

Government of Assam
Planning and Development Department
Dispur, Guwahati

No. PDP. 55/2015/63

Dated, Dispur the 28th December, 2015

To,
All Additional Chief Secretaries All Principal Secretaries ,All Commissioners and Secretaries
All Secretaries to Government of Assam
All Principal Secretaries of Autonomous Councils/ Developmental Councils
All Head of Commissionerates/Directorates/PSUs ; and
All Heads Autonomous/ Semi-autonomous organisations under the Government of Assam

Subject : "ASSAM 2030 IN LIGHT OF SDGs " - IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN ASSAM

Dear Colleagues,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, for adopting 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 169 targets and 304 indicators, on 25th September, 2015 under the official agenda "Transforming our world : the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The Government of India is one of the signatories to this Resolution. The Government of Assam recognizes that the 17 SDGs ,169 targets and 304 indicators represent the consensus of the global community on things to be done by different Governments in the interest of the well-being of the entire world and humanity.

The Government of Assam further recognises the great beneficial impact achievement of these Goals would have on the health, happiness, prosperity and well-being of each and every citizen of Assam, as also on the conservation and preservation of the State's unique bio-diversity, which is so important for the sustainable development and economic growth of Assam.

Keeping the above in view, the Government of Assam has decided to implement the SDGs in the State with effect from 1st January, 2016, and to launch an initiative titled "Assam -2030 in light of SDGs" from that date.

The list of 17 SDGs adopted by the United Nations is at Annexure I.

The overall approach and strategy to be pursued by the Government of Assam for achieving all SDGs by 2030 is at Annexure 2.

It has been decided that the Planning and Development Department will act as the nodal department for this purpose and all Departments and Organisations of the Government of Assam will start taking action along the lines indicated in Annexure 2 immediately, starting with establishment of internal SDG Cells.

A SDG Cell has already been established in the P & D Department, reporting directly to the Additional Chief Secretary, P & D . A Centre for SDGs has also been established in the Assam Administrative Staff College (AASC) to support all departments in the work relating to SDGs. OKD Institute, Guwahati has also agreed to have a partnership with the Government in this effort.

The SDG Cell in P & D Department will also put in place an on-line system for communication and coordination with the departmental SDG cells and the Centre for SDGs in AASC.

All Departments are requested to immediately put in place suitable internal support systems for implementation of SDGs, including setting up the internal SDG Cell mentioned above, to support effective systems/ program designing, disseminating, implementing, coordinating, monitoring, problem-solving, corrective action etc. They may also take the help of the SDG cell in P & D Department and the Centre for SDGs in AASC, whenever required.

The Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioners and Secretaries / Secretaries to Government of Assam and all Heads of Departments/Directorates will urgently hold internal meetings and issue necessary instructions to all concerned in this regard.

Additional Chief Secretary, P & D may hold meeting(s) with the various Departments for facilitating better awareness and communication about the SDGs, which will be followed by meetings at the level of the Chief Secretary from time to time as per requirement.

To facilitate the work of various Departments in this regard, an *Orientation Workshop* will be organised by the P & D Department in collaboration with the OKD Institute and the SDGs Cell of AASC at the AASC on January 5th 2016 which should be attended by all Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioners and Secretaries / Secretaries to Government of Assam, concerned Heads of Departments/Directorates and their core staff engaged in the conceptualization, planning and formulation of programmes and schemes. This workshop will be held from 10.30 am on January 5th 2016 and will be for the whole day. Departmental Secretaries may please identify the officials who will attend and accordingly ensure presence of themselves and the officials concerned.

P & D Department has also been given the responsibility to organise a Conference/Workshop on "ASSAM-2030 in light of SDGs" , with the support of the Centre for SDGs, AASC for departmental and field officers. Representatives of Government of India, UN Global Compact

Network India, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York and other stakeholders may also be invited to this Workshop. The objectives of the Workshop may include sensitization, sharing outline of the framework for achievement of SDGs, consultation, feedback regarding likely problems and possible solutions, suggestions regarding best options for effective systems' design and implementation etc.

The first report on action taken in this regard by all departments may be furnished to Additional Chief Secretary, P & D, who will submit the consolidated report to the Chief Secretary along with recommendations regarding further course of action. The report may be submitted to Additional Chief Secretary P&D by 4th of January 2016, so as to enable the P&D Department to place it for examination in the Orientation workshop scheduled to be organized on January 5th 2016.

All Departments are requested to take immediate necessary action as indicated above.

