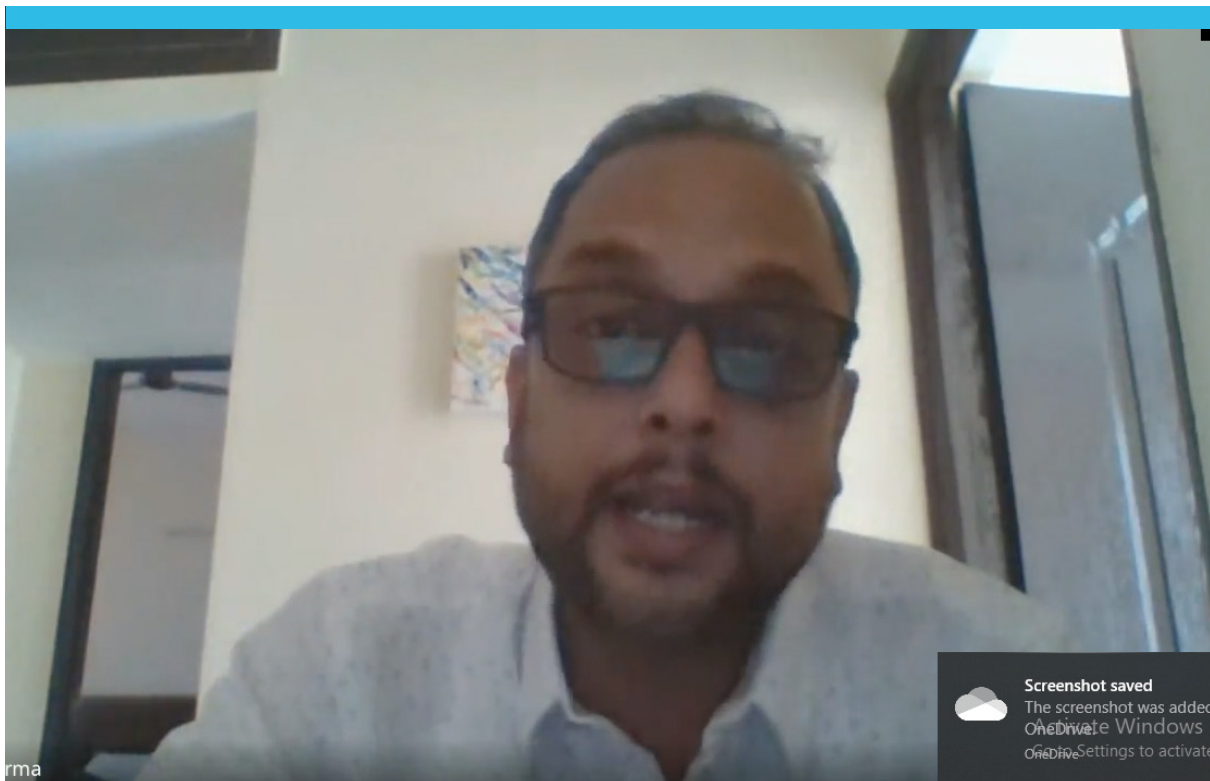


7th

‘Meaningful partnerships and communication important along with planning at local level’ - Raju Sharma,

Director-CSR, InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. (IndiGo)

Indigo CSR is focusing on four key areas – Children and Education, Women Empowerment, Culture and Heritage, and Environment. These remains the core pillars even after Covid-19 and we intend to carry forward in a changing situation. At the same time, we are re-working on plans, strategies, and revisiting few priorities. It is well understood that partnerships play a role between the government, private, CSR and CSOs/NGOs for inclusive development of communities. In this, having trust and working on a trust partnership is the key among the players. For this requires strong, meaningful communication on digital spaces, written and other spaces on various aspects including monitoring, evaluation, research, and networking. This shall all contribute to holistic development of the local communities involved, activities evaluated, outcomes, output realised by and for the communities.



Another important area is we must plan our programmes based on requirements at grassroots level. Decentralised planning involving villages, communities, women, PwDs, migrants and such other vulnerable groups is important to enable sustainable solutions to local issues. This must be corroborated with real time research and data inputs. Further, equity is more relevant today than equality in development planning and actions.

‘Addressing the unemployment challenge will be key with added returnee migrants in the Region’ - Dr. Otojit Kshetrimayum, Fellow & Coordinator, Centre for North East India, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India

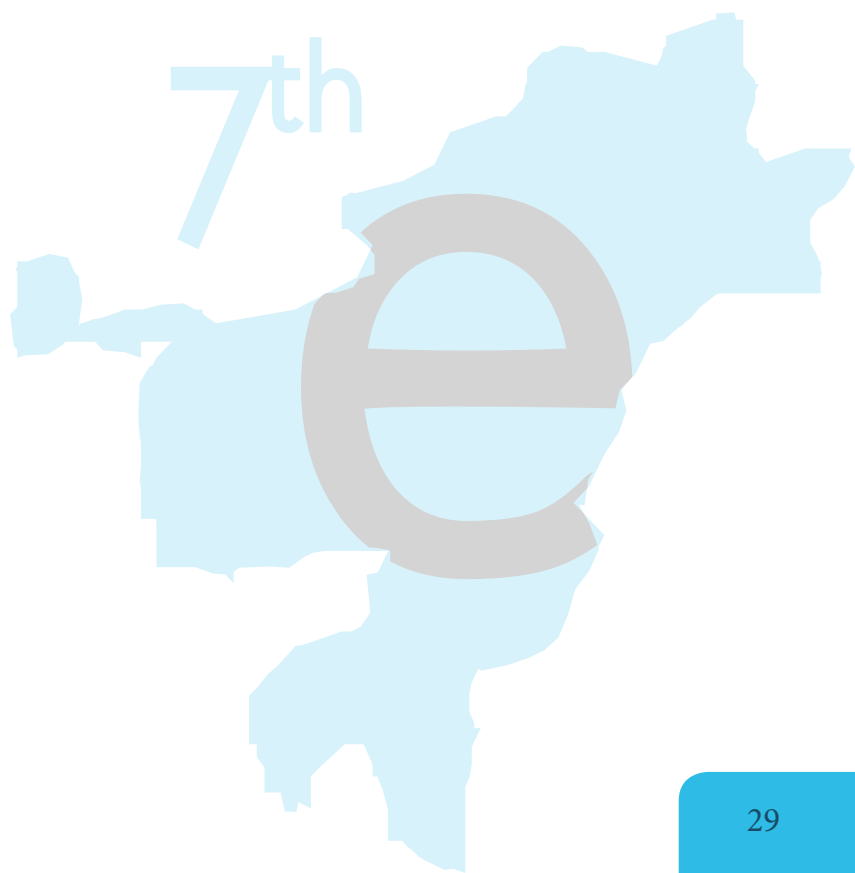
Post Covid-19 and its adverse social and economic impact, the focus must be on the UN SDG Goal 8 in the North East India Region that prioritises on decent work and economic growth. Stakeholders must come forward to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services. What is more critical is to protect labour rights and safeguard jobs and employment, lost due to Covid-19.



