

ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE

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Regional Conference



The Regional conference on "Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices" was held in Assam Administrative Staff College, from 22nd to 23rd December, 2017. Participants from various States and Union territories attended the conference. The formal inaugural session of the conference started at 2.30 pm on the first day with the welcome address by Dr. K K Dwivedi, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of AR&T and Personnel, Government of Assam,



followed by the address of Shri V K Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Assam. Prior to the inaugural session, two sessions on the theme of “Responsive Public Service Delivery” and “State Collaboration Initiatives in Administrative Reforms” was held with presentations by the officers from different States & Union territories. Shri K V Eapen, IAS, Secretary, Department of AR & PG, Government of India delivered a presentation on the theme of the conference. A special session was held on “Presentation from North-Eastern States on Governance Initiatives” where presentations were delivered by officers from different States of the North East.

On the second day two sessions were held covering the broad theme of “Developing a



good governance index for ranking of states” and “Issues on Good Governance in North-eastern States” which included presentations and panel discussions. The participating states and UTs included Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Nagaland, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, etc. On the evening of the 22nd December the participants were taken on a river cruise in the river Brahmaputra and dinner was also arranged there.

Workshop on “Act East Policy & North-East”

The Centre for Innovation & Future Studies, Assam Administrative Staff College, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati held a day long workshop on “Act East Policy & North-East” on 6th December, 2017.

Sri Anjan Chakravarty, IAS, Director, Assam Administrative Staff College welcomed the participants including the noted Resource Persons to the workshop. Dr. Gautam Biswas, Director, IIT, Guwahati addressed the participants on the occasion and Sri Ravi Capoor, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Act East Policy, Industries & Commerce ,etc delivered the inaugural speech where he gave a picture of the North Eastern states of the pre-independence era and how the Act East Policy is expected to be beneficial for the North East.

Senior government officers of various



departments and directorates, Research Scholars from various colleges of Guwahati, participants from IIT, Guwahati, Police officers, Border Magistrates from three districts, NIT, Silchar, Central University, Tezpur, ICSSR, ASEAN Studies Center, members from CII, Federation of Industry & Commerce of NER, Assam Chambers of Commerce, officers from technical departments, etc. were invited to be a part of the workshop.

Dr. V.S.Seshadri, former Indian Ambassador to Myanmar graced the occasion by his presence and also delivered his special lecture on the topic. The session was moderated by Dr. Pahi Saikia, Associate professor, IITG. Invited resource persons, Sri Ravi Capoor, IAS and Sri B. Singh, Associate professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IITG delivered their presentations while Dr. Bipul Bhuyan, Associate professor, Department of Physics, IITG moderated the session.

The participants were greatly benefitted by the in-depth analysis made by the speakers on the evolution and meaning of this policy,

trade, NER development ,with emphasis on management perspective, infrastructure, connectivity, transformation etc.

The participants delivered excellent group presentations on the topics given i.e - Connecting Northeast: BCIM in perspective , Protection of Biodiversity & Tourism, Connectivity prospects: Women and Border haats and Technology & Education.

Dr. R.M.Dubey, IFS (Rtd) delivered the concluding speech while Ms. Kajori Rajkhowa, ACS, Co-ordinator of the workshop delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Mid career Interaction



A Mid-career interaction between officers of armed forces and civil services was held from 12th – 14th December,2017 . This is a course sponsored by DoPT in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence. The basic objective of this course is to provide exposure of IAS, IPS, IFoS officers to officers in the armed forces with the understanding that such interactions are likely to benefit all the participants through mutual learning from each other's strength and by imbibing the best points of each

other's work culture and ethos. This is expected to help them address future challenges to national security in a better manner.



21 participants from the civil services and armed forces from across the country attended the course, the theme for which was set by DoPT in consultation with the Ministry of Defence . This time the theme selected was “Cross-border Terrorism”.

The inaugural session was addressed by Dr KK Dwivedi, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, AR&T wherein he made a detailed presentation on civil –military interface . Other speakers included Shri Tapan Deka,IPS, Joint Director, SIB, Brigadier S.Sanjay, Commander 107 Mountain Brigade, Shri LN Bishnoi, IPS Addl DGP and Shri Daniel Adhikari, DIG, BSF.

Journalist Rajiv Bhattacharjee spoke on the cross-border linkages of militancy in the North-East,while Vikas Katheria,IPS , SP,NIA focused on the functioning of NIA . Also invited to address the participants were Col(Retd) D.Bora and conflict analyst J.Saikia. Col R.Yadav, Dy Commander,11 Mountain Brigade, Group Captain

V.Saxena, OPS IG, Hq and Department Shri B. Pegu, ACS , Jt Secretary, Home Deptt conducted an interactive session on the need to strengthen armed forces and civil administration interface to address threats to national security.

