



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ACT EAST THROUGH NORTH EAST: INDIA'S WAY TO A NEW ERA OF DIPLOMACY

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Act East Policy and Stilwell Road: Problems and Prospects

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With the launch of India's Look East Policy, the issue of connectivity between North-East region and South East Asia assumed great significance. The huge potential of Northeast region of India as a gateway to South East Asia and East Asia puts the region in a vital position in the success story of India's Act East Policy. There has been increasing emphasis on enhancing the connectivity between the two regions. One of the major connectivity corridors, in this regard, with huge potential is the historical Stilwell Road.

Today, the Stilwell Road assumes a great importance in the Look East Policy scheme owing to its socio-economic, strategic and political importance. The historical road, once reopened, has a potential to act as a catalyst to the success of the Act East Policy. The policy makers at Centre, think tanks and academicians have, in recent years, greatly emphasised the prospects of the Stilwell Road in providing base for future economic and cultural cooperation between India's North-East and South East Asia and East Asia which will ultimately help realise the goals of India's Act East Policy in partnership with the North East region of India.

Poor Connectivity – A Challenge in the North East: An Overview

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India's northeast region is considered the gateway to Southeast Asia and crucial for its Act East Policy. The region consists of eight states holds a geo-strategic position in the nation which share international boundary with China and South-East Asian nations like Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal. With the potential to be the hub of economic activity for entire South East Asia, the region has so far been lagging because of inadequate connectivity infrastructure in the northeast in terms of surface and air transport, regulatory and bureaucratic bottlenecks, poor diplomatic and people to people connect with neighboring countries, lack of entrepreneurial spirit in local population, deficient investors' interest in the region etc. This study is conceptually in nature based on secondary information which discuss various issues on connectivity in North-East region which needs to address for the development of the region and achieve its objectives with respect to Act East Policy.

Potential for Eco- Cultural Tourism in NorthEast India: A study of two villages of Tinsukia district, Assam

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Eco-Cultural tourism is a concept where both ecological and cultural aspects of a landscape are combined together creating a tourist paradise. It is travel to destinations where both cultural and natural endowments are the prime attractions and thereby considered to be a potential strategy to support conservation of natural habitats along with economic sustainability particularly to indigenous communities. North East India is one of the most mesmerizing regions of the Indian subcontinent that mirrors a perfect blending of life, culture and ecology. Assam, The homeland of different ethnic communities is enriched with varied culture in nook and corner of the state, comprising the ethnicity of the Ahom,Chutiyas,Tea tribe communities, Singphos, Sonowal Kacharis, Dewris, Miishings etc. Here an attempt has been made to study on the ecological and cultural heritage of two respective villages situated in the two tourist destination of Tinsukia district, Assam.

‘Development with democracy’: Twenty-first century India and her neighbourhood

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Around the time the world saw the birth of Bangladesh, over two-third of all states were authoritarian; three decades on, less than one-third are so. If there was ever an age of democracy, it is the present one. The world has seen old democracies of the West but even there, the fragility of democracy has been revealed in the face of onslaughts of, for instance, Nazism. Nonetheless, Western democracies have, for example, through the European Union, sought to address globalization, planet earth questions, AIDS and so on.

Regional forums can usher in development based upon shared culture, commerce and connectivity. The Indian experience can contribute to a culture of democracy in the neighbourhood. Drawing from empirical evidences from rural India and with reference to contemporary Myanmar, the submission holds that hurdles remain, but constitutional, institutionalized local democracy holds the key to peace and progress in the region and beyond.

Economic Linkages of North East India with Myanmar and Bangladesh: Role of BIMSTEC

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BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) is a sector driven international organization of consisting of seven nations- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal. India is an active member of BIMSTEC since its beginning in 1997. With 5300 km international boundary and being connected to mainland India only through a chicken neck, The North East India is a landlocked region with tremendous potential for economic growth owing to its advantageous geo-political location. Among all the BIMSTEC member countries Bangladesh and Myanmar have the most potential for boosting economic growth in the North East region by providing connectivity through their huge ports, and by increasing trade and investment in the region through Cross-border as well as bilateral trade. In this study the prospects and challenges of economic linkages of North East India with Bangladesh and Myanmar and the role of BIMSTEC will be discussed.

Two competing initiatives for Northeast India : Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar for Regional Cooperation (BCIM) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

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Regarding the Northeastern Region's (NER) increasing regional neglect in view of New Delhi's focus on BCIM, a convergence of both - BCIM and BIMSTEC could be also an option to keep the NER in the Act East Policy's loop. However unless the BIMSTEC and BCIM develop a deeper sense of regionalism and move beyond their geo-political 'linkage syndrome', this is most unlikely. The major bottleneck in the existing structure is the NER's limited decision making power. Consequently India's politico-economic approach to the NER must be re-thought and re-focused.

From 'Look East' to 'Act East': Institutionalising India's Act East Policy

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The Act East Policy launched in 2014 is not a new concept; it has been redefined from the Look East Policy which is an important aspect of India's foreign policy because of India's economic considerations and engagement with South and Southeast Asia. The foreign policy also has a domestic standpoint i.e., to develop India's north-eastern region by intensifying trade links of the region with South and Southeast Asian nations. The Act East Policy stresses on regional cooperation, security, economic relations and connectivity. The strategies of potential actors to accommodate the policies of

the centre in its institutional settings would underpin the transformation of the Act East Policy. This paper seeks to highlight the policy components which invigorate optimism for implementing a robust and result-oriented policy.

India-Myanmar Bilateral Trade: Opportunities Through North East

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The emerging NDA regime took initiatives to rebrand the erst-while 'Look East' policy into the 'Act East' policy in 2014, keeping the essence somewhat alike. Since the inception of India's look East policy, a number of agreements were signed for enhancing bilateral trade, very prominent ones being Moreh-Tamu and Zokhawthar - Rhi border trades. The aim remains to improve the living conditions of the stakeholders of India and Myanmar and enhance cross border trade. The important traits influencing the trade are drug trafficking and Narco terrorism in and around the borders. The barter system prevalent there is highly influenced by China through the illegal arms trade from Yunnan. The countries took steps to transform the informal trade and establish more people to people contracts. The government hopes to check the illegal activities and improve trade activities with the neighbouring country by developing another trade hub at a border village.

Mekong-Ganga Co-operation: A platform for developing inland waterways communication with ASEAN Countries

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The current Central government's decision to transform India's Look East Policy started a few decades back by Narasimha Rao into Act East Policy marks a tectonic shift in Indian diplomacy. As India look to revive and reinvigorate its ties with South-East Asian countries, The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is going to play a pivotal role in this regard. MGC is an initiative by six countries – India, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. MGC can be used to develop inland waterways communication among the member countries to bolster trade relation. It will not only help in the socio-economic resurgence of the East as well as that of India but will also establish India as a genuine regional power and security provider resulting in India asserting its footprint in the South East Asian Region to achieve its ambitious geo-strategic, economic goal and counter China's hegemonic and aggressive assertions in the Asia-Pacific Region.