There are four key pillars around this goal requiring attention in a post Covid-19 - employment creation, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue. According to the NSSO survey 2011-2012 data, India has 474 million work force and

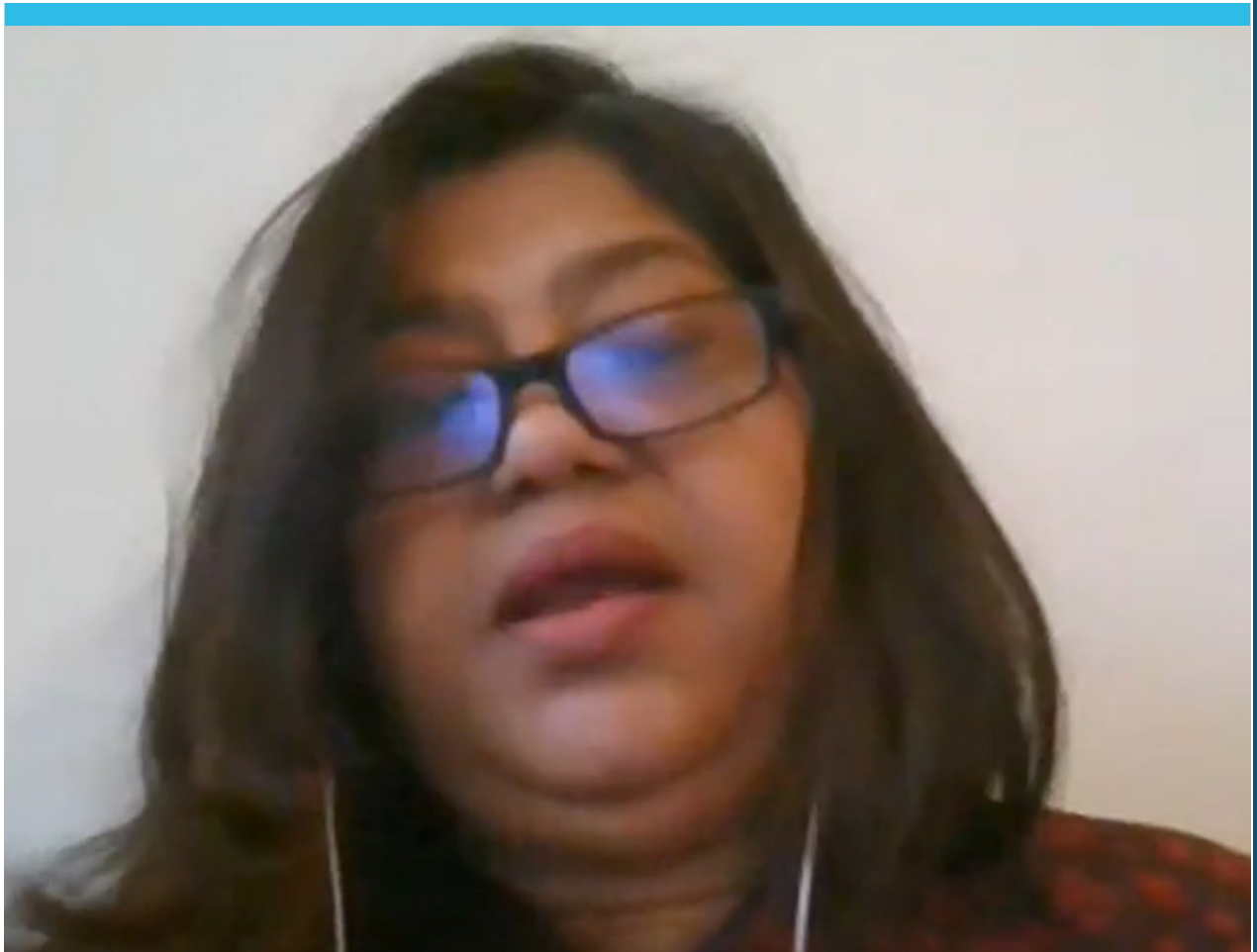
out of this less than 10% are in North East. In the region, the rising concern is declining employment growth generation in almost all states of the region. This has been compounded by the negative growth in agriculture employment though there has been slight growth in non-farm employment but not sufficient. Self-employment constitutes nearly two third of employment, which is not of major types but only at subsistence level instead of medium or big enterprises or industries. This has also led to debates and discussion on planning and policies around this with different sets of focus as every State in the region has its own employment dynamics.

With all these issues, reverse migration has added additional burden in the region now. The migrants from North East India to other cities have returned and added additional jobs and employment challenges in every States in the region, especially in States like Assam and Manipur. The returnee migrants, most of them unorganised, has called for their rehabilitation. The Central and State governments have taken measures in skill mapping and employment generation under various schemes of late. However, the biggest challenge in North East India is how the announcements and delivery are going to be taken up and delivered for the beneficiaries intended. With added unemployment overall, how this is going to provide relief to all. Another aspect is the new form of workers affected, i.e., the gig workers / platform workers, consultants, free lancers, part time workers, those working in projects, online workers and so on. While these set of workers also coming up in the region to provide benefits to all these, but they are out of any larger social security net and poses a new challenge for the government and stakeholders.



