

SITA *Newsletter*

A Publication of State Innovation & Transformation Aayog

FROM THE DESK OF THE HON'BLE VICE-CHAIRMAN

Greetings to all !

For the first time ever, the Government of India have invoked 'the Disaster Management Act' two years ago to spearhead covid response in the country. As the normalization of social and economic activities that have been underway alongside the steep decline in Covid-19 cases across the country, the above Act will not be used from April 2022. It is hoped for gaining further confidence from the decision with a new ray of positive vibes ahead.

After painful waves & about 5.17 lakhs deaths, the daily positive rate has tremendously come down



and around 84% of the adult population fully vaccinated along with the children's vaccination and the booster programmes continuing at a pace. The Government at the centre & state respectively has left no stone unturned to fight the pandemic and the success story has been India's vaccination drive which have crossed 1.82 million doses. All these have been possible with the active initiatives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma.

On a sad note, we bid farewell to the first Vice-Chairman of State Innovation and Transformation Aayog, Assam Late Dipok Kumar Barthakur who breathed his last on 16 February 2022 at Chennai. We will remain indebted for the philanthropic works that he had pursued for the welfare of the region.

As we march forward, it is high time that we look into the year with positivity and work diligently for the betterment of the welfare of our region which SITA has been pioneering.

Jai Aai Axom!

Ramen Deka



Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka inaugurating a water treatment plant at Changsari on 19th December 2021.

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Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited the fishery projects of Aspirational district Hailakandi on 29th December 2021.

With the accelerated improvement of health infrastructure in the past two years, it is hoped that we are in a strong position to withstand challenges. As the World Health Organization has also cautioned that it is still not the time to give up and that it is not the time to say the pandemic is over. But as evident from the strengthening of health infrastructure, speedy implementation of the vaccination programme, and the nation-wide resilient response to the current wave of the pandemic, citizens need not worry much. Further, the speed and coverage of the government's vaccination campaign has helped greatly. On the home front, the Budget speech of Hon'ble Finance Minister Smti. Ajanta Neog augments the governments continued efforts to facilitate better health care facilities for the government employees and pensioners. The government is committed to provide state of the art health care facilities to its people. Be it the Covid-19 management being lauded by the WHO or Niti Aayog ranking Assam as the most improved state in health index rankings, it has come a long way

as a state trying to make a paradigm shift in health infrastructure.

With respect to Covid-19 management, the government's robust vaccination drive will not only prevent future outbreak of Covid but will be crucial to opening up the economy completely. The total vaccine dose administered stands at 4,36,24,953 as on 13th March, 2022. The overall, sharp rebound and recovery of the economy is reflective of our country's strong resilience said Hon'ble Minister of Finance Smti. Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2022 in her budget speech. As, India's economic growth in the current year is estimated to be 9.2 per cent, highest among all large economies.

To fight cancer, the government has been taking steps to setting up adequate cancer treatment facilities in the state. In the first phase, ten cancer hospitals are under construction of which seven hospitals will be ready for commissioning very soon. It is worth mentioning that seven more cancer hospitals as per MoU with Tata Trusts will commence work very soon. It is also said that in line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister, it aims to establish one medical college in every district of Assam as it has realised that district hospitals are the backbone of secondary health care in the state to make the best healthcare facilities to the people living in the remotest corner of the state. A high end super speciality hospital will be set up in the campus of IIT, Guwahati for the people of the state.

With the government's Sabka Prayas, we hope to continue our journey with strong growth in hand with its aim to attain a sound public health architecture which is the need of the hour.



Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited Bigyan Mandir of Sonapur along with the officials of Secondary Education department to inspect the condition of the Bigyan Mandir on April 11, 2022.

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Photo Courtesy: DIPR, Assam.

Dhruba Prasad Baishya joins as Co-Vice-Chairman of SITA

Shri Dhruba Prasad Baishya joins as Co-Vice-Chairman of the office of State Innovation & Transformation Aayog (SITA), Assam on May 13, 2022 at Janata Bhawan, Dispur in the presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka. On his joining the office, Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka gave his best wishes to the new Co-Vice-Chairman on his new venture. Later the new Co-Vice-Chairman interacted with the officials of SITA and expresses his vision to take forward the role of SITA in an innovative technological manner and also to highlight the cultural aspects of the state.



Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka welcoming the new Co-Vice Chairman Sri Dhruba Prasad Baishya who joins office on May 13, 2022 at Janata Bhawan, Dispur.