India-Myanmar-Thailand Connectivity Projects and Trade Enhancement

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A new dawn in Indian diplomacy is marked by upgrades in its trading relations with South-East Asia and the ASEAN. A paradigm shift in policy has occurred from up Narasimha Rao's 'Look East' to Modi's Act East policy. Most prominent aspect remains infrastructure and connectivity. Commercial relations with South- East accounts for around 45% of India's foreign policy. The shift from Atlantic

to Pacific Network has favored several 'Look East' projects. The India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway is seen to be a massive trade booster for India. But this intention of facilitating a seamless cross-border trade flow is often interrupted by local problems. The deal now remains as to how can this project ultimately get the entire Eastern region connected by 2020.

Examination of the Indo-Myanmar Relations post 2015

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Democratization in Myanmar can be traced back to 1948, when Myanmar received its independence and entered into democracy under the leadership of General Aung San. Thereafter, the country has undergone several changes with the 8th of August 1988, when a mass defiance against military regime took place and the date remained as a landmark in the history of Myanmar as 8888. After the framing of the 2008 Constitution of Myanmar, several changes in the five years, i.e. from 2010-2015 occurred. This paper would focus on steps of reform that have been taken in order to push the country into democracy within this time frame and the Indo-Myanmar relations post democracy. Further, it will also focus on the 2008 Constitution of Myanmar so that the fault lines of the Constitution are identified which does not support the prevalence of democracy.

Combating terrorism in India: Loopholes in counter terror initiatives with BIMSTEC & ASEAN

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While the global war on terrorism is on, in South Asian region, India has taken upon the role of torchbearer. It has categorically worked, both bilaterally and internationally, for strengthening information sharing and countering terror funding. This has, undeniably, limited terror operations, but still, India continues face one of the highest number of terror attacks in the recent times. The present study, using content analysis techniques, examines loophole in the current engagements of MEA, GOI with BIMSTEC & ASEAN for addressing the menace of transnational terrorism on Indian Territory. Findings will help national and international stakeholders in deeper understanding of limitations of their on-going collaborations which is marring concrete results on the ground.

Prospects and Challenges to Act East Through Nagaland

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In comparison to the lackadaisical commitment of the Look East Policy (LEP), its new avatar, the Act East Policy (AEP) represents a genuine shift in India's foreign policy, with more focus on, and greater role for, India's North Eastern Region. Nagaland is endowed with rich forest and other natural resources and with the right intervention the region has the potential of becoming one of the largest exporters of some agricultural products. However, Nagaland which shares around 215 kilometres of international border has the dubious distinction of having the worst roads in addition to active insurgencies and inter-

tribal conflicts which poses much challenge in implementing the AEP through Nagaland. The objective of this paper is to investigate the prospects and challenges to Act East through Nagaland.

Enhancing Indo-Vietnamese relationship for greater integration with South East Asia.

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To fortify its Act East Policy, India's country specific strategy must give precedence to Vietnamese relations by taking its defense and economic ties with her to the next level. India has to find ways to enhance its military presence in South East Asia to protect its ever increasing commercial interests in the region and Hanoi is proving to be New Delhi's most dependable partner. Vietnam's location in the South China Sea and India's significant investments in hydrocarbons there, gives India the incentive to protect its maritime trading routes, while also preventing the South China Sea from turning into a Chinese lake by heavily aiding Vietnam's defensive capacity and using her ports for forward deployment of naval assets. This also acts as a counter encirclement strategy against China, and acts as a soft balancing tactic in larger global geopolitical events between India and China.

People To People Contact : Introducing A New Paradigm in India's Foreign Policy in the Context of Act East Policy

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In this rapidly changing world, 'Inter-National' relations demand imaginative solutions to the perplexing issues that are both complex and multi-dimensional in nature. Inter-State relations no longer remain the prerogative of State Elites and bureaucrats. With growing penetration of technology and global interconnectedness, people are being exposed to the greater reality out there which was inaccessible to them earlier. Foreign policy is guided by national interest comprising of three vital components- national security, development and quest for a conducive global order in which the state can flourish. Indian state derives its legitimacy from the promise of development. Since accomplishing the state objectives requires synergy between domestic and foreign policy, the general people must be welcomed as active participants in this endeavor. Against this backdrop, 'people to people contact' emerges as a vital factor in the context of Act East Policy. This paper will discuss further engagement possibilities in this regard.

Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport

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The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, a project to connect the eastern India with the Northeast via Sittwe, Paletwa of Myanmar by shipping, inland water and road transport stretch. It is expected to be operational by 2020. This is the most difficult road project undertaken and will play a major role in economic development of the North-East India and might improve the bilateral relations between India and Myanmar. When in 2015, the Indian government escalated the budget by nearly six times, 66% of the new NH 502A and Sittwe port

was done. This project will provide alternative route to India to ship goods to the north-eastern States and act as a counter-move to Chinese endeavor to create a deep-sea berthing infrastructure in Myanmar. Moreover, India and ASEAN have grown closer in the last decade thereby creating some opportunities for India to shape Asian geostrategic scenario.

Strengthening of BIMSTEC and What it means for India's Act East Policy

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BIMSTEC has often been held to be the bridge between South and Southeast Asia, connecting the crucial Bay of Bengal to Southeast Asia. As such, India is gradually underscoring the centrality of BIMSTEC in its Act East policy – an approach that has garnered limelight in the aftermath of 'demise' of SAARC. While there are efforts by India to curate BISMTEC-centrality in South Asia, recent trends have shown partners like Nepal and Thailand to be half-hearted in riding on India's conviction. Where does that leave India's attempt to bank on sub-regionalism as an answer to a failing regionalism and more importantly, where does that leave India's Act East policy which is bolstered by a slew of sub-regional initiatives?

Contemporary Developments in North East: Building People to people Connectivity

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North-East India, comprising the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, is regarded as a single geographical unit for administrative convenience. The landlocked region, straddled between India, China, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, is a very crucial land link and is pivotal in India's Act East Policy. The NER is largely marked by intense political tensions owing to the diverse existence of ethno-cultural groups featuring cultural and linguistic variation, albeit with distinctive identities. Additionally, the NER is affected by a variety of problems ranging from illegal drug trade and arms flow to poor infrastructure, deprivation, transnational terrorism, etc. With soft power diplomacy being a vital area of focus in the AEP, the NER has substantial role to play in the enhancement of people-to-people connectivity. The paper tries to analyze the problem areas and contemporary developments of the region and offer scopes for greater connectivity.

Road and Maritime Connectivity: Vital Elements of Act East Policy

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North Eastern Region of India has acted as the launching pad for the Act East policy after Modi government came to power in 2014. The potential for developing resource based North East India and South east Asia through economic complementarities is immense. The challenge is to harness the opportunities to ensure that the development and growth does not bypass this region but passes by this

region. And for this reason the connectivity between the regions not only to the other parts of India but beyond it is required. The potential for greater connectivity can be achieved through vehicles, railways,airways etc.People to people contact is also necessary. The BBIN Initiative, the trans Asian Highway and Railway projects, initiatives by BIMSTEC and BCIM are needed to be mentioned here. Thus my paper will analyse how the Act East policy had emphasised in connectivity keeping aside the differences among different states.