**‘The central goal towards SDGs is leave no one behind’ –
Dr Monica Banerjee, Director, Partnerships, ICCO India**

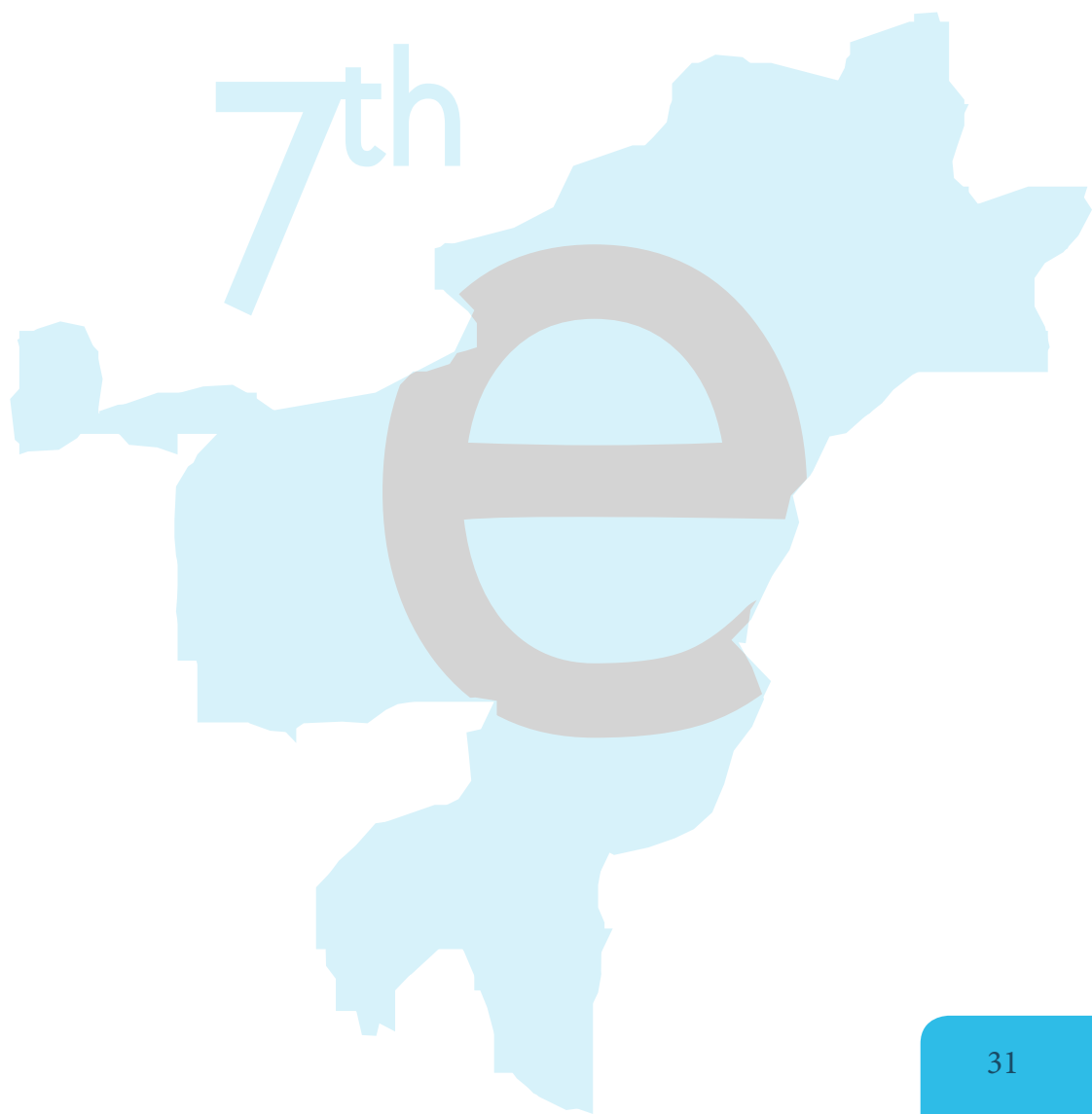
The main mantra of SDGs is and must be ‘leave no one behind’. Covid-19 has exposed development gaps on many frontiers including our priorities, preparedness and investment of resources and its return. It has exposed inadequacy of responses to the needy ones from all quarters including the very own middle class and laid bare inadequacy of systems, infrastructure leaving a crumbling story behind. After Covid-19, there is and should not be any illusion left as to how and why we are responding to the crisis as it ought to be. The fissures are out in the open in terms of what and how resilience is being talked, practiced, and followed. Despite the government and the NITI Ayog appreciating and accolading the role played by the NGOs and civil society during the Covid-19 pandemic, yet we have fallen inadequate, nevertheless.



We have reverse migration starting in all most all States of North East India and majorly in States like Assam. Youths from all parts of India have returned in large numbers. With the region predominantly still rural at more than 65% in-

involved in rural professions and activities, the uncertainties and pressures are multiple in joblessness, landless, daily wagers, low enterprise activities and incomes falling to negligible to minus due to Covid-19.

Now the singular SDG goal that assumes priority is Goal 8 with focus on decent work and economic growth. Here, local entrepreneurship building will matter be it farmers, youths, handloom, and other areas. At ICCO India, the focus during pre and Covid-19 has been building local entrepreneurship, mobilising farmers into enterprises, which otherwise has crumbled. ICCO India is focusing on 15 such entrepreneurship programmes in two districts of Bodoland areas Of Assam in agriculture and allied areas and handloom. Post Covid-19, we have to invest in such things, scale up, reaching out to households and build consortiums to reach out to households, enabling farmers sell produce, reviving small enterprises, link workers to MNGREA, other such schemes. No doubt, all these require humungous effort. It is here a collectivisation approach with inclusion can be critical wherein all gets attention and represented without leaving no one behind. The need of hour is restoring and rebuilding lives and livelihood.



V. The Winners of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20 as announced during the final event on June 20, 2020 declared 11 winners in 10 categories as good practices in sustainable development in North East India for the year 2019-20.

CATEGORY	NOMINATION NAME	ORGANISATION	PROJECT CITATION
ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHEMES, ENTITLEMENTS, CITIZEN & E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES	Election e-ATLAS	North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC)	Election ATLAS (e-ATLAS) for North Eastern Region by the North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) as a unique Governance GeoWeb Application for empowering planning and live monitoring of the electoral processes of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) offices in the North Eastern States. It is one of the advanced, unique and innovative ICT initiatives towards enhancing the accountability, transparency and efficiency of the electoral system in NE States.
AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	1917-Integrated Technology Enabled Agri Management System (1917iTEAMS) is a first of its kind Information Communication Technology (ICT) driven, cloud based innovative platform	1917 Integrated Technology Enabled Agri Management System (1917iTEAMS)	Project 1917iTEAMS developed by the Department of Agriculture, Meghalaya, in collaboration with the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE), Digital India Corporation (DIC), Meghalaya Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (MgSFAC), Department of IT, Central Agriculture University (CAU), and Department of Animal Husbandry is an unique disruptive farmer centric, market-oriented, ICT driven, cloud and local language IVRS based facilitation service that provides the farming community real time agro advisories, affordable logistics, linkages with markets and agricultural expertise through E-Government and Digital technologies like mobile telephony, the internet and mobile app ecosystem to provide multiple channels of communication and transaction for citizens and stakeholders.
BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	Strengthening governance and management of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Nagaland	Foundation for Ecological Security	For its work to strengthen the governance and management of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Nagaland partnering with Nagaland Empowerment of People through Economic Development (NEPED) and facilitating and assisting Community Conserved Areas as institutions to evolve long term conservation plans for better management of biodiversity and sustainable utilization of resources while ensuring the livelihood need of the community.
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & DISASTER MANAGEMENT	Binbag Recycling	Binbag Recycling Services Private Ltd	For blending societal needs in better management of electronic waste, business opportunities and serving environmental goals in e-Waste management; for attempting to accelerate the adoption of circular economy by converting electronic waste into useful resource through proper recycling and creating distributed, mini recycling plants.

