

HEG Speech in Seminar on  
North East India 2030 and Beyond

The Special guests to this Symposium,  
Speakers on the Various Subjects  
Particularly from the Morning Session,

- 1) Brig. Manish Rana Ji, SM, Commander, 21<sup>st</sup> Sect AR
- 2) Lt Gen K Himalaya Singh Ji
- 3) Dr Monish Tourangbam Director KIIPs
- 4) Brig Jeewan Rajpurohit Ji
- 5) Lt Gen A S Pendharkar Ji GOC 3 Corps
- 6) Riva Ganguly Das Ji Former Sec , East, MEA

And the Speakers in the Present session

- 7) Dr Prabir De Ji, Professor, RIS
- 8) Dr Sreedhar Dutta Ji , JB University
- 9) Brig Jaideep Chanda Ji , NDC New Delhi
- 10) Moderator Sabyasachi Dutta Ji

Editors, Print and Electronic Media,  
Officials, good evening to you all

Good Evening to you all,

It is both a privilege and a profound responsibility to address this august gathering on a theme that resonates deeply with the aspirations of our region: “North East India 2030 and Beyond”.

Today, we convene not just to deliberate but to envision a future where economic vitality, environmental stewardship, cultural pride, and strategic resilience converge to redefine our collective destiny.

Before discussing on the Seminar Topics, I would like to raise few related Issues.

The north east region has close to approximately two lakh 63 thousands sq kilometers which is less than the state of Rajasthan; however there are more than 200 ethnic groups. The problems are very different.

This region is surrounded by 5 foreign countries- China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

North East may not have copper ore, bauxite ore, iron etc. where we cannot expect to have large scale engineering industry but depend on agriculture largely. Concentration needed on 5 basic human needs - food and nutrition, water and sanitation, housing, health and education- need to be included in planning process.

North East Council is the reserve planning body of the region with a number of advisors, which with its funds and capabilities does whatever it can in developing and aiding the north east states. As per the vision of Prime Minister Modi, a dedicated ministry for Northeast Affairs at a cabinet level, has been given the responsibility for rapid development of Northeast region.

The Northeastern states, endowed with abundant natural resources, biodiversity, and a strategic geographic location, are poised to become India's growth engine. By 2030, we must prioritize infrastructure modernization—expanding road, rail, and air connectivity under initiatives like the Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects. Equally critical is digital empowerment,

ensuring universal broadband access to bridge urban-rural divides.

There may be some advantages and some disadvantages based on local resources and other conditions in different countries or regions. We need to take the positive points in them and exceed the negative points.

When it comes to the North-East, the problems here are very different. Here large number of ethnic groups is located in small settlements and many of the forces in the neighborhood try to influence and get them in their way.

Keeping this in mind, not just now, but also in the future, we need to take all possible steps to preserve our culture and heritage so that they do not fall into any kind of influence and get caught up in the evil thoughts of the neighboring countries. I hope all of you will think about this. Those who cannot tolerate our growth conspire to trouble our country in many ways.

We need to identify such people. Many people think that if there are problems in the neighboring countries, it is not in our country, but violence is confined to those countries, but that is not true. The problems in the neighboring countries also usually become problems in our country.

Because the problems there, affect us indirectly. For example, if unemployment increases in neighboring countries, infiltrators will increase in our country. If there is an internal sense of insecurity, infiltration swells in our country. Even if there is an increase in political instability in neighboring countries, it will have an impact on us, which means that we must remember that the problems in the neighboring countries are problems in our country.

That's why we need to be financially stable. Only then will we be able to give an answer to all the problems and it is not enough just to assume that we have achieved our goals in terms of culture, clean environment and economic strength.

In some countries, there are distorted cultures. Our territory should not be the venue for those cultures.

The Northeast is going to be a gateway to the country in the future for trade and exports. India used to be a commercial means of transport to countries such as Burma, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore through the northeastern states.

Although this transport has been disrupted due to a number of reasons in the recent past, if we have restored it again, I think India's transportation will be in line with the intended targets in the future.

The north-eastern states have been a part of Akhand Bharat since before independence. The north-eastern states have never gone into the hands of foreign powers and they are very kind as Indians mentally equipped. I feel there is a need to maintain the same spirit in the days to come.

Tripura, for instance, has emerged as a gateway to Southeast Asia through the Agartala-Akhaura rail link, a testament to the transformative power of the Act East Policy. Let us harness sectors like agro-processing, bamboo industries, and eco-tourism, creating job opportunities for our youth while fostering partnerships with ASEAN nations. However, growth must be inclusive ensuring marginalized communities, women, and micro-entrepreneurs are stakeholders in this progress.

Our region is a global biodiversity hotspot, but climate change poses existential threats. Unpredictable monsoons, landslides, and deforestation demand urgent action. The choice before us is clear: development cannot come at the cost of ecological bankruptcy.

Tripura has championed community-led conservation, such as the Tripura Bamboo Mission, balancing livelihoods with sustainability.

By 2030, let us scale up renewable energy—solar, wind, and small hydropower—and collaborate with neighbors like Bangladesh and Bhutan on transboundary climate resilience projects. Every policy must embed the mantra: “Prosperity yes, but not at nature’s expense.”

Tripura state government has issued a notification on the 17 goals with the assignment of roles and responsibilities with regard to the SDGs Strong Autonomous district council. Tripura human development report Stated Tripura’s state plan, district plan, block plan, GP plan and village plan etc are all in synergy brought together.



