



CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST  
STUDIES & POLICY RESEARCH

# Annual Report

2022- 2023

**Centre for North East  
Studies & Policy Research**



# Annual Report 2022- 2023



Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research

## **Table of Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Message From the Chairman
3. Message From the Managing Trustee
4. Boat Clinic Figures
5. News from C-NES
6. C-NES Interns
7. Media Coverage
8. Visitors
9. Events
10. C-NES Participation
11. From the Field
12. Family Planning Initiatives
13. Floods in Assam : Boats to The Rescue
14. Brahmaputra Community Radio Station
15. Financials

C-NES is registered under Section 80 G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961. Contributions to C-NES qualify for tax-exemption. The Trust is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs; vide their letter II/21022/83/ (102)/2003 dated 13.8. 2003. The FCRA registration number is 231660377, Category: Social

### **Support:**

The Centre invites funding from individuals, business and industry, government and philanthropic institutions for its corpus and activities. Details about how you can support C-NES can be obtained by writing to respective registered office at New Delhi and Guwahati

# 1. Introduction

The Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES) was established in January 2000 as a Trust under Sec.80G/ Income Tax Act 1961. It has offices in Guwahati, Assam state in North eastern India and the registered office at New Delhi and works on a range of issues and areas at both field and policy levels relating to governance, participative planning and rights, water resources, environment, rural livelihoods, peace building and building better understanding among communities. C-NES is committed to building bridges between the North-east, among the lesser known and misunderstood parts of India, and other regions. The region is finally and slowly creating its own space and finding its own pulse after over six decades. C-NES develops innovative ideas for implementation to reach the poor and marginalized group in areas of health, education and environment, conducts workshops and training programs, reviews government policies and projects and designs ideas for development.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

- C-NES recognizes the right of every individual in the region to live in dignity, peace and safety because only under such conditions can the quality of their lives improve and their deepest aspirations met.
- Values the unique ethnic and ecological diversity of the North East as an advantage.
- Encourages local governance, decision- making and initiatives as the key to social and economic growth.
- Lobbies actively for changes in official policy at the national, regional, state and district levels which it considers necessary to build a just society
- Supports regional cooperation as a strategy to create, sustainable economic development

## **The Centre's priorities include:**

- Health, education and environment
- Livelihood generation
- Infrastructure and transport
- Documenting cultural and environmental diversity
- Studies of migration, internal displacement and refugee flows
- Media exchanges and communication

## From the Chairman



The year 2022-23 was a significant year for CNES. The boat clinics started to function well and the finalisation of the arrangements for restarting the stalled construction of the hospital ship gave a big boost to the morale of everyone in CNES. It is hoped that with the completion of the construction by June 2024, the State Government would take over the ship and make it operational at the earliest.

My congratulations to all the staff at CNES for the wonderful work they are doing which is an inspiration for all

GK Pillai

## From the Managing Trustee



Dear Friends:

Greetings of the season and the year!

I am happy to share with you the good news that we have added one more boat to our fleet, which now stands at 15, no mean feat from the single one, Akha, that began the boat clinic initiative in Dibrugarh in 2005.

Our dear friend and supporter Swaminathan S. Aiyar who is an eminent economist and columnist along with Prof Neeraj Kaushal of Columbia University, US, launched a new boat clinic, SB Neeraj, on 26 December 2022. This was at Futuri ghat in Kamrup district in Assam and we took a brief ride on it afterwards. We traveled also by jeep to the island village, over lanes of sand and earth, passing crops of maize, chillies, brinjal and other vegetables in overcast weather. A health camp was being organized by our team, driving through shallow river channels. The water was too low for the boat to navigate. A philanthropist, Aiyar has already donated six boats earlier to C-NES, which are functioning in six districts in upper and lower Assam. The new boat will be servicing Nalbari district making communication better in our mission of reaching the last mile.

Our frontline health staff on the boat clinics, supported by NHM, Government of Assam, continue to work dedicatedly on the far-flung Brahmaputra river islands. Most of these places lack access to basic health facilities and are more vulnerable during floods. The District Programme Officer of Nalbari Boat Clinic, Parvis Ahmed, was recognized as the best employee of Nalbari district and was felicitated by Health Minister Keshab Mahanta on 27th September at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati. Following closely was the Bongaigaon Boat Clinic receiving the best performing award for delivering health care services in the most remote island villages in the district on 12th October 2022.

As every year, we have had a steady stream of visitors coming to see the work we do. Mukund Trivedy, Zonal Head, Stakeholder Engagement for Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages, North East Region, has written a vivid blog on his experience onboard and with the team and beneficiaries while accompanying the Morigaon Boat Clinic on 19th July 2022. He was highly appreciative of the unique and challenging outreach work.

As part of our regular review meetings, the one held at Guwahati on 17th December 2022, was attended by the District Programme Officers of the Boat Clinic Units, members of C-NES' Programme Management Unit including Special Advisor Dr Milan Barooah, Trustees HS Das, Dr Mahfuza Rahman and I.