MoA signed between SITA and AAU

Dispur, October 1, 2021: A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA) and Assam Agricultural University today in the presence of SITA Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka in his official conference hall at Janata Bhawan to execute the project 'Samriddhi Poultry' in the state of Assam on a pilot basis. This project is an innovative approach for economic empowerment of rural women of Assam through model egg village. The MoA was signed by Chief Executive Officer Sri Mukesh Sahu, IAS on behalf of SITA and Dr Niranjan Kalita, Director of Research (Vety.) Assam Agricultural University on behalf of Assam Agricultural University.

The project is aiming (1) to enhance economic security

of the farm women through increased egg production and placing egg sector as an enterprise to double farm income (ii) Gender mainstreaming, capacity building and skill development of rural farm women on improved layer farming, (iii) Development of model egg village through 'Samriddhi Poultry', (iv) to increase the per capita consumption of eggs among local populations nutritional security and (v) surveillance and adoption of strategic disease control programme in commercial layer in agro-climatic condition of Assam.

The farmer-community of the country is lucky enough to have a pro-farmer Government which has its main focus on doubling the farmers' income for the first time since independence. The Assam government has also been taking up various projects and policies in the same line so that the state can step forward along with the other parts of the country. 'Samriddhi Poultry', a small scale commercial layer farming, for livelihood and nutritional security, empowering rural women through development of model egg village in Assam is an approach to achieve the goal. Through the project, there will be increased egg production and consumption at the household of rural area thereby significantly improving the nutritional as well as economic status of the family and will act as a tool for self employment and livelihood security. Apart from enhancing the egg production in Assam, it is expected to create employment opportunities for rural women through poultry and built capacity of rural women on improved poultry rearing.

Later on, a joint meeting was convened with the officials of PHE and IIT Guwahati to coordinate and to work out for smooth implementation of the project namely 'Total solar power electrolytic water treatment and supply system'. The officials of PHE and IIT Guwahati agreed to complete the project within the month of October.



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SITA extends financial support to Barpeta Aatasbazee Industry (Fireworks)

Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka of State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA), Assam handed over a Demand Draft to the Chairman/convenor, Advisory Committee of Rupees Fifteen Lakhs as revolving fund to strengthen Barpeta Aatasbazee Shilpi Samabay Samittee Limited during a ceremonial function held at Officers' Club, Barpeta on April 30, 2022 in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Sri T.P Bhusal, Sri Anil Das, Vice-Chairman AFC and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Vice-Chairman stated that after taking in the problems faced by the sammittee and discussing the matter with all stakeholders, it was decided to support the Firework industry with a revolving fund for its development and for future prospects.

SITA is supporting the Firework Industry of Barpeta with the condition that the Advisory Committee which was formed under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta to look after the Barpeta Aatasbazee Shilpi Samabay Samittee Limited producing firework products which may not emit sound more than the prescribed high decimal limit for Green crackers and so to maintain the standard pollution free firework products.

It may be mentioned here that Shri Ramen Deka, Hon'ble Vice-Chairman along with a team of official of



Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka handing over a Demand Draft of Rupees Fifteen Lakhs as revolving fund to strengthen Barpeta Aatasbazee Shilpi Samabay Samittee Limited at Barpeta on April 30, 2022 in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Sri T.P Bhusal & others.

SITA visited Barpeta to take stock of the industry last year and he felt the need to provide financial support for revolving fund. An Advisory Committee with Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta as Chairman and General Manager, DICC, Barpeta as member convenor was formed for the purpose. It is hoped that with this help from SITA, the industry can reach a new height again which in fact has a glorious past.

The ceremonial function was co-ordinated by the District Administration of Barpeta and Industry and Commerce and was also attended by Sri G.G Das, Advisor(F & A) SITA, Sri D.S Hazari, ARO, SITA and other officials.

SITA promotes Hemp cultivation as future potential in Assam

Dr. Tanujjal Bora of Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand made a presentation on 'Hemp cultivation' in the state of Assam and its future prospects in the economic development of the state in the presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka and the officials of Agriculture department represented by Joint Secretary Sri Gunajeet Kashyap and other officials of Directorate of Agriculture & staffs of State Innovation & Transformation Aayog (SITA) at Janata Bhawan on May 21 last. Initiating the meeting, the Hon'ble Vice Chairman Sri Ramen Deka stated that the genetically modified hemp crop is one of the most versatile crops in modern day for economic development. Its byproduct may be used in various industries like cosmetics, fabrics, paper & pulp etc. He further stated that this crop is cultivated in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and asked the Agriculture departments to communicate with their counterparts to get the know-how methods and its techniques to cultivate the crop and its modalities. He further asked the officials to visit those states to acquaint them with the method. In the meeting discussions was held from every point of view of economic development of the state.

Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka expresses grief on the present condition of Bigyan Mandir

Hon'ble Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited Bigyan Mandir of Sonapur along with the officials of Secondary Education department to inspect the condition of the Bigyan Mandir on April 11, 2022. On seeing the dilapidated condition of the Bigyan Mandir, Sonapur, he expresses his grief and request the concern officials to take necessary steps to revive them immediately. He emphasized and request the concern officials present to take necessary steps to preserve the prestigious institution like Bigyan Mandir and also to make the campus encroachment free and to make proper demarcation of the area.

It needs to be mentioned that prior to the visit, a meeting was held at the office of the State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA) Vice Chairman Sri Ramen Deka along with officials of the Secondary Education to take first hand information of the condition of Bigyan Mandir of the state and this joint visit was decided in the meeting. In the said meeting Smt Mamata Hojai, Director

of Secondary Education apprised the meeting that in the current financial year sum of rupees 2.5 crores has been earmarked for the revival of Bigyan Mandir. She said that once the institution is revived, steps will be taken to create some posts like scientific Officer and other subsidiary staffs. Hon'ble Vice- Chairman asked the department to look into the matter to complete the construction work with the allotted amount so that the institute may be revived and also mention that SITA can also provide logistic support by setting up of Robotics/ Drone Club among the students. He had offered his views and said that the institute should be made in such a way that urban students would also become interested to come and study.

In the site visit, the Hon'ble Vice- Chairman was accompanied by Smt. Barbie Hazarika, OSD, Secondary Education Department, Sri Gopal Sharma, Circle Officer, Sonapur Revenue Circle, Sri D.S Hazari, ARO, SITA and other officials of SITA.

Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visits Sivasagar district to take stock of archaeological site

Hon'ble Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited Sivasagar district on April 6, 2022 to look into the initiative taken by the Archaeology department to preserve the ancient monuments and religious idols & Deities located in a different sites in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India. In this field visit, Archaeology Survey of India and members of Heritage Society of Assam accompanied the Hon'ble Vice- Chairman. The officials of Archaeological department and ASI explained the steps taken by them to preserve all the ancient structures. Later a meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Vice- Chairman along with DDC, Sivasagar Sri Subham Gowala at the conference



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hall of the Deputy Commissioner.

The Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka is of the view that successive govt. should have taken steps to preserve the monuments and as such the authorities should be more vigilant to preserve these monuments so that Sivasagar may develop as tourist hub of the state. On the other hand a proposal was placed for a conclave meet for tourist operators especially for local entrepreneurs for attracting tourist people to this place while visiting North East India.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Nabajit Deuri, Deputy Director (EE) deptt. of Archaeology, Assam, Dr. Chabina Hassan, Technical Officer and Sri Kangkon Jyoti Sailia, Sr. Conservation Officer, Sri Jayanta Sharma, Secretary, Heritage Society of Assam and other officials.

SITA signs Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with B.Borooh College, Rangia College & Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko

On May 5, 2022, SITA has signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with 3 (three) reputed Institutes of Assam to execute their respective projects in collaboration with State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA), Assam with respective terms and conditions. Chief Executive Officer Sri M.S. Manivannan, IAS signed the MoA on behalf of SITA with the Head of the Institutions of the respective colleges in the presence of Hon'ble Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka and official staffs of SITA in the conference hall of the Vice- Chairman at Block D, Janata Bhawan, Dispur. Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka is hopeful that the projects will fulfill the dreams of the common people and its success will inspire the other institutions to take up such innovative projects for the welfare of the society. The projects signed for collaboration are:

1. SITA will provide logistic support to B. Borooh College, Guwahati to implement the project **"Up-skilling students by imparting japanese language learning course and thereby enhance their employability"**. Its aim is to upskill the students by imparting them a course in Japanese Language and thereby enhancing their employability in the job and service market of Japan.



2. Rangia College, Rangia will implement the project **“Ex-situ cultivation of medicinal plants & conservation of rare & endangered plants-setting up herbal garden”** with logistic support from SITA with an aim to aware the common people for income generation by establishing Herbal Garden, encourage farmers & researchers etc., for Patent Right, accelerate Research & Development sector by involving various R & D Institutions etc., of the subject



concerned and to establish Herbal Garden in the college campus.

3. Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko will implement the project **“Survey for analysis of the potential of introducing robotics training in government provincialized schools of Kamrup (Metro) & Kamrup district of Assam”** with logistic support from SITA. The project aims to conduct a survey to access the need of Robotics training in the provincialised government schools of Assam through creating an environment of competitiveness, by generating an



ecosystem that fosters innovation, curiosity and a workplace where students are exposed to new edge technology. This is expected to enable or instill start-up eco-culture in the young minds. Under the implementation of Robotics training at school level, the students of rural areas will be able to learn how drone technology works and its uses in various fields and it is hoped it will reduce the dropout rate and encourage students with new age technology like Robotics, Automation and Artificial intelligence.

Representatives of the Institutes were Sri Satyandra Nath Barman, Principal B.Borooah College, Guwahati, Dr. Tapan Dutta, Principal Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko,

Dr. Sarangapani Saikia, Associate Professor, Rangia College, Rangia, Sri Hemanta Kumar Mazumdar, Director, MIRAI JLC amongst others.

Visit of Aspirational district Dhubri to review development activities by Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka

Hon’ble Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited Dhubri district on 8th November , 2021 and chaired a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner’s office attended by the Deputy Commissioner Sri Anbamuthan M.P, IAS and all officers’ of development departments of Dhubri. The following points were discussed and resolutions were also taken in some points:

Health & Nutrition: The Joint Director of Health Services, Dhubri informed the meeting as per survey the total population to be covered under COVID vaccination programme in the district stands at 967717 numbers till the filing of this report. Regarding achievement under different indicators of Aspirational District Programme, the Joint Director of Health Services, Dhubri gave a brief description on the achievements. He informed that they have taken initiative for achieving the target under different indicators and some measures are as such:

- Steps have been taken for sensitization of Health Staff like ANM, ASHA & ASHA Supervisors at the Block Level to mobilize the Pregnant Women (PW) for early registration.
- Pregnancy Test Kits are made available in all Health Institutions along with the ASHAs.
- Regular monitoring etc.

Regarding TB treatment success rate among TB patients that cent percent target will be achieved very soon as informed by the Joint Director of Health Services, Dhubri.

Education: The meeting reviewed the progress of all the indicators under Education Sector and the officials of the Education Department was requested to go for wide publicity and discussion with the public on the matter of ‘New Education Policy’ so that the public accept the new policy and make them successful.

Agriculture and Water Resources: The District Agriculture Officer, Dhubri informed the meeting that altogether 831 Tractors were distributed to the farmers from the Agriculture department in the district. The Chairman of the meeting requested the DAO to submit a status report on the tractors distributed to the DC within 7 days who in turn will verify through Magistrates and to submit the report to him. He requested the DAO to have a regular field visit to find out the farmer’s problems and to sort them out. It was also resolved that the DAO will find

out the Progressive Farmers in the district and prepare a list of the same. The Chairman of the meeting requested the DAO to submit a report on the status of PMKISAN to which the DAO had informed that the beneficiary under the scheme has been finalized to 23000. The DC have informed that there is a huge and surplus production of Chilli in the Bilasipara area and accordingly the District Administration has contacted the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for export of the surplus chilli. In this connection the farmers have been asked to go for organic farming of

for the purpose.

Livelihood Mission: The DPM, SRLM, Dhubri have informed that 955 trainees trained in different skills under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) have been placed in different job. The Chairman of the meeting requested the department to give stress on providing training on carpentry, masonry, plumbing as the person expert in such trades have huge demand.

Public Health Engineering: The house reviewed the progress of works under Jal Jeevan Mission wherein the Vice- Chairman requested the PHE department to give



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chilli for its export.

Veterinary: The District A.H & Veterinary Officer, Dhubri briefed that 13 Dispensaries and 10 Doctors are functioning in the district. The Chairman of the meeting requested District A.H & Veterinary Officer to direct the doctors and the staff to stay in their place of posting in order to provide better and timely service. He further informed that a MoU has been signed with Jorhat Agricultural University for establishment of 3 Brown Egg Centres in Assam. The Chairman of the meeting suggested for establishment of one centre in Dhubri and accordingly requested the District A.H & Veterinary Officer to submit proposal under Livelihood Mission. It was further resolved that the District A.H & Veterinary Officer, Dhubri to provide technical guidance and know-how to the SHGs selected

utmost importance on the implementation of the schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission in missionary mode for its success.

