



IASBABA'S YK GIST



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Preface

This is our 37th edition of Yojana Gist and 28th edition of Kurukshetra Gist, released for the month of April 2018. It is increasingly finding a place in the questions of both UPSC Prelims and Mains and therefore, we've come up with this initiative to equip you with knowledge that'll help you in your preparation for the CSE.

Every issue deals with a single topic comprehensively sharing views from a wide spectrum ranging from academicians to policy makers to scholars. The magazine is essential to build an in-depth understanding of various socio-economic issues.

From the exam point of view, however, not all articles are important. Some go into scholarly depths and others discuss agendas that are not relevant for your preparation. Added to this is the difficulty of going through a large volume of information, facts and analysis to finally extract their essence that may be useful for the exam.

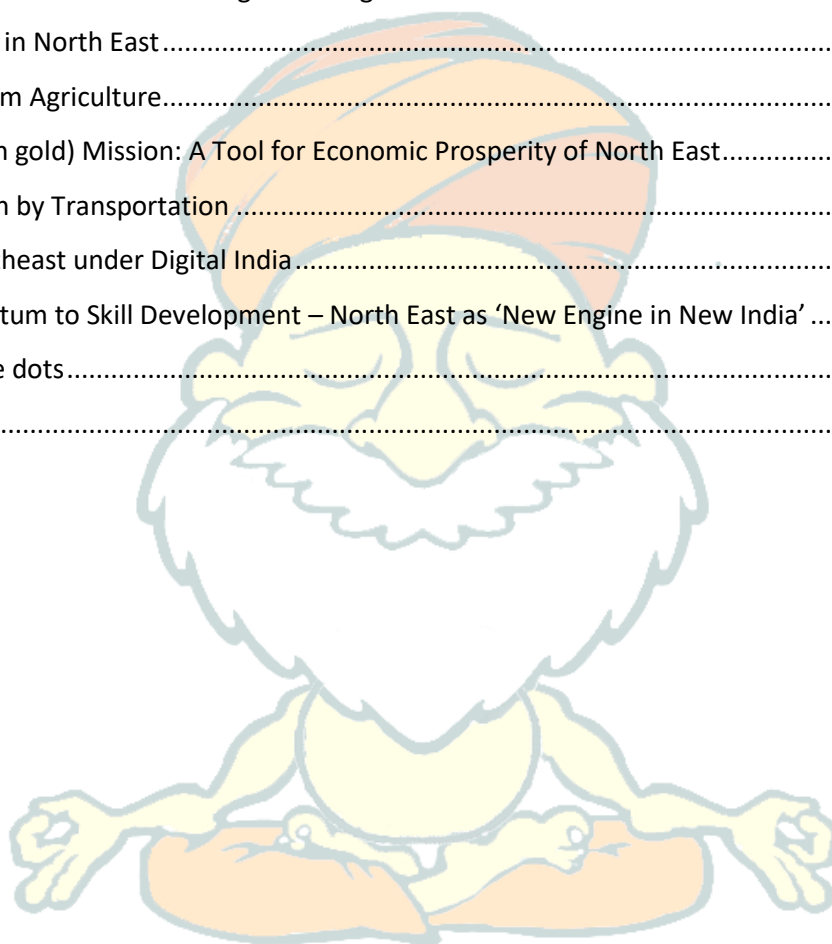
We are not discouraging from reading the magazine itself. So, do not take this as a document which you take read, remember and reproduce in the examination. Its only purpose is to equip you with the right understanding. But, if you do not have enough time to go through the magazines, you can rely on the content provided here for it sums up the most essential points from all the articles.

You need not put hours and hours in reading and making its notes in pages. We believe, a smart study, rather than hard study, can improve your preparation levels.

Think, learn, practice and keep improving! You know that's your success mantra ☺

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Role of Allied Sector in Rural Development

Agriculture and allied sector including horticulture, floriculture, sericulture, livestock, bee keeping, forestry & logging, fishery, mining and quarrying, etc., play a strategic role in the process of economic development of developing countries like India. Any positive or negative change in this sector exerts a significant effect on the entire economy.

