

BJYM MAGAZINE

SEP 2022

VOL 12

The New North-East




Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Advisory Board

Abhinav Prakash

National Vice-President, BJYM

Varun Jhaveri

National In-charge Policy and Research, BJYM

Animesh Biswas

NEC member, BJYM

Editorial Board

Saurabh Kumar Pandey

Adarsh Tiwari

Rahul Bhaskar

Dr. Satendra Kumar Shukla

Kunal Tilak

Mutum Yoiremba

BJYM website:

<https://bjym.org>

BJP E-Library:

<http://library.bjp.org/jspui/handle/123456789/3082>

CONTENT

- 2 राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष का संदेश - तेजस्वी सूर्या
- 4 Editorial
- 5 Interview with Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh
Chief Minister of Manipur
-Mutum Yoiremba
- 9 Resurging Arunachal Pradesh
-Shri Pema Khandu
- 12 The Six Pillars of Connectivity
-Raju Bista
- 15 A New Northeast
-Benjamin Yepthomi
- 18 Fueling India's 'New Engine'- Assam and India's
Growth Story
-Arun Jyoti Hazarika
- 20 New Northeast India
-Ningthoujam Nongpoknganba
- 22 Strengthening youth leadership in Assam
-Sidhanku Ankur Barua
- 24 Eight years of Modi Government and the New
Northeast
- Ram Tajo
- 25 Modi Effect on the Northeast
-Delson Notlia
- 27 Connecting the New Northeast
-Gourav Lama
- 29 The New Northeast: Development and
Transformation under BJP
-Ronisha Datta
- 30 The Winds of Change
-Rajarshi Roychowdhury
- 32 उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्य: समस्याएँ, चुनौतियाँ एवं वर्तमान सरकार
के सराहनीय प्रयास
-हर्षित राज श्रीवास्तव
- 34 Act East Policy: Prioritizing Development of
Northeast India
-Dr. Pooja Paswan
- 36 The BJP and the Rise of Northeast
-Pankaj Jagannath Jayswal
- 38 प्रगति की नई दास्तान लिख रहा पूर्वोत्तर भारत
-महेश तिवारी
- 40 Transformation of Northeast India under Modi
Government
-Kalyan Ghosh
- 42 Strengthening the Shoulder of India
-Ms Vaibhavi Pingale
- 44 नए भारत में उतर पूर्वी भारत: दशा और दिशा
-शंकर कुमार
- 46 From Purvottar to Purvodaya Kalyan
-Drishya Muni Chakma
- 49 The New Northeast - A Potpourri
-Noopur Keshan
- 51 An Overview of the Transformational Schemes in
the Northeast
-Aarohi Dhumale
- 54 पूर्वोदय
-शुभम अग्रवाल



Jammu & Kashmir Tiranga Bike Rally



राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष का संदेश



'राष्ट्र के उपेक्षित राज्यों' से 'लुक एंड एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी' तक, पिछले आठ साल पूर्वोत्तर भारत के लिए परिवर्तनकारी रहे हैं। दरअसल, पिछले सात साल में पूर्वोत्तर भारत में वो कुछ हुआ, जिसका लंबे समय से इंतजार था। केंद्र में भाजपा की अगुवाई में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की सरकार बनी और उसके बाद 'सेवन सिस्टर्स' कहलाने वाले पूर्वोत्तर भारत के राज्यों ने विकास की नई उड़ान भरी। आदरणीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी इस क्षेत्र में एक रात बिताने वाले पहले प्रधानमंत्री थे। उनका कार्यकाल पूर्वोत्तर के लिए कई तरह की पहलों से युक्त था। इसके पीछे अटल जी का उद्देश्य बुनियादी ढांचे और प्रौद्योगिकी के माध्यम से उत्तर-पूर्वी भारत को जोड़ना था। इसके लिए एक अलग मंत्रालय की अवधारणा से लेकर उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र के लिए धन हेतु नॉन-लैप्सेबल पूल, सिक्किम को उत्तर-पूर्वी परिषद के सदस्य के रूप में शामिल करना और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए एक समर्पित विभाग की आवश्यकता शामिल थी।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के पदभार ग्रहण करने के बाद से, एक बार फिर अर्थव्यवस्था, बुनियादी ढांचे, रोजगार, उद्योग और संस्कृति सहित विकास के विभिन्न आयामों में पूर्वोत्तर भारत की ओर नीति निर्माताओं का ध्यान गया है। वहीं पार्टी ने भी एक प्रतिबद्ध नेतृत्व और कैडरों के जटिल नेटवर्क के साथ, इस क्षेत्र में राजनीतिक सफलता हासिल की और केंद्र के साथ सहयोग करने और क्षेत्र को आगे ले जाने की दिशा में काम करने के लिए आवश्यक इच्छाशक्ति प्रदान की।

साल 2018 में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा भारत के सबसे लंबे रेल और सड़क पुल, 4.94 किमी बोगीबील पुल का उद्घाटन किया गया। इस क्षेत्र में रेलवे की पहुंच प्रदान करने के लिए केंद्र में एक दृढ़ इच्छाशक्ति वाली सरकार की जरूरत थी और नरेंद्र मोदी जी की सरकार ने वह दृढ़ इच्छाशक्ति दिखाई जिससे पूर्वोत्तर आज विकास के नए आयाम छू रहा है। मोदी सरकार ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि इस क्षेत्र में ब्रॉड गेज के 900 किलोमीटर तक ट्रैक बिछाए जाएं। राजधानी एक्सप्रेस, त्रिपुरा सुंदरी एक्सप्रेस के साथ कोहिमा को राष्ट्रीय रेलवे नेटवर्क से जोड़ने वाले 88 किलोमीटर के धनसिरी-कोहिमा रेलवे ट्रैक ने इस क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित रेलवे की पहुंच प्रदान की। आज इस क्षेत्र में आवागमन सुलभ और सुविधायुक्त हो गया है।

केंद्र सरकार इस बात से भली-भांति परींचित है कि जमीनी परिवहन देश में प्राथमिकता वाला क्षेत्र है। इसी बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए पिछले आठ साल में केंद्र सरकार ने सड़क की बात हो या रेल की, कई ऐसी पहलें शुरू की, जिससे पूर्वोत्तर भारत की पहुंच का चौतरफा विस्तार हुआ है। आज भारत-म्यांमार-थाईलैंड त्रिपक्षीय राजमार्ग का कार्य लगभग पूरा होने वाला है। फिलहाल, भारत अभी केंद्रीय म्यांमार में लुप्त हो चुके सड़क संपर्क को बनाने और तमू-कालवा खंड में पुलों को अपग्रेड करने का प्रयास कर रहा है। अध्ययन में इसके लाओस से होते हुए थाई सीमा और फिर मध्य वियतनाम तक विस्तारित करने की व्यवहार्यता का आकलन किया गया है। सिटवे पोर्ट और पैलेटवा अंतर्देशीय जल टर्मिनल सहित कलादान मल्टी-मॉडल परिवहन लिंक हमारी म्यांमार तट तक की पहुंच को बढ़ाएगा।

जलमार्ग में ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी को माल और लोगों के आवागमन का प्राथमिक चैनल बनाना केंद्र की प्रमुख योजना है। इस दिशा में सरकार निरंतर काम कर रही है। पर्यटकों को लुभाने के लिए भी सरकार ने ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी में फेरी सेवा शुरू की है। सरकार फिलहाल पूर्वी जलमार्ग परिवहन कनेक्टिविटी ग्रीड विकसित करने का काम कर रही है, जिसमें विश्व बैंक भी सहयोग कर रहा है। भूटान और बांग्लादेश से क्रमशः माल लाने और ले जाने हेतु धुबरी और करीमगंज जैसे नदी बंदरगाहों का उपयोग करना शुरू कर चुके हैं। दक्षिणी असम में बाहरी कनेक्टिविटी के लिए बांग्लादेश के आशूगंज में बंदरगाह सुविधाएं भी विकसित की जा रही हैं। वहीं ब्रह्मपुत्र और कुशियारा नदियों की स्थल-सीमा को बढ़ाया जा रहा है ताकि नौ-परिवहन को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके और व्यापार में तेजी लाई जा सके।



वहीं बीते आठ वर्षों में इलाके को हवाई मार्ग से जोड़ने के लिए भी ठोस प्रयास किए गए हैं। एक विमानन जनशक्ति प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, रूपसी हवाई अड्डे का विकास, दीमापुर में हवाई सुविधा का विस्तार इत्यादि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई कुछ अहम परियोजनाएं हैं। इनकी मदद से यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सकेगा कि इस क्षेत्र को शेष भारत के लिए पर्याप्त प्रवेश द्वार मिले।

लंबे समय तक "उग्रवाद" की ज्वाला में जले पूर्वोत्तर भारत को अब जाकर राहत मिल पाई है। दरअसल, इस दिशा में केंद्र सरकार ने काफी काम किया है। क्षेत्र में शांति के लिए केंद्र और असम सरकार ने बोडो संगठनों-एनडीएफबी और आल बोडो स्टूडेंट यूनियन के साथ शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इसके तहत नेशनल डेमोक्रेटिक फ्रंट ऑफ बोडोलैंड (एनडीएफबी) के तीन गुटों के 1,615 सदस्यों ने एक साथ आत्म समर्पण किया। इसके बाद उग्रवादियों के आत्मसमर्पण का सिलसिला लगातार चला। उल्फा (आई), एनडीएफबी, आरएनएलएफ, केएलओ, भाकपा (माओवादी), एनएसएलए, एडीएफ और एनएलएफबी के सदस्यों ने भी हिंसा की लड़ाई छोड़कर आत्मसमर्पण कर दिया।

भारत के पूर्वी प्रदेश द्वार कहे जाने वाले इन राज्यों में मोदी सरकार ने अभूतपूर्व कार्य किया है। आने वाले समय में भारत माता के मस्तक पर ये राज्य जगमगाते सितारे की तरह स्थापित होंगे। इस महायज्ञ को संचालित करने वाले हमारे यशस्वी प्रधानमंत्री राष्ट्र शिल्पी श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी का जन्मदिन 17 तारीख को हम सब मनाएंगे। नार्थ ईस्ट को समर्पित इस अंक से हम प्रधानमंत्री जी के दीर्घायु होने की कामना करते हैं। उनके जन्मदिवस के पुनीत अवसर पर पूरे देश में युवा मोर्चा के हमारे लाखों कार्यकर्ता रक्तदान शिविर का आयोजन कर आरोग्य भारत के सेवा कार्य में अपना योगदान देंगे। साथ ही साथ हमारे प्रधानमंत्री जी का मूलमंत्र समावेशी विकास का जो स्वप्न है उसे साकार करने हेतु प्रकृति की उपासना करते हुए युवा मोर्चा राष्ट्रव्यापी वृक्षारोपण का भी आह्वान करता है। युवा मोर्चा के सभी साथियों से अपील है कि इस आयोजन को सफल बनायें। प्रधानमंत्री जी के नए भारत के निर्माण में अपनी महती भूमिका निभाएं।

तेजस्वी सूर्य
राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष, भाजयुमो



Editorial

The last 8 years of the Modi government have seen unprecedented developmental work and transformation in the Northeastern states. Before the Modi government, Northeast India suffered under neglect, under-development, insurgency, border disputes and a general sense of alienation from the rest of India. The Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee established the Ministry of Development of Northeast Region (DoNER) in September 2001 to act as a facilitator between the government of India and the state governments of the Northeast Region.

Since 2014, Northeast India has now come to be defined by developmental work, peace and stability, the celebration of cultural heritage, sports, and hope. Prime Minister Modi has frequently termed the Northeast 'Ashta Lakshmi'. Unlocking the regions' hidden or ignored potential in trade and commerce, culture, sports & natural resources can expedite the development and create a new growth engine for the nation.

Prime Minister Modi has visited the region more than 50 times, the highest number of visits by any prime minister ever. The Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme has sanctioned more than 1600 projects at Rs 16000 crore. The scheme was revised in 2015 to make the process of retention & sanctioning of projects more transparent & participative. The North East Special Infrastructure Development Schemes (NESIDS), which replaced the NLCPR, is a fully funded central government scheme to focus on the untapped tourism potential of the region by way of strengthening related infrastructure & with a special emphasis on health & education.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 20708 km of roads have been constructed at the cost of Rs 9033.76 Cr since 2014. 35 National Highway projects have been awarded amounting to Rs 7700 Cr & 536 km in length. Railway connectivity has also been strengthened with the first broad gauge passenger train in Arunachal Pradesh flagged off in 2018 at Naharlagun station. The Bogibeel bridge was completed through fast-track development after being stuck for years since its inception in 2002. The Bhupen Hazarika Setu was similarly completed in 2017, thus serving as an important link between Assam & Arunachal Pradesh.

The North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) and the Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening Transmission and Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim Cr will provide uninterrupted power supply to the entire region. Telecom connectivity has also been upgraded, with a total of 1358 towers covering 1246 villages being installed. Jorsing village in Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh got its first 4G tower on our 75th Independence Day under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), thus heralding a new wave of rural development in North East India.

The September edition of the BJYM Magazine focuses on the vision & work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Northeast Region. It gives an extensive overview of the policies & schemes which have brought about a dynamic transformation in the region concerning economic development, infrastructure upgradation, countering insurgency, and resolving border disputes while at the same time maintaining the unique culture & traditions of Northeast India.



A portrait of Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur. He is a middle-aged man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a brown Nehru-style vest over a white shirt. He is standing outdoors with green foliage in the background.

Interview with Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur

First of all, congratulations on your second term as the Chief Minister of Manipur. How has the journey been as a Chief Minister of Manipur?

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to reach out to the country's youth. I am still young in heart and spirit, and it has been my constant endeavour to interact with the youth through social media or directly.

I project myself as a BJP Chief Minister serving the people in this part of the country under the guidance and blessings of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Honourable Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah. My ambition has always been to bridge the gap between what is called 'mainland' and 'northeast' like I am trying to bridge the hill-valley divide in Manipur. Yes, the Northeast has its peculiarities and challenges, which sometimes defy well-intended solutions, not to mention diverse challenges within the region. One talks about 'Unity in Diversity. Well, in terms of diversity, the Northeast region is a Mini-India. The previous governance mindset was mostly based on the exclusion and different parameters for this frontier region. But the policies under our Prime Minister Modi are based on the inclusion and catering to the region's specific needs.

The new mindset is a game-changer in tackling the issues and challenges faced in the region by consecutive governments. In a conflict-ridden region like ours, listening and attending to the general grievances of the common people, along with confidence-building measures, is needed. The main issues were insurgency, drugs, widespread corruption, transport bottlenecks, a general lack of trust in the government, failure of governmental institutions, and ethnic conflicts.

Somehow, I felt that my first and foremost mission should be restoring the trust in the government before embarking on other challenges. That is

how I started the 'Go to Hills, Meeyamgi Numit, Hill Leaders Day and Go to Village' campaigns. It was to listen to the problems and grievances of the common people to kick-start a bottom-up approach in planning processes, development outcomes and governance, besides doorstep service delivery of government schemes and welfare activities. I am happy to learn that these initiatives have been replicated elsewhere in the country.

Well, my first term as Chief Minister had been more of building bridges and winning the hearts and minds of the people. Now, the people of Manipur have blessed BJP with a second term. We can focus on economic growth, infrastructural development, removing transport bottlenecks, better communication facilities, and weeding out corruption and the war against drugs.

Manipur being a border state, do you face any special problems or difficulties?

I think all Border States have their challenges regarding security and drugs. Insurgency in the Northeast was mostly driven by ethnic political aspirations, decades of neglect, exclusionist policies, and racial discrimination. It would take time to undo the damage in public memory and the collective trauma faced by the people of this region. That is exactly why confidence-building measures are required in earnest. The New India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is seized of the complexities of the issues in the region. The introduction of the Inner Line Permit system in Manipur with a promise of implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) would pave the way towards protecting the indigenous population in the region.

The Inner Line Permit system was implemented in Manipur on December 11, 2019, two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced in Lok Sabha that the ILP would be extended to

Manipur state. On August 6, 2022, the Manipur Assembly unanimously resolved to institute a State Population Commission and implement the National Register for Citizens. It was done to keep the fragile, fragmented population of just 30 lakhs in our state in harmony and rule out an uncontrolled illegal settlement. As quoted by one member in the Assembly, the hill areas of the state saw a population growth of 153.3% between 1971 and 2001, and it rose to 250.9% during the 2001-2011 period. The valley areas also recorded a population growth of 94.8% from 1971 to 2001 and around 125% from 2001 to 2011.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah announced the removal of AFSPA on March 31, 2022, from 15 police station areas in seven districts of Nagaland, 15 police station areas in six districts of Manipur, and 23 districts entirely and one district partially in Assam. It shows the commitment of the BJP to a healing and conciliatory approach toward the hurt sentiments and time-worn neglect of the people.

As for drugs, it is a menace to social stability due to the region's proximity to the infamous Golden Triangle. When I became CM for the first time in 2017, my priorities were set straight into waging war against drugs and hence started the "War on Drugs" campaign. By 2020, the government had seized drugs worth over Rupees 2000 crores and imprisoned over 100 drug traffickers. In January 2022, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, we disposed of drugs worth Rs 589 crores. So, "War on Drugs 2.0" is in full swing.

Then there is the problem of infiltration by Rohingyas and Bangladeshi Muslims. Taking advantage of Manipur's porous border and contacts, these foreigners come illegally and try to settle in this part of our country. Now I don't mind accommodating refugees in line with



international laws and humanitarian aid. But, these are people who are disguised as locals and try to take citizenship by illegal means. And I will not tolerate any of it because it destroys the social fabric and harmony. For example, in June 2022, we caught 80 Myanmarese disguised as locals in the Churachandpur district of Manipur, which is adjacent to Myanmar. Suppose people in the state start accommodating them based on religion without the proper channel of the governmental authorities; it creates a feeling among other communities that they are treated with less importance than foreigners. And I will not tolerate anyone against our state and country's integrity. In 2019, we found 3 Rohingyas, for example, staying illegally in the Muslim area of Lilong in Thoubal district.

It was not an easy task to bring about relative peace and harmony, given the complexities of a region populated by diverse communities and years of neglect and mistrust of the government. I belong to the Meitei community but never had I once decided based on communal feelings but always as an impartial head of the government. It is something I think I find myself having in common with Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. And with their support, I have been able to bridge many of the gaps of the hill-valley divide.

The challenges you elaborated on are undeniable. But are these challenges the same for all the eight Northeast states? And how do you see a new Northeast emerging by overcoming these challenges?

The challenges are similar and different simultaneously in the eight Northeast states. Similar because all the states share international boundaries with other countries and have diverse ethnic compositions. But at the same time, each has unique social and historical circumstances of what we can call local context, so I could not be a better CM in

Assam than Himanta Biswa or Pema Khandu in Arunachal. Likewise, they could not do the same in Manipur. We have different sets and layers of challenges to tackle, and we will do it in our respective states and as leaders of the Northeast. I must give due credit for NEDA to our Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah.

The idea of a New North-East took seed as BJP came to power in 2014, and the North-East states of Manipur, Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal followed the path. There could not have been better governance in these states. The central leadership takes a keen interest in all the Northeast states. Can anyone imagine naming a mountain in Andaman after our state under any other government and leadership except Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi? We had existed as a peripheral state during the congress governance, but BJP keeps Manipur and other North-East states in the heart. That is the difference which marks the new Northeast. It is seen in the fund allocations and special attention to developmental projects. The Act East Policy is the engine that will drive North-East and put Singapore behind us. The India-ASEAN projection for trade balance for 2020 was aimed at US\$200 billion, which had a bit of a setback due to Covid, but that figure will increase, and it will benefit the North-East states. The 2018-19 trade balance between India and ASEAN was US\$ 98 billion, and Manipur is the gateway through which the trans-Asian Highway passes. We will benefit greatly and achieve a new era of economic prosperity once the project sees momentum.

What is your idea of a New Northeast? What is the roadmap according to you?

My idea of a New North-East is where the region finds a place in the Indian imagination and where we, as north-easterners, can take pride in being Indians, bereft of racial prejudices and parochial outlooks. Facial features

cannot be the ground for determining one's nationality. Rather, we should think about how much we have contributed to the cause of Indian nationhood and its cultural ethos. One singular contribution has been in sports, where our talented and committed sportspersons have continually brought glory to the country, proudly flying the national flag high in numerous international arenas. Prime Minister recognizes such achievements by giving Manipur a National Sports University and nominating boxer Mary Kom to Rajya Sabha.

Look at Ras Leela of Manipur, which is famous worldwide and represents India's pride in cultural finesse. The Khamba Thoibi is a Meitei language poetry regarded as one of the greatest epic poems with 34,000 verses. The Ahom Kingdom defeated the Mughals 17 times, and Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati is counted among the most sacred Shaktipeethas. The vibrancy, history, and achievements in this part of the country are being given due recognition by the BJP. I can proudly say the gap between 'the mainland' and 'the northeast' is being bridged.

The roadmap for me is the one laid by our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah. To put things in perspective, let me set some pointers

- During his first tenure, the Prime Minister had visited the Northeast 30 times.
- The 111-km Imphal-Jiribam railway line being constructed at an estimated cost of about ₹14,322 crores is set to be completed by December next year.
- The "Transformation by Transportation" policy of Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji included projects for more than 3,800 km of national highways and investment of Rs. 60,000 crores under the Special Accelerated Road





Development and Rs. 30,000 crores under the Bharatmala project.

- An integrated large-scale Eri farming was launched in Arunachal Pradesh under the North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS).

With the BJP at the helm of affairs, regional policies were reinforced and reinvigorated at the National level. It has given the region visibility and recognition across the political, social and cultural realms, which made the region more stable and brought it closer to the rest of the nation. With a thriving number of food parks, the textile industry, and information technology, North East has now realized its potential to be the trade link between India and South East Asia and emerge as a new Singapore in the years to come. The region's significance has been enhanced with the South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) road connectivity program and the thrust given to Act East Policy as a response to China's ambitious One Belt One Road (OBOR or BRI) initiative.

And the last question, what is the role of the youth in the New North-East?

With over 80 crore population below the age of 35, India has the world's largest youth population, and the figure in percentage is around 66% if I remember correctly, as of 2021. To dwell more into this, the median age in India is 29 years as compared to 38.5 years in China. It means that the youth of India has a larger role to play than anywhere else in the world. They have a role in politics, education, industry, economy, planning, and all matters of the nation. And the BJP promotes youth, which is why BJYM is the world's largest youth political organization led by youth icon and young MP Tejasvi Surya. Here, I would like to assert that the senior leaders of the Northeast must come together to nurture young leaders who are ready to serve the nation at all costs.

