

**DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**



The Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis is envisioned as a proactive embodiment of the philosophy of the late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, of leveraging knowledge, technology and humanism to achieving Sustainable Development while also ensuring the goals of a Just and Equitable Social Order. The centre was the outcome of a Tripartite Agreement between Indian Institute of Management, Shillong and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) and North Eastern Council (NEC) signed on 15th October 2016.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Centre aims to emerge as a state-of-the-art resource Centre to assist the states of North East India and the implementing agencies to properly plan their projects, promote innovations and function as a repository of data and best practices in the region, especially in development planning of six critical sectors namely logistics, tourism, horticulture, handicraft, handloom and business process outsourcing. This would cover all the key areas of development planning, policy formulation, strategizing and analysis. The Centre aims to emerge as a catalyst for development through action research and analysis. It would also strive to emerge as an innovation and knowledge hub that will help achieve Sustainable Development. This is expected to be achieved with a blend of Science and Humanism through the cultivation of techno-economic excellence along with inculcation of universal human values, an awakening of indigenous sensitivity and celebration of natural as well as cultural diversity. Further, the centre would network with various institutes throughout the North-east and establish an institutional network to provide knowledge breakup.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE CENTRE**

- To serve as expert facilitation point for North Eastern States in policy making, strategic planning and effective implementation of various development schemes for six identified sectors.
- To understand research and analysis of developmental issues of various North Eastern states as identified jointly or separately by Ministry of DoNER, North Eastern Council, Indian Institute of Management Shillong and states individually or collectively.
- To network with other institutions of excellence within the North Eastern states in various subject areas relevant to development of NE and to establish an institutional network for

collaborative research, analysis and consultancy etc., so as to provide the best knowledge back up for strategic planning in the North Eastern states.

- To serve as documentation, collation and dissemination point for the best practices in various fields of development from around the world for the benefit of the development of the North Eastern states.
- To serve as an innovation hub to encourage innovations and improvements in all such areas, which can have a direct and positive impact on the lives of the people of the region.



## MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis is governed by a Governing Body constituted by representatives from the Ministry of DoNER, New Delhi, North Eastern Council, Shillong, Government of Meghalaya, Indian Institute of Management Shillong and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis. Secretary, North Eastern Council, Shillong is the Chairperson of the Governing Board. The Governing Body Council is responsible for overseeing the overall and drafting policies for the general functioning of the Centre.

Overall coordination of the Centre is being carried out under the supervision of Centre Coordinator Professor Keya Sengupta who is the Professor of Indian Institute of Management Shillong. To look after the research and evaluation activities of each identified sectors, the Centre has constituted six different sectoral committees under one sectoral coordinator from in-house faculty members of Indian Institute of Management Shillong. At present, Prof. Basav Roychoudhury is the sectoral coordinator of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO). Prof Rohit Joshi is the sectoral coordinator of the logistics sector. Prof T.K Giri is looking after horticulture sector. Handloom sector is looked after by Prof. Sanjoy Mukherjee whereas Prof. Sharad N Bhattacharyya is looking after the handicraft sector. On the other hand, the Centre Coordinator Prof. Keya Sengupta is coordinating the research and evaluation activities of the tourism sector.

These six sectoral committees are in overall charge of monitoring and reviewing as well as in providing the necessary guidance in conducting the research study of the six identified sectors.

## IDENTIFIED SECTORS

At present, the Centre is looking after six critical sectors which have the potentiality to play a vital role in the economic development of the region. These six sectors include Tourism, Handloom, Handicraft, Horticulture, Logistic and Business Process Outsourcing. Accordingly, the Centre has developed a five-year vision for these sectors such as

- Doubling the contribution of each Sector to Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in the next five years.
- Doubling employment generation in every sector in the next five years.
- Raising the livelihood and living standard of the entrepreneurs/artisans/farmers/tourism professional/youth etc., engaged in these six sectors within the next five years.

Moreover, to achieve the long-term vision of the Centre related to these sectors, the Centre has developed short- and medium-term action plans which include

- Conducting Primary survey of the six sectors in all the states of North East India.
- Background study on the current status of the six sectors based on secondary data.
- Identification of challenges faced by entrepreneurs/ stakeholders of the concerned sectors and the analysing the reasons for the sectors performing below their optimum level.
- Studying the best practices in India as well as in other countries of the world and incorporate them into the relevant sectors.
- Incorporating the inputs from Experts and Advisors at the national /international level working with the identified sectors.
- Drafting of policies for the sectors to achieve the long-term objectives as stated above.