Industries in the country dependent upon agriculture: Sugar, tea, Jute, Textile (cotton, woollen, silk), paper and food processing, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, power, agricultural machinery (tractors, harvestors, combines, pump sets), tools and implements from industry

- 166 million (56.6%) engaged
- **Export:** Among the 15 leading exporters- reflected a high ACGR of 12.67%

Horticulture

- Contributes 30% to GDP of agriculture
- Support nearly 20% of the agricultural labour force
- India is the 2nd largest producer of fruits and vegetables after China

Indian agriculture is witnessing a gradual change particularly in the cropping system, land use system, input utilization, marketing and above all the monetary returns. On the one hand, the land area available for agriculture is shrinking due to expanding urbanization, while on the other; the demand for higher productivity and returns from the cultivable land is increasing rapidly.

At the same time, the quest for higher productivity is leading to serious problems of soil salinity and high water table in irrigated areas. All these factors have provided ideal conditions for major trends towards diversification, mostly in favour of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops and ornament crops.

- Constitutes important segment of India Dietary System (IDS) - provide much needed health supporting vitamins, minerals
- Horticulture crops, particularly fruit crops are relatively resilient to changes in weather conditions.

- Play an important role in commerce, particularly in export trade and processing industry
- Employment opportunities provided by this sector to the farm population: engaged in production, transportation, processing and marketing operations in addition to the entrepreneurs seeking self-employment.
- Yields higher returns from land, enhances the land values, creates a better purchasing power among the people

National Horticulture Mission: To promote holistic growth of the horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies

Three flagship schemes were implemented simultaneously at the same time –

- National Horticulture Mission
- Horticulture mission for NE & Hilly Areas
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

Success of the above three led to the launch of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo

Floriculture

India:

- World's 2nd largest consumer base and fastest growing retail destination for Flower, Plant and Green Industry
- Sunrise industry; been accorded 100% export oriented status
- **Major Floriculture centers:** Maharashtra + Karnataka (leader) + Andhra Pradesh + Haryana + Tamil Nadu + Rajasthan + West Bengal

Leading flower producing country: Netherlands

Biggest importer of flowers: Germany

Economic Importance:

- Growth of perfume industry
- Earn huge foreign currency
- Increased earnings
- Solve unemployment problems
- Provides scope to bring more unused land under flower cultivation

Need to work on:

- Packaging + Storage + Transportation to prolong shelf life
- Non-availability of air space in major airlines
- High import tariff
- Inadequate refrigerated and transport facilities
- Higher freight rates

Integrated Development of Commercial Floriculture: Aims at improvement in production and productivity of traditional as well as cut flowers through

- Availability of quality planting material
- Production of off season and quality flowers through protected cultivation
- Improvement in post-harvest handling of flowers
- Training persons for a scientific floriculture

Gobar Dhan Scheme: Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources-Dhan

Objectives -

With the largest cattle population in the world, rural India has the potential to leverage huge quantities of gobar into wealth and energy.

- To make villages clean
- Generate wealth and energy from cattle and other waste

Benefits:

- New Biogas plants with new and better technology will come up to make the process more efficient
- Facilitate regular power supply to rural homes
- Lead to cleaner villages
- Generate an alternate source of income for the farmers
- Creation of opportunities for income and employment generation for other groups involved
- Improve fertility of the soil and thereby enhance productivity of crops
- Prevent diseases in the animals of the country
- Mainstreaming women in development activities of the village - collecting and packaging the 'gobar dhan' for transportation
- Reduction of pressure induced by waste on the environment as the emission of methane from the cow dung will be processed and will lead to a reduction in Carbon Footprint

Challenges:

- Aggregation of cattle waste and maintaining a regular supply to plant operators becomes imperative.
- The Biogas plants that were constructed was not able to keep up, both in terms of production as well as speed, leading to inefficiencies and losses. The Biogas plants that are being planned to be constructed should have better technology which sustains, up scales and is widely accepted by farmers and women in rural areas. Adequate training should be provided to the workers.
- India is dealing with a deficient fodder for our cattle. Fodder production for the cattle need to be enhanced
- Farm Mechanization may pose challenges to the population of the cattle as the machines will replace the cattle. This might lead to ignorance on the part of the cattle's master.