Forest: The DFO on query from the chair informed that the forest covering in the district is 33% and informed that there is no nursery in the district. However, proposal has been submitted to the Higher Authority for sanctioning of the same. The chairman of the meeting suggested the DFO to take up nursery alongside the hills and to visit the forest by himself for taking on the spot action. Further, the DFO was requested to go for innovation and to arrange for scientifically excavation of materials from the quarries to protect the environment. It was resolved that the Forest department will go for Hydrological study of the river basin to protect the river course and for optimum use of river

water.

DRDA: PD, DRDA presented a brief description on the implementation of MGNREGA and PMAY. She informed that new action plan for implementation of MGNREGA schemes has been prepared but the same is yet to be finalized. The Chairman of the meeting requested the PD for creation of an Asset Formation and also to take up schemes for repairing of AWCs, schools, hospitals under MGNREGA and other schemes being implemented from their end. The DC informed that action has already been taken in this regard. It was resolved that the BDOs will go for verification of PMAY houses and create awareness amongst the masses on the various schemes.

PWD Roads: The E.E, PWD, Dhubri Rural Roads Sub-Division stated that they have constructed 973.50 km of carpet roads out of total 976.76 km earmarked under PMGSY for the current financial year. The Chairman of the meeting requested the E.E, PWD to maintain the quality of works while implementing the schemes.

Fishery: The DFDO, Dhubri briefed the house on the progress of the scheme 'Ghare Ghare Pukhuri'. He informed that a total of 435 beneficiaries were finalized under the scheme and so far construction of 242 ponds have been completed. It was decided in the meeting that the DFO will lodge FIR against defaulting beneficiaries in case there is any negligence.

Industry: The GM, DI & CC, Gauripur on query from the chair informed that the 'Start Up Schemes' are yet to be started. As advised by the Chairman of the meeting, the GM, DIC assured the formation of a committee with Agriculture and Fishery departments to give the benefit of the schemes under 'One District One Product' (ODOP) and Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Industries (PMFME). While reviewing the progress status of DICC, the Chairman of the meeting asked the GM, DICC about the NPA status of PMEGP Loans in Dhubri District and stressed for its timely repayment.

Handloom and Textiles: The Chairman of the meeting while reviewing the on-going Cluster Production of Schemes of Handloom and Textiles department requested the Assistant Director, Handloom and Textiles, Dhubri to direct his officials to visit the 540 clusters and submit the number of looms under operation to DCC, Dhubri at the earliest.

Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited aspirational district Baksa to review development activities

Hon'ble Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited one of the aspirational districts namely Baksa District on 3rd January, 2022 and chaired a meeting at the conference

hall of the Deputy Commissioner's office at Baksa. Dr. Ashraful Amin, ADC cum PD, DRDA, Baksa explained the purpose of the meeting.

DRDA: The Project Director, DRDA informed that construction of PMAY houses are going on and report has already been submitted to the government. The Chairman of the meeting instructed to prepare a detail report of illegal beneficiaries of PMAY houses and submit report to SITA. The OD apprised that it is also constructing Anganwadi Centre and total number of 19 AWC has already been sanctioned.

Fishery: The DFDO, Baksa has informed that construction of 300 individual ponds and 12 community ponds were completed and geo-tagging is going on. The Chairman of the meeting suggested to take initiative for plantation on embankment of ponds & fisheries in consultation with DRDA, Forest department, Soil



Conservation, etc.

Agriculture: The DAO said that 68789 fake beneficiaries are detected under PM KISAN Yojna in the district and some amount has been recovered from ineligible beneficiaries. The Chairman of the meeting suggested generating a mechanism to detect the fake beneficiaries.

Handloom and Textile: The department is asked to upgrade its training institutions to impart value addition to traditional handloom and handicraft products. The Chairman of the meeting instructed the department to submit a detail report for imparting training to weavers to make their product attractive for customers so that the weavers can earn a healthy livelihood.

DI & CC: The Chairman of the meeting asked the District Industries Centre to encourage the startups in various sectors viz., lemon, honey, bamboo etc which have a good prospect for engagement of youth in the district. He emphasized to grant monetary benefits for developing these sectors for profitable ventures.

Skill Development: The Chairman of the meeting

emphasized training in skill development particularly to create human resources like mason, plumber, carpenter, etc. He said that these sectors have good prospect for self-employment opportunities for unemployed youth.

