

**RIS**Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

Vol. 1 No. 1 March 2021



North-East Watch

A Newsletter of NETRA Foundation

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dr Jayanta Choudhury
NIRDPR-NERC, Assam

Dr Durga Prasad Chhetri
Sikkim University, Sikkim

Dr Jyotiraj Pathak
Boroland University, Assam.

Dr N.Surjitkumar
IGNTU, Manipur

Dr Papiya Dutta
USTM, Meghalaya

Dr Bidhu Kanti Das
Mizoram University

Dr Kesang Degi
RGU, Arunachal Pradesh

Dr Petekhrienuo Sorhie
Nagaland University, Kohima

Dr Subhrabaran Das
Tripura University, Tripura

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, RIS

Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti
Visiting Fellow, RIS

Dr Shiladitya Chatterjee
IAS (Retd.)

Prof. Kanak Haloi
Chairman, NETRA Foundation

Editorial

North Eastern Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA Foundation) has been set up with young researchers working in Universities, Civil society organisations across the eight North Eastern states to carry out policy linked research and contribute towards sustainable development in the states of North East Indian region against the backdrop of Act East Policy since 2018.

NETRA foundation is happy to launch its newsletter North-East Watch (NEW) to showcase various development issues of North East India. It aims to bring thought-provoking articles of academicians/practitioners, research finding of young scholars, news related to regional perspectives, best practices from the NE states and off-course various activities of NETRA Foundation.

In this very first volume of NEW, Dr N. Surjitkumar has discussed the condition of Human security in the context of Act East Policy while Dr Pranjal Kumar Phukan, Global Mentor, has pointed out the MSME sectors in NER. Young researcher, Dr Purbita Gupta, just conferred her Ph.D. from Tripura University for the study on Decentralisation and Local Self-Government: A Comparative Study on People's Participation in India and Bangladesh. The News section listed top 10 news stories in collaboration with our media partner. During lockdown due to Covid-19, RIS, New Delhi and NETRA Foundation had organised webinar series on Localising Sustainable Development Goals: Perspectives from North East India for all the North Eastern states. A report is placed in the present volume.

Locating Human Security in North-east India and India's Act East Policy

Dr N. Surjitkumar*



Look/Act East Policy : A Background

India's engagement with South-east Asia and East Asia has become a major feature of its foreign and security policies. The South-east Asia as contiguous geographic region and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a pivotal regional organisation will remain the principal focus of India's foreign policy. Look East Policy was launched by former Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in early nineties. The policy has been transformed into Act East Policy by Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in 2014. The genesis of Look East Policy can be traced back

in three different phases: (i) The first phase was pre-independence period when the regions were linked through the decolonisation process. The events are considered important in this period- the Asian Conference of March 1947 and Bandung Conference of Afro-Asian Nations in 1955. (ii) 1960s to early 1990s when international scenario was dominated by Cold War and establishment of ASEAN in 1967, and (iii) 1990s till present date- a policy shift occurred in India with regard to its relations with ASEAN and marked by two events- (a) end of Cold War (1991) and (b) announcement of India's Look East Policy in early 1990s.

India's Look East Policy went through two distinct phases. The

first phase focussed on renewing political and commercial contacts of India. India's new engagement with the East turned out to be a productive one. India's interaction with the ASEAN dramatically expanded with New Delhi becoming sectoral dialogue partner with ASEAN in 1992 and a full dialogue partner in 1995. Later on India became a member of ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum) in 1996. The first years of the Look East Policy saw steady expansion of trade and investment with the region. India-ASEAN trade in 2001-02 was about \$7.8 billion over three times the 1993-94 trade figures of \$ 2.5 billion. Again, India-ASEAN trade in 2014-15 was about \$76.5 billion. The Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi also announced \$1 million contribution to ASEAN COVID-19 recovery fund.

The second phase in India's Look/Act East Policy had a new dimension in the development of India's North-east region. India's search for a new economic relationship with ASEAN countries was driven by considerations of globalisation and domestic imperatives of developing the North-east by increasing its connectivity to the outside world. India has sought to improve the road connections between the North-

* Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University- Regional Campus Manipur. Views are personal.

east and Myanmar by improving the transport infrastructure of the neighbour. India and Thailand have planned a trilateral project with Myanmar to link the three nations through a road corridor. Myanmar as a land bridge to South-east Asia, India hopes to transform the North-east region from a security burden to a land of economic opportunity. The second phase of Look East Policy also saw a positive links with East Asian countries like China, Japan, Australia and South Korea etc.