Way Forward:

Incentivize Behavioral Change: Cattles are considered important and the fact that the gobar can be utilized and become a source of income needs to be engrained in the minds of the farmers. This will not just generate additional income, but will reduce the pains of gobar disposal, thereby leading to the communities becoming swacchh.

Generating wealth from waste in rural areas will require the involvement of all actors and sectors.

- Investments from the private sector and local entrepreneurs will be needed.
- Panchayats and village communities will have to play key roles to leverage the animal and organic waste that goes into water bodies, dumping sites and landfills.
- Informal sanitation service providers can be integrated into the system by training and licensing them.

Political will and strong public demand for cleaner, healthier living environments should definitely drive the way ahead.

Potential of Sericulture

Sericulture: Rearing silk moths – Breeding and management of silk worms for the commercial production of silk

Silk: Queen of Textiles

India: 2nd largest producer

Only in India: Unique distinction of being the only country producing all the five known commercial silks –

1. Mulberry (accounts for the highest production among the five)
2. Tropical Tasar
3. Oak Tasar
4. Eri
5. Muga (unique to India)

Sericulture and Employment:

- **Provided employment** to approximately 8.25 million persons in rural and semi-urban areas during 2015-16
- **Creates 60 lakh man days** of employment every year mostly in rural sector

Challenges in Exporting:

- Decreasing demand from major consuming markets
- Rising prices of raw silk yarn/fabrics
- Increased competition from blended silk (synthetic, polyester)
- Changing fashion trends especially in Europe and US markets
- Lack of availability of quality raw silk and dependence on China for the same

Organic Farming

An alternative agricultural system which originated early in the 20th century in reaction to rapidly changing farming practices –

- Organic standards are designed to allow the use of naturally occurring substances while prohibiting or strictly limiting synthetic substances
- Relies on fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure, and bone meal and places emphasis on techniques such as crop rotation and companion planting

Environmental benefits of organic agriculture:

Sustainability: Many changes observed in the environment are long term, occurring slowly over time. Organic agriculture considers the medium- and long-term effect of agricultural interventions on the agro-ecosystem. It aims to produce food while establishing an ecological balance to prevent soil fertility or pest problems. Organic agriculture takes a proactive approach as opposed to treating problems after they emerge.

Soil: Soil building practices such as crop rotations, inter-cropping, symbiotic associations, cover crops, organic fertilizers and minimum tillage are central to organic practices. These

encourage soil fauna and flora, improving soil formation and structure and creating more stable systems. In turn, nutrient and energy cycling is increased and the retentive abilities of the soil for nutrients and water are enhanced, compensating for the non-use of mineral fertilizers.

Such management techniques also play an important role in soil erosion control. The length of time that the soil is exposed to erosive forces is decreased, soil biodiversity is increased, and nutrient losses are reduced, helping to maintain and enhance soil productivity. Crop export of nutrients is usually compensated by farm-derived renewable resources but it is sometimes necessary to supplement organic soils with potassium, phosphate, calcium, magnesium and trace elements from external sources.

Water: In many agriculture areas, pollution of groundwater courses with synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is a major problem. As the use of these is prohibited in organic agriculture, they are replaced by organic fertilizers (e.g. compost, animal manure, green manure) and through the use of greater biodiversity (in terms of species cultivated and permanent vegetation), enhancing soil structure and water infiltration. Well managed organic systems with better nutrient retentive abilities, greatly reduce the risk of groundwater pollution. In some areas where pollution is a real problem, conversion to organic agriculture is highly encouraged as a restorative measure.

Air and climate change: Organic agriculture reduces non-renewable energy use by decreasing agrochemical needs (these require high quantities of fossil fuel to be produced). Organic agriculture contributes to mitigating the greenhouse effect and global warming through its ability to sequester carbon in the soil. Many management practices used by organic agriculture (e.g. minimum tillage, returning crop residues to the soil, the use of cover crops and rotations, and the greater integration of nitrogen-fixing legumes), increase the return of carbon to the soil, raising productivity and favouring carbon storage.

