

Presentation before Hon'ble Chief Minister
on:

Act East Policy Affairs Department



Date: 2nd June 2021

Venue: CM Conference Hall (Dispur)

Broad MANDATE of the DEPARTMENT

- **Formulation, Implementation & Monitoring of the State Policies concerning the neighbouring and other foreign countries**
- **So as to Reap the Benefits of Implementation of the Act East Policy by the Government of India.**

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT
DISPUR : GUWAHATI - 781006

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

NOTIFICATION

Dated Dispur, the 22nd May, 2017

No. AR 94/2016/Pt-1/2: In the interest of public service, the Governor of Assam is pleased to order the creation of a new Department, viz, the "Act East Policy Affairs" Department with immediate effect.

(A) **Broad Mandate:** The department will formulate, implement and monitor the state policies concerning the neighbouring and other foreign countries so as to reap the benefits of implementation of the Act East Policy by the Government of India.

Towards meeting its objectives the Department will perform the following function as its broad mandate:

1. Lead research, analyse and suggest to the State Government in the areas of Act East Policy - where the State can be stakeholders.
2. Prepare Policy/schemes to reap the benefits of Act East Policy and translate such policy objectives to actions.
3. Identify issues concerning Foreign Affairs and play a creative role in the Foreign Policy making - especially in furthering the Act East Policy by suggesting effective measures.
4. Handle the Non-resident Affairs of the people of Assam.
5. Any other programmes connected with the development of related areas.

(B) **Staffing Pattern:** The following staffing pattern for the Act East Policy Affairs has been approved:

1. One Additional Chief Secretary.
2. Principal Secretary/ Secretary to Government of Assam = 1 (one)
3. Additional Secretary / Joint secretary = 1 (one)
4. Deputy Secretaries to Government = 2 (two)
5. Senior Stenographers = 2(two)
6. Superintendent = 1 (one)
7. Senior assistant = 2 (two)
8. Junior Assistant = 4 (four)
9. Grade IV = 4 (Four)

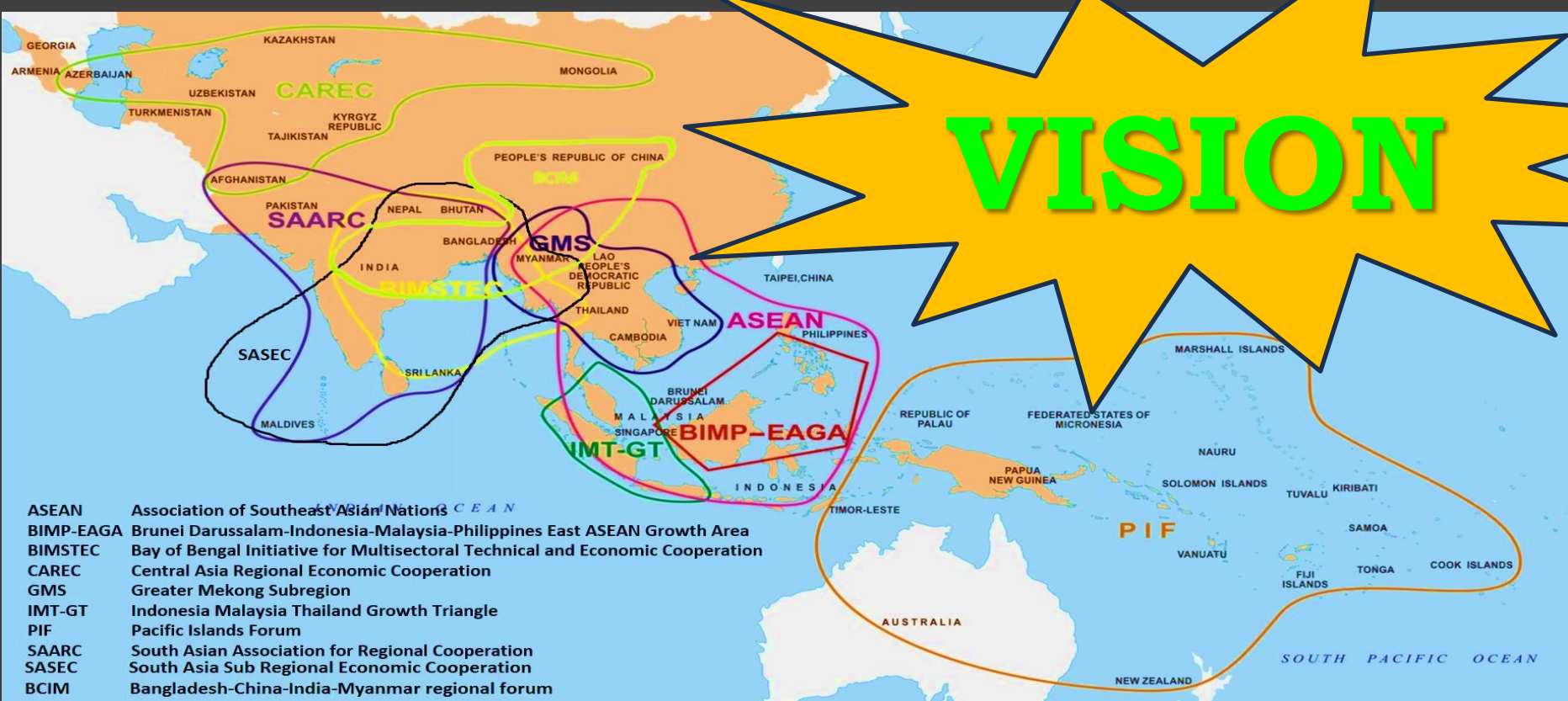
The posts indicated above from ii) to ix) shall be filled up by creation of additional posts or by redeployment / suppressing the equivalent number of existing sanctioned posts in other departments by the respective cadre controlling departments.

(C) **Detailed Mandate of the Department:** Upon its creation, the Department will conduct a well guided research and then work out the areas of Act East Policy - where the State can be stakeholders. Depending on the findings, the mandate of the Department will be finalized and notified in due course.

By order and on behalf of the Governor of Assam

(P.K. Borthakur, IAS)
Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam
Administrative Reform and Training Department

VISION



- ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- BIMP-EAGA Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area
- BIMSTEC Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- CAREC Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
- GMS Greater Mekong Subregion
- IMT-GT Indonesia Malaysia Thailand Growth Triangle
- PIF Pacific Islands Forum
- SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
- SASEC South Asia Sub Regional Economic Cooperation
- BCIM Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar regional forum

- Envisage NER as a Regional Focal Point for integration of India with countries of South and South East Asia.
- Paradigm Shift from visualizing NER as Enigmatic Periphery of the Country.

OBJECTIVES

of the DEPARTMENT

- 1. Economic Integration with ASEAN, BIMSTEC & East Asian countries – involving seamless trade and commerce [as well as industrial collaboration;**
- 2. Multi-Modal Connectivity with ASEAN, BIMSTEC & East Asian countries;**
- 3. Socio–Cultural Exchange with ASEAN, BIMSTEC & East Asian countries; and**
- 4. Free Movement of People with ASEAN, BIMSTEC & East Asian countries.**

FUNCTIONS of the DEPARTMENT

- 1. Lead Research & Analysis for Suggesting to State Govt the areas of Act East Policy – where the State can be Stakeholders.**
- 2. Prepare Policy/Schemes for Reaping Benefits of Act East Policy and Translate such Policy Objectives to Actions.**
- 3. Identify Issues concerning Foreign Affairs for Furthering the Act East Policy.**
- 4. Handle Non-Resident Affairs of People of Assam.**
- 5. Any other Related Programmes.**

ACHIEVEMENTS of the DEPARTMENT

2017:

1. Public Discourse of the then Hon'ble Chief Minister launching the Department on October 2019.

2018:

1. Special Plenary Session on Act East Policy at the Global Investors' Summit – *Advantage Assam 2018* – in February 2019.
2. Establishment of Assistant High Commissioner's Office of Bangladesh and Consulate of Bhutan in Guwahati.



ACHIEVEMENTS of the DEPARTMENT

2019:

1. Organization of the 2nd ASEAN India Youth Summit (*in association with MEA & India Foundation*) from 3rd to 7th February, 2019
2. Organization of Ambassadors' Meet – the Conclave of Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of ASEAN/ BBN Bloc Countries with Hon'ble Chief Minister – in Guwahati on 4th Feb 2019
3. Participation in 9th Bangladesh Travel & Tourism Fair 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, *w.e.f.* 18th to 20th April 2019



ACHIEVEMENTS of the DEPARTMENT

2019:

- 4. SAMPARK YATRA – the Bus Tour of Hon'ble MLAs & Senior Govt. Officers to Bangladesh & Myanmar**
- 5. Formulation of UDAN (*International*) Scheme by M/o Civil Aviation & Start of Direct Flights from Guwahati to Dhaka & Bangkok.**
- 6. India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet: The Department on the 22nd and 23rd of October 2019**
- 7. Organization of Visit of Delegation of Malaysia-India Business Council (MIBC) in November 2019 *with* Signing of MoU.**



PLANS & PROGRAMMES of the DEPTT.

Short Term:

- 1. Bring out a scheme - viz. *Kumar Bhaskar Verna Scheme for Promotion of Act East Relations* - for providing financial and liaison support to individuals, institutions and non-governmental organizations for conducting research and holding seminars, stakeholders meets, cultural exchange programmes, etc. etc.**
- 2. Set up Border Haats at the selected sites of Latu (Karimganj) and Satrasal (Dhubri) under Union Commerce Ministry.**
- 3. Set up an Advisory Committee for the Department comprising eminent public and private personalities.**

PLANS & PROGRAMMES of the DEPTT.

Intermediate Term:

1. Engage a *Knowledge Partner* for the Deptt. by floating RFP tender.
2. Taking up *Restoration of Railway Connectivity with Bangladesh through Mahishashan* with MEA & Railways Ministry.
3. Taking up *Starting of Bus Service* (i) between Guwahati and Dhaka; and (ii) between Silchar and Sylhet.
4. Taking up *Upgrading of Land Customs Stations of Assam and serving Assam to Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)*, and coordinate handing over of land for that.
5. Taking up *Starting of Riverine Cargo Service* between Pandu Port (Guwahati) and Kolkata via inland waterways of Bangladesh.
6. Setting up an Assam Institute of External Trade, which would be a de-facto Directorate of the Department.

PLANS & PROGRAMMES of the DEPTT.

Intermediate Term:

7. Taking up with M/o Civil Aviation to start direct flights between Guwahati and the selected cities of BBIN & ASEAN bloc countries under UDAN-International scheme.

After end of COVID 19 pandemic in the State:

8. Sending of a delegation to Bangladesh to study feasibility for starting ferry service between Guwahati and Chittagong Port.

After normalcy returns on end of COVID 19 pandemic in the State:

9. Exchange of High Level Business Delegations with Bangladesh.

10. Holding of Stakeholders' Meets with Myanmar and Bhutan on the lines of Indo-Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet held in Oct 2019.

11. Holding of ASEAN-BBIN Mega Cultural Meet ICCR to showcase similarities in Music, Dance-forms, Food Items and Textiles.

PLANS & PROGRAMMES of the DEPTT.

Long Term:

1. Take up with Ministry of External Affairs to get more *Consulates* of ASEAN-BIMSTEC countries to be set up in Guwahati.
2. Work with Industries and Commerce Department to put into action prescriptions of the ADB Study for metamorphing Assam into the Expressway of the nation to the ASEAN.
3. Work with Urban Development Deptt. to construct planned cities in the border areas (e.g. Silchar, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Digboi, Numaligarh) as Act East Cities.



Thank You