To promote a New Northeast, we need to nurture a culture of self-sufficiency where our youth uses their skills and talents to contribute a larger share to the economy. We must not confine ourselves to the old notions of government jobs as the only job. Since the Manipur Start-Up Scheme launch in 2017-18, 909 Start-Ups have been awarded subsidy grants of about 31 crores. I have also opened an

'Anti-Corruption Cell' in the Office of the Chief Minister. The phone numbers where the public can give their complaints and grievances are CM DA HAISI: 9534795347, Anti-Corruption Cell: 18003453877, and Dedicated mobile no. of anti-corruption cell: 9402150000. So, this was done to leave behind well-functioning government institutions free from corruption for the present and future generations and to create trust among the youth.

To sum it up, the role of the youth is to carry on the baton of our senior leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to carry forward the ideology of integral humanism. In this, it is not just the youth of the Northeast but the youth from the whole country that needs to work together to bring forward an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat with the New Northeast at its core. We already have five Union Ministers from the Northeast. Perhaps someday, a political leader from the region might even become a Union Home Minister or Prime Minister of the country. Who knows?

**Interviewed by: Mutum Yoiremba,
Editorial Board Member, BJYM Magazine
& P.h.D. Candidate, JNU, New Delhi**



Resurging Arunachal Pradesh



The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India's 75 years of Independence this August is unprecedented, timely and unique. This campaign rekindled the pride of being an Indian. Arunachal Pradesh, patriotically amazing, went a step further. Here it was not only *Har Ghar Tiranga* but also *Har Dil Tiranga*.

Driving through the streets of Itanagar, our capital city, I couldn't find a single rooftop, car, bike, or auto rickshaw without a fluttering tricolour – the entire city was engulfed in saffron, white and orange. I can vouch that the already inherent patriotism in Arunachalees has

increased manifold, thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pro-North East policies and priorities in the last 8 years. The sense of alienation and neglect has made way for belongingness, oneness, for good.

With the unstinted attention and support from the Central Government, the region and Arunachal Pradesh, in particular, have achieved many milestones in the past eight years in ensuring holistic development, with a determination to ensure that no one and no region is left behind.

Arunachal Pradesh today is an ideal example of wholesome development. It is the vision of *Sabka Saath, Sabka*

Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas that the state is witnessing development on all fronts and empowering those on the margins. From overhauling infra facilities, health and education system, good governance to the welfare of children, women and farmers, Arunachal Pradesh is writing a new chapter of progress in promoting local values, ethos and ethics. We have a vision of building a new Arunachal, where youths are not job seekers but job givers. A new Arunachal that has the best health facilities, quality education, best connectivity, self-reliance, and free of crime and free of corruption. A new Arunachal where a child's future is secured, the youths are partners in

development, and the old guide the path. A new Arunachal united, strong, prosperous and confident.

Arunachal Pradesh has imbibed every lesson of the pandemic to bring about Government Process Re-engineering. We recorded the second lowest mortality rate in the country during the Covid Pandemic, with a recovery rate consistently over 99%. A dedicated Covid Hospital was established in MLA Apartments at Chimpu (Itanagar) with the selfless volunteerism of MLAs, where 1,538 indoor patients have been treated so far. Rs. 450 crores have been allocated for the upgradation of 18 district hospitals across the state to make the health system robust. Four of these hospitals are almost ready, while the remaining are scheduled for completion in the next 6-12 months.

The 108-ambulance helpline service was introduced last year with 88 basic life-saving ambulances. These ambulances are equipped with basic life support systems, emergency medicine, trained emergency medical technician and pilot. In one year, it has served 3,417 cases with an average response time of 12.52 minutes.

Under the Chief Minister's Arogya Arunachal Yojana, people are availing of cashless hospitalisation in empanelled hospitals across the country for up to Rs 5 lakhs per year per family. Recently, we have partnered with Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, under a scheme that will bring succour to cancer patients undergoing treatment there. At least 1.14 lakh families covering 4.91 lakh persons have been enrolled under the scheme till date.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Arunachal Pradesh has utilised drones in health supply chains to deliver vaccines and medicines to distant places in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. The 'Medicine from the Sky' program was launched on Independence

Day, with the first sortie of medicines delivered in East Kameng District.

The fact that the Human Resource Gap in the health sector has been brought down to 6 % from 33 % indicates the priority given by the State Government in reforming the health sector in Arunachal Pradesh. To tackle the growing menace of drug addiction in the state, the government has adopted the 'Arunachal Pradesh Policy on Psychoactive Substance 2021' for coordinated efforts. Our efforts are on to make Arunachal 'Nasha Mukh'.

Developing human resource has been a top priority for us. We have improved our key indicators such as school enrolment, examination results and children with access to textbooks and uniforms over the past years. An investment of Rs 1000 Crore under 'Mission Shiksha' has ushered in an era of quality education in our state with several projects of improving education quality and projects for the upgradation of school infrastructure. To keep up with the current times, we have focused on using technology in education. We are creating a dedicated IT cell to oversee the technology rollouts, and teachers will be motivated to develop quality e-content.

From the days of long foot marches, crossing rivers on elephant backs or boats to world-class roads and bridges, our state emerged as one of the best performing States in building infrastructure. We did remarkably well on all four modes of communication, that is, roads, railways, air, and information technology (IT) in the last 8 years. Tezu and Pasighat airports have already been made operational under UDAN. Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs) like Ziro, Tuting, Mechuka and Vijoynagar will soon help in commencing fixed wing operations in the state. Our dream project of an airport connecting the capital Itanagar to the nation will be a reality soon – the first

test flight has landed successfully on the new and beautiful wide-body jet tarmac.

The state capital, Itanagar, became the third among the eight North-Eastern states on the railway map when, in 2018, the first broad gauge passenger train chugged into Naharlagun station. Three more railway lines- Bhalukpong-Tenga-Tawang (378 km), North Lakhimpur-Bame-Aalo-Silapathar (247.85 km) and Pasighat-Tezu-Parsuram Kund-Rupai (277 km) are also in the pipeline to further improve the railway connectivity in the state.

A major portion of the 1,600 Km Trans Arunachal Pradesh Highway project is complete, and the small portion remaining is under progress. Together with BRO and NHIDCL, we are constructing around 2,000 lane-kilometres per year. As per the annual report of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Arunachal Pradesh has recorded a 27.3% increase in road density in the last 6 years from 25.74 km to 32.78 km per 100 sq km.

We thank Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for approving the scheme for providing 4G mobile connectivity to 1,683 villages remotely located in Arunachal Pradesh by 2023 under the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan.

We commissioned the 24 MW Dikshi hydro project and the 600 MW Kameng project. Due to the active intervention of the central government, the work on the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower, the biggest hydro-project in India, is progressing rapidly. Out of the total installed capacity of power generation, 1,139 MW, we added 734 MW during the last 6 years.

The magnificent Arunachal Pradesh Civil Secretariat and Majestic State Assembly Secretariat speak volumes about our commitment to the state-of-the-art infrastructure we build.

Prudent fiscal management has been a





hallmark under the current regime. With the guidance of the Prime Minister, our state did not default on any of its commitments in the last six years despite a serious shortage of resources due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, Arunachal Pradesh has maintained more than 30 % share of capital expenditure in total expenditure outlay, which is the best in the country.

Our state has almost reached the Rs 30,000 crore GSDP mark, out of which Rs 10,000 crore was added to the GSDP only in the past five years. The annual budget size of the state has doubled from Rs 12,553 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 26,111 crore in 22-23. 1,64,470 bank accounts of women have been opened under PM Jan Dhan Yojana, while 5,014 women of SHGs have benefited with loans to the tune of Rs 106.01 Cr.

This year, we have signed the Pakke Declaration, the first of its kind by any state government in the country,

envisaging a multi-sectoral approach towards low emission and climate-resilient development. It has five broad themes, or the Panch Dharas — environment, forest and climate change; health and well-being of all; sustainable and adaptive living; livelihoods and opportunities and evidence generation and collaborative action.

The 'Air Gun Surrender Abhiyaan' has been accepted by people of all communities in the state with an open heart, and so far, 1600 air guns have been surrendered. The Prime Minister has also appreciated this unique initiative. Transparency and speed are at the core of good governance. Over the past 8 years, our government has introduced several path-breaking measures which have made governance transparent.

Through the institutionalisation of the Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board (APSSB), we have completed the

recruitment process re-engineering it to a transparent merit-based model. Recently, APSSB got ISO 9001-2015 certification for fairness, transparency, promptness and merit in recruitment, which is historic. To deliver government services to the doorsteps of the citizens of the state, the state government organised 1051 Sarkar Aapke Dwar (SAD) camps across all the districts to date, which benefitted around 12,33 765 people in remote Arunachal.

We launched two path-breaking schemes titled 'Atma Nirbhar Krishi Yojana' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bagwani Yojana'. These schemes had marked a major departure from the usual norm of providing back-end subsidies and instead adopted a front-end subsidy model. First of its kind in the country, these schemes have been a great success where nearly 4,000 farmers under Krishi and nearly 3,500 farmers under Bagwani and more than 700 Self-Help Groups have availed the benefits.

The proud tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh have been inhabiting this beautiful land for centuries. No other region in the world would have such culturally rich tribes coexisting peacefully as one. We are indeed one of the biggest repositories of diverse languages and cultures. Looking back and heaving a sigh of satisfaction, I strongly feel there is no scope for complacency. The task achieved so far gives us strength and inspiration to accomplish future goals with determination and deal with challenges effectively.

People of the region are confident that continued guidance and blessings from the Prime Minister for our collective effort will help us to strengthen the process of transforming Arunachal Pradesh and achieve bigger and better goals during the Amrit Kaal!

**Author: Shri Pema Khandu,
Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh**



The Six Pillars of Connectivity

For decades, states in the North East region (NER) had suffered, because of what an editor in New Delhi once described as 'the tyranny of distance' syndrome. Our region was not only cut off from the rest of our nation geographically, but also at an emotional and psychological level. Most of these stemmed from the lack of empathy and understanding on the part of former governments towards the unique socio-cultural, aspirational and developmental

challenges and needs of the North East region.

However, all that changed once Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi ji took charge of our nation in 2014, and declared the development of NE Indian states as one of key priority areas for his government. It has been 8-years since the NDA Government led by BJP under Modi ji has been at the helm of our nation, and here is how North East states have benefitted under his leadership.

Funding Commitments

Not many may be aware of this, but 54 Ministries/Departments under the Central Government are today required to spend at least 10% of their budget in the North Eastern Region.

In 2014-15 the yearly budget allocation for the development of NE states was Rs 24,819.18 crores, in 2021-22 it rose to 70,874.32 crores, marking an increase of over 285% in the past 8-years alone.



New Sikkim Airport. Credits: Economic Times



ARTICLE

The government led by PM Modi ji has not only outlined a development vision for the North East, but our government has also provided adequate financial resources towards realizing this vision. In the past 8-years, our government has allocated over Rs 336,640.97 crores for the development of NE Region, which is tremendously helping boost the regional economy and connectivity.

The Six Pillars of Connectivity

In terms of North East India, one of the main delinquencies of Congress governments has been, ignoring the development of infrastructure in the region. For decades, infrastructure development in NE had been marked by repeated delays, abysmally poor quality of work, and institutional corruption, and the lack of proper infrastructure had remained one of the main hindrances towards regional and national integration.

This is what our government led by PM Modi ji intended to change, and have been successful in transforming the infrastructure sector in the NE states. The Government under Modi ji is providing the people in the NE region a level playing field and an equal opportunity for growth as the rest of the nation, and they are doing so by focusing on the six pillars of connectivity:

1. Air Connectivity

The development of the North East region is of strategic importance and our nation is bound to grow only when all regions are performing at their best. With this in mind, our government under Modi ji has worked persistently towards improving air connectivity and developing aviation infrastructure in the region, through the 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN) scheme.

From the financial years 2016-17 to 2021-22 a total of 28 Air Connectivity projects have been completed in the region at a cost of Rs 979.07 crore, and

15 more projects worth Rs 2212.30 crores are currently under the process of completion.

This is helping boost regional connectivity and the tourism sector in the region.

2. Rail Connectivity

Since 2014, our government has embarked on an ambitious project to connect all the states in the NE region with the national rail grid. Towards this, our government sanctioned 19 projects for a total length of 1909 kms, with a budget allocation of Rs 77,930 crores, which are at different stages of implementation – planning, approval, execution.

Up to March 2022, a total of 409km length has been commissioned at an expenditure of 30,312 crores. These include 14 New Line Projects of 361 km length at an expenditure of Rs. 27,458 crore; and 5 Doubling/Multitracking Projects covering a length of 48 km at an expenditure of Rs.2,854 crore.

3. Road Connectivity

There was a time when a 4-lane highway connecting states in the North East region, like my home state of Manipur with the rest of the nation was unimaginable. However, in recent years, our government has completed major highway development projects thanks to PM Modi ji's "Look and Act East" policy.

A total of 3099.50 km roads at a cost of Rs.15,570.44 crore have been constructed since 2014, and projects connecting 4016.48 km costing Rs.58,385 crore, are currently ongoing in the region.

The major ongoing Capital Road Connectivity projects in NE include alternate two-lane Highway from Bagrakote to Pakyong (NH-717A) (152 km) in Sikkim-Kalimpong-Darjeeling region, 4 laning of Imphal – Moreh section of NH-39 (20 km) and 2-laning

of 75.4 km in Manipur; the 4 Laning of Dimapur- Kohima Road (62.9 km) in Nagaland; 4 laning of Nagaon bypass to Holongi (167 km) in Arunachal Pradesh; and 2 laning of Aizawl – Tuipang NH-54 (351 km) in Mizoram.

All these roads when completed will help provide a tremendous boost to regional and national connectivity of NE States to the rest of India.

4. Power Connectivity

Growing up in Manipur, I remember we would have electricity cut off for hours, at times for days and even weeks. Realizing that electricity is one of the key components of development, our government has focused on providing uninterrupted power supply to the NE region.

Since 2014, the Ministry of Power has undertaken many hydro/thermal power generation projects, developed and modernized transmission and distribution networks. The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is executing two major Intra State power transmission and distribution schemes viz. (i) North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) for Six States Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland at an estimated cost of Rs.6,700 crore; and (ii) Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission and Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.9,129.32 crore.

5. Telecom Connectivity

Telecom connectivity or lack of it has been a major issue in the entire North East region. To address this the Department of Telecommunications has undertaken several projects in the North Eastern States for strengthening telecom connectivity in the region Bharat Net and Wi-Fi Connectivity for Village Panchayats in the North Eastern Region.





A total of 1,358 towers covering 1,246 villages have been installed and are providing services in the region.

6. Water Connectivity

March 6th, 2022 marked a historic day when MV Lal Bahadur Shastri docked at Guwahati's Pandu port on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra, carrying 200 metric tonnes of food grains for the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from Patna. This was made possible due to the tireless efforts of our government towards opening up and making use of the inland water transport system.

Our government is developing the River Brahmaputra from Dhubri (Bangladesh Border) to Sadiya (891 km) as National Waterway-2 at a cost of Rs. 461 crore during 5 years (2020-2025). River Barak has been declared as National Waterway-16, and it connects Silchar, Karimganj and Badarpur in Cachar valley of Assam with Haldia and Kolkata ports through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route. The facilities created and planned would cost Rs.145 crore during 5 years (2020-2025).

This will help with faster transportation of goods to and from the national and

international markets to the region.

In Addition

In addition to the six pillars of connectivity, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) is implementing various schemes such as the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS), Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme, Special Packages of Assam [Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHATC) and Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAATC)], Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Social and Infrastructure Development Fund (SIDF), Schemes of NEC (North Eastern Council) and North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS), for the development of North Eastern Region. Under these developmental schemes/packages, 1,350 projects worth Rs.15,867.01crore, including connectivity projects, have been sanctioned during the financial years 2014-15 to 2021-22

As our nation takes concrete steps towards realizing the vision of Hon'ble

Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi ji's "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat", I must say this with pride that our North Eastern states and region will not be left wanting. They will be contributing equally towards our nation building, and the NE region will be leading from the front in ensuring the economic prosperity of our nation.

Hopes for North Bengal

Given the shared history and heritage, similar socio-cultural, ethnic and linguistic milieu, and the geographical continuity of Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars region with the rest of North East states, our region too has faced similar geographic hinderances, regional imbalance, deprivation, discrimination, and suffers from the similar developmental challenges and unmet regional aspirations as the rest of NE States. Given which, I believe that including the North Bengal region in the North East council is most necessary to ensure that our region too gets to benefit from the focus, and various developmental priorities, projects and schemes of the Central Government.

Author: Raju Bista,
Member of Lok Sabha &
National General Secretary, BJYM



A New Northeast

A new story is being scripted in the North-East region of India - a story of hope, progress, and comprehensive peace and development. The difference between pre-2014 and post-2014 North-East is clear as daylight. The people had a consensus that New Delhi was too far away, and the region was left to fend for itself. The region only used to find occasional mentions in the lofty speeches of Ministers of the then-UPA government. Apart from that, the region was mostly neglected and resigned to its fate. There was no sincere effort on the part of the previous UPA government to reach out to the region and make its people feel one with the rest of the country. However, things are changing, and the Northeast is now entirely on board as a bonafide member of New India under

the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Things that have taken a positive turn for the region and its people are a fact that cannot be denied. What the Northeast is now witnessing is something unprecedented. New Delhi is no longer far but easily accessible. The tyranny of distance and apathy is over.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been the key figure initiating a roadmap for peace in the Northeast since he took the oath of office. His vision for an insurgency-free and prosperous Northeast has brought rich dividends. Manipur, which was once known for insurgency, bandhs, and blockades, has become a towering example of stability, with most militant groups now having joined the mainstream. There's no doubt that the remaining groups will also

follow suit for which efforts are on by all stakeholders. Assam is another state which was once a hotbed of militancy. With the genuine intention for a peaceful Assam, the authorities were able to sign peace agreements with militant groups who are now fully integrated into the mainstream and are part of the vibrant democratic process. Both Manipur and Assam are now reaping the benefits of peace. Development has accelerated, and progress is tangible.

Coming to Nagaland, the Modi government was able to ink a pact with NSCN-IM (**Framework Agreement**) on August 3rd, 2015, which would pave the way for a solution to one of the longest-running insurgencies in the world. Further giving a boost towards a long-lasting solution to the protracted Naga political issue, the central government



signed a pact with NNPGs (a conglomerate of different Naga insurgent groups) called the '**Agreed Position**' on November 17th, 2017. With the signing of these two pacts, it is expected that peace is not too far away for Nagaland and the Naga people, who have been the most affected by the decades-old insurgency. People yearn for peace, development, and prosperity where they no longer have to live under the fear of the gun. The people of Nagaland have placed high hopes and expectations on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver a solution since they recognise that only he is capable enough to do so. The effect of this will be felt all across the Northeast. When peace reigns in Nagaland, the entire region will benefit immensely. There is no doubt that Prime Minister Modi is committed to a peaceful Nagaland.

To turn the resource-rich Northeast into a growth engine of the country, the Modi

government made its intention known when it replaced the relatively dormant '**Look East Policy**' with the action-oriented '**Act East Policy**.' It was only after the Narendra Modi-led government came to power in 2014 that the 'Act East Policy' was envisioned as a blueprint for the economic development and progress of the Northeast, which is a gateway to the South-East Asian countries. Projects such as Inland Waterways through Bangladesh, the Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link between India and Bangladesh, the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, and the Trilateral Highway Project connecting the North-East with Myanmar and Thailand are examples of how the 'Act East Policy' is coming into fruition and holds a lot of promise for India with focus on ASEAN countries, economic integration as well as security cooperation. It would enhance India's status as a major player in the region. The 'Act East Policy' also brings Northeast, from the periphery to the mainstream.

As far as connectivity is concerned, the Modi government has made it a priority to connect all capitals of the Northeast by rail, with 2024 as the deadline. Except for Sikkim, all North-Eastern states are connected by rail. While the capitals of Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh are connected by rail, work is underway to do the same in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Meghalaya. In fact, on August 26th, 2022, Nagaland got its second railway terminal passenger service after a gap of 100 years - a record of sorts. Once completed, Manipur will be home to the world's tallest railway pier bridge, i.e. the Noney Bridge. It will boost connectivity, making accessibility to rural areas easier and quicker. It is an engineering marvel standing at 141 meters tall and 703 meters long and is expected to be completed by December 2023. Air connectivity in the region has also received a massive boost under the 'RCS-UDAN' scheme. Various remote areas of Northeast India are connected



India's Act East Policy





HAR GHAR TIRANGA

by flights, which has helped in the blossoming of travel and trade. The region is now well-connected with more flights in the offing. Travel within the region has undergone a revolutionary change. Travel hours have reduced significantly like can now directly fly from Imphal to Shillong without any hassle.

In the last fiscal, the Northeast region exported agricultural and allied products worth over Rs. 1,800 crores to countries such as the US, China, Germany and Russia etc. The Modi government has given the region's farmers a voice by introducing them and their products to the global market. Last year in 2021, the famous Naga King Chilli, better known as Raja Mircha, was exported for the first time from Nagaland to London. Likewise, Mizoram also exported pineapples to Dubai for the first time. Thus, it would be no exaggeration to state that there has been a visible and positive change in the agricultural and allied sectors of the region. It promises

to get only better with time.

Perhaps, the most important point I would like to emphasise when we talk about a '**New North-East**' is emotional integration. Never before have we felt like we're truly a part of this great nation. Back in the days of the Congress, no Union ministers would make regular visits to the region, but now we have Union ministers visiting every state in the region every month, assuring us of the government's continued support. Thanks to the central government under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi, Northeast now finds mention regularly and is given rightful respect. The vision of '**Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat**' is turning into a reality where we no longer identify ourselves based on region, creed or religion but where we identify ourselves only as Indians.

The invisible barrier is fast crumbling down. As Prime Minister Modi gave a clarion call to citizens across the country to observe '**Har Ghar Tiranga**' to mark the 76th Independence Day, Nagaland,

for the first time, observed it with great zeal and enthusiasm where the national flag was hoisted and seen flying from every home. It sent a strong message of unity and belief in the idea of India.

