

# YOJANA MAGAZINE APRIL 2018

## (SUMMARY)

The latest edition of yojana, focuses on the North-Eastern Region including the seven sister states, i.e (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and Meghalaya) plus the state of Sikkim .The North Eastern States forms a major part of India connected by a narrow stretch of land, commonly referred as the Siliguri corridor or the chicken's neck to the rest of India. To facilitate the socio-economic development of the north eastern states including Sikkim, DONER(Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region)was formed in the year 2001 and currently it is being headed by Mr Jitender Singh,(minister of state, Independent charge).DONER is headquartered in New Delhi, and envisages to act as a link between the central government/ministries and the 8 north eastern state governments. It is expected to work in the fields of Infrastructure and leveraging the huge potential it has in terms of agricultural activities including horticulture and floriculture. New Initiatives are also in the pipeline to bring the north east into the mainstream of Indian Economy. In order to achieve the goals, as envisioned for the north east states 4I's have been propounded by the Government i.e(Innovation ,Initiatives, Ideas and Implementation).

### MAJOR TAKEAWAYS-

#### A) INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN THE NORTH EAST-

- Our North East states are surrounded by 5 foreign lands i.e Nepal, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- The Composition of plain land is said to be just 30% to 35% in the North East States, rest are hilly terrain.
- It has been found out that the population of North East was only about 44 lakhs in the year 1901 which exploded exponentially to around 450 lakhs in the year 2011,registering almost a tenfold hike as compared to the population explosion in the rest of India.
- Migration from the surrounding areas has led to an average size of land holding to just 1 hectare in the region.
- The entire North East region gets an average annual rainfall of more than 2500 millimetres.

- The North East region is prone to floods and erosion and it has caused almost 5000-6000 sqkms of land loss.
- The development of the North East got hampered is attributed to the partition of the country, the Chinese aggression of 1962, the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971, and the internal problems such as the rise of insurgent groups etc.
- Other causes may be identified with low agricultural productivity, low cropping intensity, low coverage of irrigation, meagre usage of chemical fertilizers, low credit flow, absence of big industrial houses, etc.
- The literacy rate of the north east region (74.48%) is at par with the national rate of 74.04%.
- A major boost needs to be given, in the field of dairy farming, piggery, poultry, agriculture, tourism etc. which could help in generating huge resources for the north east.
- Act East Policy of the centre, needs to be translated on the grounds, so as to avail the benefits of our rich resources lying unexplored.
- The first oil well of Asia is in Digboi of Assam.

## B) NORTH EAST: AN ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

- The four I's formulated i.e needs to work in tandem (Innovation, Initiatives, Ideas and Implementation).
- The states of Tripura and Mizoram are highly literate.
- Assam tea industry stands 2nd in the world in producing tea commercially.
- The state of Manipur is the poorest, while the state of Sikkim is the richest among the north east states.
- Rice is considered to be the major crop of this region.

## C-PROVIDING WORLD CLASS LOGISTICS

- Lacks basic infrastructural facilities such as roadways, waterways, energy etc, but now various new projects are being set up for the revival of the north east.
- North Eastern Region shares just about 6% of the National Roads and just 13% of the National Highways.
- Rail Network is just 4% of the entire Rail Network of India in the entire North Eastern Region.
- India has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest railway system in the world, operating more than 19,000 trains and 7,112 stations. Complete overhauling of the railways, is being taken up so as to stand head to head with other developing economies.

- Indian Railways is planning to adopt the European Train Control Systems(ETCS),in the near future for the minimization of train accidents and proper functioning of the entire Rail Network.
- FDI for the railways related components from April 2000 to September 2017 were 896.99 million dollars.
- Tuirial hydro power project is the first major central sector project commissioned in Mizoram to generate around 251 million units of electrical energy per year.
- A sum of 1,48,528 crore has been allotted for the Indian Railways for the FY19.
- Anil Kakodar Committee Report suggested about 106 recommendations of which 68 have been fully accepted, and 19 being partially accepted by the Indian Railways.
- 47,994.88 crore have been allotted for the 8 North Eastern states in the budget.
- Barak river is being developed to facilitate shipping and navigation in the region.
- Close to 600 major railway stations would be redeveloped,WiFi,CCTV cameras to be fitted with along with other state of the art amenities.

## D) GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN THE NORTH EAST

- The majority of population concentration is in the state of Assam (70%).
- The severely malnourished children in the North-East are much lesser than 1%.
- Non exempted Union Ministries are mandated to earmark 10% of their Gross Budgetary Allocation (GBA) annually for the 8 North Eastern States.
- Majority of the north east states are dependent on the the central assistance as their own tax collections are quite insufficient to run their expenses.
- State closure or bandhs causes a huge amount of losses for the states such as Assam,Manipur and Nagaland.

## E) BAMBOO MISSION: A TOOL FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- Almost 68% of India's bamboo is grown here.Bamboo got removed from the list of "trees".In the budget it was the given the name of "Green Gold"
- India has around 30% of the worlds bamboo resources but contributes a mere 4% share in the world market.
- Bamboo Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme i.e it is 100% funded by the central Government.
- A restructured National Bamboo Mission was launched in the budget having an allocation of 1290 crore rupees.

- Bamboo products made out of bamboo, such as bamboo vinegar, agarbatti sticks, furniture, ornaments, wooden bins called Duli, etc could be incentivised and exported to other countries.

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## F) GIVING MOMENTUM TO SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- North East has been rebranded as “**The New Engine in New India**” validating its importance, which it commands vis-a-vis to the rest of mainland states.
- Various new schemes and initiatives have been taken by the states for skilling its rich human resources, prominent among them being, the **Karaghor Pora Karighor Scheme** of Assam.
- A special scheme was approved by the GOI for the development works of the north east i.e **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme**(NESIDS).
- Foundation stone was laid in the state of Manipur for the establishment of a National Sports University.
- NITI AAYOG set up a NITI Forum for North-East for its development and initiation of the projects concerning the 8 North East States.
- A dedicated venture fund has been established with a corpus of 100 crore rupees.
- An inter-ministerial committee on medicinal and aromatic plants(MAPs) too has been established to create a synergy between the schemes of the central government and the north east states with respect to the MAPs
- The demographic dividend of the country could be taken advantage of and thus propelling the country into a 5 trillion dollar economy within the next decade.
- The Assam Govt. has set a target of training around 3 lakh new entrants into the working population of a country in the next few years.
- Tripura could become a rubber giant in the near future, while Nagaland should lay its eyes on making its Hornbill Festival as a tourist attraction.
- Vocational training given to the school children could be promoted.

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## G) GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE NORTH EAST

- Community Resource Management Plan(CRMP) is being under taken for the villages plus the women’s participation is heavily emphasised.
- The SHGs are helping in cultivating a habit of savings amongst the rural women and saving them from the clutches of money lenders charging exorbitant rate of interest on their loan advances to them.

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## H) THE FALLACY OF SOCIO-CULTURAL ISOLATION

- Historically the North Eastern Region was famous as Pragjyotishpura, Assam and Kamrupa. The state of Assam never surrendered to the invasion of Muhammadans.
- In the year 1912, after the end of Bengal's partition, Assam was given the status of a separate province.
- Few of the famous festivals celebrated, are the Hornbill festival (Nagaland), Anthurium festival (Mizoram), Wangala festival (Meghalaya) and Ambubachi-Mela (Assam).

## I) REAPING BENEFITS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Artificial Intelligence research is being conducted by the universities across India for the last 40 years in order to give an impetus and help in the three sectors of the economy.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) promotes and empowers the youth in learning through its tinkering labs set up for learning.
- Artificial Intelligence could be used in Judiciary, Agricultural purposes, educational purposes, etc.

## J) MOVING TOWARDS INTEGRATION

- People are migrating from the North East to places such as Delhi and Kolkata in search of livelihood and for better educational avenues.
- A renowned Bezbaruah committee was formed, to look into the concerns of the people from the North-East.

## K) SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION

- The proposed budget has made vital changes in improving and enhancing the budgetary allocation for the education sector in the tribal and remote areas.
- The funds should be properly utilised, so as to cater to the needs of the diverse needs of the states, streamlining and improving the efficiency of the management and monitoring of the schemes for education.
- ISA has set a target of 1TW of solar energy by the year 2030. 56 countries have signed the ISA framework agreement.
- In the recent past umpteen number of measures have been taken with respect to the North East states such as fully funding the new projects of the North-

East, laying down of the foundation stone for the National Sports University in Manipur, Leisang village of Manipur became the last village to be electrified under the DDUGJY, opening of the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim, Bogibeel, India's longest road-rail bridge got inaugurated in Assam, to name a few.