Look East to Act East: Locating sub regionalism in India's foreign policy

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Regional and sub-regional cooperation have emerged as the two big drivers of international relations and cooperation. For a very long time, Indian foreign policy completely ignored sub region and very little effort was made to develop a regional approach. With the end of cold war, it became necessary to recalibrate India's regional policy owing to developments both within and outside India. In context , this paper will analyse the development of sub regionalism as envisaged in the Look East policy as a tool to achieve India's changing foreign policy goals in lieu of internal and external developments. It traces India's efforts to achieve institutional integration of South East Asia and the growing importance of 'act east' in the shifting nature of global politics.

Cultural exchange and co-operation between India and China through the 'Look East' perspective

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India and China, both being great ancient civilizations have had enormous influence on the topography of world civilization and as close neighbors, they share a rich history of mutual influence. Since ancient times, the people of the two countries have engaged in cultural, spiritual, educational and economic exchanges. India's Buddhist scriptures, astrology, medicines, music, literature, and dance went to China. Whilst, China's Silk, porcelain,tea, and printing made its way to India.

These Cultural flows have laid a solid ground for social and political interactions between the two countries, who often materialise their cultural influence to their benefit and employ it as their soft-power tactic. Culture is an important component in the bilateral relationship between India and China, who both have homogenous Eastern Multiculturalism. The two countries have set in motion numerous bilateral cultural initiatives, which include massive people-to-people connectivity exercises in an attempt to create friendly relations to overcome the often-disturbed political overtone between the two countries.

BBIN MVA: Opportunities and Challenges for Meghalaya

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The Bangladesh Bhutan India Nepal (BBIN) sub regional cooperation was formed to promote regional integration among these nations. The BBIN-Motor Vehicle Agreement was established in 2015 to improve trade and land connectivity. This would improve road

connectivity among the North-East India's region and use its geographical proximity with the BBIN nations to foster development. The state of Meghalaya shares approximately 443kms of its border with Bangladesh which being rich in natural resources is a vibrant economic arena for promoting economic relations. With the absence of port links, inter-country connectivity through land routes is crucial. The present paper seeks to essentially highlight how BBIN MVA can promote growth and development in Meghalaya and analyse the various opportunities and challenges it faces.

. Myanmar Factor in Prime Minister Modi's Act East Policy

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The Act East Policy was set in motion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the East Asia Summit in Myanmar in 2014. It focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region and establishment of institutional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation. Myanmar is the only ASEAN member state that has both land and sea borders with India. The two share a land border of 1,643 kilometers. Myanmar is key in the new outlook, for it serves as a crucial buffer state between China and India. As an emerging country, India, with its economic, technology and energy development as well as geopolitical advantages, is expanding its presence in Myanmar. However, India has yet to formulate a consistent Myanmar policy, unlike China, which has been reinforcing political mutual trust and economic relations with Myanmar. Thus, my paper would consist of 'The Myanmar factor in Modi's Act East Policy.'

A review on economic importance and length-weight relationship of freshwater crab, *Maydelliathelphusa lugubris* (Wood-Mason, 1871) from Arunachal Pradesh.

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The study was made on economic importance and length-weight relationship of freshwater crab *Maydelliathelphusa lugubris*. The samples were collected from small streams of Dikrong river, Arunachal Pradesh. Here, we considered body weight-carapace width and body weight-carapace length relationships to adjust for age variations in the cohort. This crab is popular in Arunachal Pradesh for its food value and being recognized as main host of Paragonimiasis. During the analysis, the scores for body weight-carapace width relationship between the sexes were similar (mean rank for female: 16.13, mean rank for male: 14.87; z : -0.394; P : 0.694). There was also no significant difference observed for the body weight-carapace length relationship (mean rank for female: 15.40, mean rank for male: 15.60; z : -0.062; P : 0.950). For this it may be concluded that there is no significant difference in the size-dependent characters of either sexes of *Maydelliathelphusa lugubris*, suggesting that both the sexes are equally viable for commercial settings such as crab farming.

Transportation: As an Economic Reform in Ziro

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Right from the early invention of the ‘Wheel’- in Mesopotamia around 3500 B.C. - to the invention and development of the various modes of locomotion till to date. Transportation is considered as one of the key to development in the human society. Man are trying to improve and become better day after day; inventing new gadgets, improving the existing and planning and envisioning for the future states the validity. The strive to be better; newer and faster is in its optimum. Thus, the paper is an attempt to draw out the essence of the various Transportation facilities and to see how it is not only a medium of locomotion but is, and could be an agent of Economic reformation in Ziro valley.

India and ASEAN Relations during Modi’s Government: A New Hope or Complete Dejection?

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The ASEAN-India Summit on November 12, 2014, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made a statement that internally a new era of economic development, industrialization and trade has begun in India and externally, India’s ‘Look East Policy’ has become ‘Act East Policy’. India pursued its engagement with East Asia under its ‘Look East Policy’ since 1990. ASEAN constitutes the foundation and core of this policy. India’s engagement with ASEAN has evolved in response to the developing strategic contours of Asia-Pacific region. India’s Look-East Policy is undergirded by security and economic concerns. During the initial phase of this policy India integrated itself institutionally with ASEAN and, driven by the imperatives of its opening economy, laid emphasis on trade and investments. By the beginning of the new millennium, security issues started getting more attention. Territorial disputes in the South China Sea have the potential to cause military engagements Keeping in view with this backdrop the paper seeks to analyse the dynamics of the growing Indo-ASEAN relations during Modi’s government.

Tourism as a Potential Catalyst of Economic Empowerment of Women: Some Analysis on Women of Arunachal Pradesh

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Women’s empowerment is a process of change that involves a growing ability to make choices that affect a women’s wellbeing, life path and her capacity for self-determination (jejeebhoy and sathar 688, Malhotra, shuler and Bowwender 5). Definition of women empowerment include control over assets (Goetz and Sen Gupta 48-50) Women’s relative physical mobility, economic security, freedom from domination, political and legal awareness and participation in public protests and political campaigns (Hashemi et al 638-39, development capacity to reduce socio economic vulnerability and dependency (

Banu 31; Mustafa et al, 302) opportunity to generate income and control over income (Varghese 37) ; and participation in decision – making (Mizanur et. Al 123; kabir et al 10).The World Bank has identified empowerment as one of the key constituent element of poverty reduction, and as a primary development assistance goal, the bank has also made gender mainstreaming a priority in development assistance and the promotion of women’s empowerment as a development goal (Malhotra at. El.3). Many factors such as educational level, micro finance, formation of self-help groups etc can enhance women empowerment. Tourism is also an area where women can work for their economic empowerment. The tourism industry has witnessed an unprecedented growth in recent year Bezbaruah (124-25), suggested that tourism can be a tool to fight the biggest challenges of today poverty. Arunachal Pradesh is a tourist hotspot; the women of this state can take benefits of this for economic stability. Economic stability means economic empowered, which is an indicator of growth. This paper will try to analyses from secondary sources, that tourism is a catalyst for economic empowerment of women in Arunachal Pradesh.