The Northeast has come a long way since 2014 and is undergoing significant changes, sometimes making me sit up and think, "where was all this before? Why did it take so long for development to arrive in the region?" No doubt we still have a long way to go before we can relax, but the Northeast is now secure and feels reassured with Prime Minister Modi in the driver's seat. It is a reaffirmation of our faith in his sagacious leadership and farsightedness. His leadership is a breath of fresh air to the region— something that had been missing. Over the years, his name will be etched in golden letters, and he will always have a special place in our hearts.

Author: Benjamin Yephthomi,
State Vice-President, BJP Nagaland



Fueling India's 'New Engine'- Assam and India's Growth Story



Rang Ghar, Assam. Credits: tripinvites.com

As I was growing up in Assam during the 1990s, incidents of militancy were common in the state, especially in my hometown of Tinsukia, a district far away from Assam's capital city of Guwahati. I can still vividly recall the newspaper headlines and the 7 pm Assamese News bulletins on *DD Guwahati*, where daily reports of gun violence were a common thing for us. It was a uniform pattern in

almost all the other districts of Assam. Development of the state was not even an issue or a priority back then, as the state machinery was engaged in tackling militancy. Yet, the extremist and separatist propaganda machinery remained intact in the socio-political arena of the state. Apart from the consecutive State and Central government's failure to curb militancy, rampant corruption went unnoticed and

unattended. The state's youth was severely unemployed, unmotivated and unhopeful of any possible growth in the future. They were pushed into hatred-based identity politics by several opportunist elements from within and outside the state. Thus began a series of propaganda wars against a common enemy- '*Dilli*'.

Although an exaggeration, '*Dilli's Step Motherly treatment*' was not entirely



ARTICLE

untrue. Local organisations often used the phrase in several agitations against different Central Governments. Until the first NDA government in 1998, Assam and the other Northeastern states were thoroughly neglected in all spheres of development. There are well-known instances of senior politicians of the past who were unaware and unable to recall the names of all the states of North Eastern India even after so-called official visits to the region. Such was the lack of interest in the region. It changed drastically when the Vajpayee government focused on the North East and formed the DoNER Ministry to develop the Northeast region. It is the only ministry in the country with specific territorial jurisdiction.

Along with the rest of the country, the Northeast region benefited immensely from revolutionary schemes like PMGSY and Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan. Assam's first Chief Minister, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi, who successfully prevented the inclusion of Assam into East Pakistan during partition, was posthumously honoured with Bharat Ratna during this tenure. Despite this, the propaganda machinery in support of the separatist ideologies was still active and operational. It constantly prevented people from following a nationalistic approach in most parts of the Northeast region, slowing down the social integration process of the region and the rest of India. Independence days and Republic Day celebrations among the common masses were scarce due to threats by such forces. In 2004 during Independence day celebrations, a bomb blast took the lives of 16 school children in the Dhemaji District of Assam. Such horrific acts of terror made the situation worse. Hoisting and waving the tricolour continued to be a hazardous activity in the region, and most people refrained from doing the same.

In 2014 for the first time, the people of Assam heard a genuine voice which cared for the developmental needs of the state. As a Prime Ministerial candidate,

Narendra Modi was hugely successful in earning the people's faith even before assuming the office of the Prime Minister. His views on illegal Bangladeshi immigrants threatening the state's demographic integrity earned people's trust immediately. Many such burning issues moved towards resolution after Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, and people's faith in his policies grew stronger. Assam's pending royalty on Oil mining was paid without further delay ensuring the end of the injustice of many decades. The huge infrastructural development under his leadership shows genuineness in transforming the state into a frontrunner in India's growth story.

Today, Assam holds various business summits, which have started attracting foreign investments into the state. A big emotional boost for the people of Assam was honouring Dr Bhupen Hazarika with Bharat Ratna posthumously. Naming the longest overwater bridge in India 'Bhupen Hazarika Setu' was a much-deserved honour for the Maestro. Such an infrastructural boost was an unimaginable occurrence in the past. Be it bridges, highways, AIIMS along with several other Medical colleges, the Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest road cum rail bridge and the Assam Mala project shows the love and dedication of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the state. Never before in political history was such a dedicated Prime Minister seen by the people of Assam, who visited the state more than 35 times till date. Today, Cabinet Ministers from various departments visit the state every month to take note of the development works. It has hugely impacted the common public, who genuinely believe in the process of positive growth.

Today, Assam walks alongside the other states of India in this development journey. Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Centre and the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarmah, Assam can aim higher, dream

bigger and sustain longer in all aspects of security and development. As a region with international borders, the government has ensured full security from any threat, internal or external, which distinctly reflects in the policies and actions of both the state and central governments. Drug trafficking, smuggling and terrorist activities have been drastically reduced in all districts. This year the State government is celebrating the 400th Birth anniversary of the legendary Ahom General Lachit Borphukan, who defeated the Mughal army in the famous battle of Saraighat in the year 1671, ensuring future security for both the Northeast and the Southeast Asian region. It also reflects the state government's attitude towards our National Heroes regarding the appropriate honour they deserve in history.

Today, cliched phrases like 'Dilli's Step Motherly treatment' hold no relevance among Assam's youth. As the country completes 75 years of Independence and enters the *Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal*, Assam is ready for a big boost in infrastructure, healthcare and education in the coming 25 years until 2047. From a militancy-ridden state to a highly prospective State, Assam has achieved a lot in these 8 years. *The Har Ghar Tiranga* movement recently was an eye-opener for many pessimistic fence sitters who were uncommitted to the cause of Nation Building. Something that never happened in the past was seen on the 13th, 14th & 15th of August, 2022, when the common masses in Assam hoisted the tricolour in front of their houses and businesses without fear. As Prime Minister often refers to the Northeast as the 'New Engine', we can rest assured that in the upcoming 25 years, this 'New Engine' will be pulling the Indian Economy with greater force and vigour to a remarkable height. And Assam has the potential to become its fuel station.

**Author: Arun Jyoti Hazarika,
National Secretary, BJYM**



New Northeast India



Bishnupur, Manipur. Credits: tourmyindia.com

The North-East India region was the most neglected region of the country in post-independence times, but tremendous change was seen in Northeast India in the last eight years. Unparalleled development was seen in connectivity, employment, entrepreneurship, sports and improved law and order leading to lasting peace. Mention may be made that Northeast India was once a hotbed of insurgency that just in the last decade, more than 100 insurgent groups operated from the Northeast. But in the last eight years, after BJP came into power, the people of Northeast have shown full support to Prime Minister Modi and in BJP.

Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim, fondly known as the Northeast, is a region that was once a bastion for the grand old Congress party. That period was better known as a period of violence, killings, and corruption that the region has long

suffered for decades. The region suffered from the lack of basic infrastructure, human rights and the rule of law. History will never be kind to Congress and its leaders for what it did to the region. People felt isolated from the "mainland," adding to distantly located demography and discrimination in big cities that disillusioned the people. Due to the apathy of the ruling parties and insensitivity to the aspirations of the people and the growing younger generation, people were yearning for change. People were fed up with corruption, killings, violence and insurgency.

At the same time, the people from other parts of India were afraid to come to Northeast India. The economy was in shambles, and tourism to the naturally beautiful region of the Northeast was a distant dream. During this crucial period of people's angst and frustration, BJP came as a fresh hope for the people of the Northeast. People of the region

wanted the government to reach out to them, and no government has given so much attention as Prime Minister Modi. He has visited the region more than 50 times after becoming Prime Minister. And the last eight years after BJP under Prime Minister Modi Ji came to power, the Northeast region has been living a long-awaited dream. Besides the Prime Minister, other Central Ministers regularly visit the region to aid in peace and development.

The people are reciprocating Prime Minister Modi's work for the region. The entire North East is rewarding BJP by winning, making it win election after election. The Northeast has become BJP's new fortress. Out of the eight states, BJP is in power in 4 states Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh, and via alliance in Nagaland. BJP is a major player in all eight Northeastern states. In NEDA (North Eastern Democratic Alliance), BJP has a strong non-Congress coalition alliance of regional parties of the North East. NEDA is today a major force, ensuring that BJP is here to stay in the Northeast for a long time to come making 'Congress Mukht Bharat' a reality.

The Road Ahead

With impressive election results and a return to power for a second consecutive term in Assam and Manipur, BJP can legitimately claim the trust and confidence of the masses. Now leading to early 2023, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya will go to polls and Mizoram the year later. It is expected that BJP will win in at least two states.

In terms of overall development, the entire region of North East is witnessing a never seen development by bringing several rails, roads, waterways and air connectivity. It is a firm belief of the people of North East that under Prime



ARTICLE

Minister Modi and the BJP, the region will be developed at par with other developed regions of the country and will become an economic powerhouse in the near future, making it the growth engine of the country.

Northeast India is strategically located bordering three countries, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh and Manipur is the Gateway to South-East Asia. The development of the Asian Highway and Rail Connectivity through Manipur will boost the economy and tourism of the entire region in a big way. The transition from the Look East Policy to the Act East Policy of BJP will finally see fruition soon. The peace initiatives taken up by the government have seen lasting results, and many insurgent groups have given up arms struggle and signed peace accords. The long-neglected region and its people have always been suffering from 'trust deficit' syndrome, and this neglect and trust was the main reason for most of the problems of the Northeast.

The North-East region has been allocated over Rs 68,000 crore in the current fiscal year of 2022, which has almost doubled in the last seven years, as 36,000 crores were given in 2014-15. The Union budget proposed a new scheme to fund infrastructure and social development projects in North East

India with an initial allocation of 1,500 crores to fill vital gaps in infrastructure development and generate livelihood activities for youths and women. The new scheme PM-DeVINE (Prime Ministers Development Initiative for North East will fund infrastructure and social development projects based on felt needs basis is another huge boost for North East. We now can see roads and highways at par with international standards in and around the North East. Recently sports cars ranging from McLaren, Porches, and Ferraris to Mercedes zooming around the picturesque highways of Arunachal Pradesh were all over the news and went viral over the internet. With such a big push in the budget, it is expected to see overall growth focusing on core sectors like infrastructure, healthcare, MSME, rural development, technology, sustainable development and livelihood generation.

Shining North East

The people of the Northeast are full of talents in sports, music, literature or other fields. Northeast is known as the sports powerhouse of the country. Mary Kom, Bhaichung Bhutia, Lovelina Borgohain, Hima Das Mirabai Chanu and the recent exploits of Jeremy Larinnunga and many other sports

personalities have made the country proud on the world stage, whether it be in the Olympics, Commonwealth games or World Championships. Earlier youngsters of the region used to go to major cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore in search of jobs and better lifestyle not because they wanted to go out of their hometowns but because they felt helpless.

The last few years have seen a major change in Northeastern cities like Guwahati, Imphal, Kohima, Shillong and many others places. We can see many young entrepreneurs returning to their hometown to set up their own businesses and start-ups. They all want to be part of this newfound development, peace and prosperity era. There was a time when shops and cafes were shut by 5 PM. Power supplies were so erratic that a few hours of power was a privilege. They were scared to be harassed by police or insurgents, but today we can have a healthy nightlife, and most business establishments are open till late evening. It is all possible due to improved law and order and a proactive government reaching out to youngsters through start-ups and many other schemes and initiatives. Modi Ji's appeal to the younger generation to become 'job creators' and not 'job seekers' has been warmly received by all.

A safe, secure, and developed Northeast is in the best interest of India, looking at the security challenges the region has traditionally posed. The withdrawal of AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Power Act) from regions in the NE is being welcomed by all. The continued efforts to restore peace and boost development will ensure the resolution of major issues and problems in the region.

As India heads into Amrit Kaal, let us all pledge to the dream of India becoming an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

**Author: Ningthoujam Nongpoknganba,
National Secretary, BJYM**



Strengthening youth leadership in Assam

With a median age of 29, India is one of the youngest countries. There is a vast and dynamic young citizenry exercising political rights in India, making the country the world's youngest democracy today. India is teeming with young entrepreneurs becoming billionaires, young graduates becoming enterprising public servants and private sectors encouraging the entry of talented, ambitious young individuals. Still, politics in India is generally perceived as a domain dominated by elderly men and something not suited to the young and educated masses. But analysts have reasons to believe that, with a majority of the voters under age 40, India is in for a new political revolution that will witness the emergence of young, educated, dynamic political leaders in the state and at the national level.

And Bharatiya Janata Party, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is constantly trying to identify youth leaders and develop a

critical mass of young, honest, and successful politicians who can become motivational models for others.

Since the early days, the youth of Assam has played a significant role in regional politics. Assam has witnessed several young vocal leaders, from leading one of the largest student movements in the country to electing the youngest person to hold the Chief Minister's office of any state. The present Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, started his political career as a student leader. He understands the importance of youth in Assam's political scenario, and since becoming the chief minister, he has been focusing on organizing, empowering and elevating the youth. And BJYM Assam, under the strong leadership of State President Shri Bhabesh Kaita and State organizational Secretary Shri Phanindra Nath Sharma, has constantly been working to create a youth mass that can be the voice of the people of Assam for decades to come.

The BJP government has encouraged the

young generation to develop a positive mindset and a competitive spirit. The government policies focus on developing a 360-degree model that ensures the youth's development, growth, and empowerment, resulting in a new Assam of peace and overall development. This 360-development mode focuses on detecting the origin of the crisis, resolving them, and moving forward succinctly. The government's primary focus is to elevate two fundamental aspects of human life: health and education and to create infrastructure and a delivery system that ensures quality health care and universal education.

The BJP government has ensured drastic improvements in elementary education. It is also working with the state commissions of youth welfare to develop tertiary education, domain training and coaching for competitive exams, and scholarships for meritorious students. Another priority is creating a healthy environment for the youth. Stern actions have been taken to combat the drug menace and to restore Assam as a drug-free state, so that youth are saved from fatal addictions that often lead to juvenile crimes or young felons. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma constantly urges society and parents to be on guard so that the youth of Assam are not lured into the terrorist outfit of any sort. The government is working tirelessly to combat these two aspects that harmed the youth of Assam in the past.

Chief Minister and Assam BJP started extensive outreach immediately after the CAA agitation in Assam to save youth from being victims of extremism and anarchist politics. It presented an alternative vision of Assam in which the youth are given new avenues to prosper in an era of peace and stability that



**Bharatiya Janata
Yuva Morcha**
Assam Pradesh





Image credit: REUTERS / Alamy Stock Photo

earned the confidence of the youth of Assam. The proactive engagement of the chief minister revolves around the relatable issues of two-wheelers, exams, reduction of enrolment/exam fees etc., endearing him to the youth of Assam and winning the trust for the Double-engine-ki-Sarkar.

The target of 10 lakh job opportunities in the next five years and creating an atmosphere for entrepreneurship and industry has created positivity and defeated the attempts to indoctrinate the youth into anarchist ideologies. For the

unemployed youth of Assam, the government has rolled out one-time aid to promote self-help groups. The government's policies and support of the leadership have helped BJYM Assam Pradesh become the most preferred platform for young educated political enthusiasts who want to become future leaders of New India. Student Union members of prestigious universities like Cotton College are today joining the BJYM after being influenced by the BJP leadership and the organizational values and integrity of the Bharatiya Janata

Party.

The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha is the largest youth congregation in the state whose core values are selfless service to the people and integrity. Each member shares a warm sense of camaraderie and patriotic zeal. Each member is influenced enormously by the state and national leadership and strives to imbibe leadership lessons and dedication to the country from our senior leaders. The Chief Minister, who held some of the important ministries at a very young age, has immense faith in youth dynamism and has nurtured and guided many young leaders to become efficient ministers of the state today. It is seen in important ministerial portfolios awarded to young ministers of Assam like Sjt Pijush Hazarika, Sjt Jayanta Malla Barua, Sjt Pallab Lochan Das, and so forth. BJP is the only party where youth are not the leaders of tomorrow but the leaders of today. The rapid progress of Assam under the Double-engine-ki-Sarkar has restored the people's confidence with empowered youth, transparency, and good governance. We have full confidence that Assam will soon be established as one of the top five states in India on all developmental parameters.

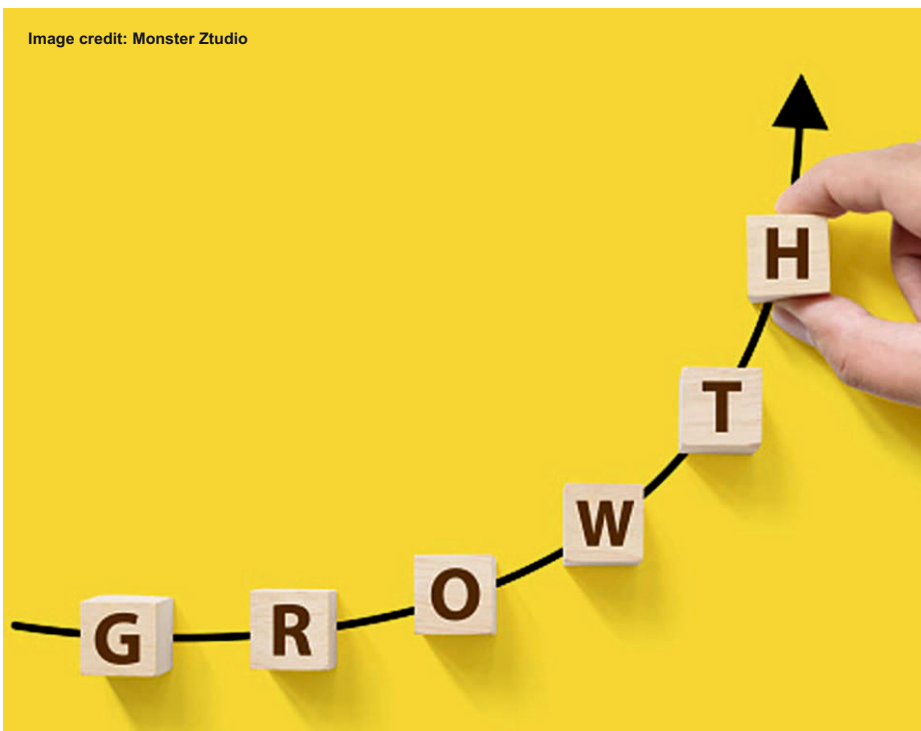


Image credit: Monster Ztudio

Author: Sidhanku Ankur Barua,
BJYM President, Assam

Eight years of Modi Government and the New Northeast

From being the neglected region of the country to becoming the gateway to South Asia, the past eight years have been transformational for Northeast India. Since Narendra Modi assumed office, he has directed his policy towards the region across various dimensions of development, including economy, infrastructure, employment, industry and culture. There was a time when a visit from any central Minister was quite rare in the region. But the seriousness given to the North East can be gauged by the fact that Prime Minister Modi has visited the region more than 50 times.

The Modi government has focused on building infrastructure and implementing welfare schemes with a zeal that has tremendously changed the socio-economic landscapes of the Northeast since 2014. India's longest rail and road bridge, 4.94 km Bogibeel Bridge was inaugurated by the PM in

2018. The PM inaugurated India's longest bridge, 9.15 km Bhupen Hazarika Setu in 2017. The bridge has changed the region's developmental pace and immensely contributed to the tactical asset in military logistics. There have been several peace pacts with various insurgent groups, which manifested in 74% reduction in insurgency-related incidents and 60% decrease in the casualties of security forces personnel.

The government has given a concerted push to connect the terrain through the air in the past 8 years. Some projects undertaken by the Modi government are aviation workforce training institutes, the development of Rupsi airport, and expansion of the air facility at Dimapur. The PM inaugurated the 100th airport of India and the first for Sikkim, the Pakyong airport in 2018.

Recently, in the union budget 2022, the Modi govt has put together a Rs 1500

crore scheme specially meant to "enable livelihood activities for youth and women" in the northeastern states. The scheme will be called Prime Minister Development initiative for the North East [PM-Devine]. The government launched the Rs 1150 crore Amrit Sarovar Project to rejuvenate 2950 water bodies across Assam. India's biggest proposed 2880 megawatt Dibang Multipurpose project of Arunachal Pradesh has also been greenlighted to start the works after the initiatives of the Modi government.

The first AIIMS for the North East in Guwahati is set to be completed, thus revolutionizing the health scenario in the region. Overall, 17 cancer hospitals are on the line across the NE region with an estimated cost of Rs 4000 crore investments. In addition, lakhs of people are getting benefits under various central schemes like PMAY, PMGKY, PMKSY, Ayushman Yojana and free gas and electricity connections, toilets and free Covid vaccines.

Previous governments had initiated the Look East policy to develop the northeastern areas as a gateway toward the south Asian countries. In reality, only some projects had been initiated on the ground. Modi government has launched the Act East policy to develop the northeastern states in all spheres by connecting it with the neighbouring Asian countries by roadways and railways. PM Modi regards the 8 northeastern states as Astha Lakshmi, the eight forms of the goddess of wealth, and his visionary policies would soon make the region the biggest contributor to the country's GDP.



Author: Ram Tajo,
BJYM President, Arunachal Pradesh



Modi Effect on the Northeast

From Turmoil to Integration

During the reign of previous governments in the Centre, the North-East region was neglected and shut off from the mainstream development agenda, while terrorism, inter-ethnic disputes, and rebellions were making the news in the region with mass killings of innocent people, while development was just a far fetched dream.

In recent years, the double-engineered government model of the BJP ruling both the Centre and states succeeded in bringing “Delhi – the Government of India – to the doorstep of the Northeast” region. Every officer and the minister were asked to visit the (Northeast) region and serve the people as per their local needs. In Manipur, further under initiatives like 'Go to Hills' and 'Go to Village', the people of the state were given doorstep governance.

54 Ministries/Departments under the Central Government are today required to spend at least 10 percent of their budget in the North Eastern Region. Further, there are many important faces from the region in key portfolios in the

(Union) Council of Ministers. PM Modi inducted a record five Northeast leaders into his Council of Ministers — two cabinet ministers and three ministers of the state giving the biggest representation to the Northeast in the history of the region.

In terms of representation, the leadership of PM Modi is very exclusive toward the Northeast. Arunachal Pradesh's Kiren Rijiju, MoS has been promoted as a cabinet minister and now heads the Ministry of Law and Justice. Former Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal took oath as a Union Cabinet, heading the Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Shipping, Ports, and Waterways. Pratima Bhoumik, a science graduate, is the first permanent resident of Tripura to become a Union minister in Independent India. Rameshwar Teli, another minister from Assam, has been retained in the Council of Ministers as an MoS in the petroleum and labour ministries.

Erstwhile Manipur royal Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, an academician who won in 2019 from inner Manipur, has also been made a minister and taken oath as the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Education. S. Phangnong Konyak a native of Mon

District in Nagaland became the first ever woman MP from Nagaland in the Rajya Sabha. Her Election to the Rajya Sabha is significant as Nagaland never had a woman MP in the Rajya Sabha in its almost 60- year history.