In the future, the Centre is planning to work on other sectors too which may have the potentiality to play an important role in the socio-economic development of the region.

## FACILITIES



At present, the Centre has one library containing various reading materials specific to sectors as well as about North East India. Moreover, the Centre also has a separate section dedicated to the books authored by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam himself and by other authors on Dr Kalam.

## ACTIVITIES

At present, the Centre is engaged with policy analysis for the six identified sectors for the entire

North East India supported by NEC. In future, the Centre is planning to engage with a number of other development activities related to different policies and programmes. Thus, the centre is planning to carry out activities like

- Research Study
- Consultancy
- Training and capacity building

The Centre is researching on area-specific problems of NER along with existing policy analysis. These research studies are of both diagnostic and programme-oriented Research Studies. As the Centre's main concern is the wellbeing of the rural people, research studies of the Centre will examine and analyse the factors contributing to the improvement of economic and social wellbeing of the people on a sustainable basis. On this account, the Centre has conducted a number of activities to achieve the goal of the Centre. Accordingly, the Centre has developed the concept note on development planning considering six identified sectors. Further, the finding of secondary sources on the status of three sectors such as handicraft, horticulture and tourism has been presented to representatives of North Eastern Council on 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. This meeting was attended by Prof. Biman Kumar Dutta,



Member, Shri Wanlambok Synrem, Economic Adviser, Smt. R. Lalrodingi, Adviser- Banking, Industry and Tourism, Shri Mangsatabam Iboyaima Meitei, Adviser- Horticulture, Shri Navin Kumar, Adviser -Transport and Communication, Shri D.L. Wankhar, Director Planning. The presentation was made by representatives of the Centre namely Prof. Sankar Purbey, Prof. Tapas Kumar Giri, Prof Natalie W Kharkongor and Dr Bhaskar Kumar Kakati. Along with this, the Centre has arranged a number of awareness camp with the entrepreneurs of different sectors. Further, the representatives of the Centre have visited both Government and Non-Government Organisation in Shillong and Guwahati to understand the present status of six identified sectors. Moreover, the Centre is planning to organise capacity building training for entrepreneurs of these six identified sectors. Further, visit to the other states of the region will be undertaken from the month of November 2019.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Recruitment of Staffs

The Centre has recruited Centre Manager to look after the administrative and research coordination under the supervision of Centre Coordinator. Further, the Centre has also recruited six Research Assistants to look after different sectors under the supervision of the Sectoral Committee.

### Visit of representatives from Ministry of DoNER

Smt. Mamu Hage, IAS, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of DoNER visited the Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to review the ongoing activities of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis. During her visit, she has interacted with Centre Coordinator, Sectoral Coordinator and other Staffs of the Centre. The Centre Coordinator Prof Keya Sengupta updated her with different ongoing activities undertaking by the Centre. Further, she also informed her about the different future activities of the Centre. Smt. Hage congratulated the Centre for promising works.



### First Governing Body Meeting



The first Governing Body Meeting of the Centre was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, North Eastern Council, Shri Ram Muivah IAS, at the Board Room, Indian Institute of Management Shillong. The meeting was attended by Shri Indevan Pandey, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of DoNER, New Delhi. Prof. D.P. Goyal, Director, Indian Institute of Management Shillong and Prof. Keya Sengupta, Centre Coordinator, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis also attended this meeting. Chairperson of the Governing Body Shri Muivah informed the house that the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis is a commitment to the Honourable Prime Minister of India after the visit of the Honourable Prime Minister to Shillong in May 2015 and therefore each stakeholder must work for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Centre.

## CBTC Director Visits the Centre

The Managing Director Technology, Byrnihat, the Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> of his visit, he interacted Centre. He discussed the and projects under these India. He congratulated He said that he will be the necessary support of analysing different studies, undertaking by Centre for Policy



of Cane and Bamboo Dr S Chaudhari visited September 2019. During with the staff of the status of different policies sectors in North East the Centre for their work. happy to provide all to Centre in the context policies and research the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Research and Analysis.