A) LIVELIHOOD & INCOME GENERATION [MICRO LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION CATEGORY]	“Livelihood improvement of tribal communities from Assam- Meghalaya border areas through multiplication of spices”	InterGlobe Aviation Limited (“IndiGo”)	For its Project initiative titled ‘ Livelihood improvement of tribal communities from Assam-Meghalaya border areas through multiplication of spices’ covering 24 villages in two districts in Assam and Meghalaya with the objective of enhancing livelihood scope and earning through production of quality planting materials by setting up 5 central nurseries through organizing women farmers into producers’ collectives;
B) LIVELIHOOD & INCOME GENERATION [MACRO LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTION CATEGORY]	Integrated livelihood with agriculture and piggery in Nagaland	North East Initiative Development Agency (Nagaland)	For integrated and holistic community based sustainable livelihood intervention in agriculture and piggery in 3 districts of Nagaland covering 479 villages.
DECENT WORK, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYMENT GENERATION	Bio fertilizer, bio pesticides, Probiotics based enterprise for Livestock and Aquaculture inputs manufacturing cum marketing	Green Biotech Ecosolutions , Manipur	For demonstrating a unique blend of women led and bio resource based enterprise building in the Manipur State; for bringing out bio solutions for farming which will sustain the health of the soil and enrich its bio diversity, producing bio-products from the living microbes which are Eco-friendly in nature and leave no residue to the environment thus creating a very clean and healthy environment; contributing to outputs from the farm are rich in nutrients content and provide healthy lifestyles to the people.
QUALITY EDUCATION & LEARNING	Integrated Approach to Technology in Education (ITE)	Tata Trusts	For its comprehensive and bottom up ICT based impactful education and learning focusing on students and drop outs from poor and lower socio-economic groups admitted in government schools and Madarsas in Assam State; for its intervention in empowering Adolescents (class 5-9); Supporting and training government teachers to leverage state resources and build system capabilities for implementation at scale with focus on Life & Innovation Skills - in Critical Thinking , Communication, Creativity, and Collaboration; for its scaling up drive in other districts in collaboration with the State Education Department.
HEALTH, SANITATION & WELL BEING	Project “Bixudha Jol Asoni”	Assam Don Bosco University (ADBUI)	For its low cost solar powered clean water initiative in addressing arsenic and drinking water related health problems of local communities surrounding an academic university as a University Community Social Responsibility Drive; a good example of university for development of local community beyond academics through a company incubated within the campus.
SCIENCE & TECH	Decentralized Solar Energy Initiative	Centre for Microfinance & Livelihood (CML) An Initiative of Tata Trusts	For ensuring energy security through a decentralized solar initiative for communities living in remote areas of Manipur in a low-cost financing to the poor rural/urban households
PEASE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTION	Project Mukti: Freedom from Exploitation of Children and women from Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking in the state of Manipur	FXB India Suraksha	For its deeply involved, end to end approach in dealing with freedom from Exploitation of Children and women from Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking in the state of Manipur and beyond.

VI. The Special Mentions of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20 as announced during the final event on June 20, 2020 declared 12 Special Mentions as Runners Up in 9 categories as good practices in sustainable development in North East India for the year 2019-20.

SPECIAL MENTION (RUNNERS UP) OF 7TH ENORTH EAST AWARD 2019-2020				
Serial No.	Category	Nomination Name	Organisation	PROJECT CITATION
1.	ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHEMES, ENTITLEMENTS, CITIZEN & E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES	Digital Farmer Identity Card	Department of Agriculture, Meghalaya and National Informatics Centre, Meghalaya	For introducing digital farmer's id card issued by Department of Agriculture , Government of Meghalaya to facilitate the implementation of the "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)"; serving as a ONE STOP solution for all identification purposes as far as loan requirements of farmers are concerned; helping identify the farmers to avail schemes as per their crop grown or crop entitlement and helping the State Government to identify the beneficiaries for getting benefits in cash or in kind deliveries.
2.	AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	NABARD Tribal Development Plan Implementation in Mizoram State	North East India Development Agency (NEIDA)	For the Tribal Development Programme implemented by the Northeast Initiative Development Agency (an initiative of TATA TRUSTS)
3.	BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	Conservation of community forest land through Mithun rearing (Bos frontalis), the 'Cattle of the mountain' in Arunachal Pradesh	North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA)	For Conservation of Community Forests through Community Mithun Rearing" in Arunachal Pradesh and thereby conserving 600 hectares of community forest land, by banning of tree felling and poaching in the conserved areas, reducing incidence of epidemic diseases of Mithuns resulting less mortality and increase in income and all above with active involvement of community in maintenance of forest.
4.	ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & DISASTER MANAGEMENT	"GLOF Early Warning System"	Emerging Solutions and e-Governance (ES & eGov) Group	The Glacial Lake Information & Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Early Warning System by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) Pune as an unique system in India with GIS-based tools to create, analyse and manage glacial lake data, GLOF simulation model to estimate the damage & automatically sound early warning & a decision support tool to manage/mitigate the disaster in case of an impending crisis and the system being developed and deployed in the State of Sikkim

