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A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER BY
CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE, GUWAHATI
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SDG's IN ASSAM

The Sustainable Development Goals Were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, India being one of the signatories to it were adopted by the Government of Assam with effect from 1st January 2016. Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs , Director, Quetelet Proferssor of Sustainable Development, Colombia University, New York and architect of these SDGs remarked "It is truly special that Assam has become the first Indian state to formally adopt the SDGs for its development Path".

Our Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi has been laying great emphasis on Nation Building. Flagship schemes launched under his leadership like Make in India, Skilled India, Startup India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Swaach Bharat have unleashed the energy of the youth to the task. Echoing his aspirations the Government of Assam under the leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri Sarbananda Sonowal, has initiated many innovative schemes like CMSGUY, Atal Amrit Abhiyan, MOITRI, Digital Assam for creating a Xuroxhito Axom, Vikoxito Axom, Xarbasreshtha Axom (Secured Assam, Developed Assam and Great Assam), towards achieveing the global SDG agenda of 'No-one left behind'. The Vision and strategic architecture document released in October 2016 aims towards partnering everyone for everyone's development in its journey towards creating a peaceful, prosperous, healthy and pollution free Assam.

Below are a list of activities taken up by the Centre for SDGs to take forward SDGs in Assam:

⟹ Institutional framework for achieving SDGs (completed, provisions kept for further expansion)

⟹ Forging partnerships for successful implementation of SDG-based plans and programmes (expanding)

⟹ Orientation of government staff about the SDGs (completed at state level, ongoing at District/ sub-state levels).

⟹ Adoption of long term vision with monitorable indicators: Assam 2030 (completed).

⟹ Development of core SDG indicators with baselines and targets and incorporation in Assam Economic Survey -2016 -17 (completed).

⟹ Development of SDG-based outcome budget (completed with further refinements ongoing)

⟹ Finalisation of strategy papers and action plans and holding conclaves to receive expert feedback (ongoing)

⟹ Field level conclaves to strengthen SDG implementation (ongoing)

SDG EVENTS IN ASSAM

Climate Change and Environmental Protection through Sustainable Development Goals 12, 13, 14 and 15

14th and 15th July, 2017: This conclave was designed to cover the Sustainable Development Goals on Sustainable Consumption And Production (Goal-12), Climate Action (Goal-13), Conservation Of Water Resources (Goal-14) and Life On Land (Goal-15) in Assam. The thematic discussions ranged from Achieving Carbon Neutrality in Assam & Climate Change Mitigation, Making Assam Pollution Free, Climate Change Adaption & Climate Resilient Communities, Water and River Conservation & Management, Land Management, Soil Conservation & Watershed Conservation & Development   and Reduce, Reuse & Recycle – managing waste reduction in production & supply chain. The conclave had many external experts participating along with members from multiple departments from the Government. Addressing the conclave, the Advisor and Mentor to AASC Shri Anurag Goel asked departments to   take the SPAPs a step further and ask fundamental questions like, 'who, does what, where, when and how', furthermore he added that it is important to seek innovation in the SPAPs, along with strategy for 2030 which should be in back-casted. The Advisor to CSDGs Dr Shiladitya Chatterjee also added that the, 'departments should identify the owners of each target, the supporters of each of these should be mapped in a PPP model (People-Project-Partnerships)'.

SDG Conclave on Economic Growth, Industries and Infrastructure

Padma Shri, Prof. Dr. Shantha Sinha, First Chairperson of NCPCR addressing the participants on conclave on SDGs 7,8 and 9

5th August 2017: The Centre for SDGs in collaboration Transformation and Development Dept., Govt of Assam along with Industries and Commerce Dept., Power Dept., Labour & Employment Dept., Public Works Dept., Government organized a one day conclave on Sustainable Development Goal 7 affordable and clean energy, Goal 8 decent work and economic growth and Goal 9 industry innovation and infrastructure. The conclave was structured to have group wise thematic discussions among the 9 thematic groups. The concerned departments seeked advice, suggestions and recommendations on the draft SPAPs of the lead departments and engaged experts from the state and the region to get inputs on the SPAPs. Strategic paper and Action Plan (SPAP) of the departments were thoroughly scrutinized and suggestions were made to further improve the SPAP. Areas of priority and a time bound development plan was prepared based on the experts inputs during the conclave. Policy interventions and progamme were proposed in key areas such as fostering inclusive economic growth, sustainable livelihood and industrialization, infrastructure development, skill development and entrepreneurship development, identifying areas of employment and growth for state of Assam and use of technology and innovation to bring economic prosperity.