Locating Human Security in the Northeast India and Act East Policy

In the context of Northeast India, the indicator of human security can be seen from various outlooks. The increasing influx of immigration and refugees both from within and outside the country is another example of human (in) security in the region. Beside this, some other indicators of human insecurity in the region are from unemployment problem of the educated youths, women related issues, health issues with special focus on HIV/AIDS as well as bandh, economic blockage, strike etc.

The presence of large number of the army and paramilitary forces in the Northeast region provides feeling of insecurity among the people of the region. The security of the region is in threat from immigration and refugee problems mainly influx of Bangladeshis, Nepalese immigrants. It is due to the various factors like economic, environmental, religious and political. After 1990, it is mainly economic and environment factors which is the period of introduction of India's Act East Policy. This development also

poses threats to social cohesion, employment, threat of insurgency and terrorism with serious change in demographic feature of different North-eastern states. The influx of refugees and immigration created serious demographic change in Assam and Tripura. As a result, according to Home Ministry sources, out of its 126 Assembly constituencies in Assam, illegal immigrants constitute a majority in 36 constituencies. Likewise, Tripura has been transformed, in recent history, from a predominantly tribal to a predominantly non-tribal state.

The increasing number of refugees from Myanmar to Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh further worsened the internal displacement problem. In Manipur, maximum influx of illegal immigration and refugees were detected at Jiribam district and Moreh town (located at the international border with Myanmar). This is another impact of Act East Policy in the Northeast India. The unemployed youths of the region have to compete the limited job opportunities with illegal immigrants.

It is a matter of human security as well as national security concern since the nexus between drug smuggling and human trafficking, arms smuggling ignite the already destabilised society of Northeast India. This development leads to expansion of the HIV/AIDS in the region. Manipur has now 2 per cent of India's reported cases of AIDS and the number has been increasing in other states of Northeast India. It is a fact that, the rapid growth of HIV/AIDS pandemic is major threat to health and social security concern of the region. All these overwhelming conditions moulding to security

concerns in the region are related with implementation of India's Act East Policy. In this context, it can be said that, in Northeast India there is less human security and there is more human insecurity.

To conclude it can be said that India's Act East Policy is a significant step for economic development of North-east India in particular the country in general. The implementation of the Policy has the potential to transform the North-east India to a region of peace and economic prosperity. On the other hand, the governance insecurity with ineffectiveness in control the social issues further threatening to the human security in the region. The Government of India and the State governments of the North-east region should come forward with positive outlook and participate in making the Act East Policy a success by protecting human security.

References

- A. Koireng, Shukhdeba Sharma and Th. Homen. 2015. *Human Security in the North-East India: Challenges and Predicaments*, Essential Books, New Delhi.
- Amiya Sarma and B. K. Sarma. 2008. India's Look East Policy, Economic Possibilities for the North East India, in C.R. Lyngdoh and M. Rani (edited) *Look East Policy: Impact on North East India*, Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi.
- H. N. Das. 2007. 'Preparing North-East for Look East Policy' *Dialogue*, Jul-Sept. 2007, Vol. 9, No. 1.
- Tadjbakhsh, Shahrbanou and A.M. Chenoy. 2007. *Human Security Concepts and Implications*, London: Routledge.

MSMEs and Startups in North East India- Key Challenges

Dr Pranjal Kumar Phukan

North East is full of potentials for entrepreneurs to start with their entrepreneurial journey and in recent times there are noteworthy developments happening in terms of infrastructure development and facilities available for entrepreneurs. However, in spite of having series of developments and availability of incentives and schemes, there are issues still pending solutions which are elaborated below.

The most important issue hindering the growth, however, is the timely and adequate availability of finance to MSMEs. Despite such measures banks are reluctant to lend to MSMEs due to their higher risk profile owing to zero collateral or their limited years of operations. In case of MSMEs, only 15 per cent of funding came from internal sources, 25 per cent from banks and FIs, and 10 per cent from capital markets. Around 50 per cent of the funding has been sourced through alternative funding sources including friends and family, trade credit etc. Alternative sources are typically far more expensive and are dependent on prevailing market conditions and are rarely a guaranteed source. This clearly implies that MSMEs face very high interest cost due to the lack of availability of adequate credit.