A Case Study on Indo-Myanmar Border Trade: Pangsua Pass (Nampong)

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North-East India (NER) has the potential to become India’s ‘Powerhouse’ in terms of trade and investment. The region is richly blessed with cultural heritage and natural resources. Arunachal Pradesh shares some of its potentiality to uplift itself and to push towards the growth of cross border trade and commerce. Due to its geo-political location, Arunachal Pradesh has an optimum option for developing a cross border trade with its immediate neighbors. And the gradual progress of such trade is a boost towards the economic development of Arunachal Pradesh as a whole. This paper gives a study of the steady growth of the Indo-Myanmar border trade via Pangsua Pass, located in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh. It also is an earnest effort to study the challenges and prospects of the cross border trade. The present research paper is constructed truly based on secondary data collected from magazines, and published and unpublished articles.

Act East Policy: Challenges and Opportunities for N E India

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Presently we are passing through the phase of Look East to Act East Policy; which is very much instrumental regarding re-establishing India’s role in South East Asia as a major power. It is hoped that the whole N E India is going reap tremendous benefits form the present government’s pro active Act East Policy. Today, the South East Asian countries are looking towards India as an alternative to China in the context of trade, commerce, connectivity and so on. Because of the Act East Policy (AEP), at the regional level all the nations are going to be mutually benefited which in turn will lead to stability, development and peace in the long run.

India's 'Act East' Policy: Will it help Arunachal?

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As the contemporary world is heading towards global-village, free-market system and international cooperation, border regions are seen as new opportunities which we can't afford to ignore. However, as things stand today, it is difficult to foresee India's enhanced economic ties with eastern neighbor China owing to the security concerns. Unfortunately, border areas of Arunachal Pradesh have suffered considerably. There enveloped thick cloud of poverty, illiteracy, lack of basic/minimum amenities of life in the border areas. At present, there is no perceptible alienation among the people. But there is a great deal of neglect due to pervasive underdevelopment and lack of access to basic amenities. This is further aggravated when by a simultaneous all round development across the borders by the Chinese government. Essentially, either their elected leaders turn-away their eyes from these realities or haven't fully understood or they are being misled or made to believe it the way they do now. Whatever, it's time that we rejuvenate our life line, revitalize our relationship and reach out beyond the borders.

Geopolitics of Border in India's Act Esat Policy: The Indo-Myanmar Border Dynamics

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With the trend of globalisation picking up and the world shrinking in terms of communication and connectivity foreign policy of a nation has also gradually shifted from traditional security-centric aspect to more demanding economic forces. In this new background border areas anywhere has gone beyond the simple notion of being consider just as frontiers or boundaries or to some extent as periphery, and has with time formed an indispensable part of a country's foreign policy in its quest for promoting the national interest. Same applies with the border areas of India immediately adjoining Myanmar covering a distance of 1643 km, predominantly the Manipur section. However, the hard reality in the case with this region is that security aspects still override other aspects of the society. The traditional practice of state-centric security still form the basis of any policy related with the said region. When India makes its foreign policy moves towards Southeast Asia under its Look/Act East policy the most feasible land route to the region is through the borders of Northeast India (Indo-Myanmar), specifically through Moreh (Manipur), to Myanmar and beyond. Thus, in the new geopolitical dynamics of this region, both Manipur and Myanmar need to be taken into consideration in details. Indeed, the 364 km stretch that Manipur share in the whole Indo-Myanmar border line, though short comparatively, is a very significant one. The attempt of the paper is to understand the prospects and missing links associated with these border areas specifically in the context of India's Act East policy (AEP) and its implications for the policy makers and the stakeholders. Ultimately, the effort is also to critique the notion that opening up of NEI to Myanmar within the broader perspective of AEP will benefit its border area, sans rational and pragmatic dealing with the area and cultural specific politico-economic issues of the region.

Cooperation possibilities in Tourism with Southeast Asian countries in context of AEP

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The purpose of this paper is to analyse how India's use of soft power while implementing AEP, i.e, focusing on tourism and people to people contacts, could be instrumental for India-ASEAN relations.

Boosting Buddhist tourism and serious consideration of abiding spiritual ties would enable to develop relationships across its eastern shores. The North eastern region sets up an important linguistic contact zone, with around 500 million Buddhists living beyond our borders, primarily to east, a greater and aggressive marketing strategy is what is necessary to make our interactions with eastern neighbours imaginative and sensitive. Therefore, the paper highlights two points; possibilities for North east to reap benefits from India's thriving relations with ASEAN and; by emphasizing the linguistic attachment, if the concerned governments act it could revive age old cultural and historical bonds. Accordingly, the North east will act as an important theatre of engagement between the new emerging world powers.

India –Japan Act East Forum: an analysis of the prospects for North East India(NEI)

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Japan features as India's dependable regional ally and both the countries are also party to several forums such as the Quad of Democracies, Triangular Ministerial Dialogue, and the quad of the G4. The setting up of the Indo-Japan Act East forum in December 2017 is viewed as a positive reinforcement for India's Act East Policy, and eventually this is expected to develop the economy of the landlocked North-eastern states by offering the prospect of integration with the dynamic economies of East Asia. This becomes geo-politically significant against the back drop of India's decision to not be a part of China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and Japan's military alliance with India and Australia. The paper seeks to examine the impact of Indo- Japan partnership on the North East region (NER) in India and the implications for security and economy against the back drop of India's Act East Policy.

Study of *in-situ* habitat preference of the stream loach *Aborichthys kempfi* (Chaudhuri, 1913) from Arunachal Pradesh, India.

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Study of in-situ habitat parameters of any fish species is important in order to predict its life cycle and design the conservation or management plan of the species. Habitat predilection of *Aborichthys kempfi* was studied systematically in a mountain stream called Rono Stream at Rono Hills, Doimukh, a tributary of Dikhrong River during April 2017 to March 2018. The recorded data of the study revealed ranging of air temperature from 18.67⁰C (January) to 31.67⁰C; water temperature ranged from 14.67⁰C (January) to 26.67⁰C (August); pH ranged from 6.77 (June) to 7.60 (December); other parameters such as salinity, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, free carbon dioxide, hardness and alkalinity were assessed and the recorded parameters were within permissible limits for survival of the fish species. These fishes, basically bottom dweller, prefer shallow depth, moderately flowing water having substratum dominated with pebble and cobble, devoid of clay and detritus deposits. The riparian vegetation study showed shrubs as the main vegetation type.

Exploring India - Myanmar relations with a special focus on Border Trade

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Even though the North Eastern region consists of nine percent of India's total geographical area, it's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of India is only about three percent due to various reasons such as insurgencies and alienation from the mainstream. The region is not

only endowed with and is a hidden mine of natural resources, biodiversity, oil and natural gas, et al, the region also lies in a very strategic location, sharing its borders with various countries and thus it has a lot of untapped potential in terms of border trade and investment. Among border trade with China, Myanmar and Bangladesh, trade with Myanmar is especially important for various reasons and thus this paper will be looking into the relation shared between India and Myanmar and seek to address the various prospects for border trade between the North Eastern states of India and Myanmar.

