



"You cannot change your future, but, you can change your habits,
and surely your habits will change your future"

- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Message from the Director

Dear Readers,

At the beginning of the new year, we choose to start afresh and take hold of the directions of the life we pursue. Jaunsen Dizon says, "Every sunrise is a new chapter waiting to be written". With each new day, we should strive to achieve even greater heights and achievements. In pursuit of our endeavour, the Centre has initiated a section "Policy Circle," to disseminate and deliberate policies relevant to the northeast. Let us continue to strive for excellence and work towards our region's betterment. I wish the Centre success in its future ventures, and I look forward to our continued collaboration and engagement. Let's make every sunrise count!

Prof. D P Goyal
Director, IIM Shillong

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News and Events

North East Krishi Kumbha 2023

On the occasion of the 49th Foundation Day Celebration of the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, a three-day 'North East Krishi Kumbhar-2023' was organized from 4th-6th January 2023 in Umiam, Meghalaya. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar ji, inaugurated the event with other dignitaries such as VC, CAU, Imphal; former DDG & former VC, AAU and Secretary NEC. In his address, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar ji mentioned the beauty and charm of the Northeast Region with its unique agricultural products and practices. He spoke about the region's diverse culture, food habits and rich produce. He emphasized production enhancement under 'Per Drop More Crop'; shifting to Climate Resilient Agriculture, and practising a community approach rather than individualistic augmentation.

The North East Krishi Kumbhar-2023 is one of its kind, organised under the theme 'Emerging opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors for income and employment generation'. It provided a platform for over 10,000 farmers and 102 stalls from 8 NE States. Dr. Rituparna Hazarika, Research Associate and Ms. Sudeshna Bordoloi, Research Assistant of Dr. Kalam Centre, attended the fair on 5th January 2023 and interacted with entrepreneurs and participants.



G20 Side Event on 'Climate Finance'

Dr. Kalam Centre hosted a G20 Side Event on 'Climate Finance' under the Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG). The event was organised on 4th February 2023 and supported by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, GoI and North Eastern Council (NEC) Shillong. The event consisted of two sessions: Lectures on the Mobilisation of Financial Resources for Climate Action and a Panel Discussion on Financing for Early Stage Climate Technology: Challenges and Way Forward. Smt. Chandni Raina, IES, Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, GoI, Ms. Anjali Garg, Senior Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation, Mr. Arjun Dutt, Senior Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Shri. Gaigongdin Panmei, IRS, Financial Advisor, NEC, delivered powerful presentations.

The panel discussion featured experts like Ms. Ruchira Shukla, Regional Lead for South Asia Disruptive Technologies (IFC), Dr. Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, GoI, Ms. Sherry Lalthangzo, IES, Economic Advisor, NEC Shillong and Dr. Rouhin Deb, Chief Economist, Chief Minister's Secretariat, Government of Assam as panellists.

The event highlighted the importance of sustainable finance for short-term and long-term impact. The discussion also highlighted India's role in climate change and the targets to achieve: emission intensity reduction, 50% cumulative non-fossil fuel-based energy and creating a carbon sink. The key takeaways of the discussion focused on emerging markets, the regulatory landscape in emerging sustainable finance roadmap, economic, social and governance, and climate issues to be treated separately with equal importance attributed to all, development dialogues to include Green bonds, and many others.



Implementation of Functional Hindi Course

In light of the ongoing initiative “Implementation of Functional Hindi Course in Professional Colleges of NER” under Dr. Kalam Centre, IIM Shillong, Dr. Sanjeev K Ningombam, Centre Coordinator, Dr. Rituparna Hazarika, Research Associate and Ms. Sudeshna Bordoloi, Research Assistant visited six colleges of Aizawl district namely, Government Aizawl College; Government Aizawl North College; Government J Thankima College; Government Aizawl West College; Hrangbana College; Pachhunga University College; and Mizoram University. During their visit from 6th-11th March 2023, the team interacted with the College Principals and the Head of the Department of Mizoram Institutions for a detailed discussion. They discussed topics such as motivating students to learn functional Hindi, and organising orientation and workshops promoting the benefits of learning Hindi.



Interaction with stakeholders under the Skill Mapping Survey

As a part of the MoU signed with Mizoram Youth Commission on 26th August 2022, Dr. Kalam Centre, IIM Shillong is conducting a skill mapping survey among Mizoram youth. During 6th-11th March 2023, Dr. Sanjeev Ningombam, Centre Coordinator along with Dr. Rituparna Hazarika, Research Associate and Ms. Sudeshna Bordoloi, Research Assistant of Dr. Kalam Centre visited Mizoram as part of the fieldwork. For the purpose of understanding the role of different stakeholders in the youth engagement process, the team conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Secretaries, Directors of several Government departments, entrepreneurs, and college principals. There were also interviews with the Department of School Education, Industry and Commerce, Office of the Labour Commissioner and Directorate (LESDE), Planning Advisor, and Directorate of Higher and Technical Education. In addition, the team also visited various government institutions like Aizawl College, Hrangbana College, Government Aizawl West College, Government J. Thankima College, Aizawl North College, Pachhunga University College, and the Department of Business Administration at Mizoram University. The team met and interacted with a few local entrepreneurs from Mizoram who emphasised creating a blue ocean strategy and encouraging dynamic skills among the youths.