In order to attract private equity, MSMEs must position strongly through Differentiation,

Value Proposition, Flexibility, Scalability, Management Expertise and Performance Forecasts to leverage capital funding. A sustainable business model is a key to success. It is a must to have a crisp business plan which clearly defines a company's purpose while demonstrating its value proposition. India should create a specific MSME funding exchange on the lines similar to AIM (Alternative Investment Market) and other markets. This not only will help bring the investor community closer to the entrepreneurial community, but also address the immediate need for finance.

It has been suggested that apart from government measures as part of the task force, adequate and timely finance needs to be available for the MSME sector. Some key recommendations to assist the growth of MSMEs are:

- Encourage private equity investments as this not only unlocks value for the Company but also allows the company to better structure themselves for growing rapidly;
- Creation of a MSME exchange and this shall be a big boon for the Indian economy resulting in both direct and indirect benefits;
- Pro-active measures by the Associations as this is extremely crucial since the associations can play a pivotal

role in facilitating finance through relevant forums; and

- Cluster finance as these types of mechanisms would result in reduction of transaction costs and access to timely finance and information
- Access to markets
- A recent study reveals that MSMEs are broadly unaware of technology solutions and tools available to cater their marketing needs. According to the study, less than 6 per cent of MSMEs with access to personal computers advertise online and a majority of these enterprises use traditional media. Many MSMEs are also unaware of the effectiveness, measurability and predictability of using online advertising to reach the target audience. Some of the evolved marketing strategies like niche marketing, database marketing, cluster specific marketing, guerilla marketing and relationship marketing are vital for flourishing the business without any significant hit to the bottom-line. These marketing strategies, if implemented, can give the MSMEs a platform to go beyond the generic marketing applications, create greater acceptance, strengthen the brand, devise a focused approach and compete globally.

- Technology tools like SMS, digital newsletter and electronic direct mail can be used efficiently to target segmented population. Broadly classified as push marketing, these media tools are cost efficient and easily accessible. To add to this, websites, yellow pages, directory listings help pull the prospective buyer with rational efforts. Trade fairs form another important platform for MSMEs to venture into new territories and develop businesses.
- In the MSME space, digital marketing plays a highly significant role by performing the lead function of acquisition, business development and communication. Internet plays an important role in reaching out to the prospective customers irrespective of the remoteness and boundaries, and showcasing the products and services in the virtual world. Internationally, web marketing tools are being extensively used by MSMEs to reach out and generate leads.

These include social networks, website syndication tools, gadgets and RSS feeds. B2B sites have also emerged as viable platform for promoting and doing business in a much evolved and effective way. They facilitate in establishing new business relationships and retaining the existing ones, in what we today know as an e-marketplace. They serve as a medium for the

wholesalers, distributors, suppliers, manufacturers and retailers to conduct business in the e-arenas. Low investment online marketing tools include sponsored links as they establish an instant connect with laser-targeted prospects, though in-depth research and suitable ad words are required to identify industry trends and to keep the campaign effective.



Young Researcher

- **Title :** Decentralisation And Local Self-Government: A Comparative Study on People's Participation In India And Bangladesh
- **Name of the Researcher :** Dr PURBITA GUPTA
- **Supervisor :** Dr Jayanta Choudhury, Associate Professor, NIRDPR-NERC, Guwahati, Assam & Dr Subhrabaran Das, Associate Professor Department of Economics, Tripura University.
- **Name of the University :** Tripura University (A Central University)
- **Date of Award :** 2nd March, 2021

Abstract

Decentralisation and people's participation are two sides of the coin. When these both terms are used in local development platform as a nomenclature of

local self-government then it will be highly beneficial towards local people. Decentralisation of local self-government with the participation of people is the need

of the time in every sphere of development aspect. Functions, functionaries and funds are known as the pillars of decentralisation of local self-government and

have different degrees like high, medium and low through which trend of decentralisation can be identified in rural local bodies with specific reasons.

The present study was conducted in some selected districts of India and Bangladesh. The study found that decentralisation of local self-government is extremely high in studied hill district of Bangladesh. In India, there is a link between all the structures of local self-government of the country. Here, action plan of Gram Panchayat is forwarded to intermediate tier to Zilla Parishad level. But, this gap is found in Bangladesh. Misunderstanding and miscommunication between the structures at local level have been found in Bangladesh.