From Landlocked to Land-Linked: Challenges and Opportunities of the Kaladan Project

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The Kaladan Multi- Modal Transit Transport Project is one of the most ambitious connectivity plans under the Look/Act East programme of the Indian government. Launched in 2008, the multi-million dollar venture aims to rescue the northeast region from its landlocked condition by linking the Borderland State of Mizoram with ‘mainland’ Kolkata via Sittwe Port in the Rakhine State of Myanmar through a network of roads and inland waterways. It is hoped that this will also ease the ‘strategic burden’ on the Siliguri Corridor by shifting the ‘gateway’ to the Indo-Myanmar border. This paper will discuss the issues and prospects involved in the pursuance of such a significant transport infrastructure in an ethnically vulnerable and security sensitive area with huge development stakes. It will also explore local and regional responses as well as bilateral challenges towards realization of the project.

Role of NER in Cultural Development between India and Southeast Asian Countries

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Regional initiatives like the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) play a vital role in strengthening regional and economic ties with the Northeast with the rest of the country and South and Southeast Asia. However, in an age of rampant globalization, the need for cultural ties is as indispensable as the politico-economic links. The burning question of the present day is how to successfully identify these cultural links where there exists a deep-rooted interaction of natural resources, cultures, societies, trade and commerce, tourism, technology, roads, and communications. It is required to look for ways other than the traditional ones so that the focal point of relations does not stay limited to orthodox approaches but extends to non-trade areas. This paper describes the urgency for cementing liaisons so that resource mobilization is better and there is a shift in the ethos of the people.

Peace and Conflict Situation: Some Glimpses from India’s North East

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One of the regions of India that has witnessed unending conflicts since Independence in 1947 is the Northeast of India. Most of the conflicts have been waged to assert for a different ethnicity, culture, identity, political empowerment, optimal utilization of resources and to ensure protection of ethnic minority rights. The political goals of the armed conflicts have differed, ranging from demands for greater political autonomy to more transparent political rights and institutional structures to outright secession from India. The response of the Indian state to the conflicts has varied over the years. The Northeast region of India comprising of

eight states – Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim is a poorly connected region to India’s mainland by a small corridor and surrounded by many countries such as Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and China. The political, social and geographical factors make India’s northeast susceptible to a multitude of conflict that undermines the idea of India as a prosperous and functioning democracy. The present paper attempts to gain a holistic understanding of the problem that has historical and contemporary dimensions. It also tries to assess and understand the various facets of the problem that interact with each other and curbs diplomatic relationships with neighboring states and poses a threat to human rights and peace.

Poverty - Initiative to Combat Poverty in India with Reference to NER

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Human poverty conveys more than the word poor expresses ordinarily. It includes multiple dimensions - health, malnutrition, illiteracy, social exclusion, vulnerability and lack of opportunities. Poverty is a threat on human aspirations. The two billion people are referred as the global poor. The seven billion people in the world if divided in deciles each groups constitute of 700 millions. We find glaring differences amongst the people in the top decile with that of bottom and 7 - 9 deciles. In India development is identified largely with poverty alleviation policies where enough time and resources are invested on poverty mitigation but achievement is deficient. This diagnostic study widely based on the secondary data, include some primary data pertaining to NER - India aims at to access the poverty level and the efforts of getting out of the vicious cycle. The study inferences how important are the meticulous implementations of developmental initiatives.

India and the East Asian Security: Prospects and Challenges in the 21st Century

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The geopolitical transformation of Asia, in the last two and a half decades since the end of the cold war, has been critical; and the emerging new global order is fraught with the dynamics of change that is currently very fluid, frugal, and ripe with uncertainties. As the emergence of China and India shapes the Asian order, it is imperative to look at India’s approach to Asian Security as well as emerging world order within this context. This paper seeks to locate the geopolitical significance of East Asia within the context of India’s “Act East Policy”, and the implications this has on India’s economic, political and security objectives in the larger framework of emerging regional dynamics and, thereby, looks at forthcoming Chinese competition to it.

Economic Empowerment through SHGs in Arunachal Pradesh

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Introduction: Self help Group (SHG) is a solution for multiple problems created by external finance and credit for development activities. It paves the way for mobilisation, collection and pooling of local resources and for its distribution on the need basis. When woman starts generating income by her or

through the group, she gains confidence to deal with other matters in her life. SHGs are driving force for empowerment of illiterate and semi-illiterate women. It is accepted as one of the best approach for rural development.

Objective of study

1. To investigate the impact of SHGs in economic empowerment of its members.
2. To find out the problems and prospects of SHGs in women empowerment.

Methodology: The proposed study was basically empirical in nature. The formal and informal discussions, structured questionnaires, focus group discussion and personal interview with the SHG members were the main tools for the data collection. Three groups were selected randomly amongst the participants in Arunachal festival 2018 at I G Park, Itanagar. The economic activities of the group and its members, changes in attitude of group members, awareness level, increase in income and savings, employment status, access to credit, functional literacy, and children education were explored as indicators of empowerment of members of SHGs.

Results: Members of selected group were farmers. They depended on the group solely for taking the loan as per their requirement. They took loan from the Group for children's education, illness and to do part time small micro businesses. In the name of group, there were no permanent economic activities. They looked out for catering opportunity in programme and festivals. Handlooms, handicrafts and surplus agriculture and horticulture production were collected by the group and sold in the festivals.

Conclusion: SHGs worked as solidarity group in the village. Problems were shared in the group meeting that held regularly in a months. Members were encouraged to sort out the issues from such meeting. Emergency financial requirements though in a small way, were the main the source of loan. Fulfilling such requirements was impetus for the economic empowerment of the members.

Act East Policy & Agriculture: The Way Ahead

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The Agricultural produce diversity in North East India is unmatched. However, a lot is yet to happen on market linkages, connectivity infrastructure development, value addition and processing front. Few initial steps have already been taken by the Central Government and State Governments of most of the North Eastern states but there is a long way to go. This article discusses the present status of resources, infrastructure connectivity etc and what needs to be done in the next few years to harness the real potential of the Act East Policy. The North-East, home to 3.8% of the national population, occupies about 8% of India's total geographical area, and is strategically important with over 5,300 km of international borders. A narrow chicken's neck corridor connects it with the rest of India, and infrastructure connectivity with the mainland as well as the bordering countries needs upgradation, for which large investments are needed. Among the connectivity projects already envisaged is a four-lane trilateral highway linking India (Moreh in Manipur) with Mae Sot (Thailand) via Myanmar which will be expanded to Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. This highway can only be sustained through movement of goods and economic activity along the route through Myanmar and, hence, the growing importance of our North-East. For this, it is essential to focus on development and connectivity in India's North-East itself, with new road and rail links, opening up multi modal transport, including river navigation, and setting up industrial corridors and economic activities like haats or local markets, with emphasis on agriculture, horticulture, handlooms, handicrafts and processed food. Sea connectivity from India to Asean will be helped by the Kaladan multi-modal transport project, which will link Kolkata to Sittwe port in Myanmar, as also Mizoram by the river and land route.