## Visit of Managing Trustee of BASECAMP Social Research Foundation, Tamilnadu

Sridhar Lakshman, the Managing Trustee of BASECAMP Social Research Foundation who is also an alumnus of Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad visited the Centre on September 27<sup>th</sup>. His organisation is working on the development of significant models in Tamilnadu working with tribals groups in different sectors such as Tourism, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Horticulture (essential oils) and Food (honey). The Centre Coordinator, Centre Manager and Research Assistant looking after Handloom sector have made a deep discussion with him about how to develop entrepreneurship skill for the people of North East India.



## COLLABORATION AND TIE-UP

### Nomination to Governing Body Meeting

Prof. Keya Sengupta, Centre Coordinator, Dr APJ Centre for Policy Research and Analysis has been nominated as the member of Governing Body of Centre for North Eastern Studies (CeNEST), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. This Centre will undertake research studies, consultancies, skill development programmes for the promotion of trade in North East India.

### Institutional Partner of Shimla Conclave

The Centre was the institutional partner of Shimla Conclave organised by Centre for Policy Research and Governance, New Delhi held at Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. Centre Manager Dr Bhaskar Kumar Kakati attended the conclave and made a presentation on Tourism in North East India.

## AWARENESS CAMP AND FIELD VISIT REPORTS

### Handicraf Sector

To understand the status of Handicraft in Meghalaya the Research Assistant Boishali Gogoi visited a number of organisations at Shillong. Some of the organisations visited by her during the month of August and September were Bethany Welfare Society, Bethany Society, Opera Ravalico, Living Bridge Foundation, North East Network, School of Livelihood and Rural Development, North East Slow Food and Agro-Biodiversity Society (NESFAS) etc. She also visited Gemini Jute Training Centre, Jhalupara, Shillong of North East Network where she interacted with master trainers and trainees





and tried to identify their problems. The Sector Coordinator Prof Sharad N Bhattacharya, and Centre Manager Dr Bhaskar Kumar Kakati also interacted with Smt. R. Lalrodingi -Adviser (Banking, Industries & Tourism Sector) of North Eastern Council who is Nodal Officer for Handicraft sector nominated by North Eastern Council.

### **Horticulture Sector**

Dr Bathseheba G Pynogope, Research Assistant interacted with Smti T Shylla, Horticulture officer (G) Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Meghalaya who is also the Nodal Officer-Horticulture nominated by the Government of Meghalaya to coordinate with the Centre. They had discussed on different issues of agricultural policy of Meghalaya including different challenges like marketing, forward linkages, mentoring, reporting and documentation. To document the different challenges and potentiality of the sector, she visited a number of other organisations working in Meghalaya such as Bethany Welfare Society, Bethany Society, Opera Ravalico North East Network, School of Livelihood and Rural Development, North East Slow Food and Agro-Biodiversity Society (NESFAS) etc. The member of the Sectoral Committee Prof Bidyut Gogoi, Research Assistant Dr Bathseheba G Pynogope and Centre Manager Dr Bhaskar Kumar Kakati also interacted with Shri Mangsatabam Iboyaima Meitei-Adviser (Horticulture & Allied) of North Eastern Council who is Nodal Officer for Horticulture sector nominated by North Eastern Council.



### **Tourism Sector**



Positioned as the Abode of Clouds, policy initiatives of Meghalaya are aimed at evolving the role of tourism as a major engine of economic growth by taking advantage of its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. Tourism policy of Meghalaya focuses on a number of critical issues such as the creation of basic infrastructure, promotion of entrepreneurship within the local communities with a thrust on the community participated tourism projects, ensuring conservation and sustainability of the environment and natural resources in Meghalaya etc. Despite the efforts made by the Government and different non-governmental

organisation the contribution of the Tourism to State Gross Domestic Products and employment is not as per its potentiality. Accordingly, to understand the different prevailing issues of the tourism sector of Meghalaya, Research Assistant Ibadahun Khongwir visited a number of organisations working for promotion of Tourism in Meghalaya. She visited Bethany Welfare Society, Bethany Society, Pioneer Adventure Tour, Nomads Shillong and the Living Bridge Foundation during August-September and collected various data on different issues of tourism in Meghalaya.