The first objective of the study was to examine the degree of decentralisation of the local self-government and make a comparison between both the countries. After proper investigation, it is therefore concluded that degree of decentralisation through functions, functionaries and funds is very hard to measure. It is very true that in India the functions entitled through 73rd Constitutional Amendment are still not implemented properly at the grassroots level. Rural local self-government is laying their duties as an implementing agency of the state government. Moreover, politicisation is also exists in each and every level of local self-government in India and Bangladesh. It is also concluded that the persons favouring ruling parties always get privileged mostly than common people. There is a lack of coordination among different tiers of local bodies mainly in Bangladesh.

On the other hand, the degree of decentralisation of tribal local government in hill districts of Bangladesh is very high compare to 6th schedule in India specially Tripura. It can also be concluded that the authorities of zonal, sub-zonal and village level are still lacking behind from the essence of full autonomy. So, it is the time to strengthen Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) under Sixth Schedule of Tripura through direct fund transfer from Ministry to the state and from the state to zonal, sub-zonal and village level autonomy for more power and decentralisation.

There is another point to be mentioned that, the Directorate of Panchayat Department, Tripura practices direct transfer the requisite fund in the lowest structure of ADC administration namely Village Committee as like as Panchayat. Moreover, it transferred the fund to the Block Advisory Committee (BAC) directly. The fund allocation to the TTAADC never has been practically found as it has been monitored directly by State Government, Tripura.

Second objective of the study is to examine the level of People's Participation of the local self-government for the development of rural area in both India and Bangladesh. From the findings, it is concluded that the lack of educational qualification of people's representatives is one of the major problems towards productive participation in proper implementation of various programmes. In every case authority of Block Advisory Committee (BAC) intervene directly to the activities of village committees. In tribal areas people

are mainly busy with their daily life and livelihood. *Jhoom* cultivation is the main source of their income. After whole day work, people are not able to attend gram sabha and other village meetings. Moreover, they are not aware about the importance of gram sabha meeting along with lack of knowledge and have not shown their interest towards participation in decentralisation process. Moreover, local people are disappointed as they are not getting any benefit from the authority though they share their problems at ward sabha in repeated time and due to these local people are not interested to join gram sabha meeting organised by the village authority. Even if they join, they do not interact with the authority to share their opinion. Even villagers have been left the premises of gram sabha meeting before it ended. So, it can be concluded that though ward sansad and gram sabha are the platform of people's voice but slowly and gradually they shape one way communication system where common village people are hardly interested to attend.

The third objective is to examine the effect of decentralisation on people's participation in local self-government in both India and Bangladesh. On the basis of findings, it is therefore concluded that if decentralisation of local self-government through functions, functionaries and funds are materialised in the system then definitely degree of people's participation will also increase. Moreover, when people also realise that local government is working for people's benefits, then they will be motivated to participate in any kind of local action and vice-versa.

North East Development News

NE will work as 'new engine' for post Covid economy: DoNER Minister

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/ne-will-work-as-new-engine-for-post-covid-economy-doner-minister-8000.html>)

ADCs to protect rights of tribal communities: LS Speaker

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/adcs-to-protect-rights-of-tribal-communities-ls-speaker-10763.html>)

Include NE history, culture in curriculum, CMs at NITI Aayog meet

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/include-ne-history-culture-in-curriculum-cms-at-niti-aayog-meet-9703.html>)

IIT Guwahati developing method to 'harvest' drinking water from air

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/iit-guwahati-developing-method-to-harvest-drinking-water-from-air-7847.html>)

Bridge over River Feni bridge to strengthen India-Bangladesh ties

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/bridge-over-river-feni-bridge-to-strengthen-india-bangladesh-ties-11843.html>)

Northeast has potential to become big tourist hub: Amit Shah

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/northeast-has-potential-to-become-big-tourist-hub-amit-shah-9409.html>)

Development of NE to facilitate Atmanirbhar Bharat: Modi

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/development-of-ne-to-facilitate-atmanirbhar-bharat-modi-9406.html>)

Meghalaya CM inaugurates India's longest steel arch bridge

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/meghalaya-cm-inaugurates-indias-longest-steel-arch-bridge-9405.html>)

Northeast's lone ginger processing plant being revived after 16yrs

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/northeast-lone-ginger-processing-plant-being-revived-after-16yrs-8118.html>)

North East India's first human milk bank to feed breast milk to babies

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/north-east-indias-first-human-milk-bank-to-feed-breast-milk-to-babies-7864.html>)



Media Partner for NETRA

Localising SDG : North East Perspectives Activities



"Localising" is the process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress. Localisation relates both to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy and to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy. (UNDP, 2020)

RIS and the North East Training, Research and Advocacy (NETRA) Foundation, Guwahati h conducted a webinar series on **Localising Sustainable Development Goals : North East Perspectives**.



