# The Guwahati Round Table

## Dialogue for Development

# 2019

**THEME:**

**ASSAM'S PURSUIT FOR UN SDG GOALS| IMPROVING STATE'S SCORING IN SDG INDIA INDEX AND STRENGTHENING THE WAYS AND MEANS | FLOOD, NATURAL CALAMITY, DISASTER MITIGATION & REHABILITATION | ASSAM IN A POST NRC SCENARIO| FRAMING ASSAM'S NEW SKILL POLICY**

**September 26 | Thursday| Hotel Taj Vivanta, Khanapara, Guwahati | 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM**

**ABOUT**

The Guwahati Round Table (TGR) 2019 as a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum seeks to discuss and deliberate key issues and areas that have emerged as critical to sustain Assam's overall development and growth in present times.

While the State has been one of the first in the country to frame and determine a well thought out plan and approach to achieve the SDGs in a phased manner, yet the 2018 SDG Index Score is not an inspiring scenario with the State scoring low in key critical UN SDG Goals including Goal 3 (Good Health & Well Being scoring 30 / 100), Goal 5 (Gender Equality scoring 36), Goal 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation scoring 42), Goal 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy scoring 18), Goal 9(Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure scoring 35), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities scoring 32). Overall the State secured Score of 49, and only above UP and Bihar in composite score bottom up, and below all other North Eastern States. This despite, the State adopting fully the 2030 agenda with detailed strategies and actions prepared, goal wise mapping of departments and schemes prepared on SDGs grouped into 9 thematic clusters. The Assam Agenda 2030 established core monitorable indicators, set baseline as well as final and intermediate targets. A total of 59 core indicators covering 17 Goals identified for monitoring the progress of the SDGs in the State. This despite numerous training, capacity building programmes of officials at District, Autonomous councils, SDG based Gram Panchayat Development Plan being prepared and Monitoring mechanisms being in place. What next? What has gone wrong and what needs to be done? How the central schemes have fared in the State based on which the SDG indicators are largely
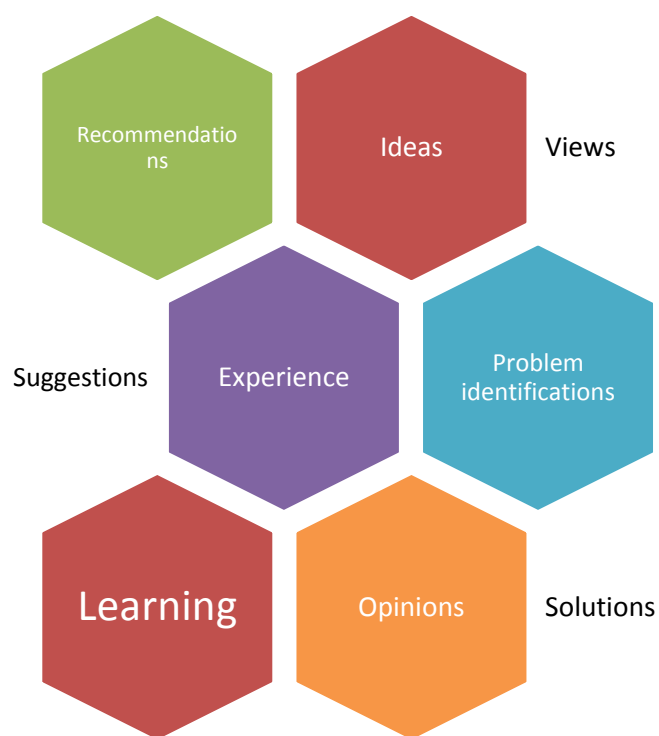
mapped? Whether and how the State Government Schemes and data sources that being mapped with key SDGs have fared? How the State can move bottom up beyond the aspirant category of (0-49) bracket? These are some of the key questions and issues that are and must be appearing challenging for the development stakeholders in the State and the wider community, citizens and others. And how to overcome this? Can this be also linked to the volatile issue of flood in Assam that has been an annual perennial challenge, yet it has been playing a subversive role in enormously affecting the growth and development agenda, and yet a mid and long term sustainable solution has been eluding for a long time. And one of the main issues has been rescue, rehabilitation and livelihood for the displaced communities.

While the State has been confronting the volatile foreigners influx challenge for more than 3 decades, yet a consensual solution at political, social and cultural level has been missing. The greater challenge has emerged has how the State is prepared to deal with a Post National Registrar of Citizen (NRC) update scenario and how this is going to affect and deal with the Assam's development and growth narrative subsequently.