Speaking at the meeting, Trustee HS Das said that Boat Clinic Programme was appreciated both nationally and internationally as an innovative initiative. He said that it was the hard work and dedication of each team member of the clinics which has made this recognition possible. He highlighted the importance of good documentation for enabling better assessment of the work of the teams, dissemination as well as research.

Beyond Health



One of C-NES' major focus has been holistic community development. We are also making our foray into newer areas- environment, livelihood, gender and skill development. The Research Team of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative (APPI) supported C-NES in "The Riverine Study" which I led. The project will review the extensive changes in the Brahmaputra valley, including impacts of climate change, displacement and adaptation to these changes through local efforts. . We hope this study will be helpful at both the policy and field and lead to community upliftment.

Our award winning Brahmaputra Community Radio Station (BCRS) community radio station-- popularly called Radio Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh continues with its extensive innovative community services reaching over two lakh listeners through its radio programmes. With over 10 hours of programming every day, BCRS has an audience on islands, the mainland and tea plantation communities with a geographical spread that covers three districts and hundreds of villages. We are truly proud of station-in-charge Bhaskar Bhuyan and his dedicated team.

We are deeply grateful to each team member of the team in C-NES led by Programme Manager Ashok Rao, the programme staff at the district level, the research unit and the office staff. Our accounting unit regularly trains our staff in financial procedures. I wish to thank the Department of Health, Government of Assam, Avinash Purushottam Das Joshi (IAS) , Principal Secretary (Health), Dr. M S Lakshmi Priya (IAS), NHM's Mission Director, and colleagues in Assam, who have been a source of support.

Our Auditors, Jagdish Chand & Co ensured the accounts were in order. The Board of Trustees have been not just supportive but actively involved in several of our projects. Their unstinting support have helped us cover difficult patches.

On a different note, we welcome donations -- we continue to chart challenging waters beyond the boat clinics and need constant support. Donations are tax exempt under Section G=80G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961. Our FCRA number is 231660377

Sanjoy Hazarika

Managing Trustee

## **CM sends senior minister to represent him at launch of book on Japan and NE India, Co authored by Trustees Sanjoy Hazarika and Preeti Gill**

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of a book on NE India and Japan by Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma in New Delhi. The book, "North East India and Japan,Engagement through Connectivity", was co- authored by Trustees Sanjoy Hazarika and Preeti Gill and Japanese scholar Mayumi Mayurama and released to a large audience at the India International Centre, New Delhi, on June 22,2022. Due to the emergency flood situation in the state, the chief minister was unable to join but sent a senior representative, cabinet minister Chandra Mohan Patowary who read out the CM 's detailed speech where the latter declared that transformative changes for peace and progress over the past years had taken place in Assam beckoning to greater investment and growth at a time of stability. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma underscored the transformation in attitudes and approaches. "Till a few years back, in our region violence and armed uprising were the order of the day", he said in the speech stressing that the North-east, building on peace and development, was currently "positioned at the cusp of great changes."

### **Media on the Book Launch- links follow**

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/assam-news/assam-cm-says-people-of-ner-building-better-safer-and-stable-society-on-the-cusp-of-great-changes-598902?fbclid=IwAR2yaMmKaGuMTHkO5Xee8Pw3yIMHnpAG3slc-bPD1wRpjhOrhck5s4YF2Ac>


[https://epaper.assamtribune.com/clip-preview/57961On0DwwXg100Zc7hN9EPalvCm48ypl9zn7485439?fbclid=IwAR1K0FkiTImUi8vVYGCPdgi2cIE0KgC4TNy4URfhfDscackJs\\_JsVMrN12g](https://epaper.assamtribune.com/clip-preview/57961On0DwwXg100Zc7hN9EPalvCm48ypl9zn7485439?fbclid=IwAR1K0FkiTImUi8vVYGCPdgi2cIE0KgC4TNy4URfhfDscackJs_JsVMrN12g)



*Seated (Left to right): Takehiro Tsuchiya, economic counselor at the Japanese embassy, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Afghanistan and Syria, Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, C-NES Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika and former Prof Srabani Roy-Choudhury of the Centre for Japan studies at JNU*

Ministry of Culture  
Department of Culture, Government of India


75  
INDEPENDENCE  
75th ANNIVERSARY

Nehru Memorial Museum & Library  
cordially invites you to **Srikant Dutt Memorial Lecture**  
on  
**Peace in the North-east and the need  
for Goodwill among Neighbours**  
by  
**SPEAKER**  
  
**Prof. Sanjoy Hazarika**  
Founder, CNEAPP, Gauhati

on  
Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 3.00pm

Venue:  
Seminar Room, Library Building  
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library  
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

**All are welcome.**  
Those wishing to have their names added to the email list may please write to us: - [ccs2nmm@gmail.com](mailto:ccs2nmm@gmail.com)  
Occasional Papers: <http://nehruememorial.nic.in/publication>  
Video Links of Lectures: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nehruememoriallibrary>

 <https://meet.google.com/owd-brvj-tzh>

R3VP  
011-23019664, 0999643838

Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika delivered the Srikant Dutt Memorial lecture on Peace in the North East and need for Goodwill among Neighbours at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi in January 2023”.