Roundtable Discussion on ‘The Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker Program’

The International Labour Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and NITI Aayog, Government of India hosted a Roundtable Discussion on “The Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) and Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) Program” on the 16th of March 2023. The event aims to bring together key stakeholders including inter-governmental ministerial representation, international organizations, employers’ and workers’ organizations, civil society, and academic institutions to reflect on the potential of the TITP and SSW programs. Dr. Sanjeev K Ningombam, Centre Coordinator, Dr. Kalam Centre were invited as a Resource person to share his expert views during the session ‘Perspectives on Skill Development and Training’. He shared his views on how skill development and training initiatives can build sustainable economic relations between two partners India and Japan, while also providing an opportunity for students to gain valuable skills and knowledge. He emphasised Skilling as a powerful tool for reducing poverty and inequality, and for promoting sustainable development. He further highlighted the importance of engaging with stakeholders to ensure these programs are implemented effectively and efficiently. He concluded with a highlight on the Initiative taken by CeDNER IIM Shillong on imparting the Japanese language to North East students.

Exposure visit for Secondary Students of Mizoram to IIM Shillong Campus

“Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan” is an overarching programme for the school education sector. It aims to improve school effectiveness measured in terms of equal schooling opportunities and equitable learning outcomes. As part of the 'Exposure Visit Outside State' initiative, the Government of Mizoram has undertaken a visit to Shillong, Meghalaya during the 20th-31 of March 2023 for its secondary students. As part of this programme, Dr. Kalam Centre has hosted 280 students who visited IIM Shillong Campus in 3 batches. These students have interacted with the PGP Students, officers and staff of IIM Shillong. The interaction was regarding the admission process, prospects, placements, campus life and culture at IIM Shillong etc. The students also attended an orientation by IIM Shillong students and have a tour of the campus. The visit was intended to give the students a better understanding of IIM Shillong and help them make an informed decision when planning for their higher studies.



Discussion with NECBDC on various schemes and programmes

NEC's North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) is an outreach program formed in 2000 to transform the region's bamboo sector. Regarding revamping and enhancing the role of NECBDC in the NE Region, Dr. Sanjeev K Ningombam, Centre Coordinator, Dr Kalam Centre, had discussions with NECBDC officials on matters like engaging Young Professionals, Capacity Building Programs for its staff and officials, consultancy services to enhance the performance and productivity of the organisation and to initiate workshops and training on Design Intervention. Additionally, Dr. Ningombam proposed to develop a knowledge management system to ensure that NECBDC is up to date with the latest trends and developments in entrepreneurship.



Policy Circle

Tourism Snapshot - Destination Northeast

Connectivity in Northeast India:



Airports

- ✈ 64 routes have been operationalized under the UDAN.
- ✈ 16 operational airports in the North Eastern Region.



Railway

- 🚂 The Ministry of Railways stated that 14 new line projects covering a total length of 1,181 Kms have been planned/ sanctioned/ executed out of which, 361 Kms has been commissioned.
- 🚂 5 doubling projects covering a length of 728 Kms have been planned/ sanctioned/ executed out of which 48 Kms has been commissioned.



Roadway

- ➡ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has taken up/ sanctioned national highway development works of 5137 Kms in the NER. These infrastructure projects are providing essential/ critical connectivity for a barrier free environment for growth of tourism in the NER.



Waterway

- 🚢 The Government of India has sanctioned two projects (NW-2 and NW-16) for Inland Water Transport infrastructure.
- 🚢 MV Ganga Vilas made its maiden voyage from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and travel around 3,200 km in 51 days to reach Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh with 32 foreign tourists.
- 🚢 The Revised Estimate Cost of Rs. 2904.04 crores have been approved for the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project for providing an alternate access route to the North-Eastern region of India.



Consultancy

The NEC has conducted consultative meetings with tourism stakeholders like North East Tourism Departments, North East Tour operators etc.

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Round table discussion on developing a framework for seamless tourist movements to North Eastern States of India organized by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong.



Initiatives

Government of India has taken the 'Yuva Sangam' initiative to strengthen people to people connect especially between youth belonging to NER and other States and provide an immersive experience under five broad areas – Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Prodyogiki (Technology) and Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect).



Schemes

Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation & Spiritual, Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme of "Assistance to Central Agencies" for Tourism Infrastructure Development" it has sanctioned viewpoints and wayside amenities in the NER.

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MDoNER is also implementing the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PMDevINE) scheme.



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