5.	LIVELIHOOD & IN-COME GENERATION [Micro Livelihood Intervention Category]	Star Cement Livelihood & Skill Building Programme in Assam and Meghalaya	STAR Cement, Assam	For its integrated livelihood and skill building programme in Assam and Meghalaya covering 10 villages through sustainable activities in bee keeping, eri cocoon production, keseru plantation, fishery, tailoring and spices cultivation with the vision of increasing secondary source of income by reducing migration of unemployed youths through use of available unused/ under used natural resource of the area.
		Malemnganbi Mushroom Farm	Malemnganbi Mushroom Farm, Manipur Naorem Mohen	For providing hope and employment for farmers, with special focus on rural women to earn and learn mushroom farming; facilitating more than 100 families through Mushroom Farm and providing free training, employment opportunities, and boosting women entrepreneurship skills in Mushroom business and enabling selling farm products in the market towards larger objective of spreading mushroom farming as home based jobs for rural women in other districts of Manipur.
	LIVELIHOOD & IN-COME GENERATION [Macro Livelihood Intervention Category]	DAY – National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	CML-TATA TRUSTS	For the collaborative programme on multi Theme Livelihood Initiative in Missing Autonomous Council (MAC) Areas of Assam covering 4 Districts, 82 Villages & 7400 Households with alternate Livelihood Generation through intervention in Agriculture, Handloom and Fishery in a convergent of stakeholders intervention involving public and private players in key areas of Fishing, Weaving and SRI based Improved Paddy in Agriculture
6.	DECENT WORK, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYMENT GENERATION	New generation digital integration of Artisans, Weavers, Designers, organic farmers and entrepreneurs of Northeast India.	Brahmaputra Fables	For addressing lack of accessibility, availability and affordability of crafts of Northeast India and contributing to the growing crafts market size through Touch 'n' feel e-commerce - Technology enabled kiosks wherein people can check out the products and place the order and get it delivered at their home.
7.	QUALITY EDUCATION & LEARNING	The Great India Talent Foundation	The Great India Talent Foundation	For its initiative in mainstreaming young children from the vulnerable Reang Tribe refugees in Tripura and integrating livelihood and income security in an integrated school education empowerment programme.
8.	HEALTH, SANITATION & WELL BEING	Tata Water Mission (TWM)	An initiative of Tata Trusts, in association with Drinkwell Technology and Gramya Vikash Mancha (GVM)	For its proof of concept initiative in addressing water arsenic problem in Brahmaputra Valley in a sustainable water filtration, processing, and delivery mechanism at community level.
9.	INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT	C-DOT Satellite Wi-Fi (C-Sat-Fi)	CDOT Bangalore	For its effort to provide digital connectivity through its C-Sat-fi technology towards connecting aspirational villages and enabling social impact in e-health and education and Governance services and piloting in State of Tripura.

VII. The Finalists of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20 recognised 14 projects as finalists for the year 2019-2020.

Serial No.	Category	Nomination Name	Organisation
1	ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHEMES, ENTITLEMENTS, CITIZEN & E-GOVERNANCE SERVICES	Certification of Handloom Weavers in North East	Textile Sector Skill Council (TSSC)
2	GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION	Gender, Reproductive Health and Life Skills Education for University Students: Broader Effects on Faculty, Academics, Policy and Community	Centre for Gender Equity and Diversity Education and Research (GENDER), Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU), Meghalaya
3	POVERTY & HUNGER REDUCTION	Public Distribution System in Tripura and Sikkim	Linkwell Telesystems Pvt. Limited (Visiontek)
4	LIVELIHOOD & INCOME GENERATION	PMKVY 2.0 (CSSM): Livelihood Skill Training: Creating Livelihood Opportunities through Skill Development	Academy of Skill Development and Educational Trust (ASDET), Tripura
5	LIVELIHOOD & INCOME GENERATION	Promotion of Alternate Livelihood Opportunities through AVA Creations Handloom Value Chain Initiative for the Forest Dependent Communities residing around the Deport Beel Wildlife Sanctuary and Rani Forest Range, Kamrup, Assam	AVA Foundation
6	LIVELIHOOD & INCOME GENERATION	Financial Inclusion and Banking Services at the Grassroots Level in North East India	Atyati Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
7	LIVELIHOOD & INCOME GENERATION	Promoting and Implementing Village Eco Tourism to address Unemployment amongst Youths in North East India	NorthEast Guide, Assam
8	INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT	SEVAMITRAA	SEVAMITRAA, Assam
9	MEDIA CAMPAIGN & DEVELOPMENT REPORTING	FAKEMAT	G PLUS Guwahati, Assam
10	QUALITY EDUCATION & LEARNING	Rural Education Programme in Kamrup Metro District, Assam	SRF Foundation
11	QUALITY EDUCATION & LEARNING	e-Pathsale	Children Castle Trust (CLT) India
12	HEALTH, SANITATION & WELL BEING	Barsimaluguri Project in Baksa District of Assam	India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)
13	HEALTH, SANITATION & WELL BEING	Quickobook.com	Qwkpro Consultancy Pvt Ltd
14	ART, CULTURE & HERITAGE	Planning, Design, Detailed Engineering and Construction of Boundary Walls, Toilets and Providing Access to Disabled Persons in the Centrally Protected Monuments Under ASI in Eastern, Central and Northern Regions in India	Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)

VIII. The Nominations of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The nominations process for the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20 was opened in July 2019 until September 2019. All total, there were 104 nominations / applications of development projects from across public, private, Civil Society and Academic institutions. The 104 nominations were reviewed by a screening committee and shortlisted 45 as finalists for jury presentation and selections.

IX. The Jury Process 2019-20

The Jury process has been two-fold:

- Internal screening committee to review, evaluate and shortlist nominations for jury presentation and selection
- The expert jury committee from different fields who reviews on spot presentations and evaluates on certain strong parameters – efficiency, innovation, sustainability, cost effectiveness, replication, and relevance.
- The Jury members evaluates on gradings and then on average of grades per project/category, the final selections are done.
- The Honourable Jury Members of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020 Jury members comprised of 20 leading experts from development sector, academia, and public sector.

X. The Honourable Jury Members of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020 Jury members comprised of 20 leading experts from development sector, academia, and public sector.



Dr. Jayanta Choudhury is presently working as Associate Professor, North Eastern Regional Centre, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. He serves as Associate Editor for International Journal of Rural Development & Management Studies (IJRDMS), New Delhi and TUI – A journal on Tribal Life and Culture, Government of Tripura. He has led various internationally funded development projects in India and Bangladesh.



Dr. Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay is the Director of Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and head of PRIA International Academy (PIA) – the academic wing of PRIA. Kaustuv has more than 25 years of professional experience with university, research institution and CSOs. He has extensive experience in citizen participation, social accountability and democratic governance in urban and rural contexts, capacity building of CSOs with emphasis on organisation development, participatory monitoring and evaluation, participatory training methodologies and participatory research.



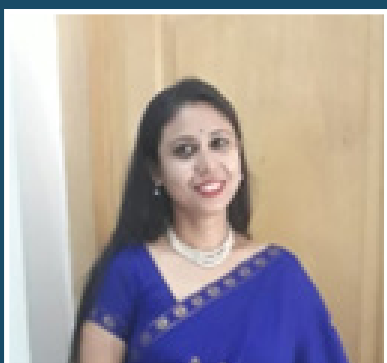
Prof. Polly Vauquiline is Head, Department of Women's Studies, Gauhati University. She has numerous publications to her credit and has been a key gender specialist and has served on various boards, committees on gender issues.