The New Culture of Peace

While a new work culture of change, peace, and development prevails in the North East, there is minimal extremism reported during the BJP-led government rule. With investments and developmental projects ushered in, the NE region is on a path of rapid development and has come a long way away from the ages of darkness. During his visits to the NE region in January 2022, PM Modi laid down many infrastructure development projects.

In Manipur alone, he inaugurated 13 projects worth around Rs 1,850 Crore and laid the foundation stone for nine projects worth around Rs 2,950 Crore. In his last visit to the Northeast, Modi Ji launched Rs 1,150 crore Amrit Sarovar Project to rejuvenate 2,950 water bodies across Assam. An overall 17 Cancer Hospitals foundation stones were laid on the line across the NE region with an estimated Rs.4,000 crores investment. He also dedicated 2,387 mobile towers built for Rs 1,100 crore to the people.

In 2014-15 the yearly budget allocation for the development of NE states was Rs 24,819.18 crores, in 2021-22 it rose to 70,874.32 crores, marking an increase of over 285% in the past eight years alone.

“The BJP's win in NE states means that there will be greater collaboration between the centre and states in terms of formulating and implementing policies for development, and this includes integration with the ASEAN (Association of South-East Nations),” said Prabhir De, head of the New Delhi-based ASEAN-India Centre at the



Tathagata Sal, Sikkim Credits: tripoto.com

economic think tank, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS).

Prime Minister Development Initiative for the North East (PM-DevINE) is a Rs 1,500 crore scheme specially meant to "enable livelihood activities for youth and women" in the northeastern states. It will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti, and social development projects based on the felt needs of the Northeast region. It will be implemented through the North East Council.

The peace pacts with various insurgent groups brought 74% reduction in insurgency-related incidents, 60% decrease in the casualties of personnel of security forces, commissioning of 23 new air routes, country's longest rail-cum-road bridge Bogibeel, AIIMS at Guwahati, National Sports University in Manipur and bamboo technology parks in Assam and Arunachal, as its major initiatives for the Northeast region

In a major step towards better Law and Order, in March this year, the Narendra Modi government at the Centre removed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from 15 police station areas in seven districts of Nagaland, 15 police station areas in six districts of Manipur, and 23 districts entirely and one district

partially in Assam.

Additionally, under the visionary leadership of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam and Meghalaya had signed a historic agreement in New Delhi to end their border dispute which dates back 50 years. Two-term MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh, who quit the Congress to join the BJP following differences with former Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh, said the BJP government's two big achievements were bringing peace and ending the blockade/bandh regime and bridging the hill-valley divide.

The Road to East

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has solved the recurring problems of shutdowns and blockades in Manipur exclaimed Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The Prime Minister said that Manipur would be the gateway of the East Asian countries linked with Myanmar and Thailand for which the railway connectivity is being extended in the northeastern state boosting trade and tourism. India's 'Gateway to the East' through Moreh town, is the only feasible land route for trade between India and Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries.

The Kaladan Multimodal project that

connects Kolkata port with Myanmar's Sittwe Port by sea, Sittwe to Paletwa via river Kaladan, Paletwa to the border of India, and Myanmar via road and further ahead to Lawngtlai, Mizoram by road is one of the most ambitious projects of India. The project was proposed to be Rs 536 crore in 2008 under 'Look East' policy. Under the 'Act East' policy of Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister gave its approval for the Revised Cost Estimate of Rs. 2904.04 crores for the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar. Once completed it will boost the economic development of the Northeastern states with the emergence of several industrial clusters in the region. The new route will lower the cost and time of moving to Mizoram from Kolkata, without having to rely on the only route from mainland India to the northeastern states Siliguri Corridor called the 'Chicken's Neck'.

Conclusion

In addition to all these, lakhs of people from the North East are getting benefits under various central government schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ayushman Yojana – as well as free gas and electricity connections, toilets and Covid vaccines for free.

The region under the Modi-led BJP government has provided immense change. The once neglected region now blooms into an oasis of hope, and holistic growth in different spheres. But all these developments might be overwhelming for a region that was once neglected. Every state government in the Northeast should have a role in active participation of its people in the various spheres of development, especially those that are most directly relevant to them.

**Author: Delson Notlia,
National Secretary, Minority Morcha
Assam State Minority Morcha Prabhari**



Connecting the New Northeast



Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

North East India represents a rich heterogeneous culture and society that has added to India's rich cultural heritage. However, it is pertinent to note that it is also a region that has been largely neglected since Independence. And, in a way, this negligence has had a negative impact not only on the region but it has also led to many insurgencies and separatist movements that have derailed the process of development in the region.

In the year 2014, China's state-run news agency Xinhua stated that the North-Eastern states of India 'were the Country's most neglected region'. It further added that 'years of neglect by the Indian Government was responsible for the unrest in the region' which also borders China. This analysis by a foreign news agency was something that echoed the ground reality. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, in January 2022

remarked that '*the previous governments in Delhi neglected the entire north east*' due to which many problems that are reeling even today were firmly established in the region. However, with the NDA forming the Government in 2014, the government has tirelessly worked towards integrating and developing the full potential of the region.

One of the major obstructions that the region faced was the issue of connectivity and infrastructural development. However, in the last 8 years, the region has witnessed a major transformation in terms of connectivity as well as developmental projects. Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi during *Maan Ki Baat* on 28th August 2022 mentioned about 4G internet connectivity in a remote village of *Jorsing* in the *Siang* District of Arunachal Pradesh, which is a testimony

to the fact that even the villages of North East India are being included in the Government's latest developmental and connectivity projects. This is the structure of a New India as well as a New North East India, where every citizen of the country would be able to access the facilities and the welfare schemes of the Government.

Talking about the connectivity issue in Northeast India, we can say the financial input for the region in this regard has been quite substantial over the last few years. In the latest Union Budget of 2022, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for the North Eastern states would be implemented through the North East Council and the budget for the outlay plan will be around 1500 crores. This is a major economic thrust whose objective is to fund the new projects based on the

ideas of PM Gan Shakti.

The plan will also try to extend the programs aimed especially at creating vibrant villages where roads and infrastructure support will be provided to the villages that are in the interior rural areas having limited connectivity. It is remarkable that a sum of 1,34,200 crore projects is ongoing in the region to bridge the infrastructural gap. The focus is again primarily on connectivity and various rail, road, and air projects are being implemented in the region. Furthermore, 20 railway projects of 2,011 km in the region which have a budget of Rs. 74,000 crores are already underway. And, Rs. 58,000 crores is being used for the development of 4000 km road projects, and Rs 2,200 crores are being spent for 15 new Air projects.

Under The Bharatmala Pariyojana and Special Accelerated Road Development Program for North East, the government is implementing various projects and there is a marked increase in the National Highways from 10,905 km in the year 2014-15 to around 13,710 km today, which is a marker of the progress that has been registered for creating 'New North East' Road Projects that have been planned and are being implemented during the last five years, which are at the cost of Rs 58,385 crores. These are aimed toward building

around 4016.32 km of roads and the projects will be completed around 2024. Of these projects, 17 are in Sikkim, 39 in Nagaland, 20 in Tripura, 18 in Meghalaya, 23 in Mizoram, 29 in Assam, 33 in Manipur, and 34 in Arunachal Pradesh.

Regarding the railways' connectivity, a sum of Rs 74,485 crores is being implemented to build 20 major projects stretching around 2,011 km. These projects include multi-tracking projects of around Rs 17,932 crores. The new railway lines that have been commissioned are Maynaguri-Jogihopa line of around 284.75 km, Agartala-Sabroom line of 112 km, and a new Bogibeel Bridge line of 73 km linking the North Bank line with Dibrugarh. Aizawl, the Capital city of Mizoram will have railway connectivity by next year as a new project is already underway up to Sairang which is 20 km from Aizawl. The government aims to connect all the capitals of the North Eastern states by 2024 and works are going on at a great speed as the Projects connecting the capital of the region are ongoing, at the cost of Rs 45,016 crores.

Similarly, Air connectivity is also being prioritized for the region. 28 projects have been completed at a completion cost of 979.07 crores and an additional amount of Rs 2,212.30 crores is being

spent on 15 new projects. The UDAN scheme has given thrust to air connectivity for the region, with around Rs 182 crores being allocated for developing water aero drones. Heliports and airstrips under the UDAN scheme and Northeast India's first Flying Training Academy have become functional in Assam's Lilabari.

Therefore, it is clear that the Government is prioritizing the development of North East India. International collaborations with advanced countries such as Japan for infrastructural development are aimed toward the sustainable development of North East India. Connecting North East India with the rest of the country is not only important for regional development, facilitating trade and commerce but it is also the primary step that will promote inclusivity and acceptance of the North Eastern Indian citizens within the rest of India. Years of negligence had shunted the development of the region, and the racism that the people face even today is because of the lack of social interaction between the people due to fewer opportunities in the region. The new India under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is moving forward towards developing a new inclusive India where the disparities that existed are being bridged, where even the villages at the remotest corner of the country are connected by good roads and internet, and the citizens are given full opportunities for their socio-economic development. The development with regards to improving connectivity in the North East is one of the most important primary steps for creating a "New North East" thereby giving the people of the region an ample number of opportunities, in present as well as in the future.



Author: Gourav Lama,
Vice President, BJYM West Bengal
Assistant Professor of History,
Presidency University



The New Northeast: Development and Transformation under BJP

North-East has always been a witness of violence, terrorism, civil wars, rebellions and killings of its innocent people for many years. These grave issues never really reached the ears of the concerned as the North-East was always shut away from the capital 'Delhi'. Development never knocked at the doors of its people as North-East was never a part of the mainstream development agendas. However, with the great visionary plans of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the North-East has been able to walk its path to development with its inclusion in the development agendas.

As our Honourable Prime Minister has rightfully said that “The last 8 years have seen unprecedented development in the Northeast. The focus is on infrastructure creation, ensuring better healthcare, education and popularising the rich cultures from the different states of the region.”, the North-East is now witnessing a wave of development under his guidance. Peace and prosperity have

reached the doors of the people of the region, and they have to no longer be prey to the violence and negligence.

The BJP government has consciously and tirelessly worked for the betterment of the people. They are now a part of the existing schemes like Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc, which ensures them free facilities and services. This has brought in a change in the hearts and minds of the people. Many new development projects are lined up for all the states of the North-East which will completely transform the region.

With the reduction of violence in the region in the past few years, the focus is now on the upliftment of the Armed Forces from the North-East region. The development in the Education sector is another main agenda of the BJP govt along with agendas for empowering women and the poor people.

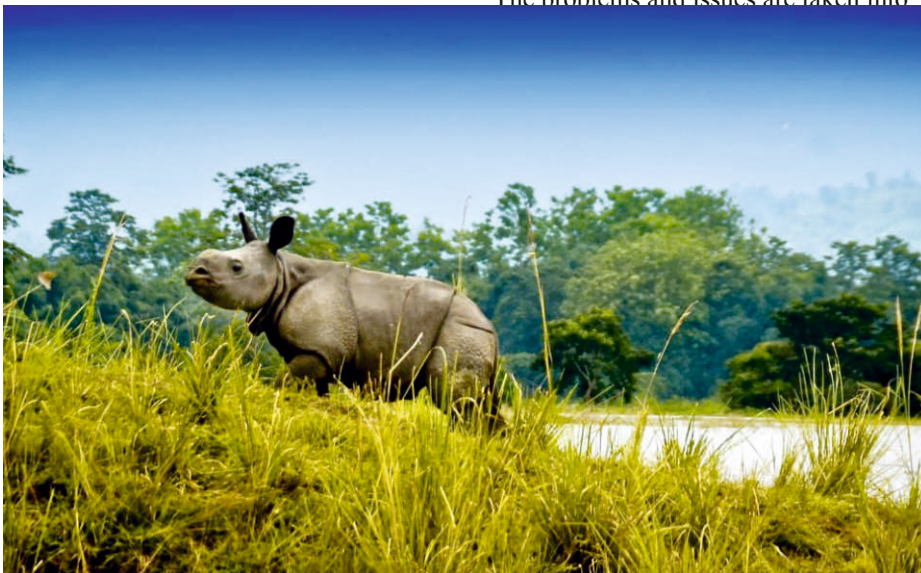
Unlike the previous governments, the BJP government has always taken steps to bring focus on the North-East region. The problems and issues are taken into

consideration, and it is ensured that assistance is provided from the central government to all the states of the region. The Union Ministers and leaders oversee the affairs of the state and keep visiting the region to maintain a firm vigilance.

Recently, during this monsoon, the worst floods hit Assam. During this time too, the state received immense help from the central government for distribution of the necessary amenities to the flood victims. The workers went to all the flood-hit areas, from door to door, in order to provide them help. At times, they were accompanied by the leaders of the Central government which gave the people and the workers of the region a sense of strength during the harsh times.

During this 76th Independence Day, when India celebrated 75 years of its independence, North-East was too able to celebrate the day without any fear of violence or terrorism. The tricolour was waving high in each home and people were on the streets to celebrate. This was never possible in the earlier government, as this day was marked by rebellions and terrorism. It was usually called off as a holiday by the rebels and people never really got a chance to celebrate. But this year the BJP government left no stones unturned to celebrate the grand event.

These changes in the lives of the people are a shining example of the development in North-East under the BJP govt. As a youth, I strongly believe that over the coming years this wave of development shall continue and my home North-East will be full of peace and prosperity.



One-horned Rhinoceros, Assam. Credits: Travelogy India

Author: Ronisha Datta,
State Executive Member,
BJYM, Assam Pradesh



The Winds of Change



Hornbill Festival, Nagaland

This is the story of the 8 states of Northeast India, each of them beautiful, pristine, unspoilt and resourceful but largely neglected, ill-treated & at the margins of our collective imagination until 2014. Accounting for a significant 8% of India's total landmass and 4% of its population with 25 Lok Sabha seats; this region saw conflict, strife, militancy & war for close to 7 decades post-independence. The eight states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, each of them have their own traditions, customs and identity but collectively referred to as the 'North-East'. With 145 tribal groups having 220 dialects and from the fertile plains of Assam to the treacherous mountain passes of Arunachal this region is truly a picture of diversity. From 2014 onwards under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi & the BJP led NDA government our North-Eastern states started witnessing an unparalleled

era of peace and progress coupled with all round development, a human centric approach to solving complex issues persisting for decades.

Infrastructure and connectivity are the pillars of development and progress. The North-Eastern region is connected to the rest of India through the extremely strategic yet only 22 km wide 'chicken's neck' or Siliguri corridor. Connectivity with the rest of the country was extremely poor with overland journeys requiring days to complete. Entire states didn't have airports or rail heads with Arunachal Pradesh being the best example. National highways were extremely rudimentary and commuting between state capitals and district headquarters taking a major part of the day. Today this is largely history with all states having rail connectivity or would have so by 2024.

Rajdhani and Tejas rakes are serving far flung towns like Naharlagun and Mariani. Most states have enhanced air

connectivity and reasonable fare structures under the 'UDAN' scheme with Arunachal getting three and Sikkim getting a single new greenfield airport at Pasighat, Tezu, Hollongi and Pakyong respectively. Bridging the mighty Brahmaputra was always a major challenge with no bridge existing east of the Kaliabhomora at Tezpur. The Commissioning of two multimodal bridges at Dhola Sadiya and bogibeel named the Bhupen Hazarika Setu and the Atal Setu since 2014 have eased the lives of residents on either banks of the Brahmaputra. The national waterway 2 is now fully operational between Dhubri and Sadiya with the first barge carrying cargo having set sail a few years ago.

Connectivity leads to economic empowerment and peace. Northeast India has seen immense bloodbath borne out of conflict. From the insurgent groups like NSCN in Nagaland to ULFA in Assam. Previous governments believed that peace could only be forged through strong arm tactics like using our



air force against Mizo rebels by PM Indira Gandhi. Today the NDA government has a clear-eyed strategy to deal with rebels using an iron grip within a velvet glove. The state retains the monopoly on the use of force however misguided youths who give up arms are rehabilitated in an effort towards the path to everlasting peace and prosperity.

Under the guidance of PM Modi and the stewardship of home minister Amit Shah who believes in treating the rebels of yesterday as our brothers of today the union government had concluded significant peace accords. The NSCN & associated Naga National Political Groups are negotiating with the government to forge a lasting peace. The Bru Reang conflict has been brought to an end with the honourable settlement of refugees with attendant needs being taken care of. Various Kuki groups of Manipur have given up arms and are willing to negotiate a peaceful return to civil society. The horrors perpetuated by ULFA in Assam are largely history, and with improved law and order FSPA or the Armed Forces Special Powers Act have been removed from numerous districts of the northeast.

Lasting peace pays the greatest dividend with large scale investment including FDI flowing in. Japan is alone investing close to US\$ 2 Bn on projects like Guwahati water supply & sewerage project and Umiam-Umtru hydropower project in Meghalaya. Domestic

investments are keeping pace with Indian oil recently inaugurating a 169 crore LPG plant in Agartala. The union government has steeply increased budget allocation from 24,819 in FY '14-15 to 70,874 crores in FY '21-22; a quantum jump of 285%!

Forging the Road Ahead

Tourism is not just an economic activity but brings together hearts and minds. Since 2014 better connectivity and infrastructure has given a much-needed impetus to tourism. From the hornbill festival of Nagaland to the double decker bridge in Meghalaya; these unspoiled and pristine destinations are in the bucket list of every India travel enthusiast. Recently re-developed Majuli island and actively promoted bamboo handicrafts of Tripura are the cynosure of all eyes. From bringing exotic herbs of Meghalaya to the Indian palate to making sustainable home decor using water hyacinth in Assam; the young & dynamic entrepreneurs of this region are tackling challenges from unemployment to lack of empowerment. In the process they are giving this region an unbeatable reputation of making quality products for the nation. Representation brings empowerment and representation from Northeast India in the union cabinet is unparalleled with Kiren Rijju, Sarbananda Sonowal, Rameshwar Teli and Pratima Bhowmick earning the trust, love and affection of all Indians. Long gone are the days of a single token representation from this region in the

union council of ministers.

The greatest resource of northeast India is its people. The peace loving, resourceful and industrious citizens lived under a dark cloud of terror, militancy and isolation. With the dark clouds of despair making way for the bright rays of peace and progress; northeast India is claiming its rightful place under the sun. Independence Day which was spent under a virtual curfew due to threat of terror is now being celebrated with fervour and gaiety just like in any other part of India. PM Modi has visited the northeast more than the cumulative number of the visits of all his predecessors. This relationship of trust between the leadership and citizenry is turning the twin wheels of empowerment and economic growth.

With the northeast slowly coming at par with the rest of India; serving in the northeast being seen as punishment postings with extra hardship allowances for All India Service (IAS, IPS, IFS) officers will soon be a relic of the past. From the legendary Lachit Borphukan and mellifluous Bhupen Hazarika to the astute Gopinath Bordoloi, the contribution of Indians from the northeast is unparalleled. This continues today; from Lovlina Borgohain to MC Mary Kom, sportspersons, especially women, are making our nation proud at the global arena. This saga will continue well into the future and people from this region will grace the highest constitutional offices of our nation within our very lifetimes. It is said 'Hope is the companion of power and mother of success; for whosoever hopes strongly has within them the gift of miracles'.

North-eastern India is truly the gift of miracles for all of India and its citizens. May the NEW NORTHEAST India continue to rise and shine!