The skilling ecosystem has undergone a tremendous change in recent times with the Central and State government giving a big push to skilling the existing and next generation and make them skill ready for job, employment, entrepreneurship and enterprise development. The questions that emerges is how sustainable and ground and home based is the approach. What are the critical considerations and factors that shall determine an inclusive and holistic skill based approach for Assam at a time when the State is getting ready to have a Skill Policy and its implementation.

**OBJECTIVE**
- Discuss and deliberate on key areas of sustainable development, good governance, service access and delivery challenges in Assam with focus on key UN SDG 2030 Goals and priorities;
- Express and share thoughts, inputs, ideas, suggestions and experiences pertaining to the challenges;
- Emerge with key problem solving ideas, innovations, practices and recommendations to address these challenges in a multi-stakeholder framework;
- Learning and sharing of good practices from other high scoring States from mainland India.

Recommendations

Ideas

Views

Suggestions

Experience

Problem identifications

Learning

Opinions

Solutions

# 2019 DELIBERATIONS

| 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM | 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM |
|---|---|---|
| **SESSION1:** | **SESSION 2:** | **SESSION 3:** |
| **Assam's pursuit for UN SDG Goals; State scoring low in SDG India index score 2018 and strengthening the ways and means to achieve SDGs; flood, natural calamity & sustainable rescue & rehabilitation solutions** | **Assam's Socio-cultural-political & Development Narrative in a Post NRC Scenario and placing UN SDG Framework in this context** | **Assam's Efforts towards a Holistic Skill Policy Formation and Its Effective Implementation: Why, What and How?** |
| ⁘ Assam's poor performance in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations as revealed in the SDG India Index Baseline Report prepared by NITI Ayog at the end of 2018,<br>⁘ SDG Goals Budget allocation & achieving results<br>⁘ Implementation, Access, delivery of Schemes, Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment of SDG Goals.<br>⁘ What and how of community participation and engagement<br>⁘ Whether & how technology enabling SDG goal pursuit<br>⁘ Whither dichotomy of SDG Goal pursuit versus flood and natural calamity distress and rescue, rehabilitation challenges<br>⁘ What eluding a sustainable solution to Assam's recurring flood calamity?<br>⁘ Need for 'Assam Flood Rescue & Rehabilitation Policy? | ⁘ Assam in a Post NRC Scenario: What NEXT?<br>⁘ Changing Social, Cultural, Economic and Political scenario in a Post NRC Assam<br>⁘ Assam's Development Narrative in a Post National Registrar of Citizen (NRC) Scenario: What and how?<br>⁘ Assam's readiness to deal with Post NRC Excluded Community in mid and long term<br>⁘ For the Post NRC Excluded community is it Deporting, Co-sharing the burden or Refugee status or Stateless Citizen or What? How the State is prepared?<br>⁘ Positioning UN SDG Goals in a post NRC Scenario. | ⁘ Revisiting Traditional skills, and its relevance and strengthening livelihood, entrepreneurship and employability<br>⁘ Evolving skills scenario in an old versus new Assam Economy and Society<br>⁘ Diversity and Inclusion in Skills Development and Promotion<br>⁘ From Informal to Formalisation of Skills<br>⁘ Skills development in Micro, Small, Social, Rural and Women Enterprises<br>⁘ Skills internal and external to enterprises, entrepreneurs and job seekers<br>⁘ Skills promotion and development and dying arts, crafts and socio-economic enterprises<br>⁘ Skills and national and overseas promotion of skilled professionals<br>⁘ Need for an Assam Academy of Skills and Knowledge (like Telangana Academy of Skills and Knowledge)<br>⁘ Meeting the demand for digitally skilled talent<br>⁘ Need for a Skills Policy in Assam<br>⁘ Role of IT / ICT in a Skill Framework |

*Lunch: 1:00 PM -2:00 PM | Tea Break: 11:30 AM, 3:30 PM*

***Round Table Format:*** *Roundtable presentations by selected and invited presenters for 45 minutes – 1 hour, followed by 30-45 minutes of discussion and feedback.*

## WHO JOINS IN?

TGR 2019 to have invitees including Peoples Representatives, Public and Government representatives, Experts from Private, Civil Society, Media and Academia as deliberation partners and stakeholders.

**ORGANISED BY**



Assam Civil Society Netwok For Sustainable Development Goals

**SUPPORTED BY**