

# Dreaming of a Prosperous and Vibrant Assam

## CHARTING A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION



*Vision Document*



**Pragjyotish College**  
Guwahati



# PROFILE OF CONTRIBUTORS



## Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma

**Office Address:** 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mohan Singh Place, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi-110 001  
**Official Designation:** Chairman, Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal  
(Former Judge, Supreme Court of India)  
**E-Mail ID:** mukundakam@gmail.com



## Shri Diganta Kalita

**Office Address:** F-3, Old MLA Hostel, Dispur, Guwahati – 781 006  
**Official Designation:** Alumni, Pragjyotish College, and Member of Legislative Assembly, Assam  
**E-Mail ID:** digantakalitamla@gmail.com



## Dr. Jagadindra Raychoudhury

**Permanent Address:** Hatigaon Chariali, Chaolung Sukapha Road, House No. 9, Guwahati – 781 038  
**Office Address:** Governing Body, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781 009  
**Official Designation:** President, Governing Body  
**E-Mail ID:** jagadindrar705@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 88120-11012



## Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta

**Permanent Address:** Beltola, Saurav Nagar, Near Nagaland Police Rest House, House No. 178, Guwahati – 8  
**Office Address:** Office of the Principal, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781009  
**Official Designation:** Principal  
**E-Mail ID:** mkmahanta06@yahoo.co.in

**WhatsApp No.:** 98649-80654



## Prof. Manab Deka

**Permanent Address:** Beltola, Krishnapur, Lakhimandir, House No. 38, Guwahati – 781 029  
**Office Address:** Gauhati University Institute of Science & Technology (GUIST), Guwahati – 781 014  
**Official Designation:** Director, GUIST (Gauhati University) and GU Nominee, Governing Body  
**E-Mail ID:** drmanabdeka@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 86386-98606



## Dr. Dayananda Pathak

**Permanent Address:** Lachit Nagar, Kanaklata Path, House No. 20, Guwahati – 781 007  
**Office Address:** IQAC, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781 009  
**Official Designation:** Ex-Principal, Pragjyotish College and President, PCRTF  
**E-Mail ID:** dayanandapathak123@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 98540-50947



## Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

**Permanent Address:** Jatia, Kahilipara Road, Jaya's Dawriyoly Apartments, Flat No. 5A, Guwahati – 781 019  
**Office Address:** Department of Geology, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781009  
**Official Designation:** Associate Professor and Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell  
**E-Mail ID:** manjitmazumdar552@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 97064-33118



## Prof. Jogen Chandra Kalita

**Permanent Address:** Village Kalita Gaon 1, P.O.: Bihaguri, District: Sonitpur, PIN: 784 153  
**Office Address:** Gauhati University, Guwahati – 781 014  
**Official Designation:** Professor and Head, Department of Zoology  
**E-Mail ID:** jogenck@yahoo.co.in

**WhatsApp No.:** 94350-83544



## Dr. Mirza Mahammad Irshad

**Permanent Address:** Zoo Road Tiniali, Mother Teresa Road, 4th Bye lane, Sahab Tila, House No. 9, Guwahati -21  
**Office Address:** Assam State Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati – 781 006  
**Official Designation:** Project Manager, ASDMA  
**E-Mail ID:** pmasdma@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 94350-41806



# DREAMING OF A PROSPEROUS AND VIBRANT ASSAM

*CHARTING A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION*

**Edited By**

Dr Manoj Kumar Mahanta  
Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar



**INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL  
PRAGJYOTISH COLLEGE**

GUWAHATI 781 009  
[www.pragjyotishcollege.ac.in](http://www.pragjyotishcollege.ac.in)

# **DREAMING OF A PROSPEROUS AND VIBRANT ASSAM**

## **CHARTING A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION**

A Vision Document compiled through the contributed inputs of a cross-section of Pragjyotish College stakeholders

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### **Edited by:**

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta  
Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

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ড° হিমন্ত বিশ্ব শৰ্মা  
Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma



মুখ্যমন্ত্রী, অসম  
Chief Minister, Assam

Dated Dispur, the 20<sup>th</sup> Augsut, 2021

## MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Pragjyotish College is compiling a Vision Document titled "Dreaming of a prosperous and vibrant Assam: Charting a road map for the future generation" under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college.

It is indeed commendable that the vision document proposes to cover various thematic areas like education, economy, environment, governance, natural disaster etc. with concept notes from different institutional stakeholders. For a state like Assam which has abundant resources vis-à-vis numerous challenges, a vision document of this kind can provide deep insight into the critical issues of economy, polity and society and guide on the way forward to expedite holistic development.

I extend my best wishes for this endeavour with anticipation that the proposed document will be inclusive, pragmatic and insightful.

(Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma)





Ph. No. : +91 99547 03825 (M)  
+91-361-2237058 (O)  
E-mail: ranojpegu@gmail.com

**Ranoj Pegu**

Minister

Education and WPT & BC Department

Government of Assam

Dispur, Guwahati-781006

## MESSAGE

I feel happy and profoundly privileged to know that Pragjyotish College, Guwahati, is compiling their vision document entitled "*DREAMING OF A PROSPEROUS AND VIBRANT ASSAM: CHARTING A ROAD MAP FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION*". As vision document describes a compelling idea, project or other future state of a particular organization or service, I believe that, this vision document with a futuristic outlook will be able to give us some new thoughts and ideas in the field of education, environment and governance which will be of great value for our society and for the upcoming generation. In this regard, I convey my greetings and warm wishes to the college authority for their efforts in bringing out this vision document.

**Dr. Ranoj Pegu**



Mobile No. : 9435553286

**Bhabesh Kalita**  
MLA, Rangia LAC

## শুভেচ্ছা বাণী

মোৰ শ্ৰদ্ধাৰ উচ্চ শিক্ষাৰ স্থলী প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰিয়ালবৰ্গলৈ ৬৮ তম প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিৱসৰ আন্তৰিক অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ। মোৰ আপোন মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিৱস উদ্‌যাপন উপলক্ষে শুভেচ্ছা বাণী এযাৰ দিবলৈ পাই মই নথৈ আনন্দিত হৈছো। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা তথা জাকত জিলিকা কৰা অগ্ৰজ স্নানামথন্য ব্যক্তিসবক সশ্ৰদ্ধা প্ৰণিপাত জনালোঁ। আগন্তুক মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিৱস উপলক্ষে ভিছন ডকুমেন্ট 'ড্ৰিমিং অফ এ প্ৰ'চপেৰাছ এণ্ড ভাইব্ৰেণ্ট আছাম' এখন প্ৰকাশ পাব বুলি জানি মই অত্যন্ত সুখী হৈছো। মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ অতীত সংগ্ৰাম, গৌৰৱৰ ইতিহাসৰ চানেকী লৈ বৰ্তমানৰ মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ কৰ্তৃপক্ষই উন্নত মানৰ শিক্ষা প্ৰণালীৰে শিক্ষানুষ্ঠানখনক উৰ্দ্ধ দিগন্তলৈ লৈ যোৱাৰ যি নিৰন্তৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলাই আছে তাক লৈ মই যথেষ্ট গৌৰৱ অনুভৱ কৰিছোঁ। প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ সৌন্দৰ্য বৰ্দ্ধন মোৰ চিৰ-চিনাকী। মোৰ মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ শিক্ষাৰ সঞ্চয়ৰ প্ৰতিটো মুহূৰ্তই মোক উদ্বেলিত কৰি ৰাখে লগতে বন্ধুবৰ্গৰ সৈতে থকা মিলা-প্ৰীতিৰ এনাজৰীডালে মোক সদায় বিহঙ্গম কৰি তোলে। প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰা বহু মেধা আৰু বুদ্ধিদীপ্ত কৃতি শিক্ষাৰ্থী আজি বিশ্বৰ চুকে-কোণে প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত হৈছে। মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ গুৰি ধৰি থকা বৰ্তমানৰ শ্ৰদ্ধাৰ ব্যক্তিসকললৈ মোৰ হিয়াভৰা শ্ৰদ্ধা থাকিল। তেওঁলোকে মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ সৰ্বাঙ্গীন উন্নতি তথা ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলক আগুৱাই নিয়াত পথ-প্ৰদৰ্শক তথা প্ৰধান ভূমিকা লৈ মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ গৰিমা বৃদ্ধিত অৰিহণা যোগাই যাব বুলি মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস। সৰ্বোপৰি মান্যজনৰ শিক্ষা বিষয়ক বিভিন্ন লেখাৰে ভিছন ডকুমেন্টখন মননশীল তথা মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিৱস সাফল্যমণ্ডিত প্ৰচেষ্টাৰ বাবে মহাবিদ্যালয় কৰ্তৃপক্ষক হিয়াভৰা শুভেচ্ছা তথা মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ সৰ্বাঙ্গীন কামনা কৰিলোঁ।

স্বাক্ষৰ কৰিলোঁ-

**BHABESH KALITA**  
MLA, Rangia LAC



**Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita**  
MLA, West Guwahati Constituency



Dispur, Guwahati-781006, Assam  
Mobile No. : 94350-15009

## শুভেচ্ছা বাণী

অসমৰ উচ্চ শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰখনত স্ব-মহিমাৰে উদ্ভাসিত প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ মহাবিদ্যালয়ৰ ৬৮ সংখ্যক প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিৱসৰ প্ৰাকক্ষণত যিসকল মহান ব্যক্তিৰ ত্যাগৰ বিনিময়ত মহাবিদ্যালয়খনে এক গৌৰৱময় ইতিহাসৰ অধ্যায় ৰচিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছে সেইসকল বৰণ্যে ব্যক্তিলৈ মোৰ আন্তৰিক শুভেচ্ছা আৰু অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ।

জানিবলৈ পাই সুখী হৈছোঁ যে ৬৮ সংখ্যক প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিৱসৰ লগত সংগতি ৰাখি ভিছন ডকুমেণ্ট — “ড্ৰিমিং অফ এ প্ৰ'চপেৰাছ এণ্ড ভাইব্ৰেণ্ট আছাম” এখন প্ৰকাশ পাব। আশা ৰাখিছোঁ ভিছন ডকুমেণ্টখনত প্ৰকাশ হ'বলগীয়া মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ গৌৰৱময় ইতিহাস আৰু সমসাময়িক শিক্ষা-বিষয়ৰ গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ তথ্যসমূহে ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী, শিক্ষক-শিক্ষয়িত্ৰীৰ লগতে শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষী সকলকো উৎসাহিত কৰিব।

এই সুযোগতে মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ ৬৮ সংখ্যক প্ৰতিষ্ঠা দিৱসৰ সফলতাৰ লগতে শিক্ষানুষ্ঠানৰ সৰ্বাংগীন উন্নতি কামনা কৰিলোঁ।

*(Signature of Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita)*  
২২/০৮/২০২২

ৰমেন্দ্ৰ নাৰায়ণ কলিতা  
বিধায়ক, পশ্চিম গুৱাহাটী বিধানসভা সমষ্টি





ড° পৰমানন্দ ৰাজবংশী, বিধায়ক  
৬৬ নং ছিপাবাৰ বিধান সভা সমষ্টি  
দৰং (অসম)



ঠিকনা —

বিধায়ক আবাস, ডি-৭

মোবাইল : ৭০০২৭৭১৫২১

৯৮৬৪০৪৯৭৮২

ডাক : অসম, সচিবালয়

পিন : ৭৮১০০৬

ই-মেইল :

paramanandarajbongshi19@gmail.com

দিশপুৰ, গুৱাহাটী (অসম)

## শুভাঞ্জলি

প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ মহাবিদ্যালয় মানেই মোৰ বাবে জ্ঞান-গৰিমাৰ পুণ্যতীৰ্থ। সন্দিপনীৰ আশ্ৰম সদৃশ এই মহাবিদ্যালয় পৰিয়ালে সুন্দৰৰ সৰুৰৰ আলিয়েদি অবিৰত আলোকৰ মহামন্ত্ৰ আওৰাই অসম তথা পূৰ্ব ভাৰতৰ বৌদ্ধিক দিশ উজলাই আছে।

শেহতীয়াভাৱে আমাৰ এই মহাবিদ্যালয়ে DREAMING OF A PROSPEROUS AND VIBRANT ASSAM: CHARTING A ROAD MAP FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION শীৰ্ষক **অন্তৰ্দৃষ্ট নথি (Vision Document)** প্ৰস্তুত কৰাৰ বাবে আগবাঢ়িছে। এই মহাবিদ্যালয় পৰিয়ালৰ সদস্য হিচাপে মহাবিদ্যালয় কতূৰ্পক্ষৰ এই প্ৰচেষ্টাত আমি নতৈ আনন্দিত হৈছো আৰু সহযোগিতাৰ হাত আগবঢ়াম বুলি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিলো। এই **অন্তৰ্দৃষ্ট নথি (Vision Document)** এ আমাৰ ভৱিষ্যত প্ৰজন্মক প্ৰকৃত পথৰ সন্ধান দি তোৰে মোৰে আলোকৰ যাত্ৰাক আৰু অধিক শক্তিশালী কৰিব বুলি পৰম আশাৰে আমাৰ আন্তৰিক শুভাঞ্জলি নিবেদিলো।

সংল্লিষ্ট আটাইলৈ সশ্ৰদ্ধ শুভাকামনাৰে

॥ জয় হিন্দ ॥

ড° পৰমানন্দ ৰাজবংশী  
বিধায়ক, ৬৬ নং ছিপাবাৰ বিধানসভা সমষ্টি



**Diganta Kalita**  
Member of  
Assam Legislative Assembly (MLA)  
56, Kamalpur Constituency, Assam



F-3, Old MLA Hostel, Dispur,  
Guwahati-781 006, Assam  
Mobile: 070990 01674, 094350 19219  
Email: digantakalitama@gmail.com

## শুভেচ্ছা বাণী

প্ৰাগজ্যোতিষ মহাবিদ্যালয় পৰিয়ালৰ পৰা প্ৰকাশিত হ'ব লগা নৱচিন্তাৰ উন্মেষ “Vision Document” ৰ বাবে প্ৰস্তুতি চলাই থকা হৈছে বুলি জানিবলৈ পাই অতিশয় আনন্দিত হৈছো। ঐতিহ্যমণ্ডিত মহাবিদ্যালয়খনৰ প্ৰাক্তন ছাত্ৰ হিচাপে শ্ৰদ্ধাৰ শিক্ষাগুৰু আৰু প্ৰাক্তন ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলে সামাজিক জীৱনত মোৰ পৰিচয় সৃষ্টিত যি অৱদান আগবঢ়ালে তাৰ বাবে হৃদয়ৰ পৰা সকলোকে কৃতজ্ঞতা জনালো।

নৱচিন্তাৰ আলোক সন্ধানী এই যাত্ৰা সফলতাৰ হেঙুলী ৰঙেৰে ৰঙিয়াল হওঁক তাৰ বাবে আশা কৰিলোঁ।

শ্ৰদ্ধা আৰু আন্তৰিকতাৰে

শ্ৰীদিগন্ত কলিতা

দিগন্ত কলিতা

বিধায়ক, ৫৬ কমলপুৰ সমষ্টি



**Hemanga Thakuria**, M.Sc, L.LB, MBA  
MLA, 50 No. Palasbari Constituency, Assam



98640-24976 / 86382-32601 (M)  
E-mail: [hemangat@rediffmail.com](mailto:hemangat@rediffmail.com)

## MESSAGE

Being an alumnus I feel immensely happy and privileged that Pragjyotish College, Guwahati, is going to compile its vision document entitled "DREAMING OF A PROSPEROUS AND VIBRANT ASSAM CHARTING A ROAD MAP FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION."