Forest: The Chairman of the meeting asked the department to take initiative to increase plantation from 27% to 34% and to conserve the rich biodiversity of the district.

PHE: It was apprised that the work of JAL JEEVAN MISSION is underway for providing drinking water to every household.

Education: The DEEO said that the MDM is being provided as per Govt. norms and urged to take initiative for operationalisation of DIET at Mushalpur.

Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited aspirational district Goalpara and reviews development activities

Hon'ble Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka presided over the meeting on 30th November, 2021 at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner at Goalpara. As requested by the Chairman of the meeting, Dr.R.S.C Jayaraj, IFS, Director Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat speaks about the Bamboo Mission and its scope in Goalpara district and views that two revenue village or two GP may be adopted for the bamboo project by the District Administration.

Bamboo nursery may be developed by the Forest department and as such Bamboo shoot and Bamboo charcoal processing unit may be instituted in the district. In this regard, he told the Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara that one training programme may be given to aspirants at



Jorhat in his research institute.

Sri Rajib Bora, Scientist G, RFRI, Jorhat has informed the house that Goalpara District has an immense scope for plantation of Agar. Accordingly, they requested the District Administration to take step for plantation of Agar in the district. He also added that for the plantation of

Agar necessary fungus will be provided by RFRI, Jorhat. The Chairman of the meeting requested the DAO, Goalpara to take necessary step for Agar plantation in the district. He also requested CEO, Goalpara ZP for plantation of Agar tree under MGNREGA scheme project mode. On the other hand, the officials of RFRI, Jorhat have informed that they may arrange for awareness programme to motivate the farmer in plantation of Agar & khasi tree instead of rubber tree.

Sri Mukesh Sahu, CEO, SITA expressed his view that the farmers of Goalpara are seen to be interested in cultivating dragon fruit, sweet malta etc. but due to lack of processing unit they have not got the selling benefit of these products. If initiative is taken for installation of processing units they may be more attracted and benefitted financially in cultivating these fruits.

While the Chairman of the meeting took stock of PMAY house, he emphasized on identification of the beneficiaries who have not started construction of PMAY houses after getting the 1st installment and taking necessary action in this regard. He also requested to ensure proper monitoring and strict compliance of the PMAY Scheme.

Vice- Chairman reviews development activities of Aspirational district Hailakandi on 29th December 2021

The Deputy Commissioner Sri Rohan Kumar Jha, IAS welcomed Hon'ble Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka on behalf of the District administration and all the members present in the meeting. The meeting was presided by the Vice-Chairman and at the outset the Vice-Chairman requested all the district heads to work sincerely for striving towards achievement of goals of Aspirational district which is not up to the mark with innovative ideas. The Deputy Commissioner then briefed the house regarding process of schemes with PPT presentation followed by department wise review by the Hon'ble Vice-Chairman. The following departments were reviewed in the meeting:

Agriculture: On a query from the Chair the DAO informed that 77,546 nos of farmers registered under PM Kissan Samman Nidhi, out of which 12,245 nos of ineligible beneficiaries have already been deleted. The Chairman of the meeting directed to take steps for recovery of fund taken by the ineligible beneficiaries and if necessary, legal action may be initiated against them.

Fishery: In reply to the query from the Chair regarding progress of the scheme 'Ghare Ghare pukhuri ghare ghare mach', the DFDO, Hailakandi informed the house that under the scheme, a total of 199 nos. of persons benefitted under 'Construction of New pond Individual) for Gen/SC/ST which is likely to be completed very soon. The Chairman

of the meeting further advised the DFDO to encourage beneficiaries to take up plantation around the fishery tank.

Health: As regards vaccination status of the district, the Deputy Commissioner apprised the house that the first dose is 100% completed and 72% of the second dose has been completed till the filing of this report. Shortage of doctors and paramedical staff in the district has also been



discussed in the meeting.

DI&CC: The GM, DIC, Hailakandi have informed that the Start-up programme has not yet started in the district which the Chairman of the meeting expressed his displeasure since Hailakandi is an Aspirational district. The Chair further instructed the GM to take up schemes as per local needs and to motivate people by infusing innovative ideas.

ASRLM: The DPM SRLM informed that 2820 nos of SHG members involved in Backyard Poultry farming at their household level. They have been clubbed together and formed 47 nos of Poultry Producer Groups to provide them support in collective Procurement and Marketing. He also informed the house that 848 nos of SHG members have already started Backyard Poultry farming in commercial way with 24000 nos of chicks.