**Author: Rajarshi Roychowdhury,
Study Cell In-Charge,
BJYM, West Bengal**



उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्य: समस्याएं, चुनौतियां एवं वर्तमान सरकार के सराहनीय प्रयास

लोक में एक प्रचलित कहावत है जिसका अर्थ है कि- "यदि घर का द्वार साफ सुथरा हो तो उस घर में समृद्धि एवं लक्ष्मी का वास होता है।" उत्तर पूर्वी राज्य भारत के पूर्वी प्रवेश-द्वार है, जिसे हमें विकसित एवं समृद्ध बनाना है। पूर्वोत्तर भारत से आशय भारत के पूर्वी क्षेत्रों से है जिसमें कुल आठ भारतीय राज्य - असम, अरुणाचलप्रदेश, मेघालय, मणिपुर, मिजोरम, त्रिपुरा, नागालैण्ड, और सिक्किम शामिल हैं। सिक्किम के अतिरिक्त अन्य एक साथ जुड़े राज्यों को "सात बहनों" के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। हाल ही में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने उत्तरी-पूर्वी भारत की समृद्धि के लिए जो प्रयास किये हैं, उससे राष्ट्रीय एकीकरण की भावना तो मजबूत होगी ही साथ ही सामाजिक सांस्कृतिक समरसता भी बढ़ेगी।

वर्तमान उत्तरी-पूर्वी राज्यों की समस्याएँ:

भौगोलिक स्थिति:

- स्वतंत्रता से पूर्व पूर्वोत्तर भारत के राज्य कोलकाता और चट्टोग्राम (बांग्लादेश) के माध्यम से शेष भारत से जुड़े हुए थे, गौरतलब है कि ये दोनों शहर इस क्षेत्र के साथ देश के प्रमुख व्यावसायिक केंद्र थे।
- देश की स्वतंत्रता के बाद पूर्वी बंगाल (वर्तमान बांग्लादेश) के विभाजन के कारण शेष भारत से पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों का संपर्क टूट गया, जो इस क्षेत्र के आर्थिक, राजनीतिक और स्थानीय पहचान से जुड़े संकट का एक बड़ा कारण माना जाता है।

सांस्कृतिक विविधता:

- ध्यातव्य है कि देश के इस भाग में बहुत से अलग-अलग जनजातीय समुदाय निवास करते हैं, इनमें से अधिकांश समुदायों की भाषा, बोली और संस्कृति भी भिन्न है।

- ये समुदाय अपनी संस्कृति और पहचान को लेकर बहुत ही संवेदनशील हैं, जो इस क्षेत्र के सामुदायिक तनाव का एक बड़ा कारण रहा है।
- ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन के दौरान इस क्षेत्र को अलग-थलग रखे जाने और देश के विभाजन से, इस क्षेत्र के समुदायों के बीच असुरक्षा की भावना बढ़ी जिसने इन समुदायों के बीच मतभेदों को और अधिक बढ़ा दिया।

पूर्वोत्तर भारत का महत्त्व:

- पूर्वोत्तर भारत के राज्य प्राकृतिक संसाधनों से संपन्न हैं। देश का यह हिस्सा सबसे घने वन्य-क्षेत्रों में से एक है।
- इस क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध खनिज, तेल और गैस के भंडार तथा नदियों का मजबूत तंत्र ऊर्जा की दृष्टि से इसे अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण बनाता है।
- साक्षरता तथा समाज में महिलाओं की भागीदारी के मामले में भी पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों का प्रदर्शन देश के अन्य राज्यों की तुलना में बेहतर रहा है।
- साक्षरता दर (वर्ष 2011)- मिजोरम: 91.3% (अधिकतम), अरुणाचल प्रदेश: 65.4% (न्यूनतम)

एक्ट ईस्ट नीति (Act East Policy):

- केंद्र सरकार द्वारा एक्ट ईस्ट की नीति के तहत तीन 'C' (Commerce, Culture and Connectivity) अर्थात् वाणिज्य, संस्कृति और संपर्क को मजबूत करने पर विशेष बल दिया गया है।
- यह क्षेत्र पूर्वी भारत के पारंपरिक घरेलू बाजार के साथ पूर्व में स्थित बांग्लादेश और नेपाल जैसे सीमावर्ती देशों के बाजारों तक पहुँच के कारण रणनीतिक महत्त्व रखता है।

- भौगोलिक दृष्टि से यह क्षेत्र दक्षिण पूर्वी एशिया के बाजारों तक भारत की पहुँच के लिये एक प्रवेश द्वार का कार्य कर सकता है।

भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार के प्रयास:

- स्थानीय किसानों और कलाकारों को सहयोग प्रदान करने के लिये 'राष्ट्रीय बाँस मिशन' के तहत बाँस की खेती को बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है।
- वर्ष 2018 में असम के डिब्रूगढ़ को अरुणाचल प्रदेश के पासीघाट से जोड़ने के लिये ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी पर देश के सबसे लंबे सड़क और रेल पुल ('बोगीबील पुल')का उद्घाटन किया गया।
- सड़क परिवहन तंत्र को मजबूत करने के लिये 'नॉर्थ-ईस्ट रोड सेक्टर डेवलपमेंट स्कीम' (North-East Road Sector Development Scheme) तथा 'प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना' के तहत सड़कों का निर्माण किया जा रहा है।
- अगरतला (त्रिपुरा) और बांग्लादेश के अखौरा के बीच रेलवे लाइन को वर्ष 2021 तक शुरू करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है।
- केंद्र सरकार द्वारा पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में वायु परिवहन को बेहतर बनाने पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है, वर्तमान में इस क्षेत्र में 13 हवाईअड्डे सक्रिय हैं। सरकार द्वारा लगभग 3 हज़ार करोड़ की लागत से इनके नवीनीकरण का कार्य किया जा रहा है।

चुनौतियाँ:

अपर्याप्त अवसंरचना और निवेश कमी:

- इस क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और भौगोलिक चुनौतियों के



कारण आधुनिक औद्योगिक ज़रूरतों के अनुरूप पर्याप्त अवसंरचना-विकास नहीं हो पाया है।

- राजनीतिक अस्थिरता और आवश्यक संसाधनों (परिवहन के साधन, ऊर्जा आदि) के अभाव में पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में निजी क्षेत्र के निवेश की भारी कमी रही है।

समाधान:

- वर्तमान में क्षेत्र की युवा पीढ़ी की जागरूकता एवं शिक्षा स्तर में वृद्धि और देश के अन्य हिस्सों से उनका संपर्क बेहतर हुआ है और उनकी सामाजिक अपेक्षाएँ भी पिछली पीढ़ी से भिन्न रही हैं। ऐसे में युवा पीढ़ी को विकास के अवसर उपलब्ध करा कर क्षेत्र की स्थिरता और विकास को सुनिश्चित किया जा सकता है।

भौगोलिक संपर्क:

- पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों की सुरक्षा और स्थिरता के लिये इस क्षेत्र में बेहतर सांस्कृतिक और भौगोलिक-संपर्क मज़बूत करना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।
- हाल के वर्षों में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा पूर्वी एशिया के देशों के साथ संबंधों को मज़बूत करने पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है।
- पूर्वोत्तर के विकास के लिये इस क्षेत्र की

प्राकृतिक और ऐतिहासिक संरचना का अध्ययन बहुत ही आवश्यक होगा, इस क्षेत्र के विकास हेतु अन्य क्षेत्रीय राज्यों (जैसे- उत्तरी बंगाल और उत्तरी बिहार के कुछ हिस्से आदि) के बाज़ारों के बीच संपर्क-मार्ग को मज़बूत करना होगा।

प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का सदुपयोग:

- पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों की भौगोलिक स्थिति और जैव-विविधता देश के अन्य राज्यों से भिन्न है, अतः इस क्षेत्र के विकास हेतु अन्य राज्यों की विकास योजनाओं को थोपने के स्थान पर प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर आधारित सतत-विकास को बढ़ावा दिया जाना चाहिये।
- देश में कुल बाँस उत्पादन का दो-तिहाई (2/3) इन्हीं राज्यों से आता है।

जल प्रबंधन:

- पूर्वोत्तर भारत की नदियों में प्रचुर मात्रा में जल उपलब्ध रहता है, ऐसे में इस क्षेत्र के विकास में प्राकृतिक जल का सदुपयोग बहुत ही आवश्यक है।
- भारत में उपलब्ध कुल जल संसाधनों में से 34% इसी क्षेत्र में पाया जाता है।
- इस क्षेत्र में बेहतर जल-प्रबंधन और बाढ़ जैसी समस्याओं से निपटने के लिये एक मज़बूत नीति का निर्माण किया जाना चाहिये।

विकास और संस्कृति का संतुलन:

- इस क्षेत्र के लोगों को अपनी संस्कृति और परम्पराओं से बहुत अधिक लगाव है। इस क्षेत्र के कई समुदायों के लोग आधुनिक परिवर्तनों को अपनी संस्कृति पर हस्तक्षेप की तरह देखते हैं।
- ऐसे में सरकार को बिना पारंपरिक व्यवस्था में हस्तक्षेप किये इस क्षेत्र में निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के साथ लोगों तक विकास योजनाओं का लाभ पहुँचाने का प्रयास करना चाहिये।

आगे अभी सर्वश्रेष्ठ की ओर:

- पूर्वोत्तर भारत प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के मामले में देश के सबसे समृद्ध क्षेत्रों में से एक है, अतः यहाँ उपलब्ध प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का बेहतर प्रबंधन, इस क्षेत्र के सतत विकास के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में सहायक हो सकता है।
- पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों से अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने की पहल के प्रारंभिक चरण के तहत बीबीआईएन (BBIN) अर्थात् 'बांग्लादेश, भूटान, भारत और नेपाल' उप-समूह के तंत्र को मज़बूत किया जाना चाहिये जिसे आगे चलकर क्षेत्र के अन्य देशों तक बढ़ाया जा सकता है।
- हाल ही में भारत और बांग्लादेश के बीच एक समझौते के तहत बांग्लादेश के चट्टोग्राम बंदरगाह से होते हुए कोलकाता और अगरतला के बीच जल और सड़क मार्ग के माध्यम से वस्तुओं की ढुलाई की सेवा शुरू की गई है।

उत्तर पूर्वी राज्य भारत के विकास के लिए सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण है। विकास की अपरिमित संभावनाएं इन राज्यों में समाहित है। विगत कई सरकारों की विष्फल नीतियों का प्रभाव इन राज्यों के विकास की गति को मंथर से तीव्र नहीं कर सका। परन्तु वर्तमान भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने अपने सबका साथ-सबका विकास के विचार के अनुरूप इन राज्यों पर विशेष ध्यान देकर सराहनीय कार्य किया है। हमें कभी नहीं भूलना चाहिए, कि जब तक घर का प्रवेश द्वार समृद्ध नहीं होगा, घर में लक्ष्मी नहीं आएगी।

लेखक: हर्षित राज श्रीवास्तव,
स्वतंत्र टिप्पणीकार



Act East Policy: Prioritizing Development of Northeast India

On February 21st, the Government of India issued orders to create an exclusive forum at the NITI AAYOG to prepare plans for the development of the North East Region, co-chaired by the Vice-Chairman of the Niti Aayog and Secretary of DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region). The forum examines various proposals both at the Central and the State levels and prepare plans for the speedy development of the North Eastern Region.

Transformation by Transportation

Air Connectivity

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim on 24th September. This is the first airport in the Himalayan State, and the 100th airport in the country. In order to ensure that Pakyong Airport is affordable to the common man, this airport is part of the UDAN scheme (regional connectivity scheme). At 4646 ft, Pakyong Airport is one of the five highest airports in India. It is also the

first greenfield airport constructed in the Northeastern Region of India and the only airport in the state of Sikkim. Prior to the construction of Pakyong Airport, Sikkim had been the sole state in India possessing no functional airport.

Rail Connectivity

A new train between Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh and Anand Vihar Terminal in the national capital was flagged off by Union MoS Shri Kiren Rijiju and Shri Rajen Gohain on 1st March from Naharlagun railway station. The new train, known as 'Arunachal Express' covers the 2,013 kilometre distance between Naharlagun and Anand Vihar Terminal in little over 38 hours and would have 14 stoppages en-route. This is the second direct train for Arunachal Pradesh and 14th for North East to connect with the national capital. Arunachal Pradesh is poised for a giant leap in the developmental front with a survey of 11 railway projects in the state going on, which will change the face of the state.

Digital North East Vision 2022

The former Union Minister for Electronics & IT, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad released the 'Digital North East Vision 2022' in Guwahati on 11th August 2022. The Vision Document emphasizes leveraging digital technologies to transform lives of people of the north east and enhance the ease of living. The Vision Document identifies eight digital thrust areas – **Digital Infrastructure, Digital services, Digital empowerment, Promotion of Electronics Manufacturing, Promotion of IT and ITes including BPOs, Digital Payments, Innovation & Startups and Cyber security.** As part of the Digital North East Vision 2022, a cloud hub for the North East will be set up in Guwahati. Capacity building for 50 thousand state government employees will be taken up in use of digital technologies. It is also assured to provide mobile connectivity in all uncovered villages in the North East. E-class rooms would be set up at six



ARTICLE

medical colleges in the North East. Several other projects were also launched for the North East including a BPO centre at river island Majuli district.

Enhancing Tourism in North East

The DoNER Ministry is providing financial assistance for projects of physical infrastructure relating to water supply, power, and connectivity for promoting tourism in the region. This will be over and above the existing schemes of the Central and State Governments of the NE region. Under the North Eastern Council (NEC), work is underway for promotion of theme-based regional tourism circuits.

NORTH EAST REGION (PM-DevINE) SCHEME

A new scheme, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE) was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23. An initial allocation of Rs 1,500 crore was made along with an initial list of projects.

PM-DevINE is aimed at rapid and holistic development of the North- East Region by funding infrastructure and social development projects, based on felt needs of the States. It will strive to fill the gaps in various sectors and will not be a substitute for existing Central and State Schemes. The objectives of PM-DevINE are:

- To fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti;
- To support social development projects based on felt needs of the North East;
- To enable livelihood activities for youth and women;
- To fill the development gaps in various sectors.

Japanese Development Assistance to Northeast India

Japan has been historically connected to Northeast India for a long time, from the



days of World War II when Japanese troops fought alongside troops from Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA). It is worth mentioning here that it was the INA which had hoisted the Indian flag for the first time at Moirang in Manipur. Japan is now a major player in the infrastructure sector in Northeast India. Among other projects, Japan is involved in the Guwahati Water Supply Project, the Guwahati Sewage Project (Assam), the North-East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Assam-Meghalaya), the Project for Renovation and Modernization of the Umiyam-Umtru Stage III Hydroelectric Power Station (Meghalaya), the Sustainable Catchment Forest Management Project (Tripura), the Project on Capacity Enhancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development (Mizoram), a forest management project in Nagaland, and the construction of primary schools in Manipur. Total ODA from Japan to Northeast India stood at over 231 billion

yen (approximately \$2 billion) as of January 2021.

Japan also has an initiative known as the IRIS program, which sends students from India's Northeast to Japan. Northeast India is one region of the country that is deficient in quality infrastructure and this is where Japan's role is critically important. It is worth noting here that both India and Japan have not joined the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), through which Beijing funds infrastructure development in other countries.

As our nation takes concrete steps towards realising the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat", with the fast track development approach, our northeastern states and region will not be left wanting.

**Author: Dr. Pooja Paswan,
Assistant Professor of Public Administration,
Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.**

The BJP and the Rise of Northeast



Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest bridge in Assam

In the last eight years, the Northeast has seen unprecedented growth, and now no one can say that it is lagging behind other Indian states. Except for the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, all governments prior to 2014 completely ignored the Northeast. People in the northeast felt humiliated and isolated from the rest of India. This resulted in an increase in ethnic driven conflict and insurgent groups related violence, causing unrest throughout the region. Christians took advantage of the situation and converted a large number of people. But despite what is not seen, people in Manipur and Assam felt connected to organizations such as RSS and some spiritual organizations because they continued to work on the ground even in the worst of conditions to benefit the people.

China's dirty plan to take over a large portion of the Northeast was thwarted thanks to the work of RSS Swayamsevaks, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's

strong focus on the region, and the last eight years of unprecedented development with a sense of belonging and respect for great culture and heritage. We can easily see the connection with enthusiasm and belonging with the rest of India over the last eight years. The rise of the Northeast dampens religious conversion forces' and the Chinese government's enthusiasm.

PM Modi frequently refers to the eight Northeastern states as Ashta Lakshmi (eight manifestations of Mahalakshmi). Many people are unaware that 54 Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are now required to spend at least 10% of their budget in the North Eastern Region. In terms of North East India, one of the main failings of Congress governments has been the failure to invest in infrastructure development in the region. For decades, infrastructure development in the Northeast had been marked by repeated

delays, abysmally poor work quality, and institutional corruption, and a lack of proper infrastructure had remained one of the main impediments to regional and national integration.

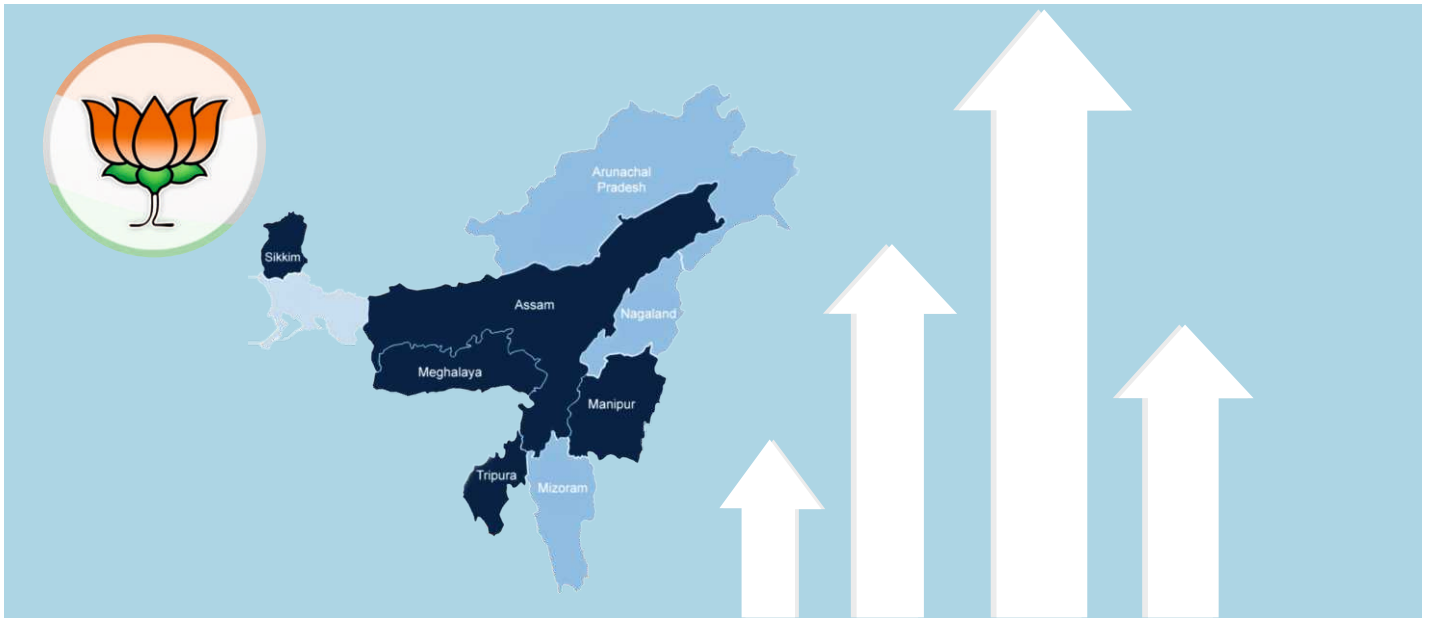
A Policy Outlook:

Since 2014, the following steps have altered the socioeconomic landscape of North East India:

The Prime Minister inaugurated India's longest rail and road bridge, the 4.94 km Bogibeel Bridge, in 2018. It took the PM Modi administration at the Centre to provide railway access to the region. The government has committed to laying 900 km of broad gauge track in the region. The long-awaited railway access to the region was provided by the 88-kilometre Dhansiri-Kohima railway track, which connected Kohima to the national railway network alongside the Rajdhani Express and Tripura Sundari Express.

PM Narendra Modi's 'Transformation by Transportation' policy included projects





for over 3,800 km of national highways and investments of Rs. 60,000 crore under the Special Accelerated Road Development and Rs. 30,000 crore under Bharatmala project.

In the last five years, there has been a concerted effort to connect the terrain via air. Some of the projects undertaken by the Modi Government to ensure the region has adequate gateways to the rest of India include the establishment of an aviation manpower training institute, the development of Rupsi airport, and the expansion of the air facility at Dimapur.

Mary Kom, one of India's most talented athletes, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2016. This was a source of pride not only for Manipur but for the entire region. The central leadership's commitment to developing sports talent is reflected in the establishment of the first National Sports University in Manipur.

The lifting of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from some areas of the region, peace treaties with various insurgent groups, a 74% reduction in insurgency-related incidents, a 60% reduction in security force casualties, the commissioning of 23 new air routes, the country's longest rail-cum-road bridge Bogibeel, the AIIMS at Guwahati, the

National Sports University in Manipur, and bamboo technology parks in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The government reclassified bamboo from tree to grass in one of the groundbreaking policy announcements. Bamboo is important to the economy of the North East, and this policy will help the regional economy because transportation of trees is restricted and hence the legal mechanism to safeguard it.

The best national film award went to Rima Das's film *Village Rockstars*. Recognition and rewards like these inspire young talent in the region and debunk the myth that the North East has a limited future due to the tyranny of distance.

Under the North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme, Arunachal Pradesh launched an integrated large-scale Eri farming (NERTPS). The NERTPS has announced financial assistance for 4000 beneficiaries, as well as skill training for Eri silk farmers and weavers.

The Vidyajyoti Schools Project Mission 100 aims to improve the quality of education in Tripura by converting 100 existing high/high secondary schools to Vidyajyoti Schools with state-of-the-art facilities and quality education. The

project, which will cover approximately 1.2 lakh students from Nursery to Class 12, will cost approximately Rs 500 crores over the next three years.

In 2014-15, the yearly budget allocation for the development of NE states was Rs 24,819.18 crores; by 2021-22, it had risen to 70,874.32 crores, a 285% increase in just eight years.

The government led by Prime Minister Modi has not only outlined a development vision for the North East, but it has also provided adequate financial resources to make that vision a reality. Over the last eight years, the government has allocated over Rs 336,640.97 crores for the development of the Northeast Region, which has significantly boosted the regional economy and connectivity.

The region is now in a 'transformational mode', thanks to PM Modi's transformation of the 'look east' policy into the 'act east' policy, which combines development and peace initiatives. A 'colourful, beautiful, and peaceful' Northeast awaits visitors and investors from across the country.