Journey of Tawang from Cultural Convergence to Strategic Significance

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Tawang, located close to the trijunction of India, Bhutan and the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China, has for centuries been a celebrated seat of Buddhist monastic gurus and their disciples. By the distinction of having the second largest Buddhist monastic institution in Asia that houses more than five hundred clerics and their trainees, the place attracted both learned and lay people from nearby states. But by mid-Twentieth century, Tawang attracted international gaze, and the focus on the place became intensive due to emergent geopolitical and strategic complexities. In the early 1960s, the place witnessed much tension, proxy war and change of guards. Presently, the town of Tawang has acquired a placid look, and is much touted as an exotic tourism destination. But the fact remains that Tawang is still heavily guarded and the ubiquitous presence of Indian army around the town emphasizes its strategic significance.

Swot Analysis of Tourism Industry in Arunachal Pradesh

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Arunachal Pradesh was chosen as the 4th Best Region amongst the top ten tourist destinations in the world for the year 2012 by the BBC's globally circulated magazine and one of the leading travelogues viz., the Lonely Planet; the top three destinations being Coastal Wales, La Ruta Maya and Northern Kenya. Also, the voting and the subsequent awarding of the state as the Favorite Upcoming Tourist Destination in 2013 through a survey conducted by the Outlook Traveller, one of the country's leading travel magazines, indicates that the state can be a perfect tourist hot spot in the global tourism map. A huge amount of opportunities in tourism sector are looming large over the state. The state could offer diverse tourist attractions and products making it a perfect 365-day holiday destination waiting to be explored. There is a tremendous scope for development of varied categories of tourism in the state. In fact, tourism as an industry in the state is in its initial stage. The golden opportunity must be seized to bring about sustainable tourism in the state. The state as of now has just embarked on the tourism engine striking the right economic chord! The paper intends to study the state's vast tourism potential through a SWOT analysis. Further, the paper studies various problems in the process of successful tourism promotion and development in the state and tries to put forth suggestions.

***Lepidocephalichthys guntea* (Hamilton, 1822), a common loach of Arunachal Pradesh as potential Ornamental Fish**

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Lepidocephalichthys guntea, an endemic loach of Arunachal Pradesh has a good potential to be categorized as ornamental fish due to its small size, peaceful nature, hardiness, compatibility and attractive colouration consisting of blackish mid-lateral blotches with caudal spot. It is frequently found in muddy, sandy soil and low dissolved oxygen area. In male pectoral fins are enlarged with fused, thickened innermost rays forming the lamina circularis and female are commonly larger and heavier than males and have spots on the flanks as opposed to dark strip. A trial on rearing feasibility of the target species has been conducted in aquarium condition. The physico-chemical parameters were recorded as temperature (15°C- 31.5°C), DO₂ (6.5-8.2 mg/l), alkalinity (55-78 mg/l), pH (7.2-7.8), hardness (84-162 mg/l), FCO₂ (1-4 mg/l). During the rearing, the artificial sinking feed prepared from locally available ingredients consisting of 25% protein with 1.5-2% body weight at least 2 times per day were provided. These fishes are mostly bottom dwellers. The fish can be easily reared in aquarium throughout the life span in aquarium.

Important of Bamboo in Arunachal Pradesh

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Bamboos play an important role in the rural economy of Arunachal Pradesh. World-wide, bamboo is slowly but steadily gaining importance as material for sustainable development. Bamboos are a sub family of grasses that include over 1,200 species worldwide. India is the second largest producer of bamboo in the world, next to China, and also has the richest bamboo diversity in the world with 23 genera and 125 indigenous as well as exotic species. In North Eastern India, the diversity of bamboo is very high where about 19 genera and 78 species occur. 26 species belonging to 9 genera occur in Arunachal Pradesh. Bamboo plays a vital role in livelihood security in terms of poverty alleviation, ecology, security through conservation, and providing food and shelter. Bamboo shoots are also popularly consumed preparing different delicious food indigenously. Arunachal Pradesh has a rich tradition of Bamboo and Cane Handicrafts. The products reflect the rich and varied culture of the tribes inhabiting this enchanting State and the products featured are representative of the wide range of handicrafts produced in the State.

Medicinal Plants in Arunachal Pradesh of India

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The forests in Arunachal Pradesh are primarily by large and there is vast wealth of plants, grasses, herbs, orchids and others of immense economic, commercial and medicinal values which may not be available in other parts of the country. The state is very rich in medicinal flora. In the absence of any sophisticated system of medicine, the indigenous village elders have been claiming the presence of numerous life saving herbs. Simultaneously there are numerous known herbs with deadly poisons which when processed become very potent curing medicines. More than 80 per cent of the world's medicinal flora is found in the Himalayan ranges of India. Arunachal Pradesh is such a state which is lying within the Himalayan belt. The species of medicinal plants occur in varying climatic and habitat conditions in varying concentration from the warm foot-hills to the cool temperate hills in the state.

Development and Organisation of Production in Indigenous Handloom and Handicraft Activities of Arunachal Pradesh

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In Arunachal Pradesh, the indigenous manufacturing activities include handloom, handicraft and brew processing activities. In recent years, the socio-cultural matrix of indigenous communities, precisely those in Arunachal Pradesh, is undergoing changes consequent upon development interventions. Particularly, the substantive economy is getting diversified and integrated with market economy through plan programmes. A cursory look gives a picture of change in consumption pattern, production and its manufacturing process. However, the indigenous manufacturing activities are not remunerative despite the efforts and developmental intervention being undertaken by the government to enhance the productions as well as providing employment to the people. Hence, the present paper focus mainly on two aspects i.e. production of handloom and handicraft at the state level and organisation of production at the household level. Keeping into this consideration, the handicraft and handloom activities of Idu Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh are selected as a case study.

Indigenous Ornamental Fishes of Arunachal Pradesh: Scope and Its Trade

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Arunachal Pradesh is the largest state in the geographical as well as river drainages area among the north-eastern states of India harbouring more than 200 indigenous fish species. The state has got huge potential for ornamental fish trading. A total of 121 potential ornamental fish species has been recorded under 7 order and 22 families during the recent survey in rivers and streams of the state. Out of which, 0.82% fish species is enlisted as endangered (EN); 3.03% as vulnerable (VU); 4.95% as near threatened (NT), 66% as least concern (LC), 4.13% as data deficient (DD) and 20.66% of rest species as not assessed (NA) category. A considerable number of indigenous fish species have ornamental value due to presence of unique alluring traits like adaptive modification, beautiful banding patterns and coloration and so are described as Indigenous Ornamental Fish (IOF). The wild fishes with such traits may be utilized as IOF candidate also viabilities of development of ornamental fisheries in the Arunachal Pradesh as well as north-eastern region and can be attracted to this industry with immense potential for commercial exploitation. It would generate additional employment opportunities and socio-economic uplift of the tribal population in this area. The concerted efforts of the Government as well as key Institutions can increase the ornamental fish production substantially in the state.

Arunachal Pradesh as a Corridor for Cross Border Tourism through amalgamation of Culture and Religion

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Arunachal Pradesh have so much in common with the South East Asian countries in terms of culture and heritage. The festivals of Pi Mai in Lao PDR, Songkran in Thailand and Sangken in Arunachal Pradesh are threaded together by being rooted in the same culture and traditional practices. Arunachal Pradesh also have around 13 percent(approx.) of its total population practicing Buddhism. The Buddhist population of the state resides in the region of Tawang, West Kameng, remote regions in the vicinity of Tibet and near Burma Border. Tawang in Aunachal Pradesh can also boast of the largest monastery in India and the second largest in the world. In this paper we will make an attempt to study how tourism opportunities can be exploited with the similarities shared by both the regions for a flourishing and synergistic tourist and trade economy.

