



## Digital Vulnerability of a Marginalised Community



### **2021 YEAR Round up**

#### **Main Story**

##### **Unlocking digital opportunities for the Tea Adivasi Community in Assam**

Apart from these socio-economic disadvantages which have been highly documented, the tea community of Assam is also largely digitally excluded. Why should we talk about digital inclusion and what why is it important? The present century can be termed as the 'digital age'. The world has been dramatically changed by the processes of globalization and digitalization. These changes have been further aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Online classes and online work have become the norm. Digital India has become the mantra. As reports of vulnerable communities getting excluded from the online mode of things started coming out, it became interesting to understand how much Assam's most vulnerable community has fared in terms of digital accessibility. [Read More](#)

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#### **Study**

##### **Advancing Digital Financial Inclusion of the Farm Community in Assam**

A rapid assessment study done by the Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD), Digital

Empowerment Foundation (DEF), and North East Development Foundation (NEDF), to understand the ICT readiness and capacities of the farm community in Assam towards ICT based financial education and counseling brings out key highlights. The study was conducted during September and October 2021, across 7 districts of Assam. According to the Study, 72% of farm members accessed mobile phones, 53% had feature phones. Close to 50% of the female farmers said they do not have access to mobile phones whereas only 23% of all the male farmers do not have access to mobile phones. 85% of all the female farmers have feature phones while 49% of all male farmers have feature phones. In this context, there is a need to push for digital inclusion with access to information, services, and resources to benefit from the agriculture-based digital revolution. [Read More](#)

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## **Session: North East Knowledge Exchange**

### **Panel Discussion Report**

#### **Moving Towards a Circular Economy**

In the wake of a resource depleting global economic system, the need for a new system with effective resource performance has become increasingly important. It is in such a situation that debates and conversations around circular economy have been increasingly emerging. Circular economy (CE) is an industrial system, which is an alternative to highly extractive and resource intensive linear economy principle of take-make-dispose and replaces the end-of-life concept with restoration and regeneration, aims at retaining value of resources, products and materials at their highest. Starting with the industrial revolution, the linear 'take-make' dispose pattern has been governing the world economies. Under this model, companies harvest and extract materials, use them to manufacture a product, and sell the product to a consumer. The consumer then discards the product when it no longer serves its purpose. In fact, in terms of volume, around 65 billion tonnes of raw materials entered the economic system in 2010, and was expected to grow to about 82 billion tonnes by 2020. [Read More](#)

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### **North East Digital Review**

#### **Software Technology Park inaugurated in Kohima, Nagaland**

A Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centre was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar in Kohima in September, 2021. This was a part of the Prime Minister's vision towards creating a technology ecosystem in the North East and thereby creating opportunities for future generations of this region. [Read More](#)

#### **Automations Started in Assam to Ensure Fair and Safe Elections**

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer in Assam had introduced automations in certain selected processes to ensure a free, fair, and safe State Assembly Elections of 2021. Software applications are put to use as part of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) process. [Read More](#)

#### **National Data Centre Constructed in Assam**

A National Data Centre with cutting edge ICT is being constructed in Amingaon in Assam at a cost of ₹350 crore to fulfill The Prime Minister's dream of 'Digital North Eastern India Vision 2022'. This will be India's 6th Data Centre to facilitate e-governance. [Read More](#)

## **NEMIS Portal Launched in Nagaland**

The Nagaland Education Management and Information System (NEMIS) developed by the Department of School Education and the E-Classroom Programme under ICT and Digital Initiatives implemented by the Samagra Shiksha, Nagaland has been launched in December. The NEMIS portal has been developed for monitoring functioning of both government and private schools functioning in the state. [Read More](#)

## **USOF and BSNL to Provide High Quality and High Speed Internet in North-East India**

The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has inked an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to make available high quality and high-speed internet access in the northeastern states to accelerate socio-economic development in the region. [Read More](#)