A number of studies revealed that soil organic carbon contents under organic farming are considerably higher. The more organic carbon is retained in the soil, the more the mitigation potential of agriculture against climate change is higher.

Biodiversity: Organic farmers are both custodians and users of biodiversity at all levels. At the gene level, traditional and adapted seeds and breeds are preferred for their greater resistance to diseases and their resilience to climatic stress. At the species level, diverse combinations of plants and animals optimize nutrient and energy cycling for agricultural production. At the ecosystem level, the maintenance of natural areas within and around organic fields and absence of chemical inputs create suitable habitats for wildlife. T

The frequent use of under-utilized species (often as rotation crops to build soil fertility) reduces erosion of agro-biodiversity, creating a healthier gene pool - the basis for future adaptation. The provision of structures providing food and shelter, and the lack of pesticide use, attract new or re-colonizing species to the organic area (both permanent and migratory), including wild flora and fauna (e.g. birds) and organisms beneficial to the organic system such as pollinators and pest predators.

Genetically modified organisms: The use of GMOs within organic systems is not permitted during any stage of organic food production, processing or handling. As the potential impact of GMOs to both the environment and health is not entirely understood, organic agriculture is taking the precautionary approach and choosing to encourage natural biodiversity. The organic label therefore provides an assurance that GMOs have not been used intentionally in the production and processing of the organic products. With increasing GMO use in conventional agriculture and due to the method of transmission of GMOs in the environment (e.g. through pollen), organic agriculture will not be able to ensure that organic products are completely GMO free in the future.

Ecological services: The impact of organic agriculture on natural resources favours interactions within the agro-ecosystem that is vital for both agricultural production and nature conservation. Ecological services derived include soil forming and conditioning, soil stabilization, waste recycling, carbon sequestration, nutrients cycling, predation, pollination and habitats. By opting for organic products, the consumer through his/her purchasing power promotes a less polluting agricultural system. The hidden costs of agriculture to the environment in terms of natural resource degradation are reduced.

Limitation of Organic Farming:

- Time taking process
- Initially low yields are observed
- Easy availability of chemicals
- Requirement of large organic inputs
- Low availability of quality inputs
- Less marketing facilities
- Cumbersome certification process
- Less research facilities
- Less training facilities for the farmers

North East

Connected to India only by a narrow corridor, and sharing borders with five of India's neighbours — Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Nepal — the Northeast has potential that is far from being realised. Though it has been repeatedly held up as the gateway for India's Look East policy, the country's growth story has left the region behind. While the Northeast itself aspires to take advantage of India's increasing ties with East Asia, it is hardly in a position to do so.

Facts:

NE comprises of 8 states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura

Geographical area: 2, 62, 179 km²

Historically identified with 3 names:

- Pragjyotishpura
- Assam
- Kamrupa

Bana Bhatta's 'Harsha Charita' and **Hiuen Tsang's Si-Yu-Ki** narrates history of Assam until 7th century.

Nidhanpur Copper Plates Grant takes history of Assam from **Puranic script**.

The Ahom kingdom

- Well known for maintaining its sovereignty for nearly 600 years and successfully resisting Mughal expansion in Northeast India
- With the defeat of the Burmese after the First Anglo-Burmese War and the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826, control of the kingdom passed into East India Company hands.

States of North East

- In 1971 the North Eastern Council was set up through an act of the Parliament for the economic and social development of the seven states. Sikkim, the least populous and the second smallest state in India, was introduced as the eighth member in 2002.
- Nagaland—once a land of tribal head-hunters—was formally inducted as the 16th Indian state in December 1963
- Mizoram, a part of undivided Assam, was carved out as Union Territory in 1972, and became the 23rd Indian state only in 1987.
- Sikkim officially became a state of the Indian Union in May 1975, and the Chogyal, or king, was replaced by a chief minister.

Plagued by ethnic and tribal rivalries, migration from East Pakistan and later Bangladesh, insurrections and freedom movements, the region was relegated to the security and intelligence works (like Dhar), who hustled to negotiate accords and mergers to ensure peace and stability. China, Myanmar and East Pakistan/Bangladesh exploited and fuelled the unrest, giving shelter, training, and weapons to the insurgents. While most of the secessionist movements have now either been crushed or co-opted, low intensity conflict continues to plague the region.