I am hopeful that this vision document will encompass all the ideas towards a holistic orientation enabling growth and development in the field of education, environment and good governance which will definitely help our society and the next generation. I convey my best wishes to the college authority on their endeavour to bring out this vision document successfully.

  
**Hemanga Thakuria**



Address: Hatigaon Chariali,  
Guwahati – 781 038  
E-Mail: jagadindrar705@gmail.com  
Mobile No. : 88120-11012

**Dr. Jagadindra Raychoudhury**  
President, Governing Body

## MESSAGE

It is my immense pleasure that Pragjyotish College, a premier higher educational institution of North East India is going to celebrate its 68th Foundation Day programme on 1st September, 2021, in a befitting manner, maintaining COVID protocol for the novel Corona virus. On this occasion, on behalf of the entire community of the college, the college authority will publish a Vision Document comprising thematic topics like Citizens and Society, Economy, Education, Environment, and so forth. I believe that this important document will create a ray of hope for the entire society as a whole in every walk of life. This Vision Document might be an inspiration for the other institutions to follow some of its categories to fulfill their wish.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the authority as well as the whole family members of the college for bearing pain to publish this Vision Document for the betterment of the society.

I wish every success of this college.

**Dr. Jagadindra Raychoudhury**

## PROLOGUE

Vision without action is merely a dream...  
Action without vision just passes time...  
Vision with action can change the world...

– *Joel A. Barker*

Our motherland Assam is indeed a land of unique integration of geographical, cultural, ethnic, religious and all other sorts of complex diversities. Over the ages, it has witnessed and experienced a panorama of historical events, achievements and accomplishments. On the other hand, the land-locked geographical perspective of the State, comes with its own distinct shortcomings. The entire world is moving forward in an uncontrolled pace and globalization has its own impact as well as influence upon the lifestyles of the people and the society that we live in today. The Assamese society too cannot afford to lag behind and we must adapt ourselves to the ever-changing world, so as to establish our vibrancy in front of the world community.

With these perceptions and realizations strongly embedded, it has been thought that an educational institutional community can also play a vital role in this transformation process, through contribution of intellectual inputs and other such pro-active developmental initiatives. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the college, established under the mandate of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), has adopted various recourses in the recent past for qualitative uplift of the academic as well as governance front of Pragjyotish College. The documentation initiative of the present volume constitutes one such effort, which has resulted in this compendium of intellectual inputs, collected from different stakeholders of Pragjyotish College on various themes having socio-economic developmental relevance in the context of Assam.



We shall remain extremely indebted to all the contributors, whose scholarly and timely contributions has enabled us to bring out this volume within the stipulated time framework. It shall remain a matter of great honour for Pragjyotish College to receive best wishes from our ever dynamic and zestful Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and also from Dr. Ranoj Pegu, the Honble Education Minister of Assam. The spirited concern of all the five institutional stakeholders as well as Members of Assam Legislative Assembly, viz. Shri Bhabesh Kalita (alumni and Hon'ble MLA, Rangiya Constituency), Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita (Governing Body member and Hon'ble MLA, West Guwahati Constituency), Dr. Paramananda Rajbongshi (former Principal of Pragjyotish College and Hon'ble MLA, Sipajhar Constituency), Shri Diganta Kalita (alumni and Hon'ble MLA, Kamalpur Constituency) and Shri Hemanga Thakuria (alumni and Hon'ble MLA, Palasbari Constituency) towards Pragjyotish College, is also a matter of extreme pride for us. Over and above, we shall also remain highly indebted to our esteemed contributors, without whose valuable inputs, this publication would not have seen light of the day. It will be our earnest hope that the concepts and ideas envisioned through this document is discussed at appropriate platforms in the days to come and reaches the final policy implementation stages based upon their relevancy and appropriateness, so that our '*Dream of a prosperous and vibrant Assam*' gets effectively translated into reality.

**Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta**  
**Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar**





# VISION 2040 ASSAM

Keeping in view of the myriad of adversities characteristic of the State, a more robust Vision Document needs to be documented in a larger scale and magnitude, under governmental patronage and in a mission mode. Such an initiative may be aptly termed as **VISION 2040**, and which can be expected to contribute towards building up of a strong and resilient Assam, through intermix of short-term and long-term measures. Such a comprehensive analytical exercise may be based upon the citizen-centric principle of *by the people – for the people – of the people*, with the whole-hearted involvement and diligent efforts of the larger Assamese community. The strategy to achieve the desired goals may be based upon a series of workshops, online surveys, etc. The target groups shall include the larger Assamese community residing

- ❖ within the territorial boundaries of the State
- ❖ across different States of India
- ❖ in different countries across the globe

The various thematic domains for the **VISION 2040** exercise may be pivoted upon the following:

## Citizens and Society

- ❖ Citizens' support and assistance in government programs
- ❖ Citizens' role in tackling of social evils (e.g. *child and women trafficking, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, child labour, sexual harassment, dowry, witch hunting, etc.*)
- ❖ Citizens' role in tackling insurgency
- ❖ Ensuring healthy public-police-administration ties
- ❖ Empowering women for a better tomorrow
- ❖ Duties, responsibilities and ethical behavior as conscious citizens
- ❖ Adopting healthy civic practices (e.g. *prudent use of groundwater, prevention of littering and defacement of public places, proper domestic garbage disposal, etc.*)
- ❖ Strengthening public amenities and facilities (e.g. *public toilets, safe drinking water facilities, resting sheds in public places, modernization of bus stoppages, public recreation grounds and playgrounds, etc.*)
- ❖ Supply of safe and adequate drinking water
- ❖ Scientific disposal of urban garbage
- ❖ Effective measures to ensure public security

## Career and Employment

- ❖ Preparing our youth for national level examinations and jobs
- ❖ Creation of an entrepreneurial mindset amongst our youth
- ❖ Creation of newer employment avenues
- ❖ Strengthening of current employment strategies
- ❖ Projecting cooperatives and SHGs as engines of growth

## Economy

- ❖ Reforms in agricultural production sector
- ❖ Reforms in agricultural marketing sector
- ❖ Reforms in industrial sector



- ❖ Reforms in tourism sector
- ❖ Reforms in banking sector
- ❖ Ensuring sustainable use of natural resources

### Education

- ❖ Reforms in the Primary Education sector
- ❖ Reforms in the Secondary Education sector
- ❖ Reforms in the Higher Education sector

*(All of above may be related to various perspectives like job-oriented education, tackling of youth unrest, student counseling and guidance, teaching-learning reforms, class attendance of students, examination reforms, reforms in educational governance, involvement of alumni in institutional development, involvement of guardians in institutional development, etc.*

### Environment

- ❖ Environment-friendly practices
- ❖ Environment protection measures
- ❖ Involvement of youth in environment protection initiatives
- ❖ Wildlife protection measures
- ❖ Conservation and sustainable use of natural water habitats
- ❖ Conservation and sustainable use of forests
- ❖ Urban afforestation programs

### Governance

- ❖ Innovative citizen-centric E-governance measures in government offices
- ❖ Effective mechanisms to check corruption

### Health

- ❖ Reinforcement of medical and health infrastructure
- ❖ Creation of health awareness amongst citizens
- ❖ Introduction of citizen-friendly health insurance schemes

### Natural Disasters

- ❖ Effective strategies for tackling monsoonal floods
- ❖ Effective strategies for mitigating urban floods
- ❖ Effective strategies for tackling river erosion
- ❖ Effective strategies for earthquake risk reduction
- ❖ Effective strategies for mitigating landslide hazards

### Sports and Games

- ❖ Adequate development of sports infrastructure
- ❖ Revival and patronage of indigenous sports and games
- ❖ Providing quality training to promising sportsmen


### Transport and Communication

- ❖ Reinforcing the roadways development sector
- ❖ Reinforcing the railways development sector
- ❖ Reinforcing the waterways development sector
- ❖ Reinforcing the airways development sector
- ❖ Reinforcing internet connectivity




# CONTENTS


## **Dreaming of a Prosperous and Vibrant Assam: Charting a Roadmap for the Future Generation ..... 76**

 Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma





### **AGRICULTURE**

- ❖ **Agricultural Diversification through Horticulture ..... 41**  
 Dr. Ira Das



### **CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT**

- ❖ **Building up of an Entrepreneurial Mindset ..... 17**  
 Shri Diganta Kalita


### **CITIZENS AND SOCIETY**

- ❖ **Water Sufficiency through Groundwater Recharge ..... 33**  
 Dr. Hiranmaya Sharma
- ❖ **State Philanthropy Day ..... 39**  
 Ms. Bidisha Bayan
- ❖ **Population Control Legislation ..... 47**  
 Dr. Pulama Deka
- ❖ **Tapping the Natural Water Springs ..... 58**  
 Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar


### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

- ❖ **Financing Disaster Management – Issues, Challenges and  
Recent Administrative Reforms ..... 35**  
 Dr. Mirza Mahammad Irshad
- ❖ **Brahmaputra River Management ..... 37**  
 Shri Moon Chandra Deka

### **ECONOMY**

- ❖ **Citizens' Goodwill Fund ..... 60**  
 Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

### **EDUCATION**

- ❖ **Status of GER in Assam: Steps to be taken for its upliftment ..... 21**  
 Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta

## CONTENTS

- ❖ **Re-engineering the Engineering Education System** ..... 26  
✎ Prof. Manab Deka
- ❖ **Vision for Graduate Quality Enhancement** ..... 28  
✎ Prof. Jogen Chandra Kalita
- ❖ **Education by getting away from Degree Centricity** ..... 31  
✎ Dr. Dayananda Pathak
- ❖ **Concept of College Library Consortium** ..... 43  
✎ Shri Unindajyoti Choudhury
- ❖ **Reforms in the Primary Education Sector** ..... 49  
✎ Shri Udhava Kalita
- ❖ **Annual Teacher Performance Award in Higher Education** ..... 70  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

### ENVIRONMENT

- ❖ **Proactive Environment Protection Initiatives** ..... 19  
✎ Dr. Jagadindra Raychoudhury
- ❖ **Youth-driven Environment Task Force** ..... 45  
✎ Ms. Nandita Rajbangshi

### GOVERNANCE

- ❖ **Reforms in College Internal Governance** ..... 53  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar
- ❖ **Centralized Grievance Redress Mechanism** ..... 54  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar
- ❖ **Annual Organizational Performance Report** ..... 61  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar
- ❖ **Annual Employee Performance Appraisal** ..... 62  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar
- ❖ **Annual Best Employee Award** ..... 69  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar
- ❖ **Miscellaneous Reforms in Office Administration and Functioning** ..... 73  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

### SPORTS

- ❖ **Strengthening the Sport-Youth Connectivity: Promoting Traditional Sports and Infrastructure Development** ..... 51  
✎ Shri Diuk Jyoti Handique

### TOURISM

- ❖ **Development of Geoparks and Community Geo-museums** ..... 55  
✎ Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

## Career and Employment

# Building up of an Entrepreneurial Mindset

Shri Diganta Kalita

### INTRODUCTION

Assam aspires to be amongst top five states of India. An important thrust area for realization of such an aspiration is rapid economic development and for that, Assam needs to build an entrepreneurial mind-set amongst its youth. The key for building this mind-set is to create awareness on entrepreneurship and bring about a change in people's mindset. Entrepreneurship is not just about starting a business but also about imbibing some characteristic traits such as innovative thinking, risk taking, leadership, effective communication etc. In general, the Assamese society is not known to be risk taking, an essential ingredient for entrepreneurship. Not only the fear of failure but also the lack of family support for any sort of entrepreneurial initiative discourages an aspiring entrepreneur. Assam is blessed with bountiful resources for different entrepreneurial ventures ranging from food, tourism, healthcare, education, IT start ups, agriculture – each of these sectors can be the focus area for sustainable entrepreneurial ventures. One very small but important step for this development is looking beyond traditional professions such as doctor & engineers, and embracing the budding entrepreneurs & thereby opening the doors for future Elon Musks or Jeff Bezos of Assam.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

For boosting the entrepreneurship in our state, the operational modalities can be as follows –

- **Creation of an economic and institutional regime:** This should aim to incentivize creation of new knowledge and promoting entrepreneurship to make use of the newly created knowledge
- **Establishment of a dynamic information infrastructure:** This shall increase the access to information universally and shall make decision-making faster, transparent and efficient, thus ensuring that every youth of Assam are efficiently skilled at his/ her job
- **Innovation Fund for Rewarding all innovations:** An *Innovation Fund* specially created by the government for providing special rewards to





students, businessmen, academic institutions and others

- **Increasing the share of manufacturing in the state's economy:** This will bring about a change in the composition of the state's GDP. The tertiary sectors comprise a multitude of service activities. The state budget needs to be strengthened to accelerate the growth in GSDP and per capita incomes.
- **Thrust on small business sector:** Initiatives need to be taken for making Assam as one of the leading business hub in India for the small business sector, with leadership position occupied by several industries such as Tea
- **Revolution in skill development:** Govt. policy may be made for skilling 10 million people over a period of 10 years
- **Creation of social climate and an institutional structure:** Arrangements for facilitating the establishment of a state-wide culture of continuous dialogue and exchange of ideas amongst the labor and business classes, through high degree of cooperation and mutual understanding
- **Entrepreneurship Development Centers:** EDCs functioning under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode may be set up all throughout the state

### Anticipated outcomes

- Operational modalities as stated above, will facilitate in the building up of an entrepreneurial culture in Assam
- This in turn will fuel rapid economic development
- Proper implementation at different stages & finding the appropriate resource person is the key to success of such initiatives

“Entrepreneurship is about turning what excites you in life into capital, so that you can do more of it and move forward with it.”

– *Richard Branson*

“Entrepreneurship is the way we take control of our lives in a tough economy.”

– *Lori Greiner*



## Environment

# Proactive Environment Protection Initiatives

Dr. Jagadindra Raychoudhury

## INTRODUCTION

Environment plays a pivotal role in healthy existence of life in this planet earth. Earth is the home for different living species and is dependent on the environment for food, air, water and other basic needs. Indian philosophy is basically based on its culture long back several thousand years ago especially from Vedic era. In the *Atharvaveda* considerable emphasis has been given on water, air and plants. It is very much interesting to know that the ancient Vedas have several references on environment protection, ecological balance, weather cycle, rainfall phenomenon and related subjects that directly indicate high level awareness of the seers and people of that time. As our Indian heritage showed the concept and concern for environment protection in a well-organized manner considering all important aspects, so we should follow the same path to protect our environment for our present as well as future generations.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- ***Creation of environment friendly practices and mindset amongst youth***
  - ❖ Proper guidance and motivation to younger generation for taking up plantation of saplings along with proper care, for at least one year, both at home and in their educational institutions
  - ❖ Plantation of medicinal plants need to be more prioritized because some of these are in the verge of extinction
  - ❖ Practical involvement in the production of home-grown vegetables and fruits
  - ❖ Incorporating importance and relevance of waste recycling as part of curricular framework
- ***Adoption of effective environment-friendly measures***
  - ❖ Declaration of all government organizations as PLASTIC-FREE campuses
  - ❖ Strict check on vehicular and industrial pollution
  - ❖ Adoption of reduce, reuse and recycle mode of waste materials in all government organizations
  - ❖ Use of LED bulbs in different government organizations





- ❖ Wide-scale usage of solar light facilities
- ❖ Wide-scale practice of rain water harvesting needs to be adopted
- ❖ Formation of cleanliness volunteer organizations in each and every locality
- ❖ Setting up of Nature Clubs in all educational institutions and conduct of various activities through active teacher-student involvement

- **Effective forest and wildlife protection measures**

- ❖ Proper retrieval of all statistical data related to wildlife, particular related to the quantum of wildlife developmental aspects
- ❖ Proper delimitation of natural wildlife habitats
- ❖ Protection of animals against pollution and natural hazards
- ❖ Effective implementation of forest fire control measures
- ❖ Massive reforestation and afforestation programs
- ❖ Proper utilization of forests and its products
- ❖ Proper awareness programs for common people
- ❖ Ensuring support of local people residing in an around Wildlife Sanctuaries/ National Parks in the matter of wildlife protection/conservation
- ❖ Frequent monitoring of forest officials especially during flood and introduction of GPS system or drone are in urgent need at present context

### Anticipated outcomes

- Increased green cover in the State
- Proper flourishing of wildlife in the natural habitats through effective protection measures and healthy habitats
- Effective decrease of pollution rates
- Increased awareness amongst present-day youth on environmental consciousness, entrepreneurial aspects of medicinal plants, etc.
- Adoption of environmental-friendly initiatives by citizens

“The environment is in us, not outside of us. The trees are our lungs, the rivers our bloodstream. We are all interconnected, and what you do to the environment, ultimately you do to yourself.”

– Ian Somerhalder



Education

# Status of GER in Assam: Steps to be taken for its upliftment

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta

## BACKGROUND

India occupies the third place in regards to Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education (HE), next to United States and China. As per records of United Nations (UN), the present global GER in HE is 29% while of India is 27.1%. By 2022 the targeted GER of India is 32% which is fixed at 50% by 2030 as proposed in the NEP 2020. According to the 2019-20 survey of AISHS, which covers all HEIs in the country, categorized in 3 broad categories- University, College and Stand-Alone Institutions.

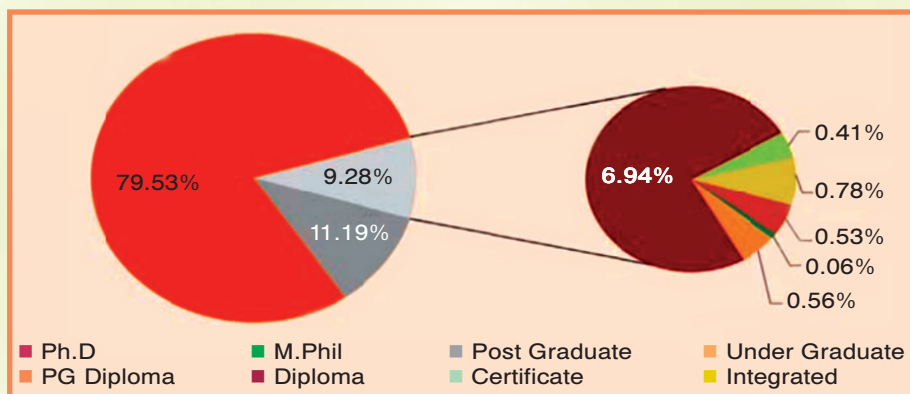


Fig. Percentage of students' entry in different programmes at National Level (Courtesy: AISHE)

## Level-wise enrolment of students through distance mode (2019-20)

Name of the programme	Male	Female	Total
Ph. D	44	57	101
M.Phil.	33	36	69
Post Graduate	504711	616735	1121446
Under Graduate	1745438	1172409	2917847
PG Diploma	50863	38103	88966
Diploma	58916	61144	120060
Certificate	18795	15951	34746
Integrated	744	2913	3687
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2379574</b>	<b>1907348</b>	<b>4286922</b>



### Level-wise enrolment of students through regular and distance mode (2019-20)

Name of the programme	Regular Mode	Distance Mode	Total
Ph.D.	177775	101	177876
M. Phil.	15805	69	15874
Post Graduate	975105	1121446	2096551
Under Graduate	2304499	2917847	5222346
PG Diploma	48719	88966	137685
Diploma	156098	120060	276158
Certificate	26103	34746	60849
Integrated	147342	3687	151029
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3851446</b>	<b>4286922</b>	<b>8138368</b>

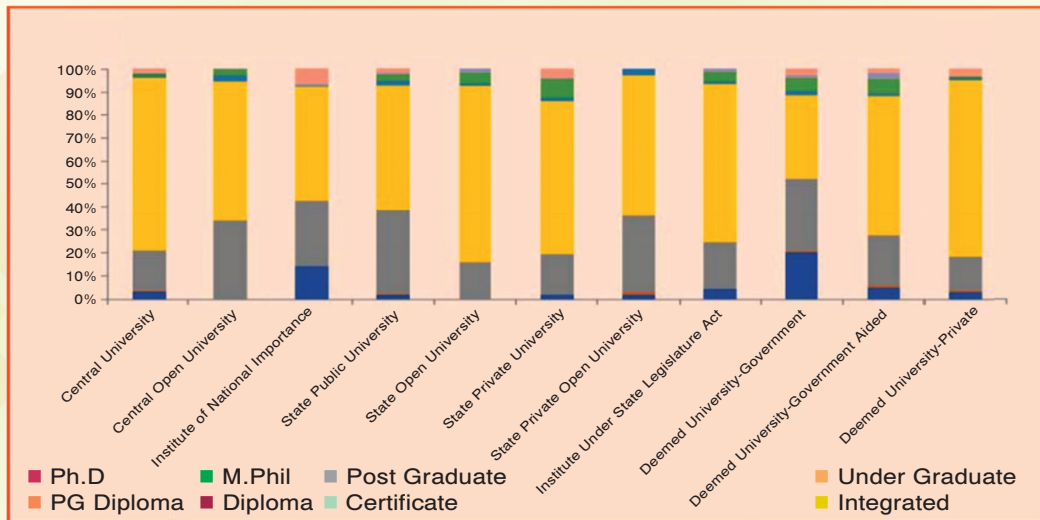


Fig. Level-wise enrolment in different programmes  
(Courtesy: AISHE)

### CONCEPT OF EER AND GER

As revealed by a study of five years data (2013-2017) of 10 selected countries viz. USA, UK, Germany, France, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, Pakistan, China and India, obtained from UNESCO Institute for Statistics, it was observed that the absolute difference between Eligible Enrolment Ratio (EER) values of developed and developing countries was much more smaller than the difference in GER values of the same countries. It is seen from the study that for developed nations GER and EER are consistently high. For example, USA having GER and EER 88.6 and 95.2 respectively, Germany GER 70.3, EER 84.6, etc. For all these countries the difference between the GER and EER is less than 10, which indicates a relatively matured and stable education system. But in India, GER 27.1 and EER 63.7 has a difference of 36.6 which is the highest difference between GER and EER amongst these selected





countries. Pakistan is in the last position of these selected countries both in GER 9.4 and EER 43.3. This study clearly indicates that there is a larger gap between the “population eligible” and “eligible population” due to poor school facilities linked to lesser access to HE. The extension of Right to Education till 18 years as per NEP 2020 will lead to an increase in school pass out which will automatically increase the GER in HE and bridge the gap between GER and EER.

**STATUS OF ASSAM IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

Present total population of Assam	= 3,54,08,292
Population (18 - 23 years age group)	= 3,75,9929 (10.62 % of total population)
GER to HE	= 17.3 %
HEI per one lakh people (18 - 23 years age group)	= 15

As per AISHE report 2019-20, Assam possesses 2.64% of the total population of India within 18-23 years. With the presently available number of educational institutions, Assam provides GER of 17.3% which is much below the average GER of the nation i.e. 27.1. Though the average percentage of enrolment in HE has been in an increasing trend yet there is a lack in enrolling large youth population for higher education in Assam. But in the recent years, average enrolment per college in Assam has shown a trend of improvement with an average of 870 enrolments per college in Assam as to the national average of 680 per college in India. Though the GER of Assam is below the average, an increasing trend has been seen since last few years with various schemes (like free admission etc.) and HE being the major focus of the government. At present the College Population Index (CPI) for the state of Assam is 15 against the national average of 30. Assam records a very high number of rural populations with very low living economy which is one of the causes for not going to HE.

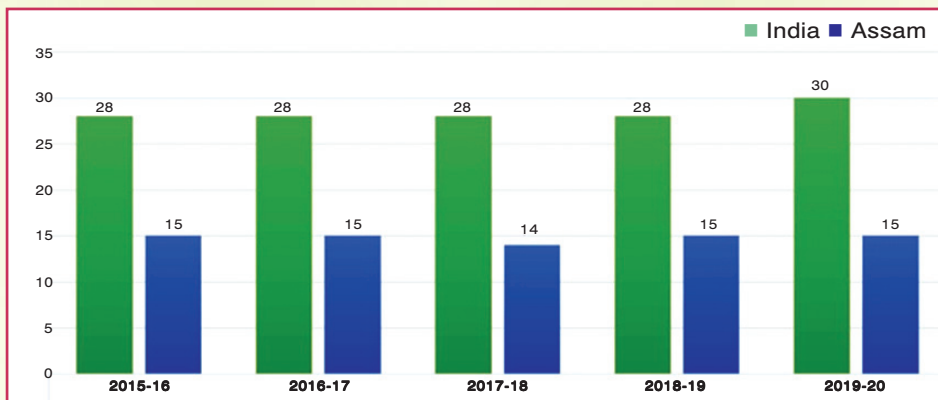


Fig. Number of colleges per lakh population (Courtesy: AISHE)



## I. Why GER in Assam is less than national average?

- Drop out in school level (up to class 10) is high
- Drop out in higher secondary level is also high
- A large section enters workforce due to poor economic condition
- The present unemployment situation discourages a section of student from pursuing higher studies
- Limited scope of HE institutions in certain areas restrict a section from pursuing higher studies
- Cost factor also restricts a section from pursuing higher studies

## II. Why demand for higher education will increase in coming years?

- To meet the NEP's target of increasing GER in coming years
- Introduction of semester system in school level as proposed in NEP will enhance the pass percentage of school leaving examination, which will give thrust on HE
- Influence of private institutions will increase the number of students
- Increased facilities of open and distance learning education will encourage the students for higher studies
- Increased institutions of HE in PPP mode will influence the students for HE
- Government schemes for financial assistance for needy students will encourage the students for HE

## III. What to do to reach the targeted GER?

- Checking the drop out number of students at school and secondary levels
- Encouraging girl students to pursue HE
- Encouraging peoples from rural and remote areas for HE
- Linking HEIs with industries for employment will encourage the students for HE
- Enhancing scholarship in different programs at par the National Level Scholarships will encourage the students for higher studies
- Introducing distance and open learning programs by all the Universities having centres in all the colleges for meeting the increasing demand of education

## IV. Present GER and future requirements of HEIs

State/Gender	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>India</b>					
Both	141290793	141537252	141829528	142078501	142328704
Male	73176211	73136991	73121283	73085095	73042922
Female	68114582	68400261	68708245	68996406	69285782
<b>Assam</b>					
Both	3696944	3713244	3729138	3744693	3759928
Male	1802398	1806802	1811017	1815087	1819013
Female	1894546	1906442	1918121	1929606	1940915



There were 37,59,928 students in Assam in the age group 18-23 in the year 2019-2020. As per all India records of AISHE, this number of students from Assam requires at least 1100 higher educational institutions in the state to meet the demand of National average of 30 colleges per lakh population. In Assam at present we are having total 676 HEIs as shown in the table below (*This includes the private institutions also*).

	Universities	Colleges	Stand-Alone Institutions
Assam	26	558	92
India	1043	42343	11779

### V. Measures to accommodate the increased number of students in HE

- Introduction of new professional and vocational courses in the existing HEIs for increasing the employability factor; this will lead to enhancement of the GER in future
- Establishment of new educational institutions of vocational/professional courses in different zones of the state considering the demand of that locality
- Establishment of new HEIs (like Model Degree Colleges) in remote and rural areas where there is shortage of institutions for increasing the institutional density and to minimize the regional variation
- Upgrading the existing single stream colleges of the state to multi-stream colleges (as per NEP 2020 recommendations)
- Encouraging the UG colleges to start PG programs for different subjects for compensating the demands of the students
- Removal of the higher secondary section from the degree colleges to encourage the teachers for quality education and research works

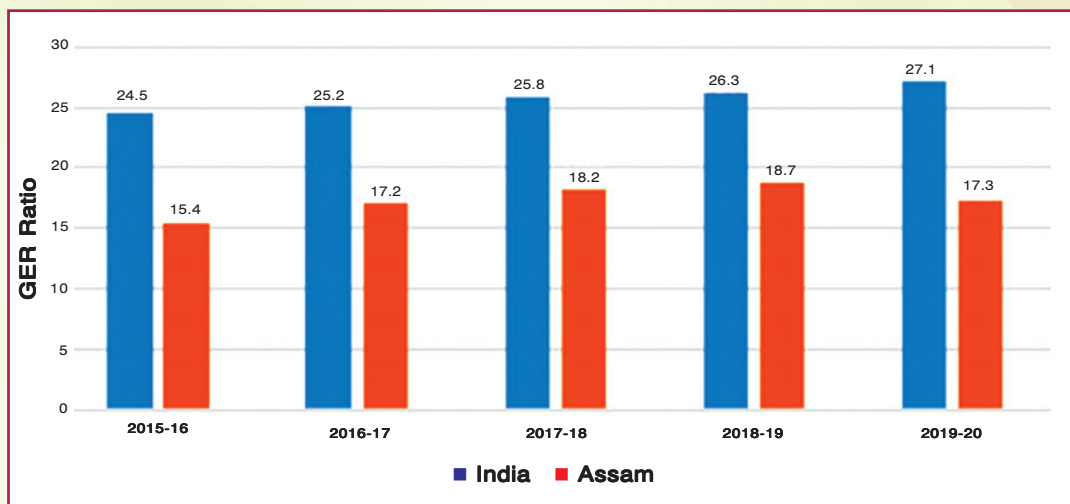


Fig: GER during the last 5 years of Assam and India as a whole (Courtesy: AISHE)





# Re-engineering the Engineering Education System

Prof. Manab Deka

## INTRODUCTION

Technical education is imparted in Assam at various levels such as: craftsmanship, diploma, and degree, post-graduate and research in specialized fields, catering to various aspects of technological development and economic progress. Students opt for Technical education with a hope to get good opportunity for employment and successful career. Technology is touching every aspect of life and society which may differ according to socio-economic conditions and geographical locations of various regions of the country. The State of Assam, with its own distinct geographical identity, is also burdened with a plethora of socio-economic issues like flood, erosion, landslides, earthquakes, etc. The Technical education community should be capable of resolving all such issues and problems faced by any particular geographic location and its inhabitants.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- **Government support for online programs:** Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is an Indian Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform to give a coordinated stage and free entry to web courses, covering all advanced education, high school and skill sector courses. All the courses are valid in the country and credit transfer for SWAYAM courses is defined. Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost to the learners, however learners wanting a SWAYAM certificate should register for the final proctored exams. *Government may allocate fund to the institutions for reimbursement of the certification fee to the student.*
- **Faculty training:** To meet the requirements of rapid changes and developments in technology, the undergraduate courses are being diversified with an emphasis on specialization. However, there is no system to generate the trained faculty for meeting this rapidly changing requirement. For this purpose, there has to be a very close and continuous monitoring of the phenomenal technological advancements that have been taking place elsewhere in the world in the emerging areas needs to be observed and the respective courses and faculty are regularly and continuously updated from time to time through Faculty Development Programs (FDP) which are available to the participants normally on paid basis. *Government may allocate fund to the institutions for encouraging the faculties for joining FDPs.*



- **Skill enhancement:** More than unemployment, un-employability is a serious issue that the field of engineering education in our country is facing. Therefore engineering colleges in India aims to enhance employability of students and make them good engineers and human beings reaching greater heights in their professional as well as personal life and contribute to the development of the society. The following constitutes important academic indicators –
  - ❖ To improve language competency, confidence skills, non-cognitive and soft skills including communication and presentation skills of students
  - ❖ Training of teachers in subject matter and pedagogy, particularly to improve the performance of weak students
  - ❖ Provide appropriate infrastructure for physically challenged students

*Government may allocate adequate fund to the institutions for accomplishing the above requirements.*

- **Other government policy measures:** The following may be adopted towards improvement of quality of teaching-learning in engineering:
  - ❖ Exchange of faculty at inter-institutional and national as well as international levels for generating a healthy competitive spirit among teachers
  - ❖ Training of faculty and technical staff in advanced institutions/organizations of the country/abroad for quality improvement
  - ❖ Strengthening of departmental laboratories
  - ❖ Creation of a central CAD Laboratory with state-of-the-art software and supporting hardware
  - ❖ Creation of a centralized instrumentation facility (CIF) with sophisticated and sensitive equipment relevant to different specializations
  - ❖ Upgradation of campus networking to Gigabyte Level with latest IP Telephony
  - ❖ Creation of centralized digital library facilities
  - ❖ Increased participation of women in technical education
- **Centre of Excellence (CoE):** Government may empower the technical institutions to set up CoE to enable the students to experience industry training in the institution with prototype of industrial machineries, so that they become industry ready after completion of their graduation.
- **Robotics Laboratories:** Government may allocate sufficient fund to set up robotics labs in technical institutions to make the students employable to work in 4th generation industries with automation.

### Anticipated outcomes

- Overall qualitative improvement of the technical education domain
- Preparing the technical student community to meet the challenges of the present-day job requirements by making them more employable
- Establishment of a system to generate trained faculty to keep pace with the rapidly changing engineering and technological environment in the present times
- Students will become employable in industries, in particular Industry-4.0, just after completing their graduation





# Vision for Graduate Quality Enhancement

Prof. Jogen Chandra Kalita

## INTRODUCTION

Quality is the backbone of the NEP 2020 which has new and forward-looking vision for India's higher education system. The main mission of each and every Higher Education Institution (HEI) of our country is to develop holistic and all round development of students, to improve Institute infrastructure and to enhance academic and administrative quality in order for ensuring graduate quality. Education is like the catalyst that can help reduce poverty, improve health condition, prevent needless deaths, eliminate gender disparity and create a sustainable society. For societies, education drives long-term economic growth, brings innovation, strengthens institutions, and fosters social cohesion. Education gives people the skills they need to help themselves to come out of poverty. The first objective of the NEP 2020 is to devise and implement robust solutions to its own problems, that are in harmony with different programs and initiatives of Government of India viz. *Make In India, Skill India, Start-up India* and latest being *Atma-Nirbhar India*. The UGC mandate strictly stressed upon the need for producing employable graduates from all HEIs in the country. There are a few important skills that our graduates need to acquire before they leave college and university. UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO has identified ten different core life skill strategies and techniques all the graduates should possess, e.g. problem solving skills, critical thinking, effective communication skills, leadership skills, team work, decision-making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationship skills, self-awareness building skills, empathy, and coping with stress and emotions. During their college life the students need to acquire all the essential skills to be successful in their future life. It is said that the educated people are the most valuable resource for 21st century societies and their institutions and their ideas can help to bring about prosperity, security and social well-being.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

Our State Government should support the colleges to meet huge challenges before them in present situation for working more with less. It has been a serious concern before the colleges, how to make world-class



learning platforms for students in Assam for higher education and research so that our graduates should be able to handle effectively different global issues, like conflict management, environmental issues, etc. There are a few sectors where the State Higher Education Dept. in coordination with other Govt. Departments may take initiatives to extend financial and other forms of support to our colleges so as to fill up the voids.

- **State Level Assessment and Accreditation Body:** Creation of such a body, in conformity to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), shall aim to undertake periodic assessment of colleges and thereby helping the colleges to analyze their own strength, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges and for devising strategies to meet various challenges. This kind of monitoring and assessment will certainly help our colleges to earn better Grade from NAAC. This practice will also encourage many colleges which may have financial constraints in inviting NAAC.
- **Support to Internal Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC):** Government may consider offering direct and special financial support to IQACs of colleges to prepare for NAAC accreditation on time, which shall have a bearing upon the quality of education and net output
- **Green initiatives:** Encouraging green initiatives in colleges through instituting state level awards etc. shall help in the creation of a stimulating campus environment for teaching, learning and research activities.
- **Development of sport infrastructure:** Development of good quality sport infrastructures in the college campus shall be of immense benefit to the student community
- **Special rewarding schemes for colleges:** These may be applicable for colleges which are successful in bringing national schemes such as DBT Star College, Institutional Bio-tech Hub etc. or taking initiatives in introducing new programs additionally to their curriculum (e.g. Add-on programs/Certificate programs/Vocational programs, etc.) for students, for example, *Digital Marketing, Climate Science, Human Rights Education, Public Order Maintenance, Ornamental Fish Culture, Floriculture, Horticulture, Tourist Guide, etc.*, or for having an *Incubation and Innovation Centre (Idea Centre)* in campus to nurture the ideas of young minds with hands-on experiences through various internship programs with industries, etc.
- **Study and Research Centres:** Setting up of these shall be a value addition for the colleges. These shall enable in the onset of quality teaching, facilitate small research works and making the colleges more sensitive towards social issues, thereby helping the students to become more socially responsible. For example, colleges may be encouraged to develop a **Centre for Gandhian Studies** for peace and harmony, **Centre for South East Asian Studies** for research on global issues, etc.
- **State-of-art Computer Centre:** Such facilities may be encouraged and





assisted to be developed in a way, so as to accommodate large number of students, along with adequate provision of campus WiFi system with high speed internet connectivity

- **Construction of separate Examination Halls:** These shall facilitate in conducting various academic examinations in isolation mode, without hampering conduct of regular classes of other students
- **Medicinal Plant Gardens or Herbal Garden in selected colleges:** These are capable of showcasing to the external world community about our unique endemic floral diversity, and may be portrayed through the institutional website. Government may assist some colleges to develop small-sized **Orchid gardens, Tea gardens, Timber tree gardens,** etc. for future resource generation for the colleges in a location-specific manner
- **College History Museum in selected colleges:** These shall facilitate in preserving all the institutional historical records as well as of the local community
- **Foreign Language Centres in selected colleges:** These shall encourage and enable students to be globally competent
- **International Office in selected colleges:** These shall aim to develop international academic collaborations for the benefit of the students
- **N.C.C program:** It may be made compulsory to show the importance of living a disciplined life among students and encouraging continuous social activities through the student volunteers

### Anticipated outcomes

- Addition of enhanced value in the higher education learning environment
- Development of quality learning cultures in all colleges
- Production of employable graduates and post-graduates through the higher education system

“ Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school. ”

– *Albert Einstein*

“ The capacity to learn is gift;  
The ability to learn is a skill;  
The willingness to learn is a choice. ”

– *Brian Herbert*





## Education

# Education by getting away from Degree Centricity

Dr. Dayananda Pathak

## INTRODUCTION

The colonial government left a system of education for us during the colonial rule. Even after seven decades of national independence, we have not recovered from the colonial legacy. Obsessive degree centricity has closed many channels leading to our own ways of looking at things. Degree centricity has not taught us to be self-reliant. On the contrary, we are delinked from our traditional work culture, rooted to our soil. The system inherited by us from the colonial government has already been discarded by the education system of the British government. Take the example of the affiliation system of our universities. We are already the prisoners of the affiliation system. Within the system, colleges have very little option to have feasible academic programs. A college cannot open new courses of studies within its own resources. Now we must change – change our attitude to education – change our desperation for university-certified degrees – change the periodicity of the newly introduced courses, taking into account the employability of the students under changed social contexts. University degrees have their own importance, but when a degree cannot assure our students dignified employability, we will have to rethink, reassess and redesign our course contents and duration of the courses. In our practical life, we have seen that a professor of Physics, despite his wide knowledge in his subject area, has to run after a car mechanic to get his car have smooth run. The interesting part is that the mechanic is an undergraduate or a person without any formal school education. Our kind of education has given us degrees, but not the creative skill. We do not even know how to make profitable use of the recourses that we have in abundance. After leaving the college we find ourselves unfit for any creative, productive and innovative work.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- To get rid of the situation, we will have to revisit our vision plan by starting newer innovative short-term courses, may be independently or alongside the mainstream academic courses. The New Education Policy 2020 has given major importance for skill-forming courses.





- The short-term courses may be for 15 days, 30 days, 90 days, or 180 days.
- The courses may include plumbing, tailoring, masonry, fireworks, electric works, fish farming, pickle-making, packaging, earthen art, bamboo art, aluminum works, flower gardening, wood art, home decoration, mobile repairs, car repairs, fashion designing, event management, and all that are necessary for every home.
- Who will be the teaching facilitators? Will they be like our post-graduate degree holders, doctorates having NET or SLET? I would like to bring in the example of Visva Bharati, established by Rabindranath Tagore. After Shantiniketan, he started another campus of the university – Sriniketan – for need-based services for rural reconstruction. He invited rural artisans for holding classes.
- The teachers for pottery may be a renowned potter of the district, may be without any formal education. The pickle making course may be for 15 days only managed by professionals of the product. Similarly, home decoration course may for 90 days only, as designed by the professionals of the line.

### Anticipated outcomes

- Such courses may help our students to be more self-reliant and useful to the society
- Besides, they will be employable or self-employable in every sector of the society
- For the university degree holders employment opportunities are very less. By doing this, we will be generating a positive attitude in the minds of our students for every piece of socially relevant work.
- This will also relieve them from avoidable obsession for university degrees

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

– *Marian Wright Edelman*

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

– *Malcolm X*



## Citizens and Society

# Water Sufficiency through Groundwater Recharge

Dr. Hiranmaya Sharma

### INTRODUCTION

As opined by Rajendra Singh, nicknamed as the Water Man of India, the Third World War may be fought for dominance over water in future. The United Nations also has confirmed that according to the current water availability situation and future projections, around 300 areas across the world will see a conflict over water by 2025. In spite of receiving good amount of rainfall and abundant water sources, Assam will be witnessing acute crisis of clean freshwater in the days to come due to increased human consumption and demands from agriculture and industry sectors. The phenomenon has already started as the conventional tube wells are replaced with deep tube wells, witnessed in both rural and urban areas, indicating depleting water table. Wide commercial usage of bottled and other forms of water has become a normal trend, putting additional burden on the population, especially the poor. As the water-table goes down, it will create an adverse effect on the vegetation, aquatic bodies and wildlife along with humans. Therefore, the need of the hour is to get ready for the anticipated adversities before it hits us hard.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- Various initiatives may be taken for replenishing groundwater e.g. conservation of water bodies, plantation of trees and setting up of recharge pits/wells
- Community must be involved in the process
- Percolation pits/injection wells/rainwater recharge pits may be constructed at both Government and public levels
- Government organizations/hospitals/community centres may have at least one recharge pit/well within their campus
- Housing colonies/apartments may be encouraged to dig their own recharge pits/wells
- Scheme implementation may be initiated/coordinated/monitored by the Water Resources Department
- Installation of recharge pits/wells in Government organizations may be made mandatory

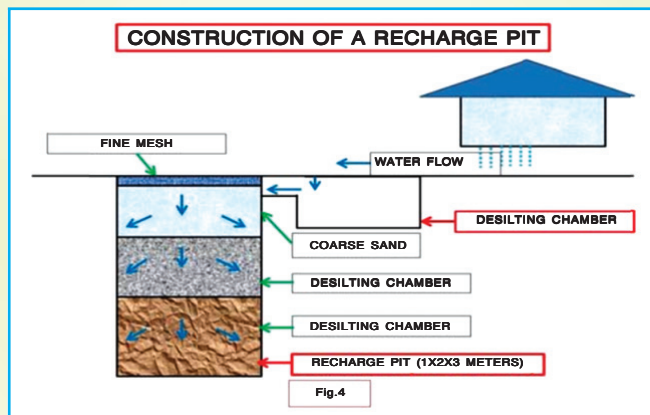




- Certificate of installation of recharge pits/wells may be
  1. linked to the following incentives for individual house owners for availing
    - (a) one-time relaxation in installation fees of new water supply connections
    - (b) 2% rebate in the monthly water bill
  2. made compulsory for housing colonies/apartments

## Recharge pit/well specifications

- Recharge pits/wells shall receive the roof top rainwater/ground run-off water for onward harvesting/ storage
- Size of the pits/wells may be 1 - 2 m wide and 2 - 3 m deep
- Pits/wells to be filled with boulders (5 - 20 cm), gravels (5 - 10 mm) and coarse sand (1.5 - 2 mm) in graded form
- Boulders to be placed at the bottom, the gravels in the middle and the coarse sand at the top
- A fine mesh to be placed at the top to prevent silt or solid waste/debris from into getting inside the pit
- A desilting/collection chamber may also be provided at the ground to prevent fine particles movement into the recharge pits/wells
- Upper sand layer should to be periodically replaced whenever silt is deposited in excess



## Anticipated outcomes

- Groundwater levels will increase significantly over time
- Availability of clean freshwater will increase for human consumption, agricultural activities and industrial usage
- Natural water bodies will get recharged and aquatic flora and fauna will be benefitted
- Vegetation will grow well resulting in increased oxygen production, increased rainfall and decreased temperature of the area
- Water-borne diseases will be less as access to clean freshwater will be more



## Disaster Management

# Financing Disaster Management Issues, Challenges and Recent Administrative Reforms

Dr. Mirza Mahammad Irshad

## INTRODUCTION

The National Disaster Management Act, 2005, contains provisions for financial mechanism such as creation of funds for financing disaster management activities in the country i.e. National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) and State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF). However, 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (2015-20) focused on the disaster relief and response only and recommended funds for such activities under NDRF and SDRF. During the period, for all the states and Union Territories of India SDRF/NDRF has been the main source of disaster funding. As per the guidelines of Government of India issued in this regard, if a state/UT experiences more than one disaster in a financial year and existing SDRF allocation for that year is not sufficient to cover the expenses, it can submit a memorandum to the Govt. of India seeking funds from NDRF. Govt. of India on the basis of the recommendations of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team placed after conducting a damage assessment may release additional fund on the merit of the claim made.

As per SDRF norms, new construction or permanent restoration works is not allowed. However, relief, immediate restoration and rehabilitation can be met from SDRF. There are also provisions for assistance against house damage, crop damage, cattle and livestock loses or for payments of ex-gratia to the next of kin of any person who lost his/her life or any person sustaining injury during the disaster (this also covers the responders and personnel engaged in relief works). However, SDRF norms allow financing disaster management activities for a series of notified disasters only. Unfortunately, erosion is not one of them. Hence, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, GoA, has notified erosion, lightning and storm as state specific disasters in 2015. Any state or UT can spend up to ten percent of the allotted funds under SDRF on state specific disasters. For a state like Assam it has been a major hindrance as magnitude of the disaster is very severe and colossal.

15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (2021-26) has shifted the focus to disaster mitigation along with the disaster relief and response and has recommended setting up National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and State Disaster Risk Mitigation Fund (SDRMF) which will have two components i.e. Responsefund and Mitigation fund. Further, it has considered erosion





as a disaster and addressed two aspects of erosion i.e. (a) mitigation measures to prevent erosion and (b) resettlement of people displaced by erosion.

For NDRMF 2021-26, 15<sup>th</sup> FC recommended Rs.1000 Crore under NDRF for resettlement of people affected by erosion. Rs.1500 Crore under NDMF has been recommended separately for mitigation measures to control erosion. Further, it asked NDMA/MHA GoI to frame suitable norms in this regard. Existing SDRF/NDRF norms will remain enforce until GoI brings a new guideline.

Government of Assam under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam, has recently undertaken several very important administrative reforms regarding financial arrangement for disaster management activities. Most important of these are to delegate powers to the districts to provide immediate relief and admissible financial assistance to the affected people and carry out immediate restoration works of minor infrastructures like Anganwadi Centres, Panchayat Ghars, Primary Schools, Primary Health Centers etc. For this purposes a Revenue Circle Level Task Force is constituted in every revenue circles of Assam for immediate assessment of damage and expedite the process of post disaster recovery. As per the notification issued by the Government of Assam, the Task Force will prepare list of beneficiaries for admissible assistance under SDRF norms for agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Handicraft/Handloom/Housing and proposals for immediate restoration of damaged minor infrastructures as cited above and submit the same to the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). All the aforementioned proposals shall be submitted not later than fifteen days of the occurrence of the disaster to the DDMA along with the minutes of the meetings of the Task Force. The Task force will also ensure timely submission of proposals by line departments for immediate restoration and repairing of damaged infrastructure to the DDMA. DDMA's have been empowered to approve most of the proposals and only those proposals that involve huge financial implications are to be placed before State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam. This will help in speedy disposals of the proposals and expedite the post disaster recovery process.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

- SDRF, which is now part of Disaster Risk Management Fund, covers almost entire relief, rehabilitation and restoration expenditure of the state governments. Budgetary provisions in the annual work plan of the departments for disaster management activities will go a long way to bridge the gap in the field of financing disaster management activities.
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, allows companies to fund State Disaster Management Authorities under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure. States like Kerala and Odhisa have undertaken several major initiatives with the funds received under CSR activities. This modality can also be replicated in Assam, as major stakeholders have their operational areas within the State.



## Disaster Management

# Brahmaputra River Management

Shri Moon Chandra Deka

## INTRODUCTION

The potentiality of surface and ground water resources in Assam is very high due to the environmental flow of Brahmaputra basin. The ecosystem and livelihoods of the people of Northeast India are associated with the Brahmaputra's sub-basins. Hence, an efficient management of the Brahmaputra's network means more development of livelihoods of the people of Assam in particular and the Northeast in general. But, perennial floods in the Brahmaputra's network since the 1950 earthquake have been affecting people and their livelihoods, besides hitting the State's economy. The Water Resources Department of Assam and different organizations like Brahmaputra Board are dedicatedly engaging themselves in the management to flood and erosion. However, we are yet to prepare a suitable methodology to be adopted for flood mitigation in the region. The Union Home Minister has already given assurance of finding out a possible solution for surface water management in Assam to make the State 'flood-free'.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- **Watershed prioritization:** The Brahmaputra is known for its high sediment yield. The river carries about 852 tons per square kilometres sediment annually. This sediment yield is basically due to damaging run-off from the upper reaches of the river's catchment located in Tibet, Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan. To control the damaging run-off and siltation on the river bed, the governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh shall have to take a collaborative project for the growth of forest resources and plan for favorable watershed prioritization in various stages.
- **Diplomatic initiatives:** Though it's not feasible, China has a definite plan to divert the river waters or set up a gravity dam in the proposed site that will create ecological disturbances to the river and its catchment area. In this context, the Indian government will have to raise the issue at the international level.
- **Water Management Plan:** The Water Resources Department shall





have to take a responsibility for preparing a favorable water management plan for the Brahmaputra. The initial work of the State government is to make a scientific platform under the department for carrying out a comprehensive study of the entire Brahmaputra basin using remote sensing and GIS tools. It will be more fruitful if the government invites a professional organization for the study. At first, a detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) should be prepared to carry out the study encompassing integrated areas such as surface water, ground water, soil & agriculture, flora & fauna, social & physical infrastructure, etc. River basin management should also be taken into account as it will be reflected upon various fields such as industries, agriculture, urban development, inland navigation, soil conservation, engineering geology, etc.

- **Creation of drainage digital database:** The creation of a hydrological or drainage digital database is now a priority for exploring the present status of the basin and to evaluate temporal change detection. An integrated approach study under GIS environment by a professional organization involving various stakeholders like water resources departments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, Central Water Commission, Indian Meteorological Department, Brahmaputra Board, Northeast Space Application Centre, ISRO-SAC, NHPC, NEEPCO, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Soil & Agriculture Department, Irrigation Department, IITG, Gauhati University, NERIWALM, etc., may be considered for the final study. NEEPCO & NHPC has to do many works in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction including Flood Forecasting technology within the respective river sub-basins. The study will help to make out a temporal digital database of the Brahmaputra basin which will be more useful to retrieve and explore past and present basin characteristics before undertaking any scientific planning at different stages.

“A river doesn’t just carry water, it carries life.”

– *Amit Kalantri*

“Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel Prizes – one for peace and one for science.”

– *John F. Kennedy*





## Citizens and Society

# State Philanthropy Day

Ms. Bidisha Bayan

### INTRODUCTION

The adjective 'philanthropic' is described by the Collins English Dictionary as *"showing concern for humanity, especially by performing charitable actions, donating money, etc."* Such an act has been institutionalized through the celebration of the National Philanthropy Day (NPD), which is being celebrated in the United States on fifteenth of November every year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) since 1986 all across the country. The Canadian government has also enacted the National Philanthropy Day Act in 2012 for celebrating such an event on an annual basis. The Act has recognized philanthropy as a spirit of giving without expectation or reward and that it helps in building strong communities and active civic participation by bringing people together to serve a common goal. In another variation, the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) of the Center for Corporate Citizenship in Boston College of United States is leading the International Corporate Philanthropy Day (ICPD) on the fourth Monday in February every year. This event is an opportunity for corporations to reflect on, and raise awareness of, the role of the private sector in society as well as the business and social benefits of corporate community investment.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- A particular day may be earmarked for celebrating a State Philanthropy Day
- Event may be celebrated on institutional basis (by different private or public institutions) or community basis (by different neighbourhoods, villages, panchayats, wards in urban areas, etc.) or individual basis
- On the specified day, different members of the society shall contribute by way of cash or kind (however meagre it may be) as per individual capacity and as a goodwill gesture towards the well-being of the society
- Items collected by way of kind may be distributed by the concerned institution or community in an appropriate way, amongst the immediate neighbourhood community or elsewhere on need basis





- Cash amount collected may be deposited in the specified account of the Government, e.g. the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The government may also think of instituting a new type of community account e.g. a Citizen's Goodwill Fund for accepting such contributed amount from its citizens
- Higher educational institutions may distribute the donated material through NSS, NCC or any other mechanism, amongst the institutionally adopted villages
- Different companies and their branches may execute such philanthropic activities in their operational areas
- Contributions collected at panchayat- or ward-level, etc. may be distributed in their jurisdictional areas amongst the needy
- All philanthropic activities may be displayed in a specified website as a mark of goodwill acknowledgment
- Cash donation received may be gainfully utilized for various community welfare works
- Overseas Assamese diaspora, having presence in many countries, may also contribute on the specified date in a befitting manner

### Anticipated outcomes

- Promotion of communal welfare amongst the different needy sections of the society
- Strengthening the feeling of social responsibility
- Imbibing the feeling of universal brotherhood amongst all

“Philanthropy is not about the money...  
It's about using whatever resources you have at your fingertips  
and applying them to improving the world.”

— *Melinda Gates*

“Wealth is not to feed our egos, but the feed the hungry and to  
help people helped themselves.”

— *Andrew Carnegie*



## Agriculture

# Agricultural Diversification through Horticulture

Dr. Ira Das

## INTRODUCTION

The unique agro-climatic condition of Assam permits us to grow different varieties of horticulture crops. Most of the areas of Assam are considered as organic by default. Only 15 per cent of the gross cropped area in Assam is being used for horticulture crop production. The potentiality of horticulture in the state is yet to be fully harnessed. In a flood-prone state like Assam where the productivity of the major food crop rice is uncertain, agricultural diversification through horticulture can reduce the impact of major crop failure and provide income as well as nutritional security to the farmers. In this way, it can provide ample scope for value addition to the state's agriculture sector.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- Assam may follow **Bangladesh model** exemplified by the Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association (BAPA). It has been engaged in establishing a sustainable agro-processing and food exporting system to improve harvests. With productive agro-processing training and innovation, local farmers were able to increase their market output throughout the region.
- Government may give the responsibility to the Gaon-Panchayats to form **Village Advisory Committees (VAC)**
- With the help and advice of VACs, Gaon-Panchayats shall identify the crops or agro-horticulture products which are mostly available and profitable to be produced in the respective villages or localities
- VACs should inform farmers about government schemes to take benefits
- Horticulture crops can be planted with small holdings of the people or homesteads (*bari*)
- Construction of store houses with cold storage facilities must be intensified and localized within the villages or amongst village clusters, for minimizing transportation costs and spoilage





- Farmers may be encouraged and assisted by the Gaon-Panchayat (like through *Mandis*) to sell their products locally or export
- Separate department under Horticulture Department may be constituted for coordinating organic farming activities
- Scope for agro-processing units like juice, jam, jelly, pickle, sauce making industries and spice processing (turmeric, ginger, black pepper, chilli, mustard) making industries in the state.
- Scope for multiple cropping in the same piece of land, like combination of areca nut-pine apple-back pepper; coconut-ginger, turmeric-black pepper, etc.
- Scope for ancillary industries like fruit-pulping, packaging (fruit canning etc.), printing (for label etc.) and ancillary services like fertilizers, tools, insecticides, pesticides, irrigation equipment, consultancy services, etc.
- Focus to be put on the success stories of banana cultivation, orange cultivation etc.
- Community and contract farming concept may be introduced in proper sense with government rules and regulations
- Effective marketing strategy can be planned by respective government departments with the Gaon-Panchayats and VACs

### Anticipated outcomes

- Generate employment opportunities to the seasonal and disguised unemployed people, in a wide range of sectors, viz. field operations like fruit picking, harvesting, grading, packing, selling, etc.
- Intensive engagement of village women
- Large scale revenue earnings for the State through way of export of finished products
- Providing nutritional security to the citizens of the State
- Value addition in sectors of entertainment, medicine, aesthetic values and religion

“Investments in agriculture are the best weapons against hunger and poverty, and they have made life better for billions of people.”

– *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*



## Education

# Concept of College Library Consortium

Shri Unindajyoti Choudhury

## INTRODUCTION

The education system in the present days has to adapt in a new way in order to survive in a transforming world. The entire education system is well supported by information published in different forms like, books, journals, reference materials, teaching and reference aids, etc. In the development of a culturally and academically strong society, libraries are capable of playing an active role through coordination of public, academic and special library systems. In this context, the need to rethink upon the role of library services is very much pertinent.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- **Library Consortium:** Library consortiums may be created amongst a group of neighboring colleges in any town or city, so as to avoid duplication of collection and to ensure optimum use of resources for near-location users. Various forms of digital resources are possible to be shared with ease through this type of consortium.
- **Consortium Facilities:**
  - ❖ **Union Catalogue Facility:** Common online catalogue may be created for such consortiums by compiling all the available institutional library resources in a single platform. Users will be comfortably able to locate their required resources through this arrangement.
  - ❖ **Inter-library Loan Facility:** Through a common Library Card facility, users from one institution will be able to borrow library resources from another institution where the required resource is available.
  - ❖ **Community Service Facility:** Libraries can provide service to the people residing in the institutional fringe areas after college hours. Through such an arrangement, retired persons or other non-institutional students and scholars may be benefited. Library cards may be issued to common public as is done for Government-run district libraries.





- ❖ **Online Service Facility:** Today the concept *Library without Wall* is very relevant. Libraries may provide documents to any user through online mode. Libraries may scan documents and keep in a proper database for the benefit of different end-users. Through such an arrangement, users shall obtain information at ease without spending time and money.

### Anticipated outcomes

- Easy availability of library resources to needy users
- Optimum usage of library resources
- Enhanced societal benefits

## INNOVATIVE DESIGNS OF LIBRARY BUILDINGS



Karabuk University Library  
in Karabuk, Turkey  
(Courtesy:  
[www.bluesyemre.com](http://www.bluesyemre.com))



Kansas City Public Library  
in Kansas City, Missouri  
(Courtesy: [www.fubiz.net](http://www.fubiz.net))

“ God made libraries so that people didn’t have any excuse to be stupid. ”

– Joan Bauer



## Environment

# Youth-driven Environment Task Force

Ms. Nandita Rajbangshi

## INTRODUCTION

The degradation of our environment is constantly on the rise and that too in a fast pace due to different anthropogenic causes, in all the three major Earth domains viz. land, air and water. Unless and until a strategy is evolved to raise serious awareness amongst the present youth generation about the need for certain proactive measures, through their active involvement, the future can be predicted to be a gloomy one.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- A Environmental Task Force (ETF) may be constituted
- ETF to be a youth-driven force
- Involvement of youth from school to university level in ETF activities and missions
- ETF shall be primarily responsible for reinforcing environmental remediation measures within the State of Assam
- ETF shall function in a 3-tier system, viz. State level nodal body, District-level bodies and Local-level groups -
  - ❖ **State-level:** Shall monitor and coordinate the overall activities throughout the State, via the district-level bodies; Shall take the initiative to constitute the district-level bodies  
Member composition: State Coordinator (1), Assistant State Coordinators (2), Members (33 district coordinators from each district)
  - ❖ **District-level:** Shall monitor and coordinate the overall activities of the local level groups that are active throughout the respective districts; Shall take the initiative to constitute the local-level bodies within their respective jurisdiction  
**Member composition:** District Coordinator (1), Assistant District Coordinator (1), Members (as per convenience)
  - ❖ **Local level:** Shall be the primary action groups working in the grass-root level





**Rural areas:** One (1) group for every 1-3 villages (depending upon areal size of villages/ proximity of the villages). Every group may comprise of at least 100 youth of different age groups residing in the locality.

**Urban areas:** Four (4) groups in every municipal ward. Every group may comprise of at least 100 youth of different age groups (preferably 80% from the age group of 10-21 years + 20% from the above 21 years age group) residing in the locality.