Building resilient, inclusive and sustainable urban cities and communities

9th August 2017: Currently more than half the world's population lives in cities and by 2030, it is projected that 6 out of 10 people will be urban dwellers. Guwahati and the other towns in Assam are rapidly urbanizing with growing population and migration from within the state and other parts of the country. SDG Goal 11 focuses on access issues related to fast pace of urbanisation such as water supply, sewerage and sanitation, storm water drainage, urban transport, urban housing, street lighting, adequate public spaces, formulation and execution of master plans and enhancing capacities of Urban Local Bodies, solar energy installations, rainwater harvesting and other such practices. Speaking at the conclave the Chief Secretary Shri V. K. Pipersenia asked participating members, 'what is a community? Community means common'. He stressed on how involvement of citizens is the key to planning better cities. He asked the participating departments to look at Municipal and other relevant Acts and revamp the parts which are not working. He also emphasised on promoting local self-governance, and stated that the 'the best cities in the world are the best governed cities'. The thematic groups were divided into Urban Transport, Urban Housing, Urban Governance and Urban Environment. Based on the group discussions, recommendations were made on what steps need to be taken for creating sustainable urban spaces by 2030.

The Centre for SDGs held a meeting with the Bodo-land Territorial Council Secretaries and Heads of Departments on 21st August in Kokrajhar, on integrating SDGs in their work through their Vision Document, drafting Strategy Paper and Action Plans for the Departments and identification of Village Council for taking as Model SDG Area.

SDG IN FOCUS:
Goal 3 Good Health and Well-being

Targets under Goal 3:

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

- By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

- By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

For more information: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3

An Innovation on SDG 3 from one of the 12 Women Awarded by NITI AAYOG on 29th August 2017 for 'Transforming India'

Rajlakshmi Borthakur, Bengaluru: Her young son's severe epilepsy left Raji Borthakur devastated. His seizures would come suddenly without warning. Living in constant fear, she never knew when the next seizure would strike. And neither did the doctors. Determined to save her child's life, Raji channelled her inner researcher and innovator. She researched epilepsy obsessively for more than three years and came up with a simple wearable device, a smart glove, that can predict epileptic seizures before they happen. The sensors inside the glove get vital stats from the body and send these to the inbuilt processor. The processor works on the data immediately and sends it wirelessly to patients and caregivers anywhere, thus alerting them to a possible episode of seizure that could prove fatal. Raji's simple yet ingenious solution to her son's life-threatening condition has the potential of saving millions of others living with seizures.

For more information: http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/niti-aayog-awards-12-women-for-transforming-india/articleshow/60281525.cms

Do Check out!

World Health Statistics data visualizations dashboard created by World Health Organisation (WHO)

Access: http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.sdg.tp-1?lang=en

Promoting Good Health through Best Practices

Making a Difference: Good, Replicable and Innovative Solutions, National Health Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 2015

Extract: 'Healthcare systems have experienced a proliferation of innovations aimed at enhancing life expectancy, quality of life, diagnostic and treatment options, as well as the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the healthcare system. Information technology has played a vital role in the innovation of healthcare systems. Despite the surge in innovation, theoretical research on the art and science of healthcare innovation has been limited. In order to achieving target goals of National Health Mission and to make health more accessible, affordable, safer and equitable; there is a need to identify, evaluate and scale up innovations. This compendium of innovations is collection of best practices in various states in India and is being shared for the purposes of dissemination and scale up.'
(http://nhsrcindia.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=189&Itemid=693)
PDF Access Link: file:///C:/Users/in.local/Downloads/Making%20a%20Difference%20-%20Good%20Replicable%20and%20Innovative%20Practices%202015.pdf
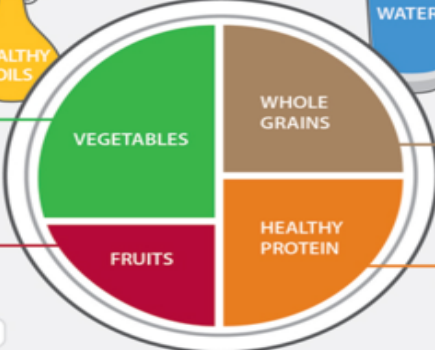
Article: How to Achieve the SDGs
A lack of funding for the Sustainable Development Goals "is enough to test even the most diehard optimist", but World Bank expert Mahmoud Mohieldin shares lessons from Colombia on how countries can still achieve the SDGs. By: Mahmoud Mohieldin 30 August 2017. Extract:

'Colombia still has a long way to go before achieving the SDGs. But its localized and integrated approach has put it on the right path. Other countries would do well to follow suit.'
Article from Eco Business: Access: http://www.eco-business.com/opinion/how-to-achieve-the-sdgs/