Demographic changes in Assam and Tripura due to the massive influx of Muslim migrants from Bangladesh remain a sore point, and communal violence keeps erupting every now

and then. Nagaland and its neighbours still bicker violently over borders and ancient land rights, and Arunachal Pradesh worries about the increasing Chinese claims to its territory.

Social indicators:

Two of the country's most highly literate states: Tripura and Mizoram

The tea industry of **Assam** is the 2nd largest commercial producer of tea, next to China.

1st oil well of Asia: Digboi, Assam

NE's Potential to be India's new growth engine

The country's growth story depends very much on the region's overall development, and therefore there is a need to bring the east at par with the west. If we want NE to become India's growth engine, we must concentrate on the four I's—

- I. Innovation
- II. Initiatives
- III. Ideas
- IV. Implementation

...to be achieved via – **Panch Tatva**, five elements for boosting connectivity in the North-East:

- Railways
- Highways
- Airways
- Waterways
- i-ways



Governance in North East

The concept of governance though of recent origin encompasses much more than mere rule or administration - it represents a commitment to democratic institutions, processes and values in order to ensure economic, political and social security. It involves the civil society and the people as partners with the government working in collective interest.

Initiatives by GoI:

- An exclusive Niti Aayog forum has been constituted for the Northeast.
- A roster has recently been put in place, wherein eight Union ministers are expected to travel to the Northeast every fortnight. In other words, one Union minister visits each of the eight states in the region every fortnight.
- The DoNER ministry initiated a unique experiment — it holds a “camp secretariat” in one of the eight Northeast states every month, by rotation.

Issues/Challenges:

Utilization of Funds: As all non-exempt Union Ministries are required to mandatorily earmark 10 % of their Gross Budgetary Allocation (GBA) annually for the North Eastern Region, states are not able to expedite land transfer or grant Forest Clearance for Project Land.

- Time lag between release of funds and sanction of the projects
- Non-submission of utilization certificates
- Issues of land acquisition and forest clearance
- Prevailing law and order situation
- Limited working season due to high rainfall

Failure of M&E Systems: There exists total absence of accountability procedures.

- Severely malnourished children in the north-eastern states is much less than 1%
- In 2014, UNICEF had reported a much higher figure varying from 3.5 % in Manipur to almost 16 % in Meghalaya and Tripura.

Absence of E-Governance: World Bank report on Assam observed in 2014 absence of a comprehensive ICT Plan.

- Backlog of more than a year in payments of commission to ASHA workers in Dhalai district of Tripura Redundant Bureaucracy exists
- The non-plan expenditure of NE states is quite high due to huge presence of group C and D staff.
- The culture of 'bandhs' (State closure) widely prevalent in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland that goes against the notion of individual rights

Note: The current, Minister of Development of North Eastern Region is Jitendra Singh (Minister of state, Independent Charge).

Way Forward:

The Union Government should therefore reiterate its commitment to uphold the Constitutional provisions enshrined in Article 371 (Special Provisions with respect to certain states including the North-East States), expand the scope of the Sixth Schedule (concerning the tribal areas of the region), and empower the autonomous council institutions. Enhanced administrative and financial empowerment of these councils is likely to lead to a deeper sense of involvement of the people of these units, with their own socio-economic progress and programmes at the national level and improved overall developmental outcomes.

The division or splitting up of the present North-East states to satisfy local ethnic groups at the sub-state level is no solution. A solution which satisfies some ethnic groups but leads to anxiety and apprehension among others who might be in harmony with the existing state structure has to be avoided. History testifies to the fact that the sudden creation of a full-fledged, economically unviable, state like Nagaland in 1963, when Manipur with an earlier functioning princely state system was not simultaneously accorded full statehood, is perhaps the prime cause for Meitei groups in Manipur to turn towards insurgency.

Improvement in e-Governance is required: To accomplish reform by fostering transparency, eliminating distance and other divides, and empowering people to participate. Good governance calls for probity, transparency and accountability.