**Member composition:** Coordinator (1), Assistant Coordinator (1), Members (as per convenience)

● **Range of intended activities:**

- ❖ Creation of environmental awareness on door to door basis in the respective jurisdictional areas (in collaboration with NCC/ NSS/ different NGOs/ local civic bodies/ etc. wherever feasible and applicable). Awareness creation themes shall include *prudent use of water, rainwater harvesting, reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions, stoppage of spitting, littering and garbage disposal in public places, primarily in urban and semi-urban areas, deforestation and afforestation issues, etc.*
- ❖ Large-scale plantation of abundantly available local indigenous fruit-bearing trees along different lanes, streets, roads, and highways of the State; monitoring the healthy growth of the planted saplings
- ❖ Occasional cleaning and greening programs in coordinated mode
- ❖ Stepping up of community vigilance for minimizing all environmental nuisances
- ❖ Coordination with law enforcement agencies (wherever applicable)

### Anticipated outcomes

- Minimization of rampant littering in the public places
- Minimization of the need for intensive cleaning by municipal cleaning staff
- Minimization of environmental pollution
- Enhanced green cover all throughout the State
- Large-scale production of different indigenous fruits for both human and wildlife consumption
- Effective outcome of environmental education amongst the youth





## Citizens and Society

# Population Control Legislation

Dr. Pulama Deka

## INTRODUCTION

Overpopulation is the primary cause for degradation of quality and status of life in several countries and regions, and is one of the most dangerous problems crippling the world today. The population of India today is twelve times more than that what prevailed before Independence. Countries like China have started the "one child per family policy" way back in 1979. Chinese citizens who did have more than one child would have to pay income tax amounting to fifty percent of their income or punished by loss of employment. The Government set target goals for each region and local officials were held responsible if population growth exceeds targeted goals. In Assam also, there are justified reasons to think in this direction in a long-term developmental perspective.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- Specific State legislation may be enacted, focusing upon a 2-child policy for every household (in the lines of the proposed Population Regulation Bill, 2019 tabled in Rajya Sabha in February 2020)
- Violation of the policy norms should make the family in question ineligible for different government facilities like -
  - ❖ admission of children in government educational institutions
  - ❖ government scholarships
  - ❖ educational loans
  - ❖ ration cards
  - ❖ other social welfare schemes
  - ❖ passport
  - ❖ jobs in government offices/ organizations
  - ❖ promotional benefits to parents who are employed in government jobs
  - ❖ immovable property purchase rights





- ❖ immovable property disposal rights
- Violators can also be made to pay higher income tax (with proper policy orientation with the central government)
- A Population Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) under the Social Welfare Department may be set up for planning and monitoring tackling all matters related to population growth and control
- Incentives may also be offered to families having one child or no child under the same scheme

### Anticipated outcomes

- Effective means to check the ever-growing population, amongst a large chunk of population segment
- Putting a check on the adverse demographic growth pattern in the State
- Economic prosperity amongst different societal cross-sections
- Improvement of social environmental conditions

“Overconsumption and overpopulation underlie every environmental problem we face today.”

— *Jacques Yves Cousteau*

“Instead of controlling the environment for the benefit of the population, perhaps it is time we control the population for the survival of the environment.”

— *David Attenborough*

“If the world is to save any part of its resources for the future, it must reduce not only consumption, but the number of consumers.”

— *B. F. Skinner*



## Education

# Reforms in the Primary Education Sector

Shri Udhava Kalita

## INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, India has made considerable advancements on access to schooling and enrollment rates in primary education but dropout rates and low levels of learning remain challenges for the state and central governments. Primary school enrollment in India has been a success story, largely due to various programs and drives to increase enrollment even in remote areas. Additionally, the quality of learning is a major issue and reports show that children are not achieving class-appropriate learning levels. A weak foundation in primary education can create havoc in the lives, careers, and productivity of the students. Without immediate and urgent reforms, these children cannot effectively progress in the education system, and so improving the quality of learning in schools is the next big challenge. Challenges also exist in implementing and monitoring high standards in teaching and learning process in the primary education sector.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- **Teacher Development Programs:** Introduction of compulsory skill enhancement teacher development programs (like Orientation Programs, Refresher Courses, Faculty Development Programs, etc. that exist in the higher education system)
- **Learning Mechanisms:** Training of the teachers various e-learning mechanisms and usage of online educational resources
- **Infrastructure:** Providing adequate number of classrooms, desks-benches, other furniture and quality drinking water to the schools
- Providing ICT-enabled classrooms to the schools
- Proper implementation of recommendations made by experts in the *Gunutsav* program
- **IQAC:** Establishment of a mechanism in the lines of the Internal Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC) that currently exist in the higher education system for monitoring and coordinating the internal quality assurance systems





and procedures

- Setting up of a mechanism to ensure regular school attendance of a category of students who works in various small scale industries in some remote areas (e.g. brick industries, tea industries, etc.)
- Measures may be taken to plug the loopholes that exist in the mid-day meal system so that the students get optimum benefit out of the system

### Anticipated outcomes

- Improvement of knowledge and skill of the teachers
- Dissemination of quality education
- Significant improvement of the mental and physical health of students
- Easy access to educational resources by the students
- Overall qualitative improvement of the primary education sector

“ Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think. ”

— *Albert Einstein*

“ The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth. ”

— *Erasmus*

“ An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest. ”

— *Benjamin Franklin*

“ If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn. ”

— *Ignacio Estrada*



## Sports

# Strengthening the Sport-Youth Connectivity: Promoting Traditional Sports and Infrastructure Development

Shri Diuk Jyoti Handique

## INTRODUCTION

A few sporting events, including cricket, football, hockey, etc. are being hyped in our country, despite the country having a long list of traditional sports, that were once played with much hype and vigour. However, for preserving our distinct traditional identity, the focus on these non-conventional sports needs to be prioritized for overall benefit of the present-day youth in the context of teamwork and social interaction. In Assam, various forms of traditional and contemporary games are played in different areas by the people since age-old times, some of these slowly losing their relevance in the modern day context.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- Promotion of different indigenous sporting activities through specially held events in the State (e.g. Indian Traditional Games Festival of Singapore, Qila Raipur Sports Festival of Punjab, etc.), so that good representation is ensured in the **World Indigenous Games**, which is a multi-sporting event
- A **State-level Indigenous Games** maybe organized on an annual basis, which will serve to revive and add new blood to some of the games which are on the verge of extinction
- Special funding for development of sports infrastructure in schools and colleges, viz. purchase of sport equipment, development of playgrounds, game courts, etc.
- Well-maintained **Sports Libraries** needs to be set up in educational institutions
- Designated posts of **Sports Teacher/ Physical Instructor** may be created in educational institutions, in single or cluster basis
- Development of more playgrounds in government lands as per area-wise needs
- Proper maintenance of existing public playgrounds





- Scheme for development of **Athletic Clubs/ Gymnasium Hubs** in every nook and corner of the State

### Anticipated outcomes

- Enhancement of physical health and well-being of youth in the present times of increasing stress-related issues
- Improving agility, eye-hand coordination and building up of life skills amongst youth
- Providing a means to connect youth to our rich national culture and heritage
- Development of good behavior and inter-personal skills

“Sports teaches you character, it teaches you to play by rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose – It teaches you about life.”

– *Billie Jean King*

“Before kids can play like a pro, they must enjoy playing the game like a kid.”

– *Steve Locker*

“Competitive sports are played mainly on a five-and-a-half inch court, the space between your ears.”

– *Bobby Jones*

“The five S’s of sports training are: Stamina, Speed, Strength, Skill and Spirit; but the greatest of these is spirit.”

– *Ken Doherty*



## Governance

# Reforms in College Internal Governance

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

### INTRODUCTION

Different higher educational institutions (HEI) across the State has been performing at different rates and pace, in spite of various qualitative parameters being set forth by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) for qualitative assessment of the HEIs. Amongst different stakeholders, teachers constitute a primary determining factor in the qualitative improvement of different HEIs. As such, in the present day context, teachers are required to put forward performance output in respect of a variety of parameters. For ensuring this, the governance aspect at collegiate level needs to be reviewed and renewed.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- **Estate Officer (EO)**
  - ❖ A designated post of EO may be arranged in every HEI
  - ❖ EO shall be the custodian of all the movable and immovable properties of the HEI
- **Mandatory bodies in all HEIs**

All HEIs may mandatorily set up and maintain the following in-house bodies for qualitative output: **Students' Counseling Cell, Grievance Redressal Cell, Career Counseling cum Placement Cell, First Aid Centre, Disaster Management Cell, Entrepreneurship Development Cell, Internal Complaints Committee**
- **Mandatory activities for all HEIs**

All HEIs may mandatorily perform the following activities:

  - ❖ Regular Parent-Teacher meetings for academic review
  - ❖ Regular student mentoring activities by the teachers
  - ❖ Periodical outreach and extension activities in joint teacher-student mode

#### Anticipated outcomes

- High performance output amongst teachers
- High performance output amongst students
- Overall qualitative growth of the HEI
- Good scoring in NAAC assessment





## Governance

# Centralized Grievance Redress Mechanism

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

### INTRODUCTION

The objective of setting up of a grievance redress mechanism conforms to the responsive and accountable attitude amongst all stakeholders. Without any effective grievance redress mechanism in place, the public trust on the government functioning machinery deteriorates. Furthermore, such a mechanism also serves to keep the efficiency of the administrative systems in perfect order.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- An integrated **Centralized Grievance Redress and Monitoring Mechanism (CGRAMS)** may be adopted for all govt. offices in Assam in a single portal
- Reference for viewing currently working model may be made by concerned implementation authority at: <http://pgportal.gov.in>

#### Anticipated outcomes

- Enhancement of accountability of each employee
- Minimization of corrupt practices
- Sense of satisfaction amongst the general public

“A grievance is most poignant when almost redressed.”

– Eric Hoffer

“So many of earth’s grievances could be soothed by a little consideration.”

– Marilynne Robinson





## Tourism

# Development of Geoparks and Community Geo-museums

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

## INTRODUCTION

Geoparks are large territories which –

- are not bounded by well-demarcated closed boundaries
  - may range to the extent of thousands of square kilometers
  - may be of inter-district, inter-state or inter-country nature
  - consist of sites having geological, geomorphological, archaeological, ecological and cultural values
  - sustain through geotourism mode
  - promote activities like *academic meets, nature trails, excursions, cycling tours, exhibitions, concerts*, etc. for sustenance of the communities residing within the sites
  - possess sound infrastructural provisions like *Geo-Routes, Geopark Rangers, Geo-Activity Centres for Youth, Geo-Museums, Geo-Products, Geo-Shops*, etc.
  - operate through active involvement of local communities
  - are officially recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- outstanding national level geoparks are recognized as UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp)

### Brief background

- Concept started in Europe in the year 2000
- 169 UGGp in 44 countries as of date
- Several regional-level geopark networks exist as of date: *European Geoparks Network (EGN), Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN), African UNESCO Global Geopark Network (AUGGN), Latin American and Caribbean Geopark Network (LACGN)*
- Several national-level geopark networks as of date: *Japanese Geoparks Network, Chinese Geoparks Network, Canadian Geoparks Network, Korean Geoparks Network, Taiwan Geoparks Network*





## Status in India

- No existing geopark in the country
- No assigned Union Ministry/ Govt. Department to fund and support geoparks development
- Coordinating efforts presently undergoing in states like Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, etc. through informal platforms (e.g. Geoheritage India Group, Guardians of GEOHERITAGE Group)
- No existing law for geoheritage conservation; a draft law is presently under consideration by the Union Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- A **geopark** of UGGp standards may be conceptualized covering the districts of Jorhat, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia
- Different inseparable tangible and intangible elements having cultural heritage, archaeological heritage, natural heritage and energy heritage values can be integrated in the conceptualized geopark
- Qualifying elements shall include cultural heritage (tangible and intangible heritage of the Ahom and British legacies (e.g. Ahom monuments, British-made *Chang* bungalows, golf courses, horse races, heritage railway tract, etc.), archaeological heritage (Ahom dynasty, e.g. *maidams*), natural heritage (tea plantations, wildlife reserves, etc.), energy heritage (oil heritage and coal heritage, e.g. coal mining sites, oil drilling sites, oil refinery, coal museum, oil museum, etc.)
- Certain **community geo-museums** may be set up in any suitable location of the conceptualized geopark territory, which shall be set up and managed through active involvement of local communities. Such museums may function in the cooperative mode, involving preferably local educated unemployed youth and budding entrepreneurs, and operate in the cooperative mode. Technological know-how may be arranged through collaboration with geoscientific/academic organizations in the matter of setting up of these museums and training up of museum guides and field geo-guides.
- Stakeholders to range from government and non-government agencies to tour operators, locally functioning cooperatives, educational agencies, village councils and local populace to be involved under a joint exercise
- Both bottom-up and top-down approaches to operate in simultaneous mode in the geopark creation process



### Anticipated outcomes

- Shall enhance the place value of many locales thereby attracting tourists, researchers, students and people from different walks of life
- Shall promote regional art and culture as well as local traditions
- Shall attract more international travellers
- Provide an opportunity for women and unemployed youth to be involved in newer avenues of income-generating activities
- Shall uplift the standard of living of the local inhabitants through boosting up of economy
- Proposed geopark shall become self-sustaining after it becomes functional





# Tapping the Natural Water Springs

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

## INTRODUCTION

The demand of water for domestic and industrial usage is growing over the years due to the ever-growing population pressure in different parts of the State, as well as due to the growth in the industrial and service sectors. The water being supplied from the rivers being inadequate to meet the need of every household, especially in towns and cities, there is an ever growing tendency to exploit the groundwater resources, which has become a matter of grave concern. This precious resource which has accumulated below the ground since long is fast depleting and in many cases it has posed serious health hazards also. In such a context, it is the need of the hour to explore alternative sources of potable water.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- The natural springs that are found in the different hilly terrains can be potentially exploited
- At selected sites, large **Water Harvesting Tanks** may be constructed
- Adequate maintenance and expansion may be taken up in the existing sites
- The stored water may be distributed to a catchment locality through a piped network





- The tanks so constructed must be periodically cleaned and hygienically maintained

**Anticipated outcomes**

- Providing a viable solution to the potable water crisis faced by a large section of beneficiaries





# Citizens' Goodwill Fund

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

## INTRODUCTION

Contribution to community well-being is the sacred duty of every citizen residing in our society in a manner and way as per individual capacity. If every individual can humbly advance his or her contribution to the overall growth and prosperity of the society in which he or she lives, miracles do happen and peace and tranquility sets in every household. The present concept is based upon a humble monetary contribution, primarily by the comparatively well-to-do section of our society, mainly the salaried class of people or people who has a decent on a regular basis.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- Government may institute a separate fund in the name of **Citizens' Goodwill Fund (CGF)**
- Every category of citizen as stated above may voluntary contribute a fixed amount of **INR 11 every month** to the above mentioned account
- Contributed amount may be transferred to the CGF bank account through a monthly auto-debit process
- Contributed amount may be linked to IT exemption provisions

### Anticipated outcomes

- Providing monthly allowance to all educated unemployed of the State out of the contributed amount
- Reinforcing health infrastructure and services like hospitals, clinics, ambulances, medicines, etc. for the poor and needy out of the contributed amount
- Providing civic amenities like public drinking water facilities, toilets, etc. out of the contributed amount



## Governance

# Annual Organizational Performance Report

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

## INTRODUCTION

Organizational annual reports are prepared and published are the most comprehensive means of communication between any organization and the stakeholders. It provides insights into various aspects of corporate governance matters, and is considered as the main accountability mechanism.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- Every government office/organization may publish an **Annual Organizational Performance Report (AOPR)**
- The AOPR shall incorporate the activities and achievements of the office/organization
- The AOPR may be on the basis of calendar year or financial year
- The soft copy of the AOPR may be displayed in the official websites

### Anticipated outcomes

- Shall provide a one-stop mechanism for information pertaining to organizational functioning matters
- Shall augment competitive mindset and positive work culture amongst the stakeholder employees
- Shall serve as a primary accountability tool

“ Ability is what you’re capable of doing.  
Motivation determines what you do.  
Attitude determines how well you do it.”