Handbook: Strategizing national health in the 21st century: a handbook
This handbook is designed as a resource for providing up-to-date and practical guidance on national health planning and strategizing for health. It establishes a set of best practices to support strategic plans for health and represents the wealth of experience accumulated by WHO on national health policies, strategies and plans (NHPSPs).
Download: http://www.who.int/healthsystems/publications/nhpsp-handbook/en/

The quiet digital revolution in Chandrapur
Written by Aarti Gupta for Live Mint: August 26th 2017
Extract from Article:

A pioneering initiative of the Maharashtra government has data-mapped three blocks of the district at an unprecedented level

Jiwati taluka (or sub-district) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district is often called the "punishment block" in government echelons. Almost on the Andhra border, it takes two hours to reach the thickly forested area from district headquarters. Unlike in the surrounding talukas, where Marathi is spoken, the Telugu and local variant of the language resident tribes speak here poses a barrier to an outsider. And not to mention that phone networks reach only select "hello points"— elevated areas in villages that have limited connectivity (only 2G here, no fancy high-speed data connections).

In this remote, inhospitable setting, a mammoth task is under way—a survey to gather data in villages on every single individual. The objective: setting up a real-time data system that can help the authorities and communities plan at the local level according to their specific needs.

It's January and field managers Gopal Singh and Sandeep Sukhdeve, along with 300 volunteers, are pulling out all the stops in their quest to data-map Chandrapur. Gopal, who is camping in Chandrapur for the task, has his day cut out— he leaves his temporary digs in the district headquarters at 7am in the cold mornings to reach the taluka interiors two hours later, distribute tablet computers and get the data survey started in the 83 villages by 10am.

To make sure respondents understand the questions, he carries out periodic spot checks in a few gram panchayats. He also does back checks on collected data to correct mistakes made by the field staff, many of whom might have never used smartphones or tablets before.

After a long day of data collection, he gathers up the tablets and traverses through the secluded jungles, reaching Chandrapur by 11pm. Given the limited bandwidth in the field, Gopal painstakingly verifies and syncs data in the long January nights. That's the rigmarole of most volunteers specially trained for the task: collect data during the day and travel to the nearest town at night to upload the data collected.

Jiwati is one of the three talukas of the district being surveyed for the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, a rural development programme the central government launched in 2014. The programme mandates that MPs identify and develop model villages in their constituencies, not just by improving the physical infrastructure, but also by pushing for complete socioeconomic development.

When the Tata Trusts, which work with other trusts on community development, offered to support MPs and MLAs in this regard, Maharashtra's minister for forest, finance and planning, Sudhir Mungantiwar, asked them to develop a holistic development plans for his home district—Chandrapur.

Mungantiwar, the "Bhau" (older brother) of Vidarbha had been rooting for the region's development over the last few years. But there was only so much that could be done when planning with paper-based surveys, registers and files. It was clear that things had to be done differently. "If we have to turn a village into a model village, I feel data lies at the core of this exercise," he says in a video interview SocialCops filmed while the project was being carried out, "Without data... our transformation efforts would be incomplete and directionless."

Solutions for a country as diverse and complex as India, where even parts of a district may be starkly different from each other, can be baffling, says Prabhat Pani, head of partnerships and technology at the Tata Trusts. "That is why geography- and citizen-focused microplanning is the way to go," he adds, "to capture village-level nuances that centralized datasets lack."

The Tata Trusts partnered with data intelligence company SocialCops to completely rethink district planning. Their brief was formidable: create a comprehensive data-based microplan for each of the 290 villages across three talukas of Chandrapur—Pombhurna, Mul and Jiwati.

Full Article: http://www.livemint.com/Sundayapp/QMbWi2VuPKfInCaNZnJbyL/The-quiet-digital-revolution-in-Chandrapur.html

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SDG News from Around the World

- **World Bank Calls for Broad Shift in Thinking to Hasten WASH, SDG Implementation:** Lauen Anderson, 29th August 2018 (IISD SDG Knowledge Hub), Link: http://sdg.iisd.org/news/world-bank-calls-for-broad-shift-in-thinking-to-hasten-wash-sdg-implementation/

- **Solidarity across generations is vital for sustainable development, UN special event hears:** Via UN News Centre, Link: http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/08/solidarity-across-generations-is-vital-for-sustainable-development-un-special-event-hears/

- **Breastfeeding is 'smartest investment' families, communities and countries can make –** UN: Link: http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/08/breastfeeding-is-smartest-investment-families-communities-and-countries-can-make-un/

- **How scientists can help make the sustainable development goals a reality: The Conversation, August 29th 2017. Link:** http://theconversation.com/how-scientists-can-help-make-the-sustainable-development-goals-

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Conclave on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reducing Inequalities) on 21st September 2017

- Conclave on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) on October 13 2017

*Disclaimer: This newsletter is only for internal circulation and uses material and resources from around the world with sources cited for spreading information on SDGs.

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