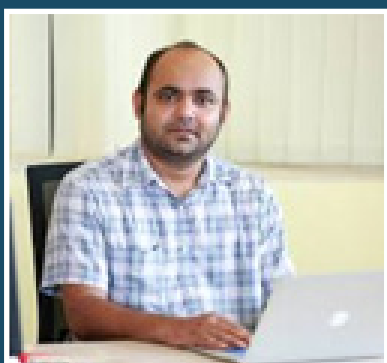
Mr. Manoj Das is currently serving as Managing Director of North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) and Head, Advisory and Consultancy and Business Facilitation Departments at the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (a Govt. of India Undertaking). Immediately prior to his current position, he served as the Director of Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Skill development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India.



Prof Dinabandhu Sahoo is Scientific Advisor to the Chief Minister of Meghalaya and serves currently at Department of Botany, Delhi University. He recently completed his successful stint as Director of Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) at Imphal, an autonomous body under Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India



Dr Papiya Dutta is currently working as Associate Professor in the Department of Rural Development, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya since 2012. Throughout her academic career she published 20+ research articles in both national and international journals. Contributed chapters in 2 books, edited 1 book and is the author too. She pursued her PhD from National Institute of Technology, Agartala after the successful completion with gold medal in Masters in Rural Management & Development from Tripura University.



Dr Rajdeep Singha is Assistant Professor and Chairperson - Centre for Labour Studies and Social Protection, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati campus



Dr. Otojit Kshetrimayum is a Sociologist and Development Professional with more than 13 years of evidence based policy research, impact evaluation, project management and monitoring, policy and programme design, teaching, training and capacity development He is a Ph. D. in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is currently working as Fellow (Faculty) and Coordinator of the Centre for North East India in V.V. Giri National Labour Institute under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India.



Dr Geeta Malhotra is Country Director of READ India. She has a strong engineering professional with a Masters in Population Studies from International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS) Mumbai focused in Social Science and Population Studies from Delhi University. She started her career with Population Foundation of India in 1981. She has been actively working in the development sector to implement a variety of programs in rural Asia, especially on women empowerment, health, youth development, farming, livelihood, and ICTs.



Dr Sriparna Bhuyan Baruah is serving as the Head, Centre for Industrial Extension, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship. Having represented NE India in various international forums and leading trade delegations globally Dr. S. B. Baruah has 25 Years of Work Experience in Small and Medium Enterprise Development with thrust on Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Promotion.

She is an expert in Management Education particularly in the fields of Human Resource Management. she is recognized as an accredited specialist trainer in entrepreneurship and motivation.



Prof. Kalyan Das is with OKD Institute of Social Change and Development, a development institute under Govt. of Assam and ICSSR collaboration in Guwahati. He obtained his PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University. His present research interests are industry, environment, labour market, and livelihood issues, and he is involved in several research projects on Northeast India.



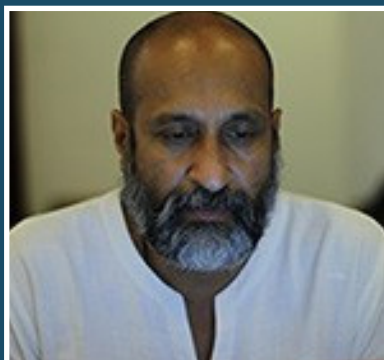
Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Pradhan is the Lead – Affirmative Action & CSR, at the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Prior to NSDC, Dr. Pradhan worked with TATA Power as Manager - Affirmative Action (Business Excellence)



Mr. Rajesh Verma has retired as Secretary, Information Technology after serving the Government of Sikkim for 36 years. He established the police telecommunication network in Sikkim appropriately using solar and wind energy. He is presently the Working President of National Association for the Blind, Sikkim Branch and member organisations dealing in disabilities. His current area of interest is to use ICT tools for the general benefit of the citizens His other focus area is management of Electronic-Waste.



Dr. Avinu Veronica Richa is Assistant Professor at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, based out of Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. She has done her M.A (Anthropology) from North Eastern Hill University, Shillong B. Sc (Bio- Anthropology) from Kohima Science College, Nagaland University (Gold Medallist); organized several training programmes on Gender Issues for various target groups - NSS, NYKS, Police/Prison/NDRF Personnel, youth, women.



Mr. Rajen Varada is a development thinker and practitioner for over 35 years now. He is the CEO of the Open Knowledge Community (OKC), a joint initiative of the UNESCO and Govt. of India. He served as founder Director at Technology for the People (TFTP) and worked in UNICEF. He also served as the Resource Person for ICTD at UNESCO - UN Solution Exchange. Currently, he serves as Governing Board Member at Digital Empowerment Foundation, New Delhi.



Mr. Shibu Itty has more than two decades of experience in the field of communication, technology & in the development sector. He is founder of Deepfry, an experience design firm which specialises in addressing challenges in the corporate & social sector, through design thinking & application of Technology. He was also Director, Mkg. & Communication, WWF India and Associate Vice President of iContract, the Digital arm of Contract advertising. he has worked deeply in the public education sector and in public library domain.



Ms. Debjani Khan is currently project manager at Plan International - India Chapter, since 2011. She is a Postgraduate in Social Science and M. Tech. by profession. Have more than 20 years of experience in the public health with emphasis on Gender mainstreaming, MCH, HIV/AIDS, and Reproductive and Sexual Health with strong experience of working for both women and Adolescent health.



Dr. Pradip Kumar Sarmah is a social activist with many dreams, ideas in social sector. He served as a Veterinary Surgeon with the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Govt. of Assam. His deep interest in social work led him to resign from his government job and joined the RGVN. He started the Centre for Rural Development in 1994. As a veterinarian, he started the M/s Pet & Vet, which is one of the leading veterinary clinics of Guwahati. The wonderful idea of Rickshaw Bank is an outcome of his endless effort and dedication to his work. For his continuous effort, he received the Ashoka Fellowship in India. He is one of the Lemelson Fellows and a Tech Laureate.



Ms. Ibankyntiew Mawrie is currently the Editor of the TNT-The Northeast Today. The Northeast Today is a digital news portal and formerly a magazine. It was launched in August 2007. In 2016, it became a full-fledged digital news portal and it is one of the most viewed websites in the North-eastern region of India. Ms. Mawrie comes from a rich journalism experience and worked with the esteemed The Shillong Times.



