

অসম চৰকাৰ



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



DIVISIONAL CONCLAVE LOWER ASSAM DIVISION

Organised by

Divisional Commissioner, Lower Assam Division

In collaboration with

**Transformation & Development Department, Government of Assam
Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup Metropolitan District
Centre for Sustainable Development Goals,
Assam Administrative Staff College.**

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Guwahati





Assam's Endeavors in Achieving the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were universally adopted in January 2016 as a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 Goals which are to be achieved by 2030, were designed based on the learnings from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), through a global consultative process, to include many more new areas of focus such as Climate Change, Sustainable Consumption, Peace and Justice, and Innovation, among many other key areas. The SDGs are based on the principle of forging partnerships and setting clear guidelines to achieve these targets as per the needs of each region.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in his speech addressing the United Nations on 25th September 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Summit stated, 'Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.'¹ Government of Assam, mirroring this commitment, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal strived to take forward the SDGs in Assam. Under the guidelines structured in the vision document titled, 'Assam 2030: Our Dream, Our Commitment', a strategy was created to start the process of inducting SDGs into the policy planning processes of the Government of Assam. It is one of the first states in India and globally to start bringing SDGs into the policy discourse of the state.

To take forward these goals in Assam the Centre for Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) was established in the Assam Administrative Staff College.

- The CSDGs was established as a think-tank to provide research and technical support to all departments in the Government of Assam, to take forward their SDG targets.
- The Planning & Development Department is the nodal department for coordinating all the activities within the departments for achieving the SDGs. An SDG Cell has also been established within the P&D Dept. to provide support to take forward SDG related activities. It reports directly to the Additional Chief Secretary, P& D Dept.
- SDGs Strategy Support Group (SSSG) is also being set-up to provide a platform for collective generation and incubation of new ideas and innovations, and as a knowledge exchange, functioning in a semi-formal manner. The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam is the Chairperson for this group.
- Partnership creation has played a central role in taking forward the SDG Agenda. International organisations such as UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and others are collaborating and providing support to the Government of Assam in designing their mission to take forward SDGs.
- The UNDP has given high priority to the 2030 Agenda and believes that government, philanthropic organisations, and businesses need to work together to achieve the SDGs. UNDP is providing support to governments to integrate the SDGs into both the development plans and policies of nations.² UNDP has allocated two State Technical Officers for assistance to the Government of Assam, for working specifically on the SDG Agenda of the state.

¹Government of Assam (2016): Assam 2030, Our Dream, Our Commitment: Vision and Strategic Architecture Document, July 12th, 2016. Extract from message from the Chief Minister.

²UNDP (2016): <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>. Accessed: 20.04.2017

SDGs Planning in Action

The work towards strategizing for the SDGs started with the Government Order (GO) dated 28th December 2015 issued by the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam. This was followed by an orientation conducted on 5th January 2016 and at the end of which 8 working groups were constituted to prepare the Strategy Paper and Action Plan (SPAPs) against the 17 SDGs. A second GO issued on 4th March 2017, by the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, reinstated governments initiative and plans for taking forward the SDG goals. In preparation for the finalisation of these SPAPs 8 conclaves (based on 8 groups) have been planned by the Centre for SDGs and Planning and Development Department for covering all the 17 goals. The process of finalisation of SPAPs has already begun with the first conclave held on 24th April 2017 on Health, Water and Sanitation by the Health and Family Welfare Department and Public Health Engineering Department.

The Government of Assam has incorporated a chapter on SDGs with core indicators, targets and benchmarks in the Economic Survey (Assam) Report for the year 2016-17. This was done by the Centre for SDGs in partnership with OKD Institute and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics under guidance of Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Advisor to the Centre. This chapter was the first of its kind, and the indicators will be further disaggregated to provide better understanding on social, economic and special categories of the population. Currently, efforts are in progress to develop this into a real-time monitoring dashboard.

Furthermore, the Government of Assam through the Centre for SDGs carried out the mapping of Assam Budget (2016-17). The exercise mapped the budget to be an SDG centric one, highlighting the SDG targets against each budget outlay and deliverables against the outlays. The Outcome Budget for the year 2017-2018 has been mapped based on the SDG targets.



Divisional Conclaves

The Divisional Conclaves on SDGs will be held in all divisions of Assam to include the officials and other stakeholders from divisional/ district levels to participate in the implementation of SDGs in Assam. The main aim of the Divisional Conclave is to generate awareness on SDGs at the grass-root level and to include the functionaries from the divisional/ district level to engage in discussions on understanding the SDGs and partake in the policy planning discussions of the state. However, the work at the divisional and below level will be an ongoing one in the journey towards achieving of Sustainable Development Goals in the state.

The primary objectives of the Divisional Conclaves are:

1. Disseminate understanding on SDGs from global to local context
2. Applying SDGs and understanding interlinkages with other programmes, such as MMS-CMSGUY
3. Understanding monitoring processes for implementing the SDGs
4. To increase participation in the policy planning discussions on SDGs

The first Divisional Conclave is organized on **1st June, 2017 for the Lower Assam Division** at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara. The sessions for the conclave planned as follows:

INAUGURAL SESSION

This session will lay the foundation for the basis of organizing these Divisional Conclaves. It will pave the way for understanding the relevance of SDGs in the context of Assam and the necessity of devolving this information across all levels, especially to the grassroots.

TECHNICAL SESSION 1: OVERVIEW ON SDGS

This session will deal with the global, national and regional vision for SDGs and aim to give an overview of SDGs at different levels to the participants. It will create a better understanding on the role districts/divisions play in taking forward the agenda for SDGs in Assam.

TECHNICAL SESSION 2: DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND PERSPECTIVES AT THE FIELD LEVEL

This session will bring forth perspectives from the various relevant sectors, for the implementation of SDGs and ideas around innovative practices in taking forth the SDG Goals and Targets from state level to the field level.

TECHNICAL SESSION 3: OPEN SESSION: 'DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS', ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The aim of this session is to create a space for discussing planning, implementation and monitoring processes in relation to SDGs at the grassroots level to the Deputy Commissioners and other district level officers.

All technical sessions will be followed by open discussions with the various officials to participate in the discussion and the last session will try to sum up the proceedings from the day to create a strategic understanding on the relevance for SDGs at the divisional and below level.

For any queries and feedback, please write: csdgs.assam@gmail.com