Aspirations from Agriculture

Challenges:

- Low agricultural productivity
- Low cropping intensity
- Low coverage of irrigation
- Low application of chemical fertilizers
- Low credit flow from banks
- Inadequate availability of certified seeds
- Inadequate facilities for godowns
- Absence of modern well equipped markets
- Very low use of power for irrigation

Sikkim was declared the first “Organic State” of India.

Amendment of the 90-year old Indian Forest Act: The amendment took bamboo grown in non-forest area out of the Act’s purview. This will enable the use of bamboo to generate livelihood.

Bamboo (green gold) Mission: A Tool for Economic Prosperity of North East

Around 80 percent of bamboo forests lie in Asia with India, China and Myanmar having 19.8 million hectares of bamboo. Though India is the world’s second largest grower of bamboo with 136 species, 23 genera spreading over 13.96 million hectares, the country’s share in the global bamboo trade and commerce is only 4 percent in spite of having 45 percent of global bamboo growth.

Eight North Eastern states account for 65 percent of the total bamboo plantation in the country, as per the National Bamboo Mission statistics. Bamboo is essentially a type of grass, but its classification as a tree for 90 years prevented the northeast, which grows 67%

of India's bamboo, from exploiting it commercially unlike China, the only country with richer bamboo genetic resources.

The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) till 2019-20 at an expenditure of ₹1,290 crore (a centrally sponsored scheme with 100 % funding from GoI). Since it is proposed to bring about one lakh hectares under plantation, about one lakh farmers is expected to directly benefit in terms of plantation.

The restructured NBM strives to -

- To increase the area under bamboo plantation in non-forest Government and private lands to supplement farm income and contribute towards resilience to climate change.
- To improve post-harvest management through establishment of innovative primary processing units, treatment and seasoning plants, primary treatment and seasoning plants, preservation technologies and market infrastructure
- To promote product development at micro, small and medium levels and feed bigger industry
- To rejuvenate the under developed bamboo industry in India
- To promote skill development, capacity building, awareness generation for development of bamboo sector

Implementation strategy and targets:

The following steps would be adopted for the development of bamboo sector:

- The Mission will focus on development of bamboo in limited States where it has social, commercial and economical advantage with focus on genetically superior planting material of bamboo species of commercial and industrial demand.
- Adoption of end to end solution in bamboo sector i.e. complete value chain approach starting from bamboo growers to consumers would be emphasized.
- Mission has been developed as a platform for integration of Ministries/ Departments/Agencies with implementation responsibilities given based on their mandate.

- Capacity building of the officials, field functionaries, entrepreneurs and farmers through skill development and trainings will be emphasised.
- Focus will be given on Research & Development (R&D) to increase the production and productivity of bamboo

Way Forward:

- Bamboo takes four years to mature after it is planted before it can provide a steady stream of revenue for farmers. It is during this period that the government needs to hand-hold farmers so that they do not cut down the grass from the second year onwards before it reaches its full potential from the fourth year.
- The restructured NBM needs to be more focussed on value-chain management and value-addition of bamboo at community level which will bring more income to the bamboo farmers and bamboo processors

Note:

- Storing paddy for seed purpose is usually done in a specialized bamboo container commonly called **Thiar** in *Meghalaya*. It is loosely woven with bamboo, which is split into strips, and is thickly padded inside using rice straw.
- The wooden bin indigenously made by the *Khasi* tribes of Meghalaya is called **Duli**. It is a double-layered bamboo basket, plastered on both the sides with cow dung and mud.
- Numaligarh Refinery is an upcoming bio-refinery in **Assam**.



Transformation by Transportation

In less than four years, the Centre has added 500 kms of national highways and plans to invest more than Rs 10,000 crore in the roads of Nagaland.

The central government will spend around Rs 1,800 crore for making the state capital Kohima a Smart City.

Tripura will have its first train to Bangladesh — a rail track from Agartala to the Bangladesh border is under construction with funding from the Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER).

A separate North-East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS), one of its kind in India, was initiated for the region. A North-East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme” (NESIDS) that focuses on the region’s roads and its tourism potential is also underway.

Work on 15 new railway lines has been initiated, six double-gauge rail lines are being developed and three double-gauge rail lines are ready for use. A comprehensive telecom plan, amounting to Rs 5336 crore, is in place. In the power sector, six out of 19 projects were commissioned in less than four years. For the first time, in 2014, Rs 10,000 crore was sanctioned for laying transmission lines.

Sikkim got its first airport at Pakyong. The Guwahati Airport has been upgraded to an international air-transport hub. Work on the upgradation of Agartala and Shillong airports has also begun.

New Arunachal Express train - the new AC weekly train will be the 14th direct train to link the North Eastern part of the nation to the capital.

Preparing Northeast under Digital India

The main objective of the e-Governance Capacity Building Programmes aims at:

- Facilitating deep understanding of factors that result in failure and sustained success of e-Governance Projects in North East States.,
- Developing e-Governance champions within Government at the state level to lead, support, manage and execute Mission Mode Projects under NeGP and other e-Governance Projects of respective State Governments.
- Developing trainers from this region by conducting Train the Trainer Programmes, who will in turn take up the responsibility of conducting training programmes to cover a larger group subsequently,.

Based on the learnings from the CB Phase-I Programmes, it is understood that National rollout programmes did not give much attention towards the specific capacity building requirements of North East States. There was limited participation from North East States and also many e-Government projects were under the initial phase of implementation. This is one of the reasons to slow pace of implementation of NeGP in North East. It is highly imperative that the necessary capacities and skills are to be built among the Government Officials in these states as a special case according to their requirements. The Training components are:

Training Programmes

- Advance Skill Enhancement Programmes
- Train the Trainer Programmes (TTT)
- Diploma/ Post Graduation Diploma in e-Governance Programme (DeG) for North East States
- Basic ICT Training

Other Programmes

- Low Cost Connectivity
- System Integrator
- SME Policy



Root Bridge in Meghalaya

Giving Momentum to Skill Development – North East as ‘New Engine in New India’

Skill development initiatives in Northeast India have received an impetus with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) giving thrust to several sectors to promote employment and entrepreneurship. The NSDC, a public-private partnership programme aimed at promoting skill development, has set a target of ensuring skill training of 2.46 lakh persons in the region for 2017-18.

The target and priority sectors is being decided on the basis of multiple economic indicators which include demographic factor of the working age population, skill-gap studies and the overall economic activities in the region.

- Country’s first ‘Home Stay Skill Development Program’ under PMKVY launched in Tawang: Homestay training has been launched for the first time in the country and about 200 women in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are being trained in that

category. The training will focus on developing entrepreneurial skills of women and provide a source of sustainable livelihood.

- Assam is one of the 1st states in the country which has rolled out a unique 'Karaghor Pora Karighor Scheme' which is imparting skill development to jail inmates, for them to be able to contribute meaningfully when they return into mainstream society.
- The Eduwork Japan Centre of Excellence opened its 1st Skill Development Centre in Sikkim.
- As part of another initiative of the PM, NEC has been conducting Skill Development and employment oriented training programmes for NE youths on fields such as beauty care for Class 8th and above, computer hardware and software, hospitality, etc.
- The NEC also recently sponsored 80 North East youth for one year course on hospitality and retail at World Class Skill Centre, Vivek Vihar, New Delhi. Trainees are advised and encouraged to set up entrepreneurship units in the region.
- Institutes such as Regional Institute of Architecture and Planning, Regional Institute of Public Health, Medical, Nursing and Paramedical colleges, Regional Institute of Civil Aviation Training & Development have been identified for setting up in the Region to bridge skill gaps in these areas.
- Skill mapping would encompass the harnessing of traditional knowledge of a particular area and develop it into a skill which can be redesigned as a source of employment.
 - Cachar district, known for its pottery and Sital Patti work
 - Sonitpur district: Rice milling centre
 - Tripura: Can become a rubber giant
 - Nagaland: Focus on tourism centered around the Hornbill Festival
 - Meghalaya: Focus on Sohra, Dawki, and the unexplored Jaintia hills to develop centres of excellence in tourism.
- NE will shift to outcomes-based approach by adopting the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) standards. Vocationalization of school education is a welcome step in this regard.

Connecting the dots

1. 'North east India has the resources to develop itself. It only needs capacity building and hand holding from central government.' Do you agree with this statement? Analyse.
2. Airports will surpass railways to become more preferred mode of transport for long routes which will help in establishing regional connectivity in short term and economic prosperity in long term. Elaborate.
3. What do you understand by 'inner line permit'? Why this has become a contentious issue in the North Eastern part of our country. Examine the issue.
4. Discuss the reasons behind the ongoing crisis in Nagaland. Why does North East India remain a theatre of political crisis even after 70 years of independence? Analyse.
5. An updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) of Assam has been published this year. What was the need of the list? Discuss its significance and associates issues, if any.
6. Discuss the insurgency problems faced by Manipur state. Can the much demanded implementation of a permit system to regulate the entry and residency of outsiders solve those insurgency issues? Critically examine.

Prelims Note

Hornbill Festival: Nagaland

Anthurium Festival – Mizoram

Wangala Festival – Meghalaya

Ambubachi-Mela - Assam

Ahom temples: Assam

Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) Scheme

- Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas
- Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to the grid
- Solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps
- Solarisation of tube-wells and lift irrigation projects of the Government sector

Remember: International Solar Alliance has set a target of 1 TW of solar energy by 2030

Manipur is inhabited by three major ethnic groups – the Meiteis in the valley, and the Nagas and the Kuki-Chin tribes in the hills. The State is home to 33 recognized tribes.

Kilkaari – 5.28 cr. audio messages about pregnancy, child care and child birth sent to expecting mothers across the nation

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (NERCORMP): To improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management of their resource base in a way that contributes to preservation and restoration of the environment

Shukla Committee pointed out that the NE region is confronted with 4 deficits –

- A basic needs deficit
- An infrastructural deficit
- A resource deficit
- A two-way deficit of country which compounds the others

Bezbaruah Committee: To look into concerns of the persons hailing from the North-Eastern states who are living in different parts of the country, especially the Metropolitan areas, and to suggest suitable remedial measures.

North East Rural Livelihood Project:

- Supported by the World Bank and will primarily benefit the tribals and the lower socioeconomic groups, including women, in the North-Eastern Region (NER)
- The project is aimed at assisting over 10,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and benefit about three lakh poor households.
- The special focus is on Women, particularly tribal women, woman-headed households and single woman households. But the more vulnerable tribal groups like Reang in Tripura and Lepsha and Bhutias in Sikkim are also going to benefit from it.

Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for North-East

- To leverage the region's hydrocarbon potential
- Enhance access to clean fuels
- Improve availability of petroleum products
- Facilitate economic development
- To link common people to the economic activities in this sector

The Vision rests on five pillars:

- I. People: Foresees clean fuel access to households alongside fostering skill development and involvement of the local community.
- II. Policy: Moderation in light of specific terrain and weather conditions of the region coupled with ensuring fund planning for new projects.
- III. Partnership: Greater involvement of state governments in planning and implementation, and on boosting trade with neighbouring nations
- IV. Projects: Pipeline connectivity for carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas, and petroleum products, oil and lubricants (POL); building refineries and import links; and development of compressed natural gas (CNG) highways and city gas distribution network
- V. Production: Production enhancement contracts, technology deployment and fast-track clearance, and development of service provider hubs

Additional Focus:

- Exploring hydrocarbon linkages and trade opportunities with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal & Bhutan
- Implementation of 'Make In India' in the region
- Development of health & medical facilities
- Industrial policy & infrastructure related action points
- Focus on skill development
- Employment generation requirement in the region

Hill Area Development Programme (HADP): Aimed at giving a focused attention to the lesser developed hilly areas and will be initiated on a pilot basis in the hilly districts of Manipur.

North East: India's first-ever experiment to have a helicopter-based "Air Dispensary" to carry out OPD health services in remote and inaccessible parts of the region.

Singapore to set up Skill Center: Guwahati

NER's first regional Centre for Agriculture with Israeli collaboration: Mizoram

- Exclusively for processing of citrus fruits
- Israel will provide expertise knowledge and professional support.

First Organic State of India: Sikkim



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