## Business Process Outsourcing

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) has evolved as an important business practice throughout the globe that happens to be one of the largest growth areas in the outsourcing market. Accordingly, the Government of India had formulated the NEBPS to enhance investment in IT/ITES space in the North Eastern Region of the country, and thereby create employment opportunities for the local youth. Although the Government has focused on the promotion of BPO in NER the sector still faces a number of challenges. Accordingly, to address these challenges and to have a brief idea of the present status of BPO in Meghalaya, the Sectoral



Coordinator Prof Basav Roychoudhury and Research Assistant, Simi Sharma visited Chillibreeze Solutions Private Limited operating from the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) campus. Further, Simi Sharma visited and collect different information on policies of BPO in Meghalaya from a number of organisations working in the field and different BPO Companies such as Kayzey Society, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Vision Plus Security Pvt. Ltd, Jobs Deal Pvt. Ltd. She has also made interaction with SS War, Senior Informatics Officer, Department of Communication and Information Technology, Government of Meghalaya who is also the Nodal Officer-BPO nominated by Government of Meghalaya. To access the status of BPO companies in Assam Simi Sharma also interacted with Sanjib Kumar Sharma, General Manager- Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd who is also the Nodal Officer- BPO nominated by Government of Assam. She further visited Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Guwahati, Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM), Assam Start-up Nest and interacted different officials on Information Technology Policies of Assam. She also visited some companies like BPO Convergence Pvt. Ltd, Tatwa Technologies Pvt. Ltd, Threadz IT Pvt. Ltd and interacted with different officials regarding the status of BPO companies in Assam. The Sector Coordinator Prof Basav Roychoudhury, Research Assistant Simi Sharma and Centre Manager Dr Bhaskar Kumar Kakati also interacted with Shri Atanu Saha-Director (Science & Technology) and L/O Director (Evaluation & Monitoring) of North Eastern Council who is Nodal Officer for BPO sector nominated by North Eastern Council.

## Logistics Sector



Logistics is one of the most economically viable sectors for the development of North East India Yet the sector suffers from a number of challenges such as lack of proper connectivity, lack of ICT infrastructure, lack of awareness among the stakeholders, lack of aggregation etc. Moreover, the major challenges of this sector are lack of documentation. Although a few companies and Government departments are working to improve this sector in North East

India, still the contribution of this sector to State Gross Domestic Products and employment is not up-to-the- mark. The Centre has given prior emphasis on policy analysis of this sector in North East India. Accordingly, preliminary data collection was done by the Centre to access the present status of logistics in Meghalaya. Research Assistant of the sector Dr Kiran Sharma made a preliminary visit to



a number of organisations and companies working in Shillong to have first-hand information about the status of logistics in Meghalaya. Accordingly, she has visited Blue Dart, Fed Ex, The Professional Courier, DTDC, Tema United, Vishal Roadways, SB Worldwide Courier Services, Trackon Cargo, Ecom Express, New India Logistic, Arunachal Roadways, Suman Transport, Shillong Transport, CMP Warehouse etc. Further, the Centre Sector Coordinator Prof Rohit Joshi and Dr Kiran Sharma interacted with Shri Navin Kumar- Adviser (Transport and Communication), North Eastern Council who is Nodal Officer for logistics sector nominated by North Eastern Council.

## Handloom Sector

To understand the status of Handloom in Meghalaya, Hitesh Gamit, Research Assistant, visited a number of organisations at Shillong. Moreover, the Sectoral Coordinator Prof. Sanjoy Mukharjee, Hitesh Gamit and Dr Bhaskar Kumar Kakati also interacted with Smt. R. Lalrodingi -Adviser (Banking, Industries & Tourism Sector) of North Eastern Council who is Nodal Officer for Handloom sector nominated by North Eastern Council. He also visited Gemini Jute Training Centre, Jhalupara, and Shillong of North East Network where he interacted with master trainers and trainees and tried to identify their problems. He also interacted with Smti. M.R. Leewait, Zonal Officer, Weaving, Sericulture & Weaving Department, Government of Meghalaya, who is also the Nodal Officer-Handloom nominated by the Government of Meghalaya to understand the present status of handloom in Meghalaya.



## PUBLICATIONS

The Centre has published a concept note Sectoral Planning for Development as well as the brochure of the Centre.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- One day Capacity Building for Entrepreneurs of Meghalaya and Assam

## UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- Field Visit Report-1 (Meghalaya)
- Policy Analysis Framework
- Present Status of Identified Six Sectors in North East India

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