Dr. M. Shahid Siddiqui is a “Development Analyst, Media Strategist & Human Right Campaigner” based in India with vast experience as a journalist for one of the most-watched television networks in India. For the last twenty years, he is rigorously working to reconstruct and reshape the belief and structure of society. He is currently associated with Digital Empowerment Foundation. He is involved in the education sector especially in technology and STEM education. He served in mainstream electronic media for over 10 years. He is also involved in multiple issues through his Not for Profit Organisation called “Association for Community Research & Action” (ACRA). He is also currently serving as President of the Association of Social Media Professionals (ASMP), a global platform of social media for development and democracy professionals.

XI. The Organisers and Partners of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020 was organised by the North East Development Foundation (NEDF), supported by Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), UNDP, Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD), READ India, and ICCO India and Association of Social Media Professionals (ASMP).

XII. Media Highlights of the 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20

The 7th eNorth East Award 2019-20, held on June 20, 2020, has been covered by different media platforms.

- 7th eNorth East Award: Two projects from Nagaland among winners; <https://morungexpress.com/7th-enorth-east-award-two-projects-from-nagaland-among-winners>
- The MLCU announced as finalist in the the 7th eNabling NE Development Award 2019-2020; <https://spnewsagency.com/the-mlcu-announced-as-finalist-in-the-the-7th-enabling-ne-development-award-2019-2020/>
- IndiGo wins award for contribution to NE; <https://theshillongtimes.com/2020/07/08/indigo-wins-award-for-contribution-to-ne/>
- Seventh North East Award 2019-2020 MLCU's GENDER reaches final stage; <https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/meghalaya-news/seventh-north-east-award-2019-2020-mlcus-gender-reaches-final-stage-484981>
- <https://www.facebook.com/conradksangma/posts/big-congratulations-to-the-meghalaya-agriculture-department-and-the-mie-meghalay/1557527687757136/>
- <https://twitter.com/SangmaConrad/status/1279445740528402438>



Conrad K Sangma ✓
@conradksangma · Politician

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Conrad K Sangma Send Message Like 🔍 ⋮

Conrad K Sangma ✓
4 July at 21:55

Big congratulations to the #Meghalaya Agriculture Department and the MIE Meghalaya Team for Winning the 7th eNabling North East (eNorth East) Award 2019-20' in the 'Agriculture & Rural Development' category for 1917 ITEAMS project which is a project in collaboration with Digital India in our State.
1917iteams
<https://www.facebook.com/meghalayamie/>



Winner's Certificate of Recognition


This is to certify that the Project titled "1917 Integrated Technology Enabled Agri Management System (ITEAMS)" in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Meghalaya, the Meghalaya Institute of Management (MIM), Govt. of Meghalaya, and the Digital India Experience (DIX) Govt. of India, has been selected as the WINNER of the 7th eNabling North East Awards (Award 2019-2020) in the SATEMWAY AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT. As announced during the final event of the 7th eNabling East Award held on June 20, 2020 (online).

Winning Citation

Wishing a very best for future endeavour!

CMO Meghalaya Retweeted

Conrad Sangma ✓ @SangmaConrad · Jul 4
Congratulations to the #Meghalaya Agriculture Dept. & the @mie_meghalaya Team for Winning the 7th eNabling North East (eNorth East) Award 2019-20' in the 'Agriculture & Rural Development' category for the 1917 ITEAMS, a project in collaboration with @DigitalIndia in our State.



5 21 194

CMO Meghalaya ✓ @CMO_Meghalaya · Jul 4
Distribution of Power Tillers under #SMAM and #RKVY scheme for the year 2019-20 at Agriculture Complex, Sangsangre, Tura by the Hon'ble Chief Minister @SangmaConrad.

You might like

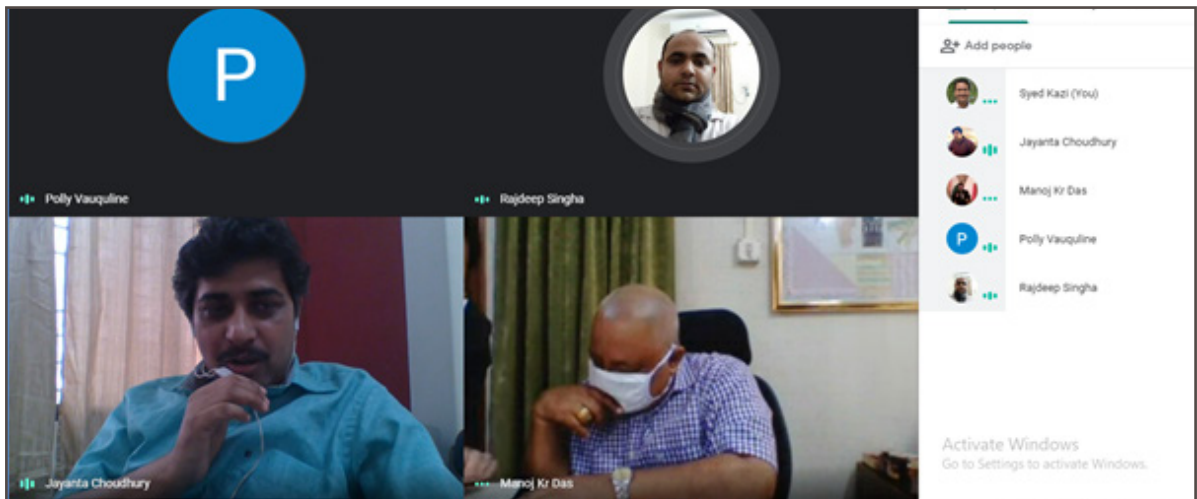
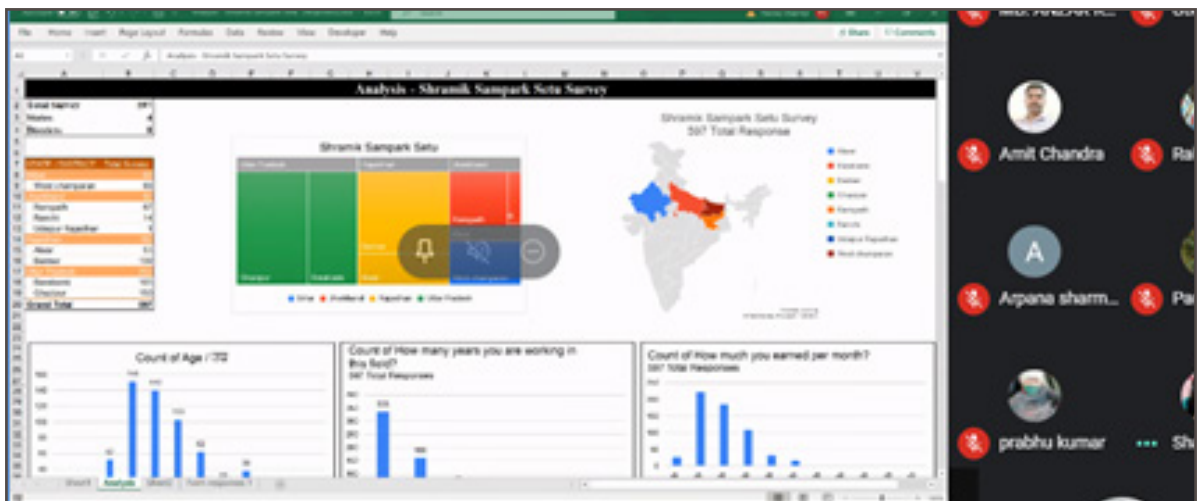
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COVID-19 in India