The Inaugural Webinar of the series was conducted on 4th July, 2020. **Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti**, Associate Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, India & Visiting Fellow, RIS set the agenda for the webinar series with his topic on 'SDG-localization linkage : A framework for implementation'. **Dr Siladitya Chatterjee**, IAS (Rtd.), Advisor, Centre for the SDGs, Government of Assam shared 'Major Challenges of Localising SDGs in India: Lessons from Assam Experience' while **Dr Sabhyasachi Saha**, Faculty, RIS discussed about different aspects of SDGs in North Eastern state. Jindal School of Governance and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal University was the Knowledge partner. **Dr Kanak Haloi**, Professor, NIRDPR-NERC (Rtd.) & President NETRA Foundation chaired the session.



Second Webinar of the series was held on 11 July, 2020. **Dr P. K. Anand**, Visiting Fellow, RIS, New Delhi chaired the session. **Mr. Rupak Mazumder**, IAS, Commissioner, Deptt. Of Transformation and Development, Govt. of Assam shared the 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Assam'. The 'Issues and Challenges for Entrepreneurship Development in Assam' was patriated by **Dr Abhijit Sharma**, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati. **Mr. Jiban Chandra Phukan**, Consultant, Centre for SDG, Assam discussed the 'Localisation of SDGs in Assam and its Challenges' while **Prof. Polly Vauqueline**, Head, Dept. of Women's Studies, Guwahati University pointed 'Gender Issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Assam'. 'Role of CSOs in Localisation of SDGs in Assam' was mentioned by **Dr Syed Sultan Kazi**, Director, North East Development Foundation, Assam. Boroland University was knowledge partner for the same.



On 18 July, 2020, the third Webinar of the series was held focusing the state of Tripura. 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Tripura' was shared by **Shri. A.K. Chanda**, Joint Director, Planning (Economics & Statistics) Department, Government of Tripura. **Dr V.T. Dralong**, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Martin Luther Christian University, Meghalaya narrated 'Inclusive Development and Localising SDGs in Tripura' while **Prof. Chandrika Basu Majumder**, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Commerce, Tripura University (A Central University) mentioned the various 'Gender Issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Tripura'. **Dr Jayanta Choudhury**, Associate Professor, NIRDPR-NERC pointed out 'Local Government and Localisation of SDGs in Tripura'. **Dr Sreelekha Roy**, Executive Director, VHAT, Tripura emphasised the 'Role of CSOs in Localisation of SDGs in Tripura'. **Shri Krishna Kumar**, Visiting Fellow, RIS, New Delhi chaired and made the concluding remarks. ICFAI University, Tripura was the Knowledge partner.

(<https://enewstime.in/enews/harnessing-local-govts-key-to-attain-sdgs-experts-opined-in-webinar-series-206.html>)

RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
Research for all, progress for your state

Webinar Series
on
**Localising Sustainable Development Goals
Perspectives from North East India**

Panelist

Organized by:
Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
North Eastern Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA), India

Theme: Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Sikkim
Date: 25th July, 2020
Time: 4:00 PM-5:30 PM (IST)
Platform: WhatsApp

Session Chair:
Prof. T.C. James,
Visiting Fellow
RIS, New Delhi

Knowledge Partner:
Department of Political Science
Sikkim Central University

Contact:
NETRA Foundation
netrafoundation@gmail.com

Last date of Registration
24th July, 2020 (12:00 PM)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/XB41qpKc1YhZrYPB6>

The fourth Webinar of the series held on 25th July, 2020 focusing the state of Sikkim and chaired by Prof. T.C. James, Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.

Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Centre for South Asian Studies/School of International Studies, JNU, Delhi & Chief Economic Advisory, Govt. of Sikkim highlighted issues of 'Inclusive Development and Localising SDGs in Sikkim' and Dr Sandhya Thapa, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, Sikkim University pointed out the 'Gender Issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Sikkim'. 'Local Government and Localisation of SDGs in Sikkim' was discussed by Dr Durga Prasad Chhetri, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Political Science, Sikkim Central University. Dr Sarala Khaling, Regional Director, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Eastern Himalaya-Northeast India mentioned the 'Role of CSOs in Localisation of SDGs in Sikkim'. Sikkim Central University was the knowledge partner for the session.