Zilla Parishad: To a query from the Chairman of the meeting regarding schemes taken under 15th Finance Commission in the Hailakandi district, the CEO, ZP informed that no new AWC has been proposed under 15th Finance Commission. Only repairing of 239 nos of AWC has been taken up. As regards status of PMAY® in the district, the CEO informed that the target of 15872 nos in five development blocks of the district wherein 6834 nos have been completed.

PHE: As regards status of JJM(FHTC), the SDO, PHE have informed that out of 1,46,513 nos, 49325 nos of house connection provided. On a query from the Chair regarding defunct PWSS, The SDO, PHE informed that out of 291 nos, 226 nos of defunct PWSS have been restored by retrofitting. The Hon'ble MLA, Hailakandi informed the

Chair about the acute shortage of water supply in Hailakandi Town and Hon'ble MLA, Katlicherra also raised the issue regarding shortage of water supply in Lala Town as the existing Water Supply Plant was commissioned long ago for population of 10000. As the population of Hailakandi Town has increased, the existing Plant is unable to fulfill the actual requirement.

Handloom & Textiles: On a query from the Chairman of the meeting, regarding Block Level Cluster, sponsored by Ministry of Textile, DHO, Handloom and Textiles, Hailakandi informed that there is one Block Level Cluster at Chiporsangan under Algapur Development Block is being implemented by Chiparsangon H & T WCS Ltd. As the Chair was informed about production of fabrics under the cluster, the Chairman of the meeting advised the department to produce shawl in different variety which has market demand.

Forest: The Chairman of the meeting expressed his concern as there are no nurseries of Forest Department in the district. The Deputy Commissioner informed the Chair that there is shortage of vehicles in the Forest department. The Chairman of the meeting requested to keep strict vigil so that no land under VGR and PGR are used and that natural wetland should be kept free from encroachment. The Chair further instructed the Deputy Commissioner to evict encroachers from Bakrihawar wetland and from Khals.

At the end of the meeting the Chairman of the meeting Sri Ramen Deka requested all the district Heads to work as a team so that the desired goal could be achieved.

Sri Ramen Deka visits Aqua Blue Farm at Paniguri, Jagiroad

State Innovation and Transformation Aayog Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited Aqua Blue Farm, Paliguri, Jagiroad on 20th December, 2021 along with the officials of SITA and accompanied by Directorate of Fisheries'



official. The visit is to explore the possibilities of new job avenues for the unemployed youths at the Recirculating Aquaculture System (Intensive Aquaculture System). The project which was introduced by its Managing Director Razaqul Islam, Aqua Blue Global Aquaculture Solution Pvt. Limited presently caters to the need of fish consumers in and around Jagiroad. They have also set up an online platform known as 'Fishwaale' which is in fact India's first online fish marketing platform. On his visit, Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka hopes that new job avenues would prevail if the fishery department takes initiatives to popularize this system through proper training to the local youths to generate income. Shri Deka lauded the initiatives of the local entrepreneur Razaqul Islam for such innovative idea and the belief that has led the business to a new height.

Sri Ramen Deka inaugurates Water Treatment Plant at Changsari

Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka, State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA), Assam inaugurated a water treatment plant at Changsari on 19th December 2021, from one of the projects undertaken by SITA which was executed by its implementing partner Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati in partnership with Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Govt. of Assam with an estimated cost of Rupees 40.80 Lakhs (Rupees forty lakhs eighty-thousand only). The objective of the project is to create chemical less water treatment system based on renewable energy in rural area of Assam. This innovative water treatment design is based on renewable energy and its application in the field. If adopted in different arsenic affected areas it will lessen the burden of huge cancer cases in the state. Moreover, the electrolytic treatment is capable of tackling pesticides along with fluoride, iron, arsenic and turbidity.

Addressing the august gathering, Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka highlighted the innovative projects and



schemes undertaken by SITA for the welfare of the people. Shri Deka emphasized that SITA will be ensuring applications of appropriate technologies for development in the areas of health, agriculture, Fishery, employment generation etc through utilization of resources and local products and associated skill developments. He said that the water treatment plant is one of such projects to reduce health risks associated with arsenic or fluoride exposure from drinking water. The Vice- Chairman further expressed his desire for IIT to take up hydrological study of River Brahmaputra to which he said SITA would provide the much needed support.