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Join Online Conference of Great Voyage TRON
4.0



Impact and Achievements

Students

- Improved interest in curriculum topics - back benchers have become active (PM and teacher interviews)
- Showcasing 21st century skills like research and analytical skills, authentic learning, knowledge deepening, technical skills (rubric assessment)
- Computational thinking and collaboration across states (participation in state and national level activities)

Teachers

- Teachers' shift in pedagogy project based with or without ICT, use of lesson plans in Non-ITE Classes.
- Ownership of ITE leadership (PM and teacher interviews)
- Teachers' improvement: Technical skills and use of technology in classroom
- Beliefs towards technology as an enabler for subject learning (survey)

Other Achievements

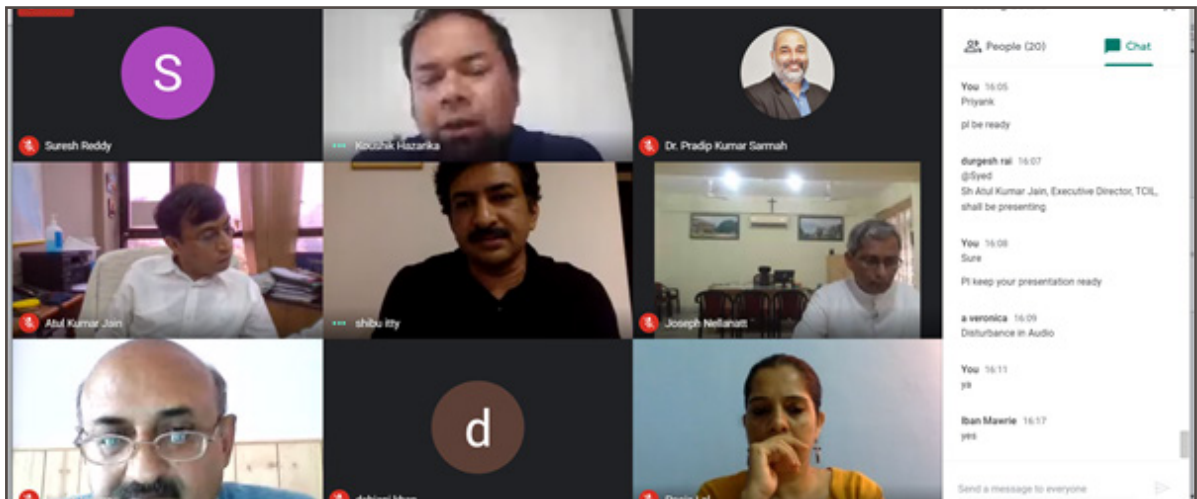
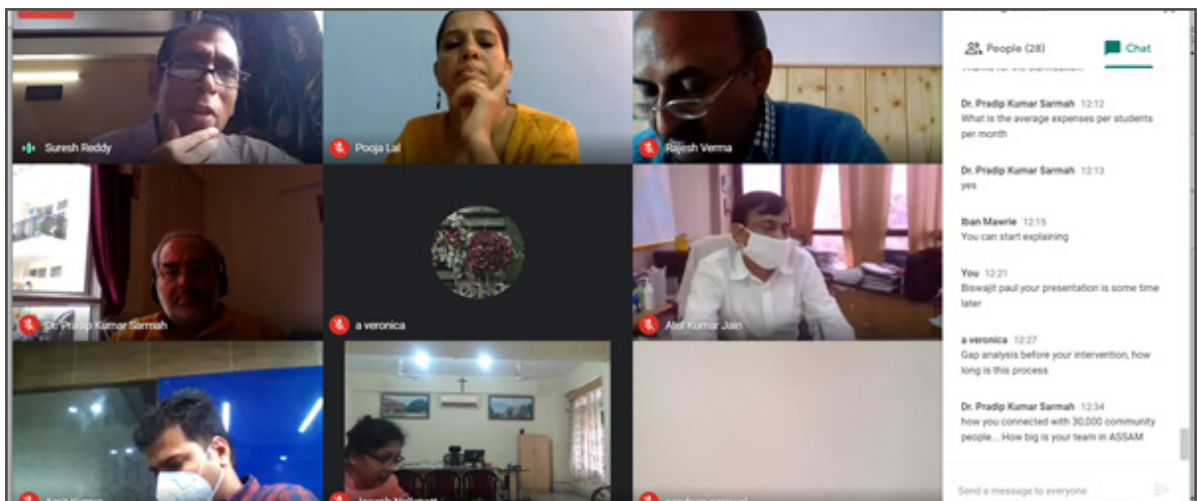
- ITE was presented as the **Best Practice by Samagra Shiksha, Assam** at MHRD Education Consultation for North-East.
- Teachers as researchers at international platforms
- ITE teachers presenting at **National ICT Award, 2018**.
- Community based ITE program connecting local community with school.

Systemic Change

- Budget for training, infrastructure maintenance, Formation of ITE core group

People (33)

- GULZAR HUSSAN
- Iban Mawrie
- J.N. Mandal
- Joseph Nellaratt
- Medhi Utpal
- phungkha basumatary
- Pooja Lal
- Rajat Pati
- Rajen Varada
- Rajesh Verma



Glimpses of Representatives of Winners and Special Mentions






**7th eNabling North East (eNorth East)
North East India Regional Online Conference (Webinar) on**

'Sustaining the pursuit of UN SDG Goals Post Covid-19 in North East India'

**[With Special Focus on Goal 1-5, 8, 10, 16 & 17]
&
Announcement & Felicitation of Winners &
Special Mentions of 7th eNorth East Award 2019-2020**

 **June 20, 2020 (Saturday)**

 **Time: 11 AM – 2 PM**



Organisers