<https://enewstime.in/enews/ris-and-netra-webinar-series-experts-deliberate-on-localization-of-sdgs-in-ne-state-298.html>

RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
Research for all, progress for your state

Webinar Series
on
**Localising Sustainable Development Goals
Perspectives from North East India**

Panelist

Organized by:
Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
North Eastern Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA), India

Theme: Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Meghalaya
Date: 1st August, 2020
Time: 4:00 PM-5:30 PM (IST)
Platform: WhatsApp

Session Chair:
Prof. Amitabh Kundu,
Distinguish Fellow, RIS, New Delhi &
Former Professor and Dean
School of Social Sciences
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

Knowledge Partner:
Department of Rural Development
University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya

Contact:
NETRA Foundation
netrafoundation@gmail.com

Last date of Registration
1st August, 2020 (12:00 PM)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/XB41qpKc1YhZrYPB6>

Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Distinguish Fellow, RIS, New Delhi & Former Professor and Dean School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University chaired the fifth Webinar held on 1st August, 2020 for the state of Meghalaya. In the webinar, 'Health and Wellbeing issues in Localising SDGs in Meghalaya' was discussed by Dr Bamin Tada, Former Advisor (Health), North Eastern Council, Meghalaya. Dr P. S. Nianglang, Chief Planning Officer & Head, SDG Cell, Government of Meghalaya shared the 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Meghalaya'. Dr Deigracia Nongkynrih, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, North Eastern Hill University, Shilong mentioned the 'Gender Issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Meghalaya' and Dr Papiya Dutta, Associate Professor, Department of Rural Development, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya talked about 'Local Government and Localisation of SDGs in Meghalaya'. Finally, Miss. Mayfereen RYNTATHIANG, President, GRASSROOT, Shillong, Meghalaya mentioned the 'Role of CSOs in Localisation of SDGs in Meghalaya'. University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya was the knowledge partner.

<https://enewstime.in/enews/ris-netra-experts-dwell-on-issues-challenges-of-localizing-sdg-in-meghalaya-2363.html>

On 8 August, 2020, the sixth Webinar held in partnership with Mizoram University. Shri. Naveen Verma, IAS, Former Secretary, Ministry of DONER, Government of India discussed the issues related to 'Inclusive Development in the State of Mizoram'. Dr C. Vanlalramsanga, Secretary, Planning & Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram mentioned various

RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
Research for all, together for a better world

Webinar Series on
**Localising Sustainable Development Goals
Perspectives from North East India**

Organized by:
Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
North Eastern Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRAF), India

Theme: Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Mizoram
Date: 07th August, 2020
Time: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (IST)
Platform: WebEx

Chair:
Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee,
Senior Adjunct Fellow
RIS, New Delhi

Knowledge Partner:
Mizoram University

Panelist:
Dr. N. Surjit Kumar, Head, Department of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Regional Campus, Manipur
Dr. E. Bijoy Kumar Singh, Department of Economics, Manipur University
Dr. K. Lalitha, Secretary, Planning & Investment Dept., Government of Mizoram
Dr. A. K. Bhat, Secretary, Young Mizo Association & Controller of Examination, Mizoram University
Dr. M. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS, New Delhi

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/XB41gpk1YhZrYP86>

'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Mizoram'. Dr C. Lalfakzuali, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Mizoram University, Aizawl pointed out 'Gender Issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Mizoram' and Dr Bidhu Kanti Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Mizoram University, Aizawl mentioned 'Industrial Development in Mizoram : With Special Reference to MSME'. 'Role of CSOs in Localisation of SDGs in Mizoram' by Prof. Tluanga, Secretary, Young Mizo Association & Controller of Examination, Mizoram University. Mr. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS chaired the session.