**Author: Pankaj Jagannath Jayswal,
Columnist & Independent Commentator**

प्रगति की नई दास्तान लिख रहा पूर्वोत्तर भारत

यह काफ़ी सुखद तथ्य है कि देश में पहली बार सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबके प्रयास से काम हो रहा है। आज देश में कश्मीर से लेकर कन्याकुमारी तक और गुजरात से लेकर नागालैंड तक विकास की एक नई गाथा लिखी जा रही है। जिसके केंद्र में आम जन आते हैं और जहां ऊँच-नीच और क्षेत्र का कोई भेदभाव नहीं। एक समय था, जब नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लोगों के साथ भेदभाव किया जाता था। दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण लेकिन यह हकीकत है कि लोगों को वहाँ की संस्कृति, भाषा और भूगोल का ज्ञान नाममात्र था, दिल्ली नॉर्थ-ईस्ट से बहुत सुदूर नजर आता था फिर वहाँ के लोगों के साथ बेहतर व्यवहार की उम्मीद कैसे की जा सकती थी और इससे निपटने को लेकर सरकारी रवैया भी काफ़ी लचर ही होता था। दुर्भाग्य नहीं तो इसे क्या कहेंगे कि भारत देश का हिस्सा होने

के बावजूद नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के कई राज्य विकास की यात्रा में नेपथ्य में दिखाई देते थे। दिल्ली में बैठी पूर्ववर्ती सरकार इन प्रदेशों के लोगों की सुध तक नहीं लेती थी, लेकिन धीरे-धीरे वक्त ने करवट ली और ये नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के प्रदेश भी अब गर्व से देश के विकास में अपनी हिस्सेदारी सुनिश्चित कर रहे हैं। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के कई राज्यों में आज़ादी से लेकर 2014 तक रेल लाइन नहीं पहुँची थी। हवाई मार्ग से उनकी कनेक्टिविटी नहीं थी। लेकिन अब ये सब सुनिश्चित हो पाया है तो इसके केंद्र में सिर्फ़ एक ही सोच है और वह नरेंद्र मोदी की सबका साथ, सबका विकास और सबका विश्वास वाली नीति है। जिस तरह से पिछले आठ सालों में परिस्थितियां बदली हैं, सहजता से यह कहा जा सकता है कि आज लोगों में वहाँ की कला-संस्कृति, प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य के प्रति आकर्षण बढ़ा है।

अभी विगत कुछ समय पहले ही नागालैंड के उच्च शिक्षा और आदिवासी मामलों के मंत्री और प्रदेश भाजपा के अध्यक्ष तेमजेन इमना अलांग ने देश की सोच पूर्ववर्ती सरकारों के दौरान नॉर्थ ईस्ट को लेकर कैसी थी? इस बात से अवगत कराया था। कई लोग इमना की बात को राजनीति से प्रेरित कह सकते हैं, लेकिन यह कहने की हिम्मत सिर्फ़ उन्हीं व्यक्तियों में होगी। जो देश की एक समय जो वास्तविकता थी। उससे नज़र चुराने की कोशिश करना चाहते होंगे। वरना वास्तविकता यही है कि दिल्ली-मुंबई जैसे क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले पूर्व-उत्तर के लोगों को पहले नेपाली और चीनी ही समझा जाता रहा, लेकिन 2014 के बाद से यह सोच बदल रही है और आज पूर्वोत्तर के लोग भी गर्व से अपना सीना चौड़ा करके देश के किसी भी हिस्से में बिना भेदभाव के घूमने को स्वतंत्र है। इसके अलावा पूर्वोत्तर के लोग सिर्फ़ रंग-रूप के हिसाब से ही देशभर में उपेक्षित नहीं थे। अपितु उन तक विकास और कनेक्टिविटी के साधन भी नहीं पहुँच पा रहे थे या यूँ कहें सरकारी उदासीनता की वज़ह से 2014 से पूर्व तक ये हिस्से सिर्फ़ राजनैतिक रूप से भारत का हिस्सा थे और सरकार बनाने के लिए ही इन्हें देश का हिस्सा समझा जाता था, लेकिन 2014 के बाद से पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी ने सेवन सिस्टर्स कहलाने वाले राज्यों को भी देश के साथ जोड़ने और स्वतंत्रता पूर्वक जीवन जीने का हक मुहैया कराने पर जोर दिया।

एक क्षेत्र के विकास में बुनियादी ढांचे के महत्व को अच्छी तरह से हर कोई स्वीकार करता है और यहां के लोगों का जीवन तभी बदला जा सकता है। जब पहले से उपेक्षित लोगो को मुख्यधारा में लाया जा सकें और इसके लिए एक ठोस पहल पर अमल करने



की दरकार होती है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने इस दिशा में व्यापक स्तर पर कदम उठाए और पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों को देश के दिल के करीब लाने का हरसंभव प्रयास किया। आज इसी की देन है कि एक छोटी आंख और छोटे से कद वाला व्यक्ति गर्व से भारत के किसी भी हिस्से में जा पाता है और अपने भारतीय होने का एहसास कराता है। जो पिछले दिनों तेमजेन इमना अलांग ने भी किया। वरना इतिहास उठाकर देख लीजिए पूर्वोत्तर के लोगों की सुनवाई देश में कहां होती थी? एक देश में ही दो देश बसता था, पूर्वोत्तर के सात राज्य किसी दूसरे देश की भांति माने जाते थे और ऐसा होने के पीछे वाज़िब कारण भी था, क्योंकि शेष भारत के साथ उनकी व्यापक स्तर पर कनेक्टिविटी नहीं थी। लेकिन आज देश के प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अपनी सोच और कार्य करने की ललक के बदौलत असम, त्रिपुरा और अरुणाचल प्रदेश की राजधानियों को ब्रॉड गेज के माध्यम से जोड़ा है। इसके अलावा आज़ादी से लेकर अब तक मणिपुर में एक भी मालगाड़ी नहीं पहुँची थी। उसे पहुँचाने का काम किया। असम के रास्ते मणिपुर और त्रिपुरा के बीच पहली जनशताब्दी ट्रेन भी आज़ादी के इतने सालों

में पहली बार मोदी सरकार के कार्यकाल में ही चली। किसानों के लिए नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में कृषि उड़ान सेवा की शुरुआत की गई। इतना ही नहीं आंकड़े गवाही देते हैं कि विगत आठ वर्षों में पूर्वोत्तर सिर्फ विकास के पथ पर ही गतिमान नहीं हुआ है, बल्कि शांति के साथ देश के विकास में अपना योगदान दे रहा है। पिछले 8 वर्षों में पूर्वोत्तर में उग्रवाद की घटनाओं में 74 फ्रीसदी की गिरावट आई है। नागरिक हत्या के मामलों में भी 84 प्रतिशत की गिरावट देखी गई और तो और सुरक्षा बलों पर हमलों के मामलों में भी 60 फ्रीसदी की गिरावट आई है।

अफ़स्य़ा को लेकर पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों में काफी आक्रोश देखने को मिलता था। जिसकी वज़ह से आंतरिक शांति भंग होती थी। ऐसे में नरेंद्र मोदी के कार्यकाल में त्रिपुरा से अफ़स्य़ा हटाया गया। साथ ही शांति से प्रगति की ओर बढ़ने के लिए कई समझौते हुए। जिसमें नागा शांति समझौता, बोडो शांति समझौता, ब्रू-रियांग शांति समझौता और कार्बी-आंगलोग शांति समझौता आदि शामिल है। इसके अलावा लोगों के जीवन में समृद्धि लाने के लिए पूर्वोत्तर में खेती को बल प्रदान किया गया। विगत आठ वर्षों में खाद्य

तेल उत्पादन में इस क्षेत्र की प्रमुख भूमिका रही और 79,445 हेक्टेयर भूमि पर ऑर्गेनिक खेती को बढ़ावा दिया गया। इसके अलावा बांस को घास के रूप में पुर्नवर्गीकरण करके बांस की खेती को बढ़ावा दिया गया। ऐसे में सार के रूप में देखें तो वर्तमान दौर में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी केवल राजनैतिक लालसा की पूर्ति के लिए पूर्वोत्तर की पारंपरिक टोपी और परिधान नहीं पहनते, बल्कि उन्होंने पूर्वोत्तर के लोगों को गौरवांनित होने का अवसर विगत आठ वर्षों में उपलब्ध कराया है। आज पूर्वोत्तर से जुड़े लोग भी गर्व से भारतीय होने की हुंकार भर पाते हैं और देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में उनके साथ पराए देश जैसा व्यवहार नहीं किया जाता। केंद्र सरकार की ही देन है कि मणिपुर में खेल विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित किया जा रहा है। जिससे पूर्वोत्तर के युवाओं को भी खेल के क्षेत्र में पहचान मिल सकें और अब वह दिन दूर नहीं जब पूर्वोत्तर से भी खिलाड़ी निकलकर क्रिकेट आदि खेलों में देश का नेतृत्व करेंगे।

लेखक: महेश तिवारी,
स्वतंत्र टिप्पणीकार

Sabka Saath
Sabka Vikas
Sabka Vishwas
Sabka Prayas

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Transformation of Northeast India under Modi Government

The North Eastern states of India along with Sikkim form a part of India that is blessed with enormous natural resources, diverse ethnocultural groups, and immense potential to contribute to the growth story of India. Despite its tremendous strategic & economic potential, till very recently before the BJP-led government came to power in the Centre in 2014, this region suffered from grave negligence regarding a wide array of issues including forced demographic shifts, worsening insurgency crisis, lack of infrastructural development and most importantly a simmering & aggravated sense of alienation felt by people of these states. Having spent almost two decades of my childhood and teenage years in the North East, I would try to portray an honest picture of the immense development, transformation & importance of policymakers that North Eastern India has witnessed in the past eight years under the visionary leadership of BJP and our Prime Minister's "Look And Act East Policy".

Heavy emphasis on infrastructure and connectivity:

The most important emphasis that the current government has given is on infrastructure building and connectivity, both of which have great importance from a strategic point of view. The Ministry of Development Of NE Region (MDoNER) now has been given huge importance (a Cabinet ministry) and almost all the most important projects in the North East have been declared as national projects under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). In the subsections, I highlight the most important infrastructure projects, which are either



Mokokchung, Nagaland

in progress or have been completed in the last 8 years which would give readers a sense of the scale of infrastructure push given by the BJP government in the whole of India especially the North East.

Rail Connectivity & Electrification:

There was a time until 2010 when broad gauge rail connectivity was present only in a few North Eastern states, as a result of which one was required to board an overnight bus navigating through the dangerous hilly single-way roads merely to cover a distance of even a 100 km. Fast forward to 2022, the Indian Railway has doubled broad-gauged lines to almost all of the NE state capitals with electrification work, which has almost been completed all the way to Ledo, India bordering Myanmar, which was considered unthinkable almost a decade back. The Rail ministry along with MDoNER has sanctioned more than Rs 30000 crores towards the construction of tunnels, electrification, and multi-tracking rail projects in the North East.

Road & Power Connectivity:

Under the National Highways Authority of India, the face of road transportation in the North East has changed forever.

More than 5000 Kms of road infrastructure including the building of four-lane highways as a part of the National Highways scheme, providing last mile connectivity to distant towns & villages at an estimated cost of Rs 60000 crores have been completed or are in the process of nearing completion post-2014. The landmark project which requires special mention is the completion of the 5KM long Bogibeel Bridge over the mighty Brahmaputra connecting Upper Assam & Arunachal Pradesh. The importance of this project can be gauged from the fact that it was started in 2002 yet only 40% of the project was completed by 2014. It was only in 2014 after the BJP government came to power, that it was declared a national project and the rest of the work was completed with urgency during the next 4 years. This bridge also allowed for rapid movement of our troops and artillery in the case of a conflict with our Northern adversary.

Frequent and long power cuts were quite common in most towns and villages of the North East. The Ministry of Power, Power Grid Corporation of India, NTPC, and NHPC have undertaken many projects to revitalize, improve and develop new hydro/thermal power



ARTICLE

plants, and modernization of electrical transmission and distribution networks. Special emphasis has also been given to Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen its electricity & transmission network at an estimated cost of more than Rs 9000 crores.

Air & Inland Waterways Connectivity:

Post-2014, the Urban Aviation Ministry along with the Airports Authority of India have placed a strong emphasis to improve air connectivity to remote towns and state capitals of the North East. This is evident from the fact that existing airports have received a major facelift, where many private and government-owned carriers now run flights on a daily basis from the easternmost towns of Silchar, Dibrugarh to major cities in India, which was a distant dream even a decade back. Apart from the 15 commercial airports, the government is also developing the Hollongi (Itanagar) airport in Arunachal Pradesh which would improve the connectivity to the remote region.

Another innovative domain that the Inland Waterway Ministry has invested in is to utilize the major rivers in NE like the Brahmaputra to develop waterways to ferry cargo with minimal carbon footprint and at a much cheaper cost compared to roadways & railways. Among the 111 notified waterways in India as per the National Waterways Act, 2016, the majority of them are in the North East, which hauled an estimated 50MT of freight in 2021-22.

Massive reduction in insurgency & curbing forced demographic shifts:

At one point in time, the entire North-East was a den of dozens of anti-India violent insurgent groups, making most remote parts of the NE practically lawless such that the writ of the Indian state was practically absent. I would be dishonest if I do not mention that a growing sense of neglect from the Indian

state also fanned & sustained these movements. The situation became worse during the decade of 2000 when Assam was constantly reeling under a joint onslaught of the ULFA-led Assam national movement & Bodo nationalism movement culminating with the 2008 Assam serial blasts, which killed almost a hundred people. The situation in nearby Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram was no different with the dreaded NSCM-K, UNLF & MNF militant groups killing security personnel & innocent civilians. After 2014 owing to the "Whole of government" approach with the Defence apparatus & political leadership, both working in tandem, the situation of insurgency is almost solved in the North-East except for a few pockets. The North-East has seen a 70 percent reduction in insurgency incidents and an 80 percent drop in civilian deaths in 2019 as compared to 2013, which can be considered a huge win by the BJP-led government in the Centre and at the state level.

Another important aspect that has been undertaken by the BJP-led government both at the Centre and State-level, is heavily investing in fencing the entire 2500 KM border with Bangladesh. This is of huge political, strategic, and demographic importance since the preceding Congress Government in Assam had used the illegal immigrants for their petty vote bank, as a result of which there were major demographic changes in many districts such as Dhubri, Baksa, Barpeta & Nagaon, especially in Assam. The gravity of the situation was evident from the 2012 Kokrajhar ethnic conflict between the native Bodo tribes and the Muslims. The project of border fencing has brought down the number of illegal immigrants in large numbers and has instilled a sense of security in the indigenous ethnic groups of NE that their cultural & civilizational identities would remain

intact.

Defence Modernization & Improving Tourism Infrastructure:

The North-East shares almost 1500 KMs of the border with our Northern adversary, China, and most of the border areas are extremely remote. The previous governments in the Centre had neglected the border infrastructure development until 2014. Post-2014, the Border Roads Organization ramped up the construction of roads, bridges, etc right up to the Chinese border so that quick mobilization of artillery can be done in the case of an emergency. Furthermore, the Air Force along with the Army has built advanced landing strips in the border areas so that troops & defense armaments can be air-lifted right up to the border and this is of such extreme importance that it should have been done almost 3 decades back.

The entire NE is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and untapped tourism potential. Up until 2014, the tourism industry in the NE was catering to only well-known tourist places while the rest was either under-promoted or inaccessible due to lack of connectivity, hotels, and fear of insurgent groups. Recently, with tremendous improvement in infrastructure & massive reduction in the insurgency, the tourism industry's boom has skyrocketed. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India reports that the tourist footfall in the NE has increased from 60 lakhs in 2013-14 to more than 1 crore in 2020, which is a massive 60% increase. This has also given employment to the thousands of local youths, instilled a sense of inclusiveness in the local population, and has also improved people-to-people connections with the rest of India which was grossly missing before 2014.

**Author: Kalyan Ghosh,
Software Engineer, Seattle, USA**



Strengthening the Shoulder of India

If Kashmir is the crown of India, then the North-Eastern states are the shoulders of India. To carry the crown and head, hold onto, and for other proper bodily functions, having strong shoulders is a must. Hence connectivity and development of the North-Eastern Region (NER) are important for the internal and external stability of India.

The North East (NE) of India constitutes the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Road transportation is an important mode of travel in hilly areas as other modes are either too expensive or difficult to construct.

In the NE Region (NER), the total population of a little over 47 million covers an area of 2,62,00 sq. km and the total length of different types of the road is 3,76,819 km. out of which the length of the National Highway is around 13,500 km (as per the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways data published in August 2012) and the average road density per 100 Sq Km of the area is 143.72 Km against the national average of 115.30 Km.

The cost of maintenance of these roads is also much more than the national average due to the terrain, soil types, high rainfall, long duration of monsoon, and shorter working season of a maximum of five months or so. The region is prone to landslides and earthquakes which further add to the cost of maintenance.

It is a fact that due to the unique topographical diversity in such a small area with a sparsely distributed population in small hamlets, where the locations of habitations vary from about 20 meters from mean sea level to more than 5,000 meters, the requirement of such huge length of road connectivity

cannot be ruled out. The revenue collection of the states is not enough to repair the roads regularly and the states have to depend on central funding to a great extent to run the affairs, like salaries of their employees.

Four agencies are responsible for developing and maintaining road infrastructure – the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) through State Public Works Departments, National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Highlighting the need for improvement of the highway infrastructure in the NER, MoRTH has initiated a mega road development programme in the NER called the 'Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East' (SARDP-NE).

The Centre is implementing various rail, road, and air connectivity projects worth Rs 1,34,200 crore in Northeast India.

This was stated by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while delivering the valedictory address at Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence Conclave. The Centre is developing 4,000 km of roads in the region at a total cost of Rs 58,000 crore.

Better connectivity in the northeastern region is essential to fully tap its tourism potential, ease the transportation of goods, improve the delivery of services and contribute to the overall development of the region.

In the last four years under the schemes of the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (M/oDoNER), road projects worth Rs 821.56 crore were sanctioned and under schemes of the North Eastern Council (NEC) Rs 1293.65 crore was released for the development of infrastructure like roads and bridges, ISBT, airports, railways in North Eastern Region. Under the SARDP-NE including the Arunachal Package of Roads and Highways, 1262 km of road length worth Rs.17,065 crore



Boghibeel Bridge. Credits: DNA India



ARTICLE

has been completed in the last four years in the North East Region (NER). Under Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP) road stretches aggregating about 5301 km in NER have been approved for improvement. Out of this, 3246 km of road length has been approved for the development of Economic Corridors in the North East. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a road length of 20,708 km has been constructed at a cost of Rs.9033.76 crore, thereby connecting 3123 habitations in the North Eastern Region.

The table below depicts the growth rate of roads completed and expenditure on it under Phase II & Phase III of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from the year 2014-15 to 2021-22.

For the whole region of North-East, there has been an increase of 46% in the number of roads completed and the total expenditure has risen by 38%.

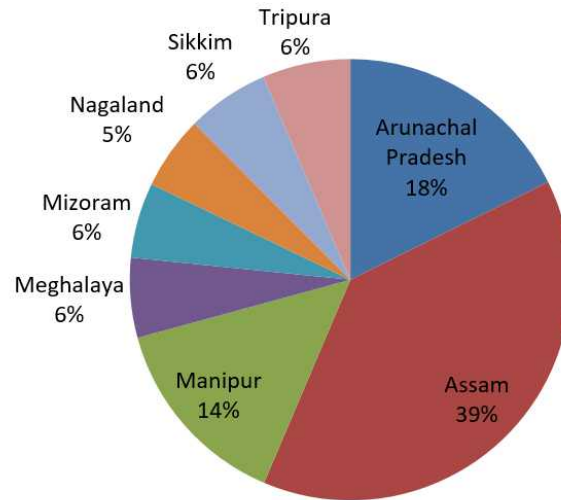
Out of a total of roads sanctioned 81,306.59 km for the year 2021-22, the following graph shows the distribution of each state in the North-East region.

While connecting NER through National Highways, 35 Projects have been awarded, costing Rs.7707.17 crore and 536 Km in length.

States	Growth Rate-Completed Road length (in km)	Growth Rate-Total Expenditure (in Rs. crore)
Arunachal Pradesh	68.02	73.19
Assam	53.47	58.68
Manipur	61.06	75.16
Meghalaya	72.53	85.68
Mizoram	45.48	63.70
Nagaland	29.26	44.92
Sikkim	41.03	60.34
Tripura	34.16	30.61

Source: Author Calculations with data from Rural Dashboard, PMGSY, Government of India.

Sanctioned Road Length (in km) 2021-22



Source: Author Calculations with data from Rural Dashboard, PMGSY, Government of India.

In terms of international road connectivity, we can cite the example of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT) which has a total length of 1,408 km and falls under India's For the whole region of North-East, there has been an increase of 46% in the number of roads completed and the total expenditure has risen by 38%.

Out of a total of roads sanctioned 81,306.59 km for the year 2021-22, the following graph shows the distribution of each state in the North-East region.

'Look East' Policy that will connect Moreh in India with Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. The IMT passes through the NE states of Assam, Nagaland, and Manipur and is expected to boost trade and commerce in the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area.

The 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) Document of Planning Commission has observed that larger plan investment and focus on infrastructure development has resulted in average growth of the gross domestic product in the NE States at 9.8% which was higher than the national average of 8% during the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) period.

Presently, Vision 2020 is undergoing mid-term academic evaluation. The older document available is from the year 2008 and accordingly includes detailed data. The Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region, Government of India with NEC should prepare a new plan with the latest data for development of the North Eastern States.

Author: Ms Vaibhavi Pingale,
Visiting Professor, Gokhale Institute of
Politics and Economics,
Symbiosis College of Arts & Commerce,
Savitribai Phule Pune University



नए भारत में उतर पूर्वी भारत: दशा और दिशा

भारत जब ब्रितानी हुकूमत से स्वतंत्र हुआ तब देश के सामने अपनी सांस्कृतिक विरासत और धरोहर को बचाने के लिए एक चिरप्राप्त लक्ष्य रहा लेकिन अपनी उच्च स्तरीय बौद्धिक और चेतना की विरासत को संभालने वाले महान विभूतियों ने बहुत कम समय में अपनी अथक कार्यशैली का परिचय देते हुए भारत को एक ऐसे सांचे में ढालने का प्रयास किया जो अविस्मरणीय और अकल्पनीय लगता था। भारत की एकता और अखंडता की कड़ी को संभालने का श्रेय हम अपने महान विभूतियों को देते हैं। उन्हीं की कार्यशैली का प्रमाण है की वो सबके महान देश भारत के जनमानस पर अपना अमिट छाप छोड़ दिए, इस कड़ी में हम उन सभी लोगो को रख सकते हैं जिनको हम एक विचाराधारा में सीमित कर देते हैं, चाहे वो सरदार पटेल हो, श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी हो, डॉक्टर भीमराव अम्बेडकर हो या एकात्म मानववाद के प्रणेता पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय हो। सबके सामूहिक प्रयास और जनमानस के वैविध्य सहयोग ने भारत की सांस्कृतिक और वैचारिक, भौगोलिक परिदृश्य को अक्षुण्ण रखने में एक उल्लेखनीय भूमिका निभाई, लेकिन वक्त के साथ इन विभूतियों के सपनों को, जो खुद के अस्तित्व और स्थापित विचारों को बाद में धूमिल किया जाने लगा, भारत को पुनः अंशतः उस मोड़ पर खड़ा कर, सोचने पर मजबूर किया की हम कैसे वैचारिक रूप से सशक्त होकर अपनी सांस्कृतिक विरासत और धरोहर को बचाए?