The state government focus in on the poorest of the poor with special focus on education , health water, irrigation and so on Coming to the issue of jobs- 17 goals and 169 targets- the committee will meet each department for process and outcome to achieve them each and every quarter. Resources- the partition has taken away freedom, virtually- connectivity all the projects have to be completed but funding has to be assured.

Government of India released the Hydrocarbon Vision Document 2030 for NE Region with the aim of preparing a roadmap for the next 5 years to increase the production of oil and gas in NE and outlining the necessary investment in the hydrocarbon sector to increase exploration activities, etc.

The objectives of the plan are to leverage the region's hydrocarbon potential, enhance access to clean fuels, improve availability of petroleum products, and facilitate economic development and to link common people to the economic activities in this sector. The Vision rests on five pillars: People, Policy, Partnership, Projects and Production.

For people, it foresees clean fuel access to households alongside fostering skill development and involvement of the local community. As for partnership, the stress is on greater involvement of state governments in planning and implementation, and on boosting trade with neighboring nations.

In projects, the focus is on pipeline connectivity for carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas, and petroleum products, oil and lubricants (POL); building refineries and import links; and development of compressed natural gas (CNG) highways and city gas distribution network.

The production side emphases include production enhancement contracts, technology deployment and fast-track clearance, and development of service provider hubs.

Beyond production, the focus areas include exploring hydrocarbon linkages and trade opportunities with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal & Bhutan; implementation of 'Make In India' in the region; development of health & medical facilities; industrial policy & infrastructure related action points; focus on skill development; and employment generation requirement in the region.

The Vision aims at doubling Oil & Gas production by 2030, making clean fuels accessible, fast tracking projects, generating employment opportunities and promoting cooperation with neighboring countries.

North-East (NE) India – an amalgamation of eight states widely known for its rich biodiversity, natural resources, diverse indigenous communities, and cultural diversity, yet often garners little attention and recognition for its amazing contribution to addressing global climate change. The region covers approximately 8% of India's land area and has a broad range of physiographic zones, including the snow-capped Himalayas, lush tropical and subtropical forests, and extensive floodplains.

Because of its physical location and climate, the NE region is also considered a global biodiversity hotspot. Four out of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots are found in India. The NE states hold one of the largest forest areas in the country resulting in having significant carbon sequestration ability. Furthermore, due to low population density, these states have one of the lowest per capita carbon emissions in the country.

However, due to various anthropogenic (human-induced) and natural factors, NE India is changing. Rainfall patterns in the region have changed dramatically during the previous century, resulting in an overall drying up. The region bears the brunt of climate change, and its influence has multiplied in the last decade. In the last 2–3 decades, the region has experienced severe floods, destructive landslides, forest fires, increased insect pest infestation, and the drying of mountain springs and watersheds, resulting in water scarcity.

Tackling the adverse impacts of climate change in the region requires a holistic approach to cater to the needs and aspirations of its population. In this regard, many policy-level impact works are happening across the NE region that often do not get due recognition. For example, in the State of Tripura, the Directorate of Biotechnology in collaboration with multiple departments and Civil Society Organizations like Climate Group is implementing a project called Bio-village 2.0.

Bio-village 2.0 uses a holistic approach to ensure the sustainable development of model villages in the state. It focuses on three pillars: socio-economic growth, sustainable development, and biodiversity conservation. It uniquely employs a bottom-up approach, allowing beneficiaries to influence project design and implementation.

The program provides multi-enterprise support, enhancing community adaptability to climate change. Involving various stakeholders, including state departments and local communities, the initiative combines components from sectors like agriculture, horticulture, animal resources, fisheries, and renewable energy. Notably, the dynamic nature of the program allows for component substitution based on locality capacity and community needs. Emphasizing income generation and expenditure reduction, Bio-village 2.0 integrates technology, multi-stakeholder engagement, and community-based design for long-term community resilience.

The Northeast is a mosaic of 200+ ethnic groups, each with unique languages, festivals, and traditions. Yet globalization risks homogenizing this rich heritage. Preservation is not nostalgia—it is an act of empowerment.

We must integrate indigenous knowledge into education, support artisans through e-commerce platforms, and promote festivals like Tripura's Kharchi Puja as cultural diplomacy tools.

Let us build museums and digital archives to immortalize oral histories, ensuring future generations inherit a legacy of pride. Remember: A society that forgets its roots cannot nurture its branches.

The Northeast shares borders with five nations, making it pivotal to India's strategic calculus. Recent global shifts—rising Sino-Indian tensions, instability in Myanmar, Recent earth quakes, and cross-border trafficking—demand vigilance. Security is not just about military readiness; it is about human security.

Investing in education, healthcare, and skill development will inoculate our youth against extremism. Simultaneously, regional cooperation through forums like BIMSTEC and the Indo-Pacific vision can transform the Northeast into a hub of trade and diplomacy. Projects like the Kaladan Multimodal Transit must accelerate, linking us to global markets while safeguarding sovereignty.

As we march toward 2030, let us embrace a vision where the Northeast shines as a beacon of equitable growth, ecological balance, cultural vibrancy, and strategic foresight. This demands collaboration—between governments, civil society, and the private sector.

In the words of Rabindranath Tagore,

**“You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.”**

Let us set sail with courage, innovation, and unity. Together, we will ensure that North East India isn’t just a participant in the 21st century but a leader.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!      Jai North East!