Plausible Impact on Act East corridor from hazards of E – waste: The need for assessment of awareness level of this hazards with special reference to a case study of Papum pare district of Arunachal Pradesh, India

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All electronic gadgets that are discarded by the users due to non functional (cannot be use any more) or damage beyond repair or reach end - of - life becomes an electronic waste (e-waste). This waste is Asia's latest concern. In the past, the concern was for discarded electronics from the developed countries. But in recent years, the UN study notes, Asia itself has rapidly emerged as a major source of electronic waste, due to increasingly affluent consumers. China, sharing 3380 km bordering India, with more than

doubled in its own generation of e-waste between 2010 and 2015, was identified as the worst-offending economy in the region, followed by Singapore and Taiwan. According to ASSOCHAM and, global network and consultancy firm KPMG, [India](#) has emerged as the fifth largest producer of e-waste in the world, attributing to the mad race of buying latest electronic gadgets among all categories of Indian populace. These electronic wastes possess the biggest threat to environment and human health. Almost all the electronic components assembled in these new generation electronic gadgets and appliances contain many toxic constituents such as beryllium, arsenic, antimony, lead, cadmium, mercury, lead oxide, poly vinyl chloride etc. which goes to land-filled only, if not properly collected for recyclable and reusable purposes. These basic constituents have varied effects, such as potential carcinogens, damaging the central and peripheral nervous systems, kidneys, liver and also affects child development, disturb endocrine function, and many more. The rising alarm of this hazard is expected to rise exponentially, once the act east corridor is open. Stringent regulations, creating public awareness and effective management plans are important tools to protect from this menace. In this paper, a brief scenario on e-waste in our country, the need for assessment studies with detailed case study on the assessment of awareness level of this hazards in respect of papum pare district of Arunachal Pradesh will be presented.

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Natural Resources Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Development in Arunachal Himalaya

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The State of Arunachal Pradesh, which forms a major portion of the eastern Himalayas in north-eastern India, is well-known for its rich natural resources, biodiversity as well as cultural diversity. The indigenous communities living in the biodiversity rich areas of the state are primarily dependent on subsistence agriculture and forest resources for their sustenance with limited livelihood options. The total dependency of local communities on forest and other natural resources has been one of the causes of biodiversity loss in the region. Therefore, management of natural resources and ecosystem services is desired to address the conservation and sustainable utilization of resources. There is an urgent need to have an in-depth understanding on the biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural resource utilization by the local communities in order to develop alternative livelihood options by sustainable utilization of the rich biodiversity of the targeted areas. This would, in turn, reduce natural resource dependency and make the local communities become conservation oriented. This study attempts to explore alternative livelihood options for the local communities in order to reduce natural resource dependency and conserve biodiversity and eventually to address the key issues related to sustainable management of ecosystem and livelihood development. Two districts of Arunachal Pradesh namely Lower Subansiri and East Siang have been selected for the study with proper justification. Skill development through field trainings and demonstrations, development of eco-cultural tourism sector, agro-diversity products, strengthening access and benefit sharing through Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at village level as well as policy interventions are the main focus areas of the study. The study also addresses some of the major Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as (i) promote sustainable and inclusive rural economy (ii) sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services (iii) sustainable management of water (iv) ensuring sustainable energy (v) climate change and

its impact (vi) sustainable human settlements (vii) environmental assessment and management shall also be covered under the proposed project. The project shall contribute to the cause of conservation and development of village ecosystem and natural resource management and wellbeing of local communities falling within the target area of Eastern Himalayan Region.

A few Constraints to Economic Developments in North East India

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There are different constraints to economic growth in any country. These constraints differ from one country to another according to different economic situations in these countries. It also differs from region to region within the country . Economic growth and human development progress is not guaranteed and some countries struggle to maintain the minimum growth rate needed to bring down rates of extreme poverty and sustain a chosen development path. The economic system in the NER had remained virtually untouched during the British period. Lack of human capital is a constraint on growth. To diversify the economy and move towards industrialisation it is necessary to have skilled labour. India only in degree and not of kind. But due to its physical geography as well as the social and political conditions prevailing in the region, NER has a relatively backward economy. It is a recognized fact that the pace of industrial development is very slow in the whole of NER. Inadequacy of transport and communication system, non availability of adequate power, unstable law and order situation and insurgency, problem of marketing, dearth of skilled labour etc. are some of the constraint factors stood on the way of industrial development of the region. Further, in every human society culture plays a prominent role in shaping and maintaining the society. It is embodied in customs, traditions, thoughts and institutions of the social group throughout the ages. Since independence stress has always been given to bring socio economic progress of the country through economic planning and a remarkable success has been achieved in different fields of our economy but the states of NER is still suffering from poverty and backwardness in different spheres.

Thus the present paper tries to identify some of the different forces of constraints which impede the industrial development in the states of NER as the region is known for her immense natural resources with vast potentialities for developing various resource-based and demand based industries. Published and unpublished secondary statistical data have been used for the completion of the study. The study is being concluded with some viable suggestions for future planning of the industrial development in the state.

Challenges and Prospect of Development paradigm in Arunachal Pradesh with specific focus on Tourism

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Nature has been more kind to some parts of earth where Arunachal Pradesh is one of it. Arunachal Pradesh is one of the god gifted place on the earth having tourist spots surrounded with beautiful mountains and stunning valleys , places of worship and wildlife sancturies etc..The state is rich with picturesque beauty spots at various altitudes where one may relax and refresh oneself in a pollution-free environment. Arunachal has a large number of waterfalls, glades, forest groves where one may picnic, camp, or relax in an available rest house. A treasure trove of culture, nature's beauty, rich history and warm people, Arunachal is truly a land that you cannot afford to miss. However, the prospect of tourism in the state is not free from certain threat- and difficulties. The Development of tourism is somewhat chaotic and unplanned, devoid of any inclusive, holistic vision concerning the correlation between transport infrastructure investments and investments in accommodation and tourists destinations.This led to paradoxical situation in which areas with great tourism potential are hardly accessible to tourists from faraway regions. Tourism as an important part, that not only brings

economic benefits, but at the same time, that offers relaxation and rejuvenation , peace and action,gives a onrating cultural and natural values of a state and country .Viewing the current situation and prospects as well watching tourism in Arunachal Pradesh we believe that this field will constitute one of the branches with higher revenue for the state.

Poverty, Human Development and Economic Growth in North Eastern Region of India

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Human capital plays a crucial role in inclusive growth and social development. Over the last few decades, the North Eastern States of India have achieved some significant progress in poverty reduction, education, health-care and demographic profiles. These have been reflected in the elevation of the states Human Development Index scores. At the same time, significant disparities in inter-state and intra-state development have been noticed. Besides, the gaps among different economic and social group have also been widened. This paper attempts to account for the disparities in human development as measured by the quantitative outcomes of education, health-care among the states and within the states of this region. Without an appropriate economic and social development policy, along with good governance, regional convergence policy would not be successful.