भारत की सांस्कृतिक बहुलता और विश्व प्रेरक सदियों से था और आज भी है और भविष्य में भी रहेगा। देश के लिए सौभाग्य की बात यह है की 2014 से जब से मोदी सरकार आई है तबसे अपने संस्कृति, परंपरा

के वैश्विक तालमेल के साथ आगे बढ़ रही है। आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव को ध्यान में रखते हुए नीति आयोग द्वारा "विजन फॉर न्यू इंडिया @75" जो को 2018 में प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा दिया गया। इस विजन तीन प्रमुख बातें हैं- विकास, विकास रणनीति, वृहद स्तर पर क्रियान्वयन। इसके तहत विकास को हम जन आंदोलन से जोड़कर और एक ऐसी रणनीति के तहत जोड़ेंगे जो प्रत्येक क्षेत्र को एक संतुलित और एक पैमाना में पिरोएगा और जब इसको क्रियान्वित किया जाएगा तब उसका प्रभाव स्थानीय से वैश्विक स्तर का होगा जो देश के कोने-कोने से अपनी पहचान को समेटे रहेगा।

भारत के पूर्वोत्तर राज्य जिनमें असम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मेघालय, मणिपुर, मिजोरम, त्रिपुरा, नागालैंड और सिक्किम है। सिक्किम को छोड़कर बाकी राज्यों का अपनी परस्पर निर्भरता के कारण इन्हें सेवन सिस्टर्स कहते हैं। यह पूर्वोत्तर राज्य खुद में अपने सांस्कृतिक विविधता और बहुलता को समेटे हुए हैं एवं दुनिया के लिए एक आश्चर्यजनक और अज्ञात तथ्यों का भंडार हैं एवं भारत के लिए अमूल्य और अतुल्य धरोहर हैं। आधुनिकता के दौर में भी कैसे उत्तर-पूर्वी हिस्से ने अनेक भाषाएं, अनेक रीति रिवाज, अनेक परिवेश, विविध पूर्ण खानपान, जीने की विविध शैली के बावजूद भी अपने सांस्कृतिक बहुलता को बचाए रखते हुए उसने खुद को विश्व के साथ जोड़े रखा है यह दुनिया के लिए नजीर है। इसका सीधा सा उत्तर है विज्ञान और तकनीक के दौर होते हुए भी वहां के लोगो का अपने मिट्टी, परिवेश और प्रकृति के साथ लगाव ही एकीकरण का मूल कारण है। विगत कुछ वर्षों से जिस तरह से नृजातीयता, और सांस्कृतिक राष्ट्रवाद का प्रचलन बढ़ा है तब

से भारत के हर कोने में अपने संस्कृति अपने भाषा और अपने मिट्टी के प्रति अगाध प्रेम उमड़ा है और ऐसा होना भी चाहिए क्योंकि जो पीढ़ी अपना वजूद और जड़ को भूल जाती है शायद दुनिया में उसका कोई वजूद नहीं होता। संस्कृतिकरण की प्रक्रिया का प्रयोग इस हिस्से में खूब हुआ, लेकिन पूर्वोत्तर भारत लगभग इससे अछूता ही रहा फिर भी वैश्विककरण की चकाचौंध दुनिया ने इसे भी प्रभावित किया है। जिस तरह से विज्ञान, तकनीकी तथा सूचना की दुनिया ने पूरी दुनिया को एक सिरे में समेट रखा है की उससे अछूता और प्रभावित हुए बिना नहीं रहा जा सकता। यही तर्क पूर्वोत्तर भारत भी लागू होता है अपने सुंदर प्राकृतिक और मनोरम दृश्य तथा विविधता के कारण उसने भारत तथा दुनिया के अन्य देशों को भी अपने तरफ आकर्षित किया है। इसकी बहुभाषिक प्रकृति, रहन-सहन, रीति-रिवाज, खान-पान, त्यौहार, धर्म, हस्तशिल्प और आत्मरक्षा उपाय शोध का विषय है। इससे दुनिया को एक ऐसी दिशा मिलेगी जो सबके लिए एक नई वैचारिक पृष्ठभूमि तैयार करेगी। कुछ आपसी संघर्षों को छोड़ दे तो पूरे विश्व के लिए यह एक विचारणीय उत्तर है की विविधता में एक अनोखी एकता अगर कही मिलती है तो वह यही क्षेत्र है जिसे हम भारत का सबसे पूर्वी क्षेत्र कहते हैं, जिसे ज्योति प्रसाद सैकिया द्वारा 1972 में "सात बहनों की भूमि" उपाधि से अलंकृत किया गया।

नए भारत के लिए यह विविध आयाम लिए यह क्षेत्र खड़ा है चाहे वो जलशक्ति का पावर हाउस की बात हो या फिर पर्यटन और प्राकृतिक संसाधनों की। हम यहां आर्थिक महत्व और पारिस्थितिकी का सम्मिलन हम एक साथ देख सकते हैं। इस क्षेत्र में हम TOT (TEA, OIL, TIMBER) की बहुल मात्रा



पाते है। ब्रह्मपुत्र जैसी विशाल नदी के जाल से लगभग 50000 मेगावाट जलशक्ति प्राप्त होने की संभावना है। याहा पर जीवाश्म ईंधन के साथ साथ प्राकृतिक संसाधनों की hub की प्रचुरता है। इस क्षेत्र में चाय, तेल और टिंबर की प्रचुरता है जिसके लिए लघु स्तर के उद्योग और धंधे स्थापित मिलेंगे। जैव विविधता के मामले में भी यह क्षेत्र काफी संपन्न है जहाँ पर काजीरंगा वन्य जीव अभयारण्य, नामदफा अभयारण आदि जिनमे एक तमाम जीव-जंतु मिलेंगे जिनका प्राकृतिक बसेरा यहाँ के घनघोर और विशालकाय वन संसाधन है।

भारत के लिए इसका महत्त्व भी कई महत्वपूर्ण बिंदुओं पर है। सामरिक महत्व के रूप में अगर देखे तो इस क्षेत्र की सीमा चीन बांग्लादेश म्यांमार भूटान और नेपाल से मिलती है। चीन को छोड़े तो बाकी के साथ हमारा मैत्री पूर्ण संबंध ही रहा है लेकिन चीन के आक्रामक और विस्तारवादी रवैया से वह हमेशा से ही विवाद और शांति भंग को उत्पन्न करता रहा है। भारत के लिए यह क्षेत्र बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी के अंतर्गत दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया और आगे जानेवाला मार्ग है।

सांस्कृतिक महत्व के तौर पर देखे तो भारत को सबसे ज्यादा सांस्कृतिक विविधता वाला देश कहा जाता है और यह क्षेत्र तो खुद में विविधता को भरे रखा है जिसमे 220 से अधिक जनजाति का निवास 100 से ज्यादा भाषाएं, भिन्न भिन्न प्रकार के त्योहार जिनमे हॉर्नबिल नागालैंड, सिक्किम का पैंग लहबसो इत्यादि है। दहेज प्रथा का पूर्णतः अभाव, जहाँ से उत्तर भारत के लोगो को सिखनी चाहिए। शास्त्रीय नृत्य जैसे असम में बिहू और प्रकृति से विशेष जुड़ाव से पूर्वोत्तर एवं भारत के मणिपुर राज्य उमंगलाई पूजा पद्धति द्वारा प्रकृति पूजन कर उससे अपना परस्पर अस्तित्व जोड़ा पाते है।

तमाम विशेषताओं और महत्व होते हुए भी यहां कुछ चुनौतियां विद्यमान है सबसे बड़ी चुनौती के रूप में इसके सामने कनेक्टिविटी की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती है चिकन नेक छोड़ दे



तो इससे संपर्क का बेहतर साधन का आभाव रहा। इस क्षेत्र में बेहतर अवसंरचना की बहुत कमी है। स्वतंत्रता के 75 साल बाद भी औद्योगिक विकास की काफी धीमी प्रक्रिया रही है जिससे बुनियादी सुविधा में कठिनाई महसूस होती है परन्तु अब इन समस्त क्षेत्रों में सराहनीय तेज़ी आई है। कभी कभी आपसी संघर्ष जैसे असम मिज़ोरम विवाद और कुछ उग्रवादी प्रकार की गतिविधियां जोरो से उभर कर आई है जिसको समय रहते न संभाला जाए तो एक बहुत बड़े खतरे और राष्ट्रीय अखंडता के लिए बाधा बन सकते है। इस दिशा में सार्थक निर्णय मोदी सरकार द्वारा लिए गये।

इस क्षेत्र के विकास और सुचारू रूप से बेहतर आधारभूत सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए मोदी सरकार द्वारा भी कुछ महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए गए है जैसे पूरे भारत को जोड़ने के लिए भारतामाला परियोजना, क्षेत्रीय संपर्क योजना, कलादन मल्टी मॉडल पारगमन परिवहन योजना, भारत म्यांमार थाईलैंड त्रिपक्षीय राजमार्ग, स्वदेश दर्शन योजना, डिजिटल नॉर्थ ईस्ट विजन 2022,

राष्ट्र बांस मिशन इत्यादि।

पिछले आठ वर्षों में पूर्वोत्तर में अभूतपूर्व प्रगति की है अब चाहिए कि इस क्षेत्र को पर्यटन के हब के रूप में विकसित किआ जाए, जिससे देश विदेश के पर्यटन सैलानियों को इस क्षेत्र की सांस्कृतिक विरासत और धरोहर को जानने और समझने का मौका मिले और नवाचार के विभिन्न साधनों का प्रयोग एक नया पूर्वोत्तर बनाया जाय जिसमे एक नए भारत की संपूर्ण झलक मिले। नए भारत के नया पूर्वोत्तर भारत ऐसा हो जो दुनियां से अद्यतन और जुड़ा हो अपनी संस्कृति और अपने विरासत के संभाले हुए वैश्विक विरासत में अपनी विरासत को पहचान दिलाए और बताए की यही भारतभूमि है, जिसने सदियों से दुनिया को रास्ता दिखाया है कि कैसे विविधता को सामाजिक एकरसता और विविधता में एकता की अवधारणा को अक्षुण्ण रखा जाता है जहाँ सबकुछ प्रेम और विश्वास पर आधारित होता है।

लेखक: शंकर कुमार,
अध्येता, बनारस हिंदू यूनिवर्सिटी

Fom Purvottar to Purvodaya Kalyan



Natural and cultural diversity of the Northeast is a great symbol of our nation's strength. In such a situation, tourism also gets a lot of strength when modern infrastructure is built. Tourism potential of the North-East is still unexplored. The eight North-Eastern states of India have a glorious history and diverse ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage. Rich in human capital, natural resources, biodiversity, and beautiful landscapes, each state has the potential to become hubs of international trade, tourism and are poised for sustainable development.

However, for decades after Independence, the region was relegated

to the sidelines. Citing internal disturbances and unrest, the governments under Congress displayed an utter lack of interest and failure to comprehend vital issues of the region. An indifferent government in Delhi tried to brush off all North-East-related issues under the carpet, while the people suffered widespread corruption, unemployment, lack of peace, and a general state of backwardness which has led to generations of our youth becoming disillusioned and disenchanted with the system, and some even resorted to picking up arms to have their voice heard.

The most recent 8 years have seen

extraordinary improvement in the Northeast. The emphasis is on foundation creation, guaranteeing better medical services, industrial development and educational facilities, better road and rail connectivity, IT sector development, energy, infrastructure, creating job opportunities through various central and state sponsored schemes and local for vocal initiatives and promoting the rich societies from the various conditions of the area.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi always regarded the Northeast as 'Ashta Lakshmi', the eight forms of the goddess of wealth, and his visionary policies which we have witnessed and seen in the

past eight years of his government since 2014.

From being the 'Neglected States of the Nation' to the States of 'Look and Act East Policy', the past eight years have been transformational for North East India. The last time North-East India received unpadding attention from lawmakers and policymakers was when Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the first Prime Minister to spend a night in the region. His tenure was dotted with multiple initiatives that aimed to connect North East India through infrastructure and technology, including the conception of a separate ministry as MDoNER (Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region), a non-lapsable pool of funds for the North Eastern Region, inclusion of Sikkim as a member of North Eastern Council and a dedicated department for the development of North East region. Unfortunately, after he demitted office, the region once again suffered from the tyranny of distance. Although the UPA enjoyed a significant political presence in the region, projects suffered from delays, cost escalation, and complete policy negligence.

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office, he once again directed policy attention towards the region across various dimensions of development including economy, infrastructure, employment, industry, and culture. In a democracy, to bring path breaking changes, interaction with lawmakers is inevitable. The Bharatiya Janata Party with a committed leadership and intricate network of cadres, achieved political success in the region and provided much needed will to collaborate with the Centre and work towards taking the region forward. To put this in perspective, during his tenure, the PM himself has visited the region more than 50 times. The party fortified its political presence across the North-East. The NDA is in power in all

seven North East states in the region. Earlier the representatives of Northeast were not properly treated. Earlier before 2014 the body language of the central ministers clearly reflected that they used to look down upon the North-East and its people. Now the PM visits numerous times and his Cabinet Ministers visit even more frequently to do what is needed, this gives the feeling among the people's representatives of North-East as a sense of belongingness from the same family.

Since 2014 difficulties in the North East are reducing and development is taking place such as:

AFSPA areas reduced: In Assam and in the North-East, as peace is returning due to the collective efforts of the government and society, the old laws are also being reformed. For a long time, the Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) has been in place in many states of the North East. But during the last 8 years, we have removed AFSPA from many areas of the North East due to the return of permanent peace and better law and order situation. AFSPA areas in the North-East have reduced by 70% and 66% respectively. Between 2006 and 2014, the country witnessed 8,700 incidents in the North-East, which came down by 70% during PM Modi's governance. A safe North-East and safe Left-wing extremism-prone areas of Central India will pave the way for better national integration. AFSPA has been removed from 23 districts of Assam, there is an effort to normalize the situation rapidly so that AFSPA can be removed from more areas as well. In Nagaland and Manipur too, we are rapidly progressing in this direction. In 2015 and 2018, AFSPA was fully withdrawn from Tripura and Meghalaya respectively. AFSPA is partially applicable in only 12 Districts of Northeast.

Peace for Progress: Peace agreement was signed with various insurgent

groups. The peace agreements signed with the Bodo and Karbi militants' groups in Assam were also among the "bold steps" taken by the Centre since 2014, which resulted in improved law and order situation in the state. 23 years after displacement, Bru resettlement was held as a part of the quadripartite agreement signed between the Centre, Tripura and Mizoram governments and Bru leaders in January 2020 to provide over 32,000 Brus permanent settlement in Tripura. Naga peace accord was signed in 2015, Tripura peace accord in 2019, Karbi-Anglong peace accord in 2021 and Assam-Meghalaya & Assam-Arunachal Boundary agreement 2022.

Reduction in Insurgency incidents since 2014: Insurgency-related incidents in the northeastern (N-E) states dipped by 80% and civilian deaths by 99% last year compared to 2014, according to the Union home ministry data. The civilian deaths were in single digits (two) in 2020 for the first time since 1999. The deaths of security forces' personnel also came down by 75%.

Decrease in casualties of Security Forces: In the last eight years, insurgency in the northeastern states have decreased by 80%, while security force casualties have dipped to 75% and civilian deaths by 95%; informed an official report.

23 New Air Routes: In efforts to boost air connectivity in the Northeast, the Modi government since 2014 has operationalised 23 new air routes across Northeast and as per the plan will commence 92 new routes in the region as part of the second round of the 'UDAN' scheme which has made possible to fly by every downtrodden people in northeast with an affordable price which is an effort to giving wings to people's dreams. Since independence for the last six decades nine airports were operational but in this short eight years of the Modi government 6 more operational airports were added.

Empowering Wealth-Creators in

North East India: In the past 8 years of Modi government NEDFi's Micro Finance Scheme was launched which was an effective instrument for financial outreach to SHGs/JLGs & individuals through credible NGO/MFIs in NER. During the period under review, the corporation sanctioned the microfinance loan of Rs.605.60 crore in the region.

Inaugurations of Bogibeel Bridge and

Dhola sadiya Bridge: The lifeline for lakhs of peoples the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4.94 km-long Bogibeel bridge over Brahmaputra River, which is country's longest rail-cum-road bridge. The bridge has reduced travel time from Assam to Arunachal Pradesh to four hours; cut detours of over 170 km via Tinsukia and also cut down Delhi-Dibrugarh train-travel time to 3 hours.

Historic Healthcare: Northeast has witnessed a historic health care push since the last eight years of Modi government. Five Medical colleges are being set up in aspirational districts of the North-East. 21 Medical colleges were set up alone in Assam. 7 Cancer hospitals were inaugurated and 7 more cancer hospitals foundation was laid. The Modi cabinet has approved a Rs.23000 crores package for improving

and strengthening the health infrastructure of North-East.

Promoting Northeast Culture: Today, the whole country is rejoicing and celebrating Northeast culture. This has been possible only because of Hon'ble Pm Shri Narendra Modi's continued efforts. PM Modi proudly wears headgear and outfits of Northeast. Rani Gaidinliu Tribal freedom fighter museum in Manipur and sports University being set up in Manipur. Sibasagar in Assam being developed as an iconic site with a one-site museum.

Powering Farming in the Northeast:

Untouched by the Green Revolution, much of North-East India continues to be "organic" with limited use of chemical inputs, and farmers practicing traditional methods of farming. The hilly terrain, fertile plains, agro and forest biodiversity, wetlands, and good rainfall have supported the growth of organic agriculture. Realising the potential of this region, and to help increase the farmers' income, the Central Government has taken various initiatives to develop the North-East as an organic agricultural hub. The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region has set up the "Mission Organic Farming North-East" to develop traditional ways of organic cultivation. The Ministry of

Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare launched the scheme — "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North-Eastern Region" in January 2017, in which Rs 115 crores have been allocated to link farmers in North-East to their consumers, and to support the access and availability of organic inputs. A total of 572 organic clusters have been developed under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare's Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme. Total 79445 hectares land dedicated to organic Farming. Reclassification of Bamboo as a grass boosted bamboo farming. 192 lakh metric tonnes of perishable commodities transported nationally and abroad by Krishi Udaan, which has a big focus on Northeast's farm products.

Rail Connectivity like Never Before:

Indian Railways will improve connection in the North East! With improved Indian Railways connectivity, the North East region of the country has received a significant infrastructure boost in recent years since Modi came to power. Between 2014 and 2017, a total of 972 kilometers of track were converted to a broad-gauge network. Except for the state of Sikkim, the Indian Railways network now connects all of the North East states. In the coming years, the rail network is expected to connect Sikkim. The railway network already connects the capitals of Tripura, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh. Work ongoing to connect 5 other state capitals with rail. Five major Indian Railways projects will provide a significant boost to the North-East in the coming years. After 75th of independence goods trains reach Manipur. First Jan Shatabdi Train between Manipur and Tripura via Assam has been started.



Author: Drishya Muni Chakma,
Social Activist & National Working
Committee Member, YUG Bharti



The New Northeast - A Potpourri

I was born in a region which is strong, springy and supple. I was raised in a region which is resourceful and resilient yet forever repudiated. I belong to a region which has forever brought and is still bringing acclaim, accolades and applause to the entire nation. I belong to the region which gave this nation brave and fearless sports women- Mary Kom and Lovlina Borgohain, thoughtful composers and soulful singers- Dr. Bhupen Hazarika and Angarag Mahanta (Papon) and iconic and exemplary politicians- P. A Sangma and Kiren Rijiju. I belong to North-East India.

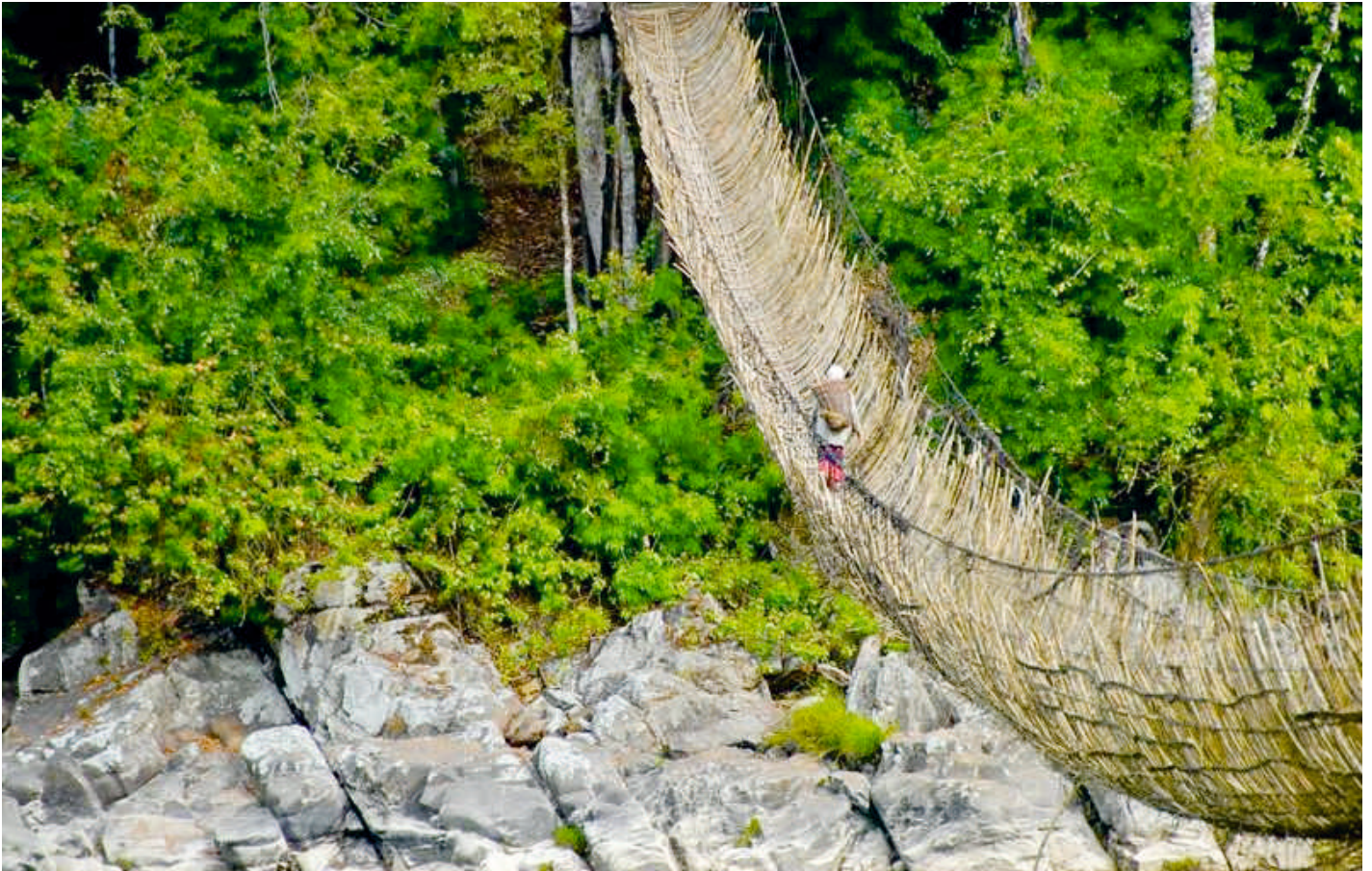
Despite contributing immensely and abundantly to India in a variety of fields, the states of North East India are often ignored and otherized. While the

victories are celebrated with all hearts, incidents of natural disaster and racial discrimination often go unnoticed. I would like to remind all my young friends to not forget the words of Honourable Prime Minister of India- Shri Narendra Modi ji, where he says “India will be successful when UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and other parts of North East India are strengthened. India cannot develop till the eastern part of the country develops”. I feel proud to witness that Modi ji is working in line with what he said.

After hundred years, Nagaland got its second railway station with a new facility in Shokhuvi- a few kilometres away from Dimapur. With Shokhuvi Railway Station being inaugurated

recently, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh will be directly connected through rail service. Once a distant dream is now a reality. We sincerely look forward to the completion of a 90 km long route which will connect Dhansiri in Assam to Zubka in Kohima district of Nagaland.