– Lou Holtz





# Annual Employee Performance Appraisal

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

## INTRODUCTION

Employees do perform differently in any organization, which in turn is linked to many factors. However, effective and optimum employee performance does have a great impact upon the organizational/ institutional goals, since the sum total of the overall institutional output is dependent upon the individual performance of all the employees. Performance appraisal tool is a useful management tool which helps in gaining feedback on the performance output of the employees and identifies the areas on which improvement is required. This mechanism also helps in self-development of the employees by improving upon his/her skills or other such professional competencies.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- A mechanism may be devised for obtaining **Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR)** from the govt. employees in Assam, wherever it is presently non-existent
- APAR format shall vary from organization to organization, depending upon the organizational work profile and goals, e.g. the format for the Higher Education Department shall be different from the Public Works Department
- Existing format of APAR (in HEIs) may be updated keeping in view of the new requirements as per NAAC parameters (**Model APAR format annexed**)
- Calendar/financial year may be fixed for taking account of the assessment period
- APAR of all employees to be displayed in the institutional website
- APAR to be submitted yearly to the Govt.
- Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of HEI teaching staff to be strictly based upon APAR





**Anticipated outcomes**

- Enhancement of accountability of each employee
- Enhancement of work culture and performance output amongst the employees
- Boosting up of employee morale
- Helping management to decide upon professional matters like promotions, transfers and rewards of the employees
- Overall performance and effectiveness of the organization

**Model APAR Format for Teaching Staff**

Basic Information									
1	ASSESSMENT YEAR	2021							
2	NAME OF INCUMBENT								
3	EMPLOYEE ID NO.								
4	NAME OF MOTHER								
5	NAME OF FATHER								
6	DESIGNATION	Associate Professor			Assistant Professor (Selection Grade)				
		Assistant Professor (Senior Scale)			Assistant Professor (Junior Scale)				
7	DEPARTMENT								
8	DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)								
9	DATE OF JOINING IN PRESENT POST								
10	PREVIOUS WORKING EXPERIENCE(if any)	(Post)			(From)			(To)	
		(Post)			(From)			(To)	
11	PERMANENT ACCOUNT NUMBER								
12	PRIMARY MOBILE NO. (WITH WHATSAPP)								
13	SECONDARY MOBILE NO.								
14	E-MAIL (OFFICIAL)								
15	E-MAIL (PERSONAL)								
16	PRESENT RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS								
17	PERMANENT ADDRESS (if different from Sl. 14)								

**Part A: Academic Activities During the Assessment Year**

A1	Courses Taught in Different Programs during the Year		
	Program (e.g.M.A./M.Sc./M.T.M./B.A. B.Sc./B.Com./B.B.A./B.C.A. Diploma/Certificate)	Semester/ Year (e.g. I Sem, II Sem, etc. 1 Year, 2 Year etc.)	Course (e.g.HC-AS-1016, etc.)





A2	Academic Exercises Conducted/Involved with during the Year (Give details of each within 100 words)
Bridge Courses	
Programs for Slow and Advanced Learners	
Experiential Learning	
Participative Learning	
Problem Solving Methodologies	
Remedial Classes	
Tutorial Classes	
Field Studies/Works	
Institutional Visits	
Student Exchange Programs	
Student Internship Programs	
On-the-Job Trainings	
Teacher Exchange Programs	
Student Seminars	
Home Assignments	
Project Works	
Add-On Programs	
Library Usage	
Discussion of evaluated answer-scripts of internal exams with students	

A3	Usage of Ict-tools (Resources And Techniques) in Teaching-Learning during the Year				
Google Classroom	Smart Classroom	ICT-enabled Classroom	E-Book	PPT presentation	Others (specify__)
Zoom Cloud Meets	Google Meets	Microsoft TeamViewer	Cisco WebEx Meets	GoToMeeting	Others (specify__)

A4	Mentoring Activities Involved with during the Year
Number of Mentees allocated (Give details semseter-wise)	
Details of activities carried out with the Mentees (Write within 100 words)	



A5	Project Works Involved with during the Year			
Type of Project (Major/ Minor/ Interdisciplinary/ Industry-sponsored/ University or College sponsored/Student sponsored/International Research/ International /Others	Funding Agency	Date of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Received During the Year

A6	Publication during the Year					
Title of Publications	Names of Journal/ Volume	UGC-Care Listed (Yes/No)	Impact Factor (if any)	Citation Index (if any)	h-Index (if any)	Category of Publications (Journal/Book/ Edited Volume/ Chapter in Edited Volume/ Conference Proceeding

A7	Academic Events/Meets Attended during the Year		
Title of Meets	<b>Category</b> (Conference/Seminar/ Workshop/Refresher Course/ Orientation Program/ Short Term Course/ Faculty Development Program, etc.	<b>Name (s) of Organizer</b>	<b>Dates</b> (From - To)

A8	Academic Events/Meets Organized during the Year				
Title of Events Organized	<b>Type</b> (Seminar/ Conference/ Workshop/ Training/ Programme	<b>Dates</b> (From-To)	<b>Collaborating Unit</b> (if any)	<b>Category</b> (International/ National/Regional/ Local/Institutional)	<b>No. of Participants</b>





## Part B: Administrative Activities During the Assessment Year

B1	Administrative Exercises Involved With during the Year (Give details of each within 100 words)
Participation in CCS meetings of affiliating University	
Design and Development of Curriculum for Add-On/Certificate/ Diploma Programs	
Setting of Question Papers for UG/PG Programs	
Involvement with Assessment/Evaluation process of affiliating University	

B2	Involvement with Institutional Corporate Life during the Year (give details of each within 100 words)
Involvement with the Feedback taking exercise of the institution	
Involvement with the review exercise of teaching-learning, structures and methodologies of operations, learning outcomes of the institution	
Involvement with green campus initiatives	
Involvement with academic audit exercise	
Involvement with administrative audit exercise	
Involvement with gender audit exercise	
Involvement with gender equity programs	
Involvement with sensitization programs on Constitutional obligations (values, rights, duties and responsibilities) of citizens	
Involvement with celebration and organization of national/international commemorative days, events and festivals	
Contribution towards development of collaborations/ linkages and signing of MoUs with different organizations; Activities conducted under MoUs	
Any other significant corporate activity not mentioned elsewhere	



<b>B3 Capacity-Building Events Organized during the Year</b>					
Title of Events Organized	Type (Soft Skills/ Language and Communication Skills/Life Skills/ ICT Skills/ Guidance for Competitive Exams/Career Counselling)	Dates (From-To)	Collaborating Unit (if any)	Category (International/ National/ Regional/ Local/ Institutional)	No. of Participants

<b>B4 Sports and Cultural Events Organized during the Year</b>				
Title of Events Organized	Type (Sports/ Cultural)	Dates (From-To)	Category (International/ National/Regional/ Local/Institutional)	No. of Participants

<b>B5 Alumni Events Organized during the Year</b>		
Title of Events Organized	Dates (From-To)	No. of Participants

<b>B6 Professional Development/ Administrative Training Programs Organized during the Year</b>			
Title of Events Organized	Collaborating Unit (if any)	Dates (From-To)	No. of Participants

<b>B7 Organization of National/International Commemorative Days, Events, Festivals during the Year</b>		
Name of Day/ Events/ Festivals	Dates	No. of Participants

<b>B8 Involvement with Different Institutional Bodies during the Year</b>			
Name of the Institutional Bodies	Dates from which Serving	Capacity/ Portfolio	Contribution to Various Activities

<b>Part C: Extension and Outreach Activities During the Assessment Year</b>				
<b>C1 Extension and Outreach Activities Organized during the Year</b>				
Title of Activities Organized	Primary Organizing Unit	Collaborating Unit (if any)	Dates (From - To)	No. of Participants





C2	Awards Received for Extension Activities Organized during the Year	
Name of Awards Received	Name of Government/ Government-recognized Body instituting the Award	Date of Award

Part D: MISCELLANEOUS			
No.	Parameter	Response	
		Yes	No
D1	Any show-cause notice served by the college authority or any other administrative/ higher authority during the assessment year.		
	If YES, give details (within 100 words).		
D2	Any enquiry instituted against you by the college authority or any other administrative/ higher authority during the assessment year.		
	If YES, give details (within 100 words).		
D3	Any police case filed against you during the assessment year.		
	If YES, give details (within 100 words).		

D4 (Details of Leave Availed during the Year)					
Sl	Date	Type of Leave	Sl	Date	Type of Leave
1			3		
2			4		

*I hereby declare that the facts and figures mentioned in this format as above are correct, authentic and true to my knowledge and belief. I further understand that, any misrepresentation and suppression of fact and figures shall be appropriately dealt with by my superior authority as per established procedural norms.*

(Signature of the Incumbent)

❏ Striving for success without hard work is like trying the harvest where you haven't planted. ❏

– David Bly



## Governance

# Annual Best Employee Award

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

## INTRODUCTION

It is the inherent nature in all human beings for getting due appreciation for every task being accomplished in a qualitative manner. All employees, employed in any organization/ institution, respond to appreciation in their own work spheres, since it is a confirmation of the fact that their works are being valued and the sincere efforts they have put in are being recognized. Such a mechanism imbibes a sense of job satisfaction amongst the employees and in turn helps in making the employees more productive. Employees feel wanted and make them strongly engaged with their work domain. Due performance recognition can also lead to development of strong emotional bonds of the employees with their respective organizations/ institutions.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- An **Annual Best Employee Award** may be instituted in every government organization/ institution in Assam
- Award date may be fixed on May Day (1st of May)
- Different categories of the award may be instituted based upon ranks/ categories
- Award may comprise of either or both of a citation and cash
- Other privileges may also be associated with the award
- Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) may form the basis of consideration

### Anticipated outcomes

- Positive impact upon institutional working goals
- Positive enhancement of work culture amongst the employees
- Inculcation of competitive mindset amongst the employees
- Sense of satisfaction amongst the best performing employees
- Uplift of self-esteem amongst the employees
- Enhanced societal recognition





## Education

# Annual Teacher Performance Award in Higher Education

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

### INTRODUCTION

Although a mechanism currently exists for public recognition of school teachers on annual basis, the same is lacking with respect to teachers engaged in the higher education sector, be it colleges or universities. Such a mechanism if can be implemented for the teachers of the higher education sector shall not only imbibe a sense of job satisfaction, but shall also facilitate in making the teaching fraternity more competitive and hence productive.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- Provision of Annual Award/Medal for the sincere, hardworking and dedicated Principals, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors of Universities and Colleges may be formulated
- Academic year may be earmarked for the selection/nomination basis
- Awards may be based upon different quantitative parameters; Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) may form the basis of consideration
- Awards may be awarded at District Level and State Level

- District Level:**
- (a) 1 Principal to be selected at collegiate level
  - (b) 1 Associate Professor to be selected for every subject
  - (c) 1 Assistant Professor to be selected for every subject

- State Level:**
- (a) 1 Principal to be selected amongst all the Principals selected at District Levels
  - (b) 1 Associate Professor to be selected amongst all those at District Levels for every subject
  - (c) 1 Assistant Professor to be selected amongst all those at District Levels for every subject





- Separate categories of awards may be instituted for University and College levels
- Award may comprise of either citation and/or cash
- Other privileges may also be associated with the award
- Award date may be fixed on Teachers' Day (5<sup>th</sup> of September)

### Anticipated outcomes

- Positive impact upon the institutional working goals
- Positive enhancement of work culture
- Inculcation of competitive mindset
- Sense of job satisfaction and institutional belongingness
- Uplift of self-esteem
- Enhanced societal recognition

“Motivating employees to work at their full potential is the main premise of successful management.”

— *Eraldo Banovac*

“Success is not the key to happiness.  
Happiness is the key to success.  
If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.”

— *Albert Schweitzer*

“Man gives you the award,  
God gives you the reward.”

— *Denzel Washington*





## Governance

# Centralized Online Biometric Attendance System and Employee Leave Management System

Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar

### INTRODUCTION

Biometric Attendance Systems has been set up in certain official organizations of the State in the past few years. Moreover, the leave management system is also been switched over to the online mode in a handful few organizations. Both these two mechanisms can be made more comprehensive and integrated, and linked to a central domain, which can have positive outputs in the matter of office governance.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- A **Centralized Online Biometric Attendance Systems (COBAS)** of all government departments in Assam may be initiated
- COBAS shall be a centrally linked online domain
- Linking may be done separately at district-levels, for being monitored by the district administrative head (Office of the Deputy Commissioner)
- A **Centralized Employee Leave Management System (CELMS)** may also be linked to this facility, which shall facilitate online leave availing facility and all pertinent employee leave records
- Reference for viewing currently working model may be made by concerned implementation authority at: <http://attendance.gov.in>

#### Anticipated outcomes

- Providing a common nodal point at the Assam Govt. Secretariat for monitoring daily attendance of all the govt. employees
- Maintenance of transparency in the matter of availing various types of leaves by the employees
- Positive enhancement of work culture and discipline through optimum daily employee attendance

“Transparency is the key to good governance and e-governance is the only effective way of transparent governance.”

– Narendra Modi



**Governance**

# Miscellaneous Reforms in Office Administration and Functioning

**Dr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar**

In order to add vibrancy as well efficiency in the working mode of various government offices and institutions and to also to ensure greater public satisfaction and development of a sense of trust, a variety of measures has been envisioned as detailed below:

## 1. Corruption-free Government Offices

### INTRODUCTION

Corruption in public sector manifests in different forms, viz. bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation, illicit enrichment, abuse of functions, etc. All these can have disastrous consequences in the long run, including weakening of policymaking, erosion of public confidence and trust upon the government machinery, misallocation of public resources and has severe detrimental effects upon the prevailing law and human rights. Corruption in the public infrastructural domain can have long-lasting negative impacts upon the economy, environment and society in general.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- All government offices/ departments/ organizations to proudly display a notice at the entrance gates as follows:

**THIS IS A CORRUPTION-FREE OFFICE**  
**If any employee in this office is found to indulge in any sort of corrupt practices, the matter may be immediately reported to:**  
**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**  
**WhatsApp No.: 00000-00000**

- Proper government publicity needs to be given in different social media
- Proper and adequate mechanism may be set up for suitably rewarding whistle blowers
- Reward amount may be realized out of a fine amount collected from the offenders





- Execution authority to act swiftly and effectively whenever any allegations are raised and complaints received

### Anticipated outcome

- Enhancement of accountability of each employee
- Minimization of corrupt practices
- Sense of satisfaction amongst the general public
- Confidence and trust buildup upon the government by the common public

## 2. Public Display of Task Profile

### INTRODUCTION

Different official responsibilities and duties are being handled by different employees in an organization, which are directly or indirectly related to the common public. In many instances, the members of the public have a harrowing time in the matter of whom to approach for a particular task to get resolved or executed. For greater public convenience, the duties and responsibilities of every key employee in an organization need to be displayed publicly.