The programme was attended by Dr. Mihir Kumar Purkait, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati, Sri Diganta Kr Baruah, Addl. Chief Engineer PHED, Prof. P.K Iyer, Dean of PR, IIT, Sri Jayanta Mazumder, Executive Engineer PHED, Sri G.G Das, Advisor (F & A) SITA, Sri Tabibor Rahman, State BJP Vice- President, Minority Morcha, Research Associates of IIT Guwahati, officials of PHED & SITA and local residents of Dharampur Changsari .

Vice- Chairman meets officials of Directorate of Fisheries

A meeting was held in the Conference room of Vice- Chairman, SITA on February 22, 2022 which was presided over by Honourable Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka, who initiated an elaborate discussion with the officials of Directorate of Fisheries, about their technologies & methods adopted to enhance the production of fish in the state. The Vice- Chairman briefed the participants about the initiative taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to increase the income of fish farmers through the scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Shri Deka also spoke on the introduction of Biofloc method in different parts of the country or within the state which he says is not so encouraging. He said that instead of that the Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) method is proved to be more successful for economic empowerment of fish farmers. He stated that most of the beneficiaries are practicing fish farming without much technical skills. He emphasised that the officials of fisheries department may undergo much needed training from outside the state. While accepting the proposal forwarded by Vice- Chairman, the officials of fisheries department stated that the matter may be taken up with the higher officials of the department and accordingly one each official from 6 zones may be deputed for much needed training from outside the state. The Vice Chairman stressed that one consultant may be engaged to facilitate the beneficiaries to provide technical knowhow who are engaged in the

farming. In the meantime, the officials of fisheries proposed to organise a webinar in a short period under the presence of Vice- Chairman with the officials of fisheries department, experts, and beneficiaries to discuss the present status and future prospects of technology to be employed in the field of fish farming.

The meeting was attended by Sri Kailash Kalita, EE (i/c), Directorate of Fisheries, Sri Joyprakash Medhi, Joint Director, Directorate of Fisheries, Sri Chandan Chetri, SDFDD, Directorate of Fisheries, Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Sharma, NO, OPIU, APART, Directorate of Fisheries, Sri Narayan Saikia, A.E, Directorate of Fisheries, Dr. Sanjay Sarmah, State Fishery Co-ordinator, ARIAS Society, Khanapara, Sri Guno Gobindo Das, Advisor (F & A), SITA, Sri D.S Hazari, ARO, SITA, Sri Alakesh Kakati, ARO, SITA, Sri L. Joute, DIPRO & Sri Dipankar Bora, L.O, SITA.

Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka reviews aspirational district Darrang

State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA) Vice-Chairman Sri Ramen Deka visited Darrang district on April 29, 2022 to review the implementation of various development schemes undertaken by the various development departments for the welfare of the people. In this regard, a meeting was held at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang attended by Deputy Commissioner Pranab Kumar Sarmah , Hon’ble MP Sri Dilip Saikia of Mangaldoi HPC and MLA Dr P.Rajbongshi of

Sipajhar, Sri Basanta Das, MLA of Mangaldai, Sri Mazibur Rahman, MLA of Dalgaon LAC and by all heads of development departments.

All developmental departments present in the meeting presented their reports and the Hon’ble Vice-Chairman reviewed them thoroughly and gave its suggestion for strict implementation of their schemes. Hon’ble Vice-Chairman stressed to give more thrust on the indicators and also suggested to give importance to health, education and transportation.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Zilla Parishad and Sri G.G Das, Advisor (F & A) SITA, Sri D.S Hazari, ARO SITA, Sri L.Joute, PRO SITA and other officials.



Vice Chairman Sri Ramen Deka gave a courtesy call on Hon’ble Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region of India Sri G.Kishan Reddy in New -Delhi on 16th March 2022 and held deliberations on various matters and also discussed on various development work initiated in Assam as well as development schemes to uplift the people of the region.



Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta felicitating Vice Chairman Sri Ramen Deka during his visit to Barpeta on 4th October 2021.



Vice Chairman Sri Ramen Deka made a courtesy visit to Sri B. L Verma, Honourable Union Minister of State for Cooperation & DoNER, Government of India during his visit to New-Delhi on March 15, 2022 and discussed various issues for the upliftment of socio-economic status of the people of Assam.



Vice- Chairman Sri Ramen Deka holding a meeting with important officials of Tocklai Tea Research Institute at Jorhat Circuit House on 4th March 2022.