Yours Sincerely

(V.K.Pipersenia)
Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam

ANNEXURE - 1

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September, 2015 under the official agenda Transforming our world : the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Resolution adopted the following 17 Sustainable Development Goals :-

1. **Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. **Food** - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. **Health** - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. **Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. **Women** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. **Water** - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. **Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. **Economy** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9. **Infrastructure** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10. **Inequality** - Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. **Habitation** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. **Consumption** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. **Climate** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. **Marinosystems** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. **Ecosystems** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. **Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. **Sustainability** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

ANNEXURE - 2

ASSAM - 2030 IN LIGHT OF SDGs

OUTLINE OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN ASSAM

"ASSAM - 2030 in light of SDGs" is the Vision of the Government of Assam for a developed and prosperous State with happy, healthy, caring, cared for and gainfully employed people, through achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly on 25th September, 2015. The State Government is fully committed to the SDGs, and has decided to achieve all the Goals in Assam by 2030, through a major all-round initiative, starting with the broad framework and strategy outlined below.

The SDGs dream spans a period of 15 years. In today's age of exploding technology and disruptive innovation, designing the strategy for a major initiative of this nature which, inter alia, also involves reforming the architecture of governance for effective implementation, has to take into account the emerging thoughts and trends in all relevant domains, including technology, social dynamics and environmental imperatives. The Government would, therefore, take up an effective governance reforms project relying on a combination of management and technology, using Analytics, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, trend analysis by experts etc., and reinventing/re-engineering the governmental structures and processes for this purpose.

APPROACH

The framework is based on the following approach:-

i) Most of the SDGs relate to outcomes already accepted as desirable (including in MDGs), and are already being sought to be achieved through existing governmental programs. A major part of what we need to do is to:

- a) re-orient, re-align and re-prioritize the existing programs;
- b) integrate, synergize and re-energize the different components of SDGs; and
- c) redefine the structures, retool the processes and rejuvenate the people.

ii) Forging strong partnerships between State Governments and all stakeholders, ranging from Global to National to Local levels, corporates to communities, academia to civil society etc., supported by effective communications and management of change, would be important.

iii) The concerned departments of the State Government, being primarily responsible for action and results in most of the domains covered in SDGs, and for service-delivery to the citizens at the ground level in regard to their basic needs, would be responsible for the successful implementation of ASSAM - 2030. The much-needed knowledge and capacity building support

may be provided at the global level by the UN organizations such as United Nations Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI), the World Economic Forum, premier academic institutions like The Earth Institute, Columbia University, New York, local research organization like OKD Institute, Guwahati, Central & State Universities in Assam and corporate technology giants like Google, IBM, Microsoft, Apple etc.; while supplemental local resources and expertise may be provided by corporate partners and established institutions in India.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Government of Assam recognises that one of the reasons for the mixed outcomes in regard to MDGs was the fact that they were never considered and implemented as a single package, and the responsibility was diffused amongst departments without requisite coordination. Therefore, the most important feature of the framework being adopted now, is that the Government would implement the SDGs as a Single Holistic Synergized Initiative (SHSI), instead of their being treated as a collection of individual Goals. The required capacity building and coordination in implementing SDGs would be ensured through the Centre for SDGs, which has been set up exclusively for this purpose by the Government of Assam, and envisages partnership with UN Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI) for knowledge and capacity building inputs. This Centre will be the Knowledge-Hub for the initiative and will, inter alia, be using 'Foresight ' knowledge/tools for strategising and planning implementation.

UNGCNI will be one of the important channels for transferring the unique knowledge and expertise residing globally within the UN systems & networks, required for understanding and achievement of SDGs, and for supporting the State's SHSIs in terms of capacity building and forging of corporate/ stakeholders' partnerships. UNGCNI is envisaged as an effective and value-adding connector/ funnel, connecting the UN system's huge network on the one end, and the State Government's governance systems on the other, for supporting the achievement of SDGs.

Another unique feature of the Government's strategy would be to set up a futuristic Technology Platform using a combination of IT, Analytics, Big Data, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Cognitive Computing (self-learning software) etc., capable of hosting the large number of eco-systems planned to be developed for actualising the ASSAM 2030 Vision, largely built around use of Apps and mobiles. A suitable Technology firm would be identified by the State Government for providing the technical know-how and support for this purpose.

IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs AS A SHSI

As mentioned earlier, implementation of SDGs will be taken as a Single Holistic Synergized Initiative (SHSI), and the governance systems would be re-designed around it. Some of the initial steps for the above purpose would include:-

i) PUBLICIZING A POWERFUL VISION 2030 :- The objectives and outcomes of the entire SDG Initiative will be articulated in clear and concrete terms, to facilitate drawing up of a powerful Strategy, along with an effective Action Plan for implementation. For this, the Government would project the scenario in the State in 2030 on achievement of each Goal, in terms of key parameters and the impact on the economy and the people. The Vision would be

captured in a Master Document for ASSAM - 2030 by consolidating these individual documents, taking into account their interlinkages also. This would then become the basis for preparing the Strategy document, Action Plan etc.

ii) MAKING SHORT VIDEO CLIPS OF ASSAM 2030 AFTER ACHIEVING SDGs :- The Vision in ASSAM - 2030 would be shared with the citizens, governmental machinery and all stakeholders, by making short video clips for this purpose, so as to get their invaluable whole-hearted support and cooperation for success. For this, the Government can get a 5-7 minute video clip/film of ASSAM - 2030 made showing the State as it would be in 2030, after achieving SDGs, depicting the State and her people in 2030. Subsequently, similar 3-5 minutes video clips would be made for each Goal.

iii) ALIGNING EXISTING SCHEMES/ PROGRAMS WITH SDGs :- In terms of intent and content, much of what is being proposed under SDGs is already being done under different governmental schemes and programs. The departments will take stock of the situation, and re-orient and suitably modify their existing schemes/ programs to align them with the SDGs.

iv) SETTING UP AN EFFECTIVE IT PLATFORM:- A powerful IT enabled platform would be set up for integrating and monitoring the SDGs. This is essential given the large number of programs, targets, stakeholders etc., and the multiplicity of implementation get agencies. The IT Platform would have necessary functionalities for this purpose, including on-line updates, monitoring and corrective action systems, and will also support the powerful Knowledge Management System (KMS) essential for the success of this venture. All key functionaries would have simple but powerful dash-boards. This will be integrated with the Information and Technology Department's efforts through the Website Development Cell as well as with the Industries and Commerce Department's efforts on the *Ease of Doing Business* so that the IT Platform will be available seamlessly for the State as a whole.

v) PREPARING STRATEGY DOCUMENTS AND ACTION PLANS :- Clear articulation of the strategy and action plans is essential. The work for preparing and finalizing the Strategy documents and Action Plans, in a consultative mode, will be started urgently by each Department for its respective Goal. Concurrently, Planning & Development Department will work with all these Departments for preparing the Master Strategy Document, as well as the Composite Action Plan, for the SHSI. Apart from normal components, the Strategy will provide for an effective communication and accountability regime for integrated implementation; concurrent third party independent performance assessment along with Performance Gap Reporting with Reasons & Solutions (PGRRS) to facilitate higher level decisions to support the frontline, not fault-finding etc.

SMART VILLAGES AND TOWNS PROJECT

It is proposed to launch certain pilot projects right from the beginning, to take up villages and towns for total implementation and achievement of all SDGs at an accelerated pace. The demonstration and energizing impact of show-casing these villages and towns would be substantial. The learnings of the pilot projects would be used for scaling and replicating, with suitable adaptations and modifications, so as to cover all the villages and towns in the State.

The pilot projects will be implemented in three phases in the selected villages and towns of the State, these phases being meant for a) awareness, partnership, impact; b) ownership, institutionalization, implementation; and c) momentum, learning, replication respectively. Detailed strategy would be worked out by the P & D Department for designing, approval and implementation of these pilot projects.

FUNDING AND FINANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSAM - 2030

ASSAM - 2030 will be funded and financed through a combination of the following modalities:-

i) Since the SDGs largely relate to areas in which a number of schemes and programs are already being implemented with similar objectives, a major part of the funds required would be available through re-alignment of these schemes and programs, and reassigning human resources engaged therein.

ii) Corporate partnerships will be forged to provide supplemental funding and resources for meeting the critical gaps in these schemes and programs, which can at times hamper or delay on-the-ground outcomes. Corporate contributions are expected to be forthcoming with greater ease due to the increasing sense of Corporate Social Responsibility in the private sector, with companies of certain size being required, under Section 135 of Companies Act, 2013 to spend 2% on activities relating to Corporate Social Responsibility.

iii) UN Agencies, including World Bank etc., are also expected to support in a big way the various projects formulated for the SDGs, individually and collectively. The concerned departments will formulate suitable proposals for this purpose.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of SDGs will commence from 1st January, 2016 in the context of the Vision underlying the ASSAM 2030 initiative, on the basis of the above outline of the framework, which has been approved by the Government. This initial outline would be developed further by P & D Department, in consultation with all departments and stakeholders, and crystallized into a full-fledged framework and strategy document by 31st March, 2016, also incorporating the budgetary systems and procedures suitably simplified and modified by the Finance Department with a view to orienting them in sync with the framework and strategy devised by the P & D Development.