### DRAFT ACTION PLAN

#### Operational modalities

- The official duties and responsibilities of the different office staff may be made in all government offices may be displayed for information of the general public
- Display of the information may be done at the entrance of the offices, so that it is easily noticeable for all visitors
- Pertinent information may also be displayed in the official/organizational websites

#### Anticipated outcomes

- Ensuring transparency in all official transactions
- Enhancement of accountability of each employee
- Hassle-free transactions in every office work for the greater benefit of the public
- Ensure a sense of satisfaction amongst the general public

## 3. Public Display of Task Execution Time-frame

### INTRODUCTION

Various official tasks related to common public in any official organization takes differing time periods to get resolved or executed. Whenever, this aspect remains obscured from the stakeholder member of the public, various complexities



may arise, and the person(s) in question may lose faith over the administrative system. Some government offices in the State have already initiated this practice of public display of the tentative time-frame which is required for various official transactions in the concerned office. However, this practice needs to be intensified and must cover all pertinent organizations.

## DRAFT ACTION PLAN

### Operational modalities

- The time-frame required to execute different public tasks in the government offices may be displayed for information of the general public
- Display of the information may be done at the entrance of the offices, so that it is easily noticeable for all visitors
- Pertinent information may also be displayed in the official/organizational websites

### Anticipated outcomes

- Ensuring transparency in all official transactions
- Enhancement of accountability of each employee
- Minimization of corrupt practices
- Ensuring a sense of satisfaction amongst the general public

“If corruption is a disease, transparency is essential part of its treatment.”

— Kofi Annan

“Corruption is a cancer: a cancer that eats away at a citizen’s faith in democracy, diminishes the instinct for innovation and creativity.”

— Joe Biden

“Corruption is worse than prostitution. The latter might endanger the morals of an individual, the former invariably endangers the morals of the entire country.”

— Karl Kraus





## Dreaming of a Prosperous and Vibrant Assam: Charting a Roadmap for the Future Generation

Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma

The government of Assam has taken a pledge for creation of *Xuroxhito Axom*, *Vikoxito Axom*, *Xarbasreshtha Axom* (meaning Secure Assam, Developed Assam, Great Assam) for the residents of The State. This concept emerges out of the famous policy and mantra envisaged by the Govt. of India for ushering in into the governance and other relevant fields the concept of SABKA SATH SABKA VIKAS. This is an inclusive idea for sharing powers by the government as the government exists and works for every one's development. The entire country and all the people living in this great country are looking ahead to a future which is full of hopes, actions and prosperity. Similarly, the people of Assam whether they live in the Brahmaputra Valley or Barak Valley or the two hill districts of Assam and regardless of their caste, creed, ethnicity, region, language and gender are all aspiring for their well-being, development and prosperity. This is more true so far as the young and upcoming generation is concerned. They have dreams in their eyes and most of them are fully equipped to provide their service and help in the matter of progress and development of the state and also for the country. But in order to enable them to do so they must be provided with proper scope and opportunity. Their talents have to be tapped. In order to achieve the same and to fulfill their visions, their dreams and their aspirations, it is of utmost necessity to draw up a vision document which is a road map leading to a prosperous and vibrant Assam. The dream has to be to create a prosperous, healthy and happy Assam, free from poverty and hunger with full of opportunities and equality and providing access to all and leaving no one behind.

In this process, the most important and relevant area is the economic development in the State which is practically the foundation to bring about a sea change in the economic horizon of the state. The same could be possible only when there are well considered and effective activities of development like employment generation, poverty alleviation, growth development, infrastructure development (housing, railways, waterways, and energy), industrial development, agricultural development, rural development and also urban development. This economic development is also possible not only by way of developing agriculture and industrial development but also generating a scope of business activity inside and outside Assam that is with the rest of India as also in the countries bordering the North East and beyond including the South East Asia. The State of Assam and its neighboring states known as North Eastern States are bounded by various foreign countries like China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal and so on and so forth. Assam has a motorable road starting from within its boundary which could take anyone to China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and all the countries of the South East Asia, which motorable road could be further developed so as to make the use of the



roadways as a worthy means to carry on and do business. Similarly, we have waterways going up to Bangladesh which could be further developed which would give us an opening to the sea so as to make the movement and transport of goods much easier. There could also be railway tracks constructed giving an opening to the areas outside the country where business relations could be developed. Being so strategically located, the people of Assam is practically sitting on a gold mine to which there could be opening and access only when the people of the State are ready both physically, mentally and professionally. As and when these connectivity opens up the business hub of the country partially could be the North East, particularly, Assam which is the gateway to all the adjoining states in India and also the gateway to all the countries where there could be a possibility of generating and doing business. However, in order to grab this opportunity, the young generation should be well equipped and make itself capable of using and utilizing the opportunities as and when it comes through. Such capabilities could be accomplished and achieved through quality education, skill development and human resource development.

The State of Assam and the people residing within it must be capable to achieve and secure a historic transformation which is promised to the people. The main focal points for charting out a road map could be the following:

1. Quality Education and its Development
2. Financial Inclusion
3. Expansion of the Health Services
4. Natural Resource Management with sustainable development
5. Water Management
6. Skill Development & Youth
7. Gender Equality
8. Inclusion of National, Social, Family and Cultural Ethos in Students

These features are being discussed herein below with some elucidation.

## 1. Quality Education and its Development

- a. Effective steps to be taken for eliminating the dropout rate of the students at elementary and secondary stage. Otherwise these dropouts at this level would generate practical problem for all including the Govt. for these are the most unskilled persons. It is also possible to arrest the dropout rate as because there is now a law providing compulsory and free education to children. Recipient of the benefits could be raised to the Secondary stage so that after receiving compulsory education to the secondary level, their services could be utilized in some vocational jobs or for defence force or for police force or such other security purposes after proper training.
- b. Availability of effective training to the teachers should be arranged to improve quality. The world is fast developing and all types of knowledge are being made available very fast. The teachers must be trained for acquiring knowledge in all such fast developing areas in various fields so that they can imbibe





whatever they are learning to the students that they teach so that the students become fully aware of all the developments that is taking place around the globe which in turn would also make them very inquisitive about the happenings around.

- c. Adequate school infrastructure in terms of building and other connected and relevant infrastructures should be made available. Unfortunately, most of the schools have dilapidated houses without any proper connected infrastructure available, which is more true in the rural areas. The infrastructure that is available in the urban areas are not available at all in these school in the rural areas and this causes a huge gap between the students studying in those institutions located in the rural areas and the urban areas. This advantage has to be narrowed down and totally removed by providing all the infrastructure as available to other schools situated in the urban areas.
- d. Improving learning outcomes. The process of learning is required to be improved so as to enable the learner to avail of the outcome of such learning experience.
- e. Strengthening and expanding the higher education system. The higher education system has to be strengthened and given more focus and it has to be expanded in terms of the requirement.
- f. The high literacy rate of the region should be harnessed by providing skill development to the youth.

## 2. Top Priority in Financial Inclusion

Per capita income of Assam is Rs. 58,972. This is too less when it is compared with the per capita income in Sikkim which stands at Rs. 185,650. Even few other states like Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland have a better per capita income than Assam. This factor may be due to the reason that Assam is the most densely populated state in the entire North Eastern Region. The following measures could be given priority so as to achieve financial inclusion:

- a. Expeditious implementation of Jan Dhan Yojana
- b. Digitalization and Aadhar seeding of beneficiaries of DBT schemes
- c. Access to banking needs to be improved by branch expansion
- d. Credit deposit ratio has to be stepped up to enable savings
- e. Increase absorption capacity for institutional credit

The financial inclusion would also improve manufacturing process, infrastructure development and connectivity. The state of Assam has some insurgency problems which deter people inside and outside Assam to invest heavily into an industry due to fear and apprehension of security and extortion. In order to achieve, an overall situation of availability of security and strong position of law and order, steps are to be taken for eradicating the extremist problem. This is also possible if these people who have taken to the extremism and terrorism are adequately and properly absorbed into the mainstream by giving them proper facility of rehabilitation and scope to work for the development of





the country. Once that is done an action plan for establishing small, minor and even heavy industry could be chalked out and implemented. The other action plan could be for establishing agro and food processing units as many as possible. Well-coordinated program for starting and revival of local industry, to promote local products and artisans could be taken. These products could be sold not only within the state but even outside the state for enough opportunity and scope has been given by the Govt. of India now for selling such products through the help of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Focus could be on improving infrastructure and connectivity which is a must and a very important relevant precondition for social and economic mobility and market integration. This when done would also improve and complete the connectivity situation. Earnest desire and effort should be made for completing the ongoing projects in roads, roadways, waterways and airways and power.

Building the required infrastructures right up to the border areas by establishing connectivity is of utmost importance as has been done by China in Tibet.

**Harnessing of Hydroelectric power:** There could be many more small and medium size hydroelectric projects to generate power and to provide irrigation facilities. For such purpose construction of barrage and small dams could be thought of.

**Natural resources:** Natural resources which are in abundance but are not being utilized could be utilized as such by charting out proper course of action. These natural resources if utilized keeping in view the programme of sustainable development would definitely give an impetus to the resources of the state.

**Water management:** There has to be total focus on the proper water management for the state is getting devastated by the occurrence of repeated floods in a year along with it the problem of erosion of land which is creating immense problem. Not only it is creating problem for the people living near the water bodies but also causing loss to the cultivable lands in the state. There has to be a National Policy on this. The Brahmaputra Board which is functioning practically on an ad-hoc basis should be transformed into a permanent body to be manned by the local engineers with advisors from the Water Management Department and Ministry of Water Resources.

Once a proper waterways is developed that may also be helpful to stop the impact of the flood. An experiment in that regard should be started not only in the river Brahmaputra but also in its tributaries which could also be developed and used for carrying out supplies of essential goods to the far flung areas and also could be used for the purpose of tourism and also carrying their products living in those areas to the market. .

### Health Care

- a. There has been good progress and development in the health sector in Assam but still only 2% of the sub-centers are functional as per the Indian Public Standard norms set at the national average of 25%.
- b. The poor functioning of the health centers in the rural areas needs to be urgently addressed.
- c. Deficiencies in health human resources had to be addressed at the



- earliest, giving top priorities to increasing the number of trained medical man power and also, improving access to health care services to sparsely populated remote and far-flung areas.
- d. Development of quality and specialized health care institutional and personnel.
  - e. Sanitation and supply of drinking water to all villages and cities.
  - f. Giving training to young boys and girls for providing services as nurses both male and female and producing physiotherapist which are urgently required for the well-being of the residents of the state.

## **Skill development & youth**

The youth is the future working generation of the country and so therefore they have to be robust and healthy. Therefore, emphasis has to be given for developing fitness so as to help in building a healthier and happier society. We must properly develop sporting culture into the young generation. They must be encouraged to indulge in sporting activities. There has to be opening of various sport academies which could be under the sport university or could be independent sports academies in various sporting areas. The young children and students have to be picked up very early and put to these academies for proper training in different disciplines where they could be screened for the most suitable game fit for him or her by the experts in the areas. The experts have to be local trainers on whom the students can have faith and trust and with whom they can interact easily and speak out their difficulties, if any. There should be also an institution of skill development in the sports arena itself where the requirement of sports therapist, sports medicine and sports law could be addressed. These are first developing subjects where some children could be trained and produced.

## **Gender Equality**

On this there has been number of decisions of the Courts including the Supreme Court of India. The ratios of such decisions should be collected at one place and should be widely publicised so as to make all the people aware of such decisions and law of the land. The next important step to be undertaken is to provide compulsory education to the girl child. This focus would not only help in spreading education amongst all classes of children but would also help in checking the population growth. Once these girls become aware of the various problems arising out of frequent pregnancies and also the problem of large family, there is a possibility of these girls acting as check factor of having a large family.

## **Inclusion of National, Social, Family and Cultural Ethos in Students**

This has become of utmost in the present day society. The moral, ethical and spiritual values of our country are widely appreciated and respected all over the globe. Despite such a situation part of our young generation has become unruly, intolerant and an angry lot. This is not conducive and good for the national health and well-being. Therefore, there should be some mode and method to inculcate in the young generation the sense of happiness by remaining calm, quiet, disciplined, dedicated and committed. Teachings in this regard would definitely make them worthy citizens of the country.



# PROFILE OF CONTRIBUTORS



## Dr. Ira Das

**Permanent Address:** Lankeswar, Satyam Apartment, Block A, Flat No. 4D, Guwahati – 781 014  
**Office Address:** Department of Economics, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781 009  
**Official Designation:** Associate Professor & HoD  
**E-Mail ID:** iradas@pragjyotishcollege.ac.in

**WhatsApp No:** 94353-47132



## Ms. Nandita Rajbangshi

**Permanent Address:** Gotanagar, Guwahati – 781 033  
**Office Address:** Department of Hindi, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781 009  
**Official Designation:** Assistant Professor & HoD i/c  
**E-Mail ID:** nandita.prag@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 70028-03066



## Dr. Pulama Deka

**Permanent Address:** Chachal, Six Mile, Padmapani Path, House No.10, Guwahati – 781 022  
**Office Address:** Department of Tourism Management, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781009  
**Official Designation:** Contractual Faculty  
**E-Mail ID:** pulamadeka@pragjyotishcollege.ac.in

**WhatsApp No.:** 94351-45519



## Shri Unindajyoti Choudhury

**Permanent Address:** Sonali Path, Zoo Road Tiniali, House No. 8, J.D. Villa, Flat No. 1/B, Guwahati – 781 003  
**Office Address:** PTNS Library, Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781 009  
**Official Designation:** Librarian  
**E-Mail ID:** jyotiuninda@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:**70024-21213



## Ms. Bidisha Bayan

**Permanent Address:** Ahom Gaon, Alakananda Niwas, Flat No. 3A-B, Guwahati – 781035  
**Office Address:** Department of Geology, Central University of Karnataka, Kadaganchi, PIN – 585 367  
**Official Designation:** Alumni, Pragjyotish College and Ph.D. Research Scholar  
**E-Mail ID:** bdsha.bayan@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 99579-60666



## Shri Moon Chandra Deka

**Permanent Address:** Sonadhar Senapati Road, Silpukhuri, Senapati Complex, House No. 34B, Guwahati – 3  
**Office Address:** Directorate of Geology and Mining, Govt. of Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati – 781 019  
**Official Designation:** Senior Geologist (Deputy Director Rank)  
**E-Mail ID:** mooncdgeologist@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 86380-80729



## Dr. Hiranmaya Sharma

**Permanent Address:** Narangi, Seuj Nagar, House No. 5, Guwahati – 781 026  
**Office Address:** Department of Zoology, DeraNatung Govt. College, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh  
**Official Designation:** Alumni and Associate Professor  
**E-Mail ID:** hiranmayasharmaj@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 8837307814



## Shri Udhava Kalita

**Permanent Address:** Village & P.O: Hazarikapara, District: Darrang, PIN – 784145  
**Office Address:** 2238 Manipur Colloni L.P. School, Village: Manipur, P.O.: Raniganj, Dhubri – 783345  
**Official Designation:** Alumni, Pragjyotish College and Head Teacher  
**E-Mail ID:** udhavakalita@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 73996-22787



## Shri Duke Jyoti Handique

**Permanent Address:** Garchuk, Katahbari, GPRA Colony Road, House No. 14, Guwahati – 781 035  
**Office Address:** Pragjyotish College, Guwahati – 781 009  
**Official Designation:** Former General Secretary, Pragjyotish College Students' Union (PCSU)  
**E-Mail ID:** diukhandique@gmail.com

**WhatsApp No.:** 91273-89232



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