## **Agri-Tech Startups Have Redefined Farming in North East India**

Several renowned agri-tech startups like Agrithink have redefined farming in Northeast India through technology. These applications use economically and ecologically viable technologies in the field so that farming becomes precise. These technologies are also planned to be incorporated in areas like tea production and quality enhancement, growing flowers, vegetables, fruits, spices and any other suitable genera. [Read More](#)

## **Indian Railways Makes Wi-Fi Facilities Available at NFR Railway Stations**

The Indian Railways has been at the forefront of implementing digital initiatives and has made Wi-Fi Internet facilities available at 381 railway stations under the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) making around 4239.13 Route KMs of NFR covered with OFC (Optical Fibre Cable). [Read More](#)

## **Online Payments Key Enabler in Transforming Lives in North East India**

Bhartipay has identified online payments as a key enabler to transform the lives of 44 million people across the 8 NE states. They have now decided to foster economic development through online payments by providing the service to those who had earlier been deprived in the region. [Read More](#)

## **Labs and Smart Classrooms to be Built to Bridge Digital Divide in Assam**

In an attempt to bridge India's digital divide, the Government has approved 1859 labs and 3643 smart classrooms in Assam. The same figures are 28 and 311 in Manipur, 239 and 249 in Tripura, 82 and 238 in Sikkim, 0 and 201 in Mizoram, 0 and 74 in Nagaland, 43 and 0 in Arunachal Pradesh, and 25 and 0 in Meghalaya respectively. [Read More](#)

## **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems Launched by Arunachal Pradesh Police**

The Arunachal Pradesh Police has launched its Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) Cloud Data Centre, Citizen Services Portal and User Manual at the state police headquarters in Itanagar . CCTNS is a mission mode project under the national e-Governance plan of the Centre, which aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through e-governance. [Read More](#)

## Only One in Two Government School Students in Assam Have Access to Smartphones

According to a survey of Annual Status of Education report, only one in every two government school students in Assam have access to a smartphone for online classes and three in every four students in private schools have a digital device. [Read More](#)

## Very Small Aperture Terminals to be Installed by Arunachal Pradesh Government

The Arunachal Pradesh Government has decided to install Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) in 882 locations across the state to realize the dream of Digital Arunachal. These will be installed even in the remotest areas of the state. [Read More](#)

## 1256 Out of 1400 Inhabited Villages in Nagaland Have Mobile Network Coverage

In response to query by the Planning and Co-Ordination, Land Revenue and Parliamentary Affairs to improve poor network connectivity in Nagaland, the Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology has said that 1256 out of 1400 inhabited villages of the state have mobile network coverage and 1057 of these villages have 3G or 4G or both mobile network connectivity. [Read More](#)

## Assam Police Sets Up Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting & Management System

Assam state police has set up Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting & Management System and two months Police was able to freeze Rs. 50 lakhs belonging to various victims. [Read More](#)

## Assam Registers Over 3500 Cases of Cybercrime in 2020

The number of cybercrime cases in Assam has increased from 2231 in 2019 to 3530 in 2020. The rate of cybercrime in Assam is 10.1 which is higher than the all India rate of 3.7 as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Crime in India report 2020. [Read More](#)



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The Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) is a pan India ICT for development agency working towards digital inclusion and empowerment since 2002 in key areas including access and connectivity, education, skill development & entrepreneurship, digital innovations and solutions.

The e-North East Alliance (EEA) is a network of ICTD community and practitioners in North East India towards sustainable and inclusive digital inclusion, access, network and connectivity in the region. The Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD) aims to highlight, network, seek solutions through research, advocacy, actions on core issues around social and digital inclusion and empowerment in the North East India Region, to connect unreached and underserved communities to bring them out of digital darkness and empower them with information access through last mile connectivity, digital literacy and digital interventions. . The North East Development Foundation (NEDF) is a sustainable development organisation in North East India.

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