<https://enewstime.in/enews/webinar-on-localization-sdgs-in-mizoram-experts-focus-on-positive-parameters-health-issues-4458.html>

RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
Research for all, together for a better world

Webinar Series on
**Localising Sustainable Development Goals
Perspectives from North East India**

Organized by:
Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
North Eastern Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRAF), India

Theme: Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh
Date: 07th August, 2020
Time: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (IST)
Platform: WebEx

Chair:
Ambassador Amar Sinha,
Distinguished Fellow
RIS, New Delhi

Knowledge Partner:
Rajiv Gandhi University
Arunachal Pradesh

Panelist:
Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Himanshu Gupta, IAS, Secretary, Planning & Investment Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Kesang Degi, Professor, Department of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Narayan Sahoo, Associate Professor, NIRD&PR, NERC, Guwahati
Dr. Pradeep Kumar Behera, Senior Journalist, Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. M. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS, New Delhi

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/XB41gpk1YhZrYP86>

Ambassador Amar Sinha, Distinguished Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi chaired the seventh Webinar held on 14th August, 2020. Livelihoods & inclusive development issues in Localising SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh was narrated by Professor Saket Kushwaha, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh. Shri. Himanshu Gupta, IAS, Secretary, Planning & Investment Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh shared the 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh'. Prof. Kesang Degi, Professor, Department of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh discussed 'Gender & child issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh'. 'Local Government and Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' was mentioned by Dr Narayan Sahoo, Associate Professor, NIRD&PR, NERC, Guwahati. 'Role of Civil Societies Organisations and Media in Localisation of SDGs in Arunachal Pradesh' revealed by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Behera, Senior Journalist, Arunachal Pradesh. Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh was the knowledge partner for the event.

<https://enewstime.in/enews/7th-webinar-on-localizing-sustainable-development-goals-focuses-on-arunachal-pradesh-5556.html>

RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
Research for all, together for a better world

Webinar Series on
**Localising Sustainable Development Goals
Perspectives from North East India**

Organized by:
Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
North Eastern Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRAF), India

Theme: Issues and Challenges of Localising SDGs in Manipur
Date: 07th August, 2020
Time: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (IST)
Platform: WebEx

Chair:
Ambassador Amar Sinha,
Distinguished Fellow
RIS, New Delhi

Knowledge Partner:
Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
Regional Campus, Manipur

Panelist:
Prof. E. Bijoy Kumar Singh, Department of Economics, Manipur University
Dr. N. Surjit Kumar, Head, Department of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
Dr. A. K. Bhat, Secretary, Young Mizo Association & Controller of Examination, Mizoram University
Dr. M. Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Senior Adjunct Fellow, RIS, New Delhi

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/XB41gpk1YhZrYP86>

Amb. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi chaired the eighth Webinar held on 22nd August, 2020. 'Inclusive development issues in Localising SDGs in Manipur' was discussed by Prof. E Bijoykumar Singh, Department of Economics, Manipur University. Ms. Kulka Rani Devi, Joint Director, Department of Planning shared the 'Initiative Taken by the State Government towards Localisation of SDGs in Manipur'. 'Gender issues related to Localisation of SDGs in Manipur' was mentioned by Ms. Thingreiphi Lungharwo, Executive Secretary, Mountain Indigenous Knowledge Centre. Dr N. Surjitkumar, Head, Department of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal

University, Regional Campus, Manipur and Formerly Visiting Scholar, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa tried to link 'SDG and Tribal Development in Manipur: Problem and Prospects'. Dr Kanak Haloi, Professor, NIRDPR-NERC (Rtd.) & President NETRA Foundation narrated the 'Role of Local Government in Localisation of SDGs in Manipur'

<https://enewstime.in/enews/webinar-on-issues-and-challenges-of-localisation-of-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-5645.html>



The ninth Webinar on the “Issues and Challenges of Localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Perspective of North East India with special reference to Nagaland” on August 29, 2020 was Chaired by Dr D. K. Bhalla, IAS (Rtd.), Advisor to Government of Nagaland and Shri. Nosazol Charles, Addl. Development Commissioner, Planning & Coordination Department, Nagaland; Dr Rongsen Ao, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati, Dr Petekhere Sophie, Women’s Studies Centre, Nagaland University; Dr Kanak Haloi, Professor & Head, NIRDPR-NERC (Rtd.) & President, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati and Mr. Amba Jamir, Director, Sustainable Development Forum, Nagaland were among the speakers. Women’s Study Centre, Nagaland University as Knowledge partner.

<https://enewstime.in/enews/financial-resources-is-critical-constraint-towards-localisation-of-sdgs-panellists-said-5701.html>

Way Forward

- The task of localising SDGs should not be left to the government alone. Successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships amongst governments, the private sector and civil society. Various academic institutions in the region need to be linked at various stages.
- Further exercise need to be initiated for identification of indicators and mapping departments, schemes, projects for each SDG.
- Urgent action is needed to mobilise, redirect and unlock the transformative of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives. Long-term investments, including foreign direct investment, are needed in critical sectors. CSR funds may be trapped for the same.
- Because of resource constrain, states couldn’t take up all awareness simultaneously however desirable they may be. For successful implementation of the SDG in NER, vigorous training/capacity building is required.
- SDGs need to be linked with state budget and substantial budget may be allocated for strengthening SDG activities.
- SDG cells need to be strengthen with better infrastructure and manpower.
- Review and monitoring frameworks mechanism need to be developed. Monitoring dash board, dedicated MIS can help in this regard.
- Immediate legislative action to be taken for implementation of SDGs at various level.

NETRA Board Members

President, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Kanak Haloi is retired Professor and Head of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Guwahati University conferred him Ph.D degree and North Eastern Hill University, Shillong M Phil. Integral to the professional service; he had wide exposures across the country situations and North East in particular besides abroad numbering 10 developed, developing and underdeveloped countries.

Vice-President, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Durga Prasad Chhetri is the Chairperson in the Department of Political Science, Sikkim Central University, Sikkim, India and has an extensive research record in the areas of decentralisation, gender and politics, governance, social exclusion and inclusion. He is a recipient of India's National Young Political Scientist Award 2017.

Executive Member, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Papiya Dutta, PhD, is currently working as Associate Professor in the Department of Rural Development, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya since 2012. To her academic career she published 15 research articles in both national and international journals. She pursued her PhD from National Institute of Technology, Agartala after the successful completion of Masters in Rural Management & Development from Tripura University.

Joint Secretary, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Jyotiraj Pathak is Professor and Head in the Department of Political Science, Bodoland University (Assam). His area of interest includes human rights, north east studies and tribal studies. He is Executive Member of Indian Political Science Association (IPSA).

Executive Member, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Ms Levish Leivon did graduation from Jesus and Mary college (Delhi University) and higher studies she did from JNU, from the school of international studies. Her PhD work was on Economic Development and industrialisation in South Korea. She taught International studies for over five years before she joined a global organization Habitat for Humanity India. Presently she is in charge of the North East India Projects since 2016.

General Secretary, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Jayanta Choudhury, Associate Professor, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, North East Regional Centre, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. He is recognized as Expert, Inclusive Policy Lab, UNESCO. He is also board member of Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi; North East Financial Inclusion Trust, Agartala; Bandhan Financial Holding Company, West Bengal. He is also Founder of Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GFSRD).

Executive Member, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Prof Kesang Degi, is teaching in the Department of Education since September 2005. Her areas of interest are Women Education, Educational Psychology and Educational Sociology. Presently she is a Member of Finance Committee, Rajiv Gandhi University, Member of State Panchayat Expert Group; Member of State Resource Group for Inclusive Education & Girls Education and Coordinator, NEP, Task Force for School Education, Arunachal Pradesh.

Executive Member, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Bidhu Kanti Das Ph.D, MBA, M.Com, PGDIBO, (Born in 1977) is currently working as Assistant Professor at Department of Management, Mizoram University, Aizawl. He has a teaching experience of more than 15 years and 3 years experience in industry. His area of Research Interest includes Corporate Social Responsibility, International Business, and Modern Management.

Executive Member, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr N. Surjitkumar is an Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Head, Department of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Regional Campus, Manipur. He received his Doctoral Degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and specializes in International Relations and India's Foreign Policy.

Executive Member, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Petekhrienuo Sorhie, an Academician who had served under Nagaland University since 2001 as a Lecturer and presently as Project Officer under Women's Studies Center, Nagaland University. She has several research projects, published papers and other academic activities to her credit.

Executive Member, NETRA Foundation, Guwahati.

Dr Subhrabaran Das, Associate Professor and Deputy Coordinator of UGC-SAP, Department of Economics, Tripura University (A Central University). Earlier, Dr Das worked in Assam University (A Central University), Silchar as an Assistant Professor of Economics. He acted as an Associated Editor in few journals.

North East Training, Research and Advocacy Foundation (NETRA Foundation)

House No. 10, Bye Lane No. 1, Lakhimi Nagar, Beltola,
Guwahati-781028, Assam.
Email : nethinktank8@gmail.com

RIS

Core IV-B, Fourth Floor, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, India.,
Ph. 91-11-24682177-80
Fax: 91-11-24682173-74, Email: dgoffice@ris.org.in
Website: www.ris.org.in