Economic Impact of Tourism on the people of Tourist Destinations of Assam: A Study on Selected Destinations of Assam through Act East

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Tourism plays a significant role for the economic development of a region. It has great economic impact on the people of tourist's destination. Economic impacts of tourism can be estimated. Three important tourist destinations of Assam i.e. Kaziranga, Majuli and Sibsagar have been selected in this study. Information has been collected from 200 respondents to analyse the impact of tourism on their economic well-being. This study has used both econometric and non-econometric analysis in order to measure economic impact of tourism. It is found that tourism has economic impact on local community of the destination. This study has recommended some recommendations to raise the economic condition of the people of the selected destinations.

India's 'Act East' Policy: Introspections

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Act East Policy is an upgraded version of Look East Policy. The evolution of 'Look East' Policy can be traced back to the changed context of the international system in the early 1990s. The policy was initiated in 1991 and has its genesis in the end of Cold War, following the collapse of the Soviet Union as a paradigm shift not merely an external economic policy but also a strategic shift in India's vision of the world to have a forge closer through economic integration, physical connectivity and strategic partnership with its eastern neighbouring and ASEAN counties. Some of the outcomes of India's conscious efforts were signing of formal trade agreement between India and Myanmar on 31 January 1994 (Land Custom Stations at (a) Moreh in Manipur and Tamu in Myanmar (b) Zokhawthar in

Mizoram and Rih in Myanmar), Sino-India Trade through Nathula-la Pass (reopened on 6 July 2004) and signing of Free Trade Agreements with East and Southeast Asian countries (10 members of ASEAN) on 13 August 2009 etc. However, India had ignored the Asian economic miracle in its early phases since the lessons of the export-oriented economies of few small countries indulged by the Western Countries seemed inapplicable to an economy of India's size and ambition. On 26 August 2014, in a brainstorming session of 15 Indian 'Heads of Missions' in Southeast and East Asia, India's External Affairs Minister discussed the foreign policy initiatives under the new BJP-led government and urged them to "act east" and not just "look east". This was the beginning of the departure from Look East Policy to the Act East Policy. This policy focuses on the extended neighbourhood as a response to the evolving regional dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region. It is, therefore imperative for India to reposition itself in its relations with the countries to the east. However, the slow paces of connectivity, road, people-to-people contact, visa, internet etc. in terms of physical connectivity in the last three decades show different narratives. This paper seeks to examine the challenges and opportunities of India's 'Act East' Policy.

Connectivity: The Driven Force of India's 'Act East' Policy

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India has long exerted a cultural influence over East and Southeast Asia as the birth place of Buddhism. Considered as the 'northeastern borderlands' of South Asia and also the 'northwestern borderlands of Southeast Asia', India's North East region is the meeting ground of two sub-continent. Communities of the region migrated from Tibet, Southwest China and several parts of Southeast Asia during various historical periods, apart from the colonial rule induced migration from various parts of India and Nepal. These waves of migrations of the now-considered 'indigenous people' continued till the early part of the twentieth century. Therefore, the economic and cultural links of these subcontinents cannot be left apart without connectivity. In fact, connectivity is the key building block of convergence and cohesion in any regional integration initiatives. Development of connectivity across any region – especially of people-to-people contact, transportation linkages, energy pipelines, and information and communication technology with cyber security- contributes to integration by reducing transaction costs and facilitating intraregional trade and investment. India's regional integration with east-pacific region through connectivity is an integral part of the policy by devising multimodal and intermodal operations. This paper examines the broad proposal on connectivity projects with Southeast Asia and policy recommendations to strengthen connectivity through India's North East.

Impact of Urbanization on Environment in North East India: A Study in Assam

1. Nabam Tony, 2. Dhananjay Roy, 3. Tenzin Naksang, 4. Nyayir Riba, 5. Sangha Ake, 6. Sonam Chotton, 7. Sonam Pema, 8. Lobsang Chotton, 9. Tai Piter, 10. Baby Murtem, 11. Gyamar Kapa

Population explosion, rapid industrialization, increasing trend of urbanisation and excessive exploitation of natural resources in developing economies has created regional and environmental imbalanced development. It is fact that the urbanisation is the most essential for all round development of the developing nations, as it has increased employment, income and standard of living in these countries. There is a growing realisation in the recent years that the environment is fast deteriorating and the earth's resources are fast running out. Environmental problems centre on human activities which can adversely affect the atmosphere, oceans and land, and creates global warming, ozone depletion, contamination of fresh water resources and urban pollution. Various studies on Indian urbanisation reveals that, Indian cities are expanding

on the one hand and losing green field areas on the other, with disastrous ecological crisis in our towns and cities. The deterioration of the environmental quality is regarded as the inevitable consequence of urbanisation. Almost all the cities in India especially in Assam suffer from the same problem. The main environmental problems relate to air and water pollution, degradation of common property resources, threat to biological diversity, solid waste disposal and sanitation.

Eco Tourism Industry in Arunachal Pradesh

1. Todi nalo, 2. Rumpi dutta, 3. Nani tok, 4. konlom mossang, 5. Binam tali, 6. Bengia mala, 7. choki nijir, 8. Bamang Lucy, 9. Taro sprang
10. Rani Singh

Arunachal Pradesh “the land of dawn-lit mountains” has unparalleled natural beauty and has extensive geographical diversity and corresponding climatic conditions varying from the tropical to the temperate and alpine with a variety of wildlife, flora and fauna, has now started gaining acclaim the world over as one of the richest biodiversity and heritage spots. The variations in altitude and climatic conditions account for four different types of forests whose natural shelter and food harbour a range of flora and fauna, some of which are found only in Arunachal Pradesh. Eco-Tourism has a positive effect on socio-economy, culture, education and standard of living of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh “the land of dawn-lit mountains” has unparalleled natural beauty and has extensive geographical diversity and corresponding climatic conditions varying from the tropical to the temperate and alpine with a variety of wildlife, flora and fauna, has now started gaining acclaim the world over as one of the richest biodiversity and heritage spots. Hence the state is excellent tourist destination.

Act East Policy and Infrastructure of Nagaland

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Look East Policy formulated by late PM Narsimha Rao (1991) and followed by all successors to strengthen the Indian economy and it became the regular feature of Indian foreign policy towards ASEAN countries through North Eastern states of our country. Act East Policy of Present Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the modification of the Look East Policy to do more robust action in the gateway (North Eastern states) of ASEAN. Infrastructure plays a dominant role to flourish the trade. The infrastructure especially road condition is very deplorable almost all parts of the Nagaland. It hinders the development of trade and commerce internal and external (foreign) both. **Till now there are four International Trade Centres (ITC) in Nagaland: Longwa in Mon district, Pangsha in Tuensang district, Mimi in Kiphire district and Avangkhu under Phek district.** It is thus seen that out of the four ITCs in Nagaland, three centres fall under the eastern region of Nagaland. If some more trade centres opened and present infrastructure will be improved and maintained properly, Nagaland can become the catalyst and hub of trade because the entire region is blessed by the natural and cultural fabrics, only firm decision and proper policy is required to explore this wonderful gift of nature.

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