The three days of interaction saw a lot of debate and discussion where participants brought inputs relating to their personal experiences in the field which made for lively and interesting sessions. An evening of river cruise and sightseeing was also included to give a taste of Guwahati's riverfront beauty which was enjoyed and appreciated by the first-time visitors to the city.

Empowerment of Women



A 3-day training course on “Empowerment of Women” was held from 18th -20th December,2017. A number of Resource Persons including Dr P.Vaquline,Director, Women Studies Centre, Gauhati University ,Shri S.Kumar, IPS, IGP (CID), Ms L.Agarwala, Counselor & Psychologist, Dr N. Mahanta, Asst Professor, Guwahati Medical College and others discussed the need for gender sensitization and its relevance in society, forms of domestic violence and the legal remedies available to victims, impact of

various government missions in women empowerment, health and psychological awareness and improvement in women, etc.

The last day saw discussions and interaction during group presentations made by the participants on some selected topics on women empowerment.

Workshop on 'Rooftop Farming'

The Centre for Innovation and Future Studies, Assam Administrative Staff College held a workshop on 'Rooftop Farming' on 8th December, 2017.

Horticultural domain experts Dr. Madhumita Choudhury Talukdar, Professor & Head, Department of Horticulture, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, Dr. Sunil Kumar Borah and Dr. Nirmal Mazumder, Principal Scientists from Horticultural Research Station, Assam Agricultural University, Guwahati, Dr. Anuj Baruah, Biotechnologist from Krishi Jigyasa, Khetri and



Mr Subhankar Saha, PhD. Scholar from Department of Horticulture, AAU, Jorhat were invited as guest lecturers for the workshop.



The workshop focused on various aspects of rooftop farming such as scope and importance of roof top farming and gardening as a component of urban horticulture with emphasis on safe food, family nutrition and the principles for raising a roof top garden including containers and media required, bio-intensive management of pests and diseases in roof top farming. Besides, the workshop incorporated two sessions on experience-sharing by a roof top gardening service provider and one successful roof top gardener.

The workshop was attended by mid and senior level officers from the Departments/offices of Finance, Public Enterprises, Agriculture, Horticulture, Panachayat and Rural Development, Social Welfare, Fisheries, Economics and Statistics, Revenue and Disaster Management, Controller of Civil Defence, ASTC, Public Works, Commissionerate of Taxes and also from the districts and educational institutions like Handique Girls College, Cotton University, etc.

World trade and commerce forms an integral part of the national economic policy of any government. Assam and the northeast from the ancient period maintained social, economic and commercial links with the South East Asian countries including China. In recent times, however, China's ambitious economic and foreign policy project called "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) initiative, also known as the Silk Road Economic Belt, is likely to have far-reaching ramifications in northeast India if immediate effective steps are not taken by the government through the Act East Policy.

The recent action of China to build roads close to our borders up to Doklam is basically to expand the network of trade and commerce in this region. Siliguri is already a huge market for Chinese commodities. Traders not only from Siliguri but rest of India visit the lesser known city of Yiwu for procurement of innumerable Chinese items flooding the Indian markets. This sleepy town has developed as the world's largest wholesale market with more than 70,000 shops visited by 2 lakh buyers daily from a large number of countries. This OBOR initiative will impact more than 4 billion people within a decade and generate trade above 2.5 trillion dollars. This project consists of two components—the Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB) and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road (MSR) based on the ancient Chinese trade routes called the "Silk Road" in history traversed by Marco Polo and many other travellers.

The OBOR intends to connect Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe by a network of by high speed railways, highways, fibre optical lines, cable projects and satellite information passage ways. The Chinese President Xi Jinping is hopeful enough that such a mega trade policy among the Silk Road economies will touch \$2.5 trillion over the next decade.

India has made its intension clear to Beijing that it will not join the alliance due to several geo-political factors. India has already raised objection that the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passing through Aksai Chin and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir which India considers a part of India. Despite knowing that it is disputed territory, China has undertaken a number of projects including power plants, railways and roads including Karakoram Highway. New Delhi is firmly opposing the CPEC corridor as it links Xinjiang province of China with the Gwadar port (now constructed by China) in West Pakistan. India needs to develop a counter narrative against this aggression.

Now the question is what are the ramifications for North East India? There is support in some quarters to a proposal to build up an economic corridor centring around Kunming, the provincial capital of Yunnan province through the proposed Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) that starts at Kolkata and ends at Kunming. This will establish links with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprising of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar which is ideal for connecting the Greater Mekong Sub region and serve as a pivot link between mainland China and ASEAN nations. This proposal was vindicated by some of the economists of the region in order to make the Act East Policy fruitful as there will be better balance of trade between these nations.

As a part of Act East Policy the North-eastern states has to come up with better infrastructural facilities for exporting goods from the region otherwise Chinese goods will flood the markets under BCIM initiative. A common Economic Platform like the European Economic Union has to be constituted to thwart the economic threat from China and promotion of neo-colonialism by the Red Dragon.

Mahmood Hassan, ACS

PHOTO GALLERY



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