Very recently, Honourable Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a project called Vidya Rath- School on wheels for underprivileged children. We are aware of the fact that not every child can reach school but making schools reach to every child is one thoughtful step taken by our dear Chief Minister. I hope and pray that this project turns out to be successful because education is the foundation stone to build a strong economy and it is



Siang River, Arunachal Pradesh.

the children of today who will build India of tomorrow.

Arunachal Pradesh, the land of rising sun, the land of dawn lit mountains, the land blessed by bounties of nature has a lot to offer. Road connectivity to most parts of the state is smooth with broad highways and internet connectivity is smoother. Visiting Arunachal will make one wonder if Mother Nature has been extra kind to some parts of the earth. The rich flora and fauna, the stunning mountains, the beautiful valleys, the broad highways make Arunachal a perfect getaway to relax and rejuvenate. I urge my young friends to come and explore the beauty of this one state for I know no words can do the justice to describe its beauty and development.

Sikkim is recognised as the “world's first organic state” by the World of Book Records London. Studies show that by year 2025, organic farming in India is estimated to have a business of around 75000 crores. It is heartwarming to see a north eastern state leading the way and showing the world why and how organic farming is the future. All thanks to the farmers and government of Sikkim for making it possible and emerging as a

pioneer.

Long list of developmental projects were inaugurated by Honourable PM Modi ji in Manipur and Tripura sometime in January this year. The projects were related to diverse sectors such as road infrastructure, drinking water supply, health, urban development, housing, IT, skill development and art and culture. During his visit to Manipur, he said that there are so many possibilities for development and tourism and how Northeast is the getaway to India's development. I feel proud to have a leader like him leading and showing us how to build the India of dreams. It is only after 2014 that hundreds of youths across Northeast have left arms and joined the mainstream of development. I am certain that brighter and better days are ahead of us.

The startup wave is a new ray of hope for job creation. Northeast was majorly confined to a job seeking mindset but now it is witnessing a paradigm shift. More and more youths are taking charge to address a myriad of challenges through innovation. From media and entertainment to tourism and agrotech, the youths of NER are determined to

bring change. Inspired by Modi ji's idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), I co-founded a social enterprise, called Asama in the year 2020 amidst COVID. We are located in a tiny tea village called Alimur and 95% of the workforce are women. At Asama, we make handicrafts, mostly home décor from water hyacinth. Water hyacinth as we know is a water weed and does no good to the aquatic flora and fauna. By removing it from water bodies, we help clean our environment. I feel proud to share that more than 60 women artisans weave baskets for Asama and a better tomorrow for themselves. In our village we have witnessed a wave of change since the pandemic. The women don't have to go to towns and cities in search of jobs. They work from their own place, at their own pace and earn a decent living. Recently Honourable CM of Assam gifted tea to Honourable PM Shri Narendra Modi ji in the boxes made by artisans of Asama. The day was celebrated with pride and honour when we saw the tweet of our dear CM. We could see tears of happiness in the eyes of all our artisans. Our happiness knew no bounds.

The new Northeast is challenging the stereotypes. We are not a bunch of people who live in a jungle with elephants and rhinos and militants! Instead, we are that bunch of people who have joined hands with mainstream India to build a better tomorrow. We are that bunch of people who are showing the world how to live one with Mother Nature. We are that bunch of people who know how to enjoy and rejoice in cultural diversity. Seven sisters and one brother of the new Northeast share a bond and camaraderie. All thanks to Bharatiya Janata Party and Shri Narendra Modi ji for igniting nationalism and development. The new Northeast India takes a bow!

**Author: Noopur Keshan,
Entrepreneur, Assam**



An Overview of the Transformational Schemes in the Northeast



Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. Credits: tourmyindia.com

When we hear about North-East India we picture the serene hills, rivers and various tribes singing and dancing. North-East India has all these things, but it also has a rich history, geographical and political importance, and a longing for development. North-East India consists of 8 States: Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh & Manipur. These states are situated in the hills. They are rich with natural resources but lacked connectivity and economic development until very recent times. There are significantly fewer routes that connect cities but the area is disaster-prone as landslides and flash

floods occur frequently. These states share the border with countries like China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. North-eastern states are vital in having peaceful relations with our neighboring countries but face internal insurgencies. The people of the Northeast want development.

In the last few years, various steps have been taken by the Central Government as well as State Governments of the North-Eastern States to boost development. PM – DEVINE (Development Initiative for North-East) Scheme was introduced in this year's budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Around Rs. 1500 crores will be allocated for this. The main aim

of this scheme is to fund infrastructure and social development projects. Some of the important projects under this scheme are the Creation of Dedicated Services for the Management of Paediatric and Adult Haemotolymphoid Types of Cancers in North East India, North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR), Livelihood Improvement, promoting Scientific Organic Agriculture in North East India, funding Passenger Ropeway from Pelling to Sanga – Choeling in Western Sikkim, funding Eco-friendly Ropeway (Cable Car) from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in South Sikkim, constructing Aizawl Bypass, constructing Bamboo Link Road in

Mizoram, etc.

Assam

Along with the Central Government, various schemes have been introduced by the State Governments. The Then Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal launched Bhasha Gourab and Pragyan Bharti schemes. Under the Pragyan Bharti scheme, over 3 lakh students were given Rs. 1500 each for buying books. Rs. 161 crore were utilised to make admissions of over 4 lakh students free of cost. 21 Sahitya Sabhas were established under the Bhasha Gourab Scheme. Rs. 43 crores were invested in these Sahitya Sabhas. 600 authors were granted Rs. 50,000 each to aid them in their literary works. In 2020, the Government of Assam launched Assam Orunodoi Scheme. Women with an annual family income of less than Rs. 2 lakhs are being provided financial help of Rs. 1000 for their basic necessities every month under this scheme. They can also avail financial subsidies for essential goods. Assam Arogya Nidhi is a healthcare scheme that provides assistance up to Rs.1,50,000 for households whose monthly income is below Rs.10,000. This amount will be granted to patients who suffer life-threatening diseases and are met with accidents due to natural or manmade disasters. The Central Government will contribute 50% of this amount.

The World Bank has financed Assam Citizen-Centric Service Delivery Project. It has allocated \$39.20 million for this project. The main aim of this project is to provide easy access to public services to tribal people. It will help the State to implement the Right to Public Service (RTPS). The State Government has also introduced Chief Minister's COVID-19 Widows Support Scheme & Chief Minister's Shishu Seva Scheme. Under the Chief Minister's COVID-19 Widows Support Scheme, widows whose annual family income is

below Rs. 5 Lakhs will receive Rs. 2.5 Lakhs. It will be a one-time assistance. Under the & Chief Minister's Shishu Seva Scheme, children who lost their parents in COVID-19 will get an FD of Rs. 7,81,200.

Manipur

The N.Biren Singh led government in Manipur introduced schemes like Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang, Chief Minister's Health for All Scheme, Chief Minister's e-Support Scheme, University & Higher Education Digital Support Scheme, Lairik Tamhanlasi, Start-up Manipur Scheme, etc. Chief Minister-gi Hakshelgi Tengbang scheme has been introduced to give financial assistance to widows, disabled citizens and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders, local media persons, newspaper hawkers, and newly added poor families. The beneficiaries will receive up to Rs. 5 lakhs per year for treatments, avail cashless treatment, and transport fare. Chief Minister's Health for All Scheme was launched to create awareness about health by providing free door-to-door health check-ups in every village. The citizens will get screened for primary healthcare, chronic disease management, and non-communicable diseases. Lairik Tamhanlasi (Let them Learn) scheme has been introduced to reduce the number of school dropouts in the state. Most of the dropouts had to give up their education due to a lack of financial resources. Rs. 16 crores have been added to the state budget to implement methods to discourage children from dropping out. Every child should avail their right to education and complete education till 12th grade. Under the Chief Minister's e-Support Scheme, students who are below the poverty line and are studying in the 11th and 12th grades will receive free mobile phones. University & Higher Education Digital Support Scheme has been introduced to improve NAAC scores of universities in

the state. It will fill vacancies for the posts of teachers. The colleges in the state will be equipped for digital learning. Youth will be able to take up new business ventures under the Start-up Manipur Scheme. An individual can receive up to Rs. 3 crores to bring their business ideas into reality. Chief Minister-gi Shotharabasingi Tengbang has been introduced for the welfare of persons with disabilities. It includes sub-schemes: Care-Giver allowance, Swavlamban Health Insurance, employment opportunities for people aged between 19-59 years, scholarship scheme to students with disabilities, free traveling in public transport of state government and maintenance grant for homeless old people.

Tripura

Tripura cabinet headed by Chief Minister Manik Saha approved a proposal for health insurance for journalists aged 21 to 65 years who don't have any other health insurance. 80% of the amount will be given by the state government. It will cover them up to Rs. 3 lakhs. Kishori Suchita Abhiyan is Tripura Government's scheme to provide free sanitary pads for girls from grades 6th to 12th.

Mizoram

Mizoram, while the NEDA government was in power, introduced many schemes like the Parking House Support Scheme, much-needed parking spaces and parking houses will be provided. Besides implementing schemes, the Mizoram government will commission 2 micro-hydroelectric power projects to generate 0.20 MW of power and electricity.

Arunachal Pradesh

Chief Minister Pema Khandu's government in Arunachal Pradesh has introduced many welfare schemes. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Bunkar Yojana was launched to encourage women weavers to access affordable credit from banks. Chief Minister Krishi Rinn Yojana





provides crop loans at zero interest rates to farmers in the state. Deen Dayal Swavalamban Yojana aims to encourage unemployed youth to gain low-cost capital for entrepreneurship by initiating several incentives like 30 % back-ended capital investment subsidy, project loan from Rs.10 lakh up to 1 Crore, and an additional 5% interest subsidy annually for women entrepreneurs.

Nagaland

The NEDA (North-East Democratic Alliance) government in Nagaland headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has strived to develop the state. In 2018, aiming at digitalization, GPS mapping of government schools and personnel Location System, perhaps the first in the country, was launched. Last year, Chief Minister Rio introduced the Chief Minister's Grant for Journalism and the Chief Minister's Research Grant. A Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Research Centre for Conflict Resolution will be set up in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly for parliamentary studies and dispute resolution. He and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman jointly launched the Chief Minister's Micro Finance Initiative. The scheme will help farmers and MSME entrepreneurs. Target Champion Scheme will provide sports scholarships for training. Centers of Excellence will be developed for selected sports with help of the State Sports Associations and the Olympic body. By September 2022, the

state government plans to launch the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme to provide universal healthcare for its citizens.

Meghalaya

Meghalaya, under the NEDA government led by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, has introduced some good schemes. Meghalaya Government invested Rs. 378 crores in Aqua Mission 2.0 in which the Central Government will also contribute to it. Meghalaya Focus Plus Scheme will enable families to take up additional activities to contribute to agriculture value chain development by providing Rs. 5,000 per household. Meghalaya Youth Policy has been drafted by the state's sports ministry. It aims to bring changes in Education, Counselling & Mentoring, Health & Wellbeing, Sports, Employment Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Engagement & Leadership, Cultural & creative industries, and Inclusion and Environmental Consciousness. In this year's state budget, Rs. 25 crores have been allocated to the Chief Minister's Safe Motherhood Scheme. Safe transit homes will be set up under this scheme to reduce maternal mortality rates. Their kids will be provided with good food. Transport facilities for mothers and their family members will be arranged. Meghalaya Games, a biennial event, has been inaugurated this year. Meghalaya Government aims to bring the state rank

under the top 10 states in 10 years on the basis of GSDP per capita as well as the SDG ranking.

Sikkim

Sikkim government, under the NEDA rule led by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, has implemented various schemes. Su Swasthya Yojana is an employee healthcare scheme launched by the state government recently. It will provide healthcare services to employees of the Sikkim government and their family members who are dependent on them. It also covers vehicular accidents, trauma, cancer care, infertility treatment, etc. it has cashless benefits. Pre-existing illnesses are covered from Day 1 of successful enrolment in the scheme. The age limit under this program is up to 100 years. There are no age limits for physically or mentally challenged children and unmarried and unemployed dependent daughters, unlike many other schemes. Sikkim Skilled Youth Start-up Scheme will provide financial aid to unemployed youth to generate entrepreneurship. Sikkim Aama Yojana will provide financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 annually to all non-working mothers in the state. Under the Sikkim Bahini Scheme, the state government will provide free sanitary napkins to girl students studying in class 9 and above.

**Author: Aarohi Dhumale,
Student, ILS Law College, Pune**



पूर्वोदय

भारतीय जनता पार्टी के शासन काल में विकास के मार्ग पर अग्रेसर पूर्वोत्तर भारत

प्रकृति की गोद में विराजमान भारत के पूर्वोत्तर राज्य भारत के लिए हमेशा से गौरव और मान बिंदु रहे हैं। यहाँ की जादुई सुंदरता तथा प्रकृति के साथ तालमेल बिठाकर अपनी गौरवशाली परंपराओं को संजोते हुए जीवनयापन करने वाले जनजाति समाज हमेशासे भारत के लिए आदर्श रहे हैं। पूर्वोत्तर भारत के घने जंगल, बलशाली नदियाँ, ऊँचे पहाड़, भूदृश्य की सरसता, समाज की भाषा, वेश तथा सांस्कृतिक साथ ही भौगोलिक विविधताएं पूर्वोत्तर भारत को अन्य राज्य और उपमहाद्वीप के अन्य भागों से अलग बनाती हैं। पूर्वोत्तर भारत ऐतिहासिक, सांस्कृतिक, प्राकृतिक धरोहर तो है ही साथ ही सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र होने के कारण भारत की आंतरिक और बाहरी सुरक्षा के दृष्टि से भी महत्वपूर्ण राज्य है। पूर्वोत्तर की ५१८२ किलोमीटर की सीमा से लगभग ९९% सीमा अन्य देशों के साथ लगती है, जिसमें १३९५ किमी स्वायत्त तिब्बत, १६४० किमी चीन, म्यांमार और बांग्लादेश के साथ १५९६ किमी, ९७ किमी नेपाल, तथा ४५५ किमी भूटान जैसे देशों का समावेश है। भारत के स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति में, साथ ही कला, क्रीड़ा तथा कृषि क्षेत्र में भरसक योगदान देने वाले और सामरिक दृष्टि से संवेदनशील भाग होने के बावजूद पूर्वोत्तर भारत स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति के बाद कई सालों तक असंतुलित तथा विकास के पूर्वाग्रह से ग्रस्त रहा। व्यापार, निवेश, आधारभूत संरचना, संचार के माध्यम, पर्यटन विकास, कौशल विकास, क्षमता निर्माण, उद्यमशीलता तथा उच्च शिक्षा क्षेत्र में पूर्वोत्तर भारत अन्य राज्यों की तुलना में अविकसित रहा। राजनैतिक इच्छा शक्ति और दूरदृष्टि के अभाव ने पूर्वोत्तर भारत को पिछड़ा रखा ही साथ ही पूर्वोत्तर के युवाओं को विकास की आकांक्षाओं तथा संभावनाओं

से भी दूर रखा। श्री.नरेंद्र मोदीजी के रूप में पूर्वोत्तर के युवाओं को एक सकारात्मक पर्याय और विश्वास प्राप्त हुआ और इसी विश्वास ने पूर्वोत्तर भारत में भारतीय जनता पार्टी को सेवा का मोका प्रदान किया। पूर्वोत्तर भारत की जनता के इसी विश्वास को सार्थक करने के लिए भाजपा पूर्वोत्तर भारत के जनमानस के जीवन को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सतत कार्यरत है।

पूर्वोत्तर भारत में २०१४ के बाद हिंसक घटनाओं में ७५% गिरावट आई है। भारतीय सेना और सशस्त्र बलों को प्रदान विशेष अधिकारों के निकासी के लिए सरकार प्रयत्नशील है। इस कारण समाज में सुरक्षिता का भाव जागृत हुआ है। केंद्र सरकार द्वारा चलाए गए किसान सम्मान निधि योजना, प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण योजना, प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना, आयुष्यमान भारत योजना, मुफ्त गैस, बिजली तथा शौचालय का लाभ पूर्वोत्तर के हर घर पोहोचने के लिए शासन और प्रशासन दोनों प्रतिनिधि हर पहाड़, हर गांव, हर दरवाजे पर दस्तक दे रहे हैं। इससे पूर्वोत्तर की अपेक्षा तथा विकास की संभावनाओं का आकलन प्रशासन को हुआ है। केंद्र सरकार की ये पहल सुशासन की पहल साबित हुई है।

भारत तथा पूर्वोत्तर को और भी समीप लाने के लिए ४००० किमी राजमार्ग, जलमार्ग, २०११ किमी के २० रेलमार्ग और १५ वायु परियोजनाओं के निर्माण के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा १,३४,२०० करोड़ रुपए का विशेष प्रावधान किया गया है, इन प्रयासों से भारत के अन्य राज्य और पूर्वोत्तर के सभी राज्यों का आपस में व्यापार और पर्यटन बढ़ेगा। पूर्वोत्तर की बलशाली नदियों का भी उपयोग करने के लिए गंगा नदी पर राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग क्रमांक १, ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी पर राष्ट्रीय

जलमार्ग क्रमांक २ तथा बरक नदी राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग क्रमांक १६ का निर्माण हुआ है साथ ही पंडू में जहाज निर्माण और गुवाहाटी में ११ फ्लोटिंग टर्मिनल निर्माणाधीन है। पूर्वोत्तर से बंगलदेश के बीच जल परिवहन बढ़ाने के लिए १० अंतर राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग का भी शुभारंभ हुआ है। मणिपुर में प्रधानमंत्री जी के उपस्थिति में १८५० करोड़ रुपए निवेश कर १३ परियोजनाओं की शुरुवात हुई है। इस योजना में १७०० करोड़ की लागत से ५ राष्ट्रीय राज मार्ग और बराक नदी पर पुल का निर्माण हो रहा है इस योजना से इंफाल और सिलचर में आवाजाही जलद और सुकर होगी। मेज़ोरम के सभी जिल्लो को जोड़ने वाले "बांबू लिंक रोड" और आइजवाल में बायपास निर्माण से मिजोरम में विकास ने रफ्तार पकड़ी है। सुदूर सिक्किम में दुर्गम पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों को जोड़ने के लिए ६५ करोड़ की लागत से सांगा - चियोलिंग रोपवे और ५८ करोड़ की लागत से धापेर - भालेयदूंगा रोपवे का निर्माण किया जाना सरकार की इच्छा शक्ति को दर्शाता है।

अगरतला में ५०० करोड़ की लागत से निर्मित महाराजा बीर बिक्रम हवाई अड्डा १९ जहाजों को उड़ान भरानेवाला पूर्वोत्तर का बेहतरीन और गुवाहाटी के लोकप्रिय गोपीनाथ बोरदोलोई हवाई अड्डे के बाद सबसे व्यस्त हवाई अड्डा बन गया है। त्रिपुरा में ५०० करोड़ के निवेश से चल रही विद्याज्योति योजना कौशल विकास, क्षमता निर्माण, उद्यमशीलता और १०० पाठशालों में गुणवत्ता पूर्ण शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने वाली योजना साबित हुई है।

आधारभूत संरचना निर्माण के साथ ही भारत सरकार पूर्वोत्तर में आजीविका सुधार के लिए भी सतत कार्यरत है। गुवाहाटी में कैसर हस्पताल का निर्माण साथी ही असम में ७





Image credit: Who is Danny

और पूरे पूर्वोत्तर में ४००० करोड़ की लागत से कुल १७ हस्पतालो का निर्माण शुरू हुआ है और पूर्वोत्तर में आजीविका सुधार मिशन की शुरुवात सरकार की पूर्वोत्तर प्रति संवेदनशीलता को दर्शाता है। पूर्वोत्तर के युवाओं और महिलाओं को हस्त उद्योग में प्रोत्साहन देने हेतु १५०० करोड़ रुपयों का प्रावधान किया जाना हस्त उद्योग को नई दिशा और पहचान दिलाएगा।

"राष्ट्रीय पूर्वोत्तर विकास वित्त सहयोग" तथा "पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र विकास मंत्रालय" ने मिलकर निवेशकों का सम्मेलन आयोजित कर पूर्वोत्तर में निवेश की संभावना को बढ़ाया है। साथ ही दिल्ली में आयोजित २ दिवसीय "पूर्वोत्तर व्यापार शिखर सम्मेलन" से विश्वभर से आए निवेशक पर्यटन, हस्तकला, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण,

संरचना निर्माण, शिक्षा, वित्तीय समावेशन, संचार क्षेत्र भारी निवेश शुरू हुआ है। तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय को साथ लेते हुए पूर्वोत्तर विकास मंत्रालय ने "**Pioneering Business Idea Challenge**" का सफल आयोजन किया इस कारण विकास की इस यात्रा में युवकों की सहभागिता सुनिश्चित हुई है। पूर्वोत्तर भारत जैविक खेती के माध्यम से भी सिर्फ भारत ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे विश्व को अपने और आकर्षित कर रहा ही। भारत के प्रतिष्ठित "विश्व खाद्य शिखर सम्मेलन" में पूर्वोत्तर भारत के जैविक खेती पर विशेष चर्चा और विकास के लिए प्रयास शुरू हुए हैं।

पूर्वोत्तर भारत में भारतीय जनता पार्टी का संकल्प, प्रधानमंत्री श्री. नरेंद्र मोदीजी का

नेतृत्व और पूर्वोत्तर के स्थानीय युवाओं का सतत प्रयास पूर्वोत्तर को विकास के मार्ग पर जलद गति से आगे ले कर निकला है। आधारभूत संरचना का विकास, संचार के जलद और नए माध्यम, महिला और बाल विकास, सुरक्षा, व्यापार, निवेश, कला, क्रीड़ा, शिक्षा, रोजगार सभी क्षेत्रों में पूर्वोत्तर का चौतरफा विकास ही नए पूर्वोत्तर के नीव का पत्थर है। सब का साथ, सब का विकास और सब का विश्वास इसी मंत्र को भाजपा ने पूर्वोत्तर में सार्थक किया है।

लेखक: -शुभम अग्रवाल,
वनस्पति विज्ञान में सावित्रीबाई फुले पुणे
विद्यापीठ से स्नातकोत्तर तक शिक्षा पूर्ण,
२०१३ से २०२२ अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी
परिषद का कार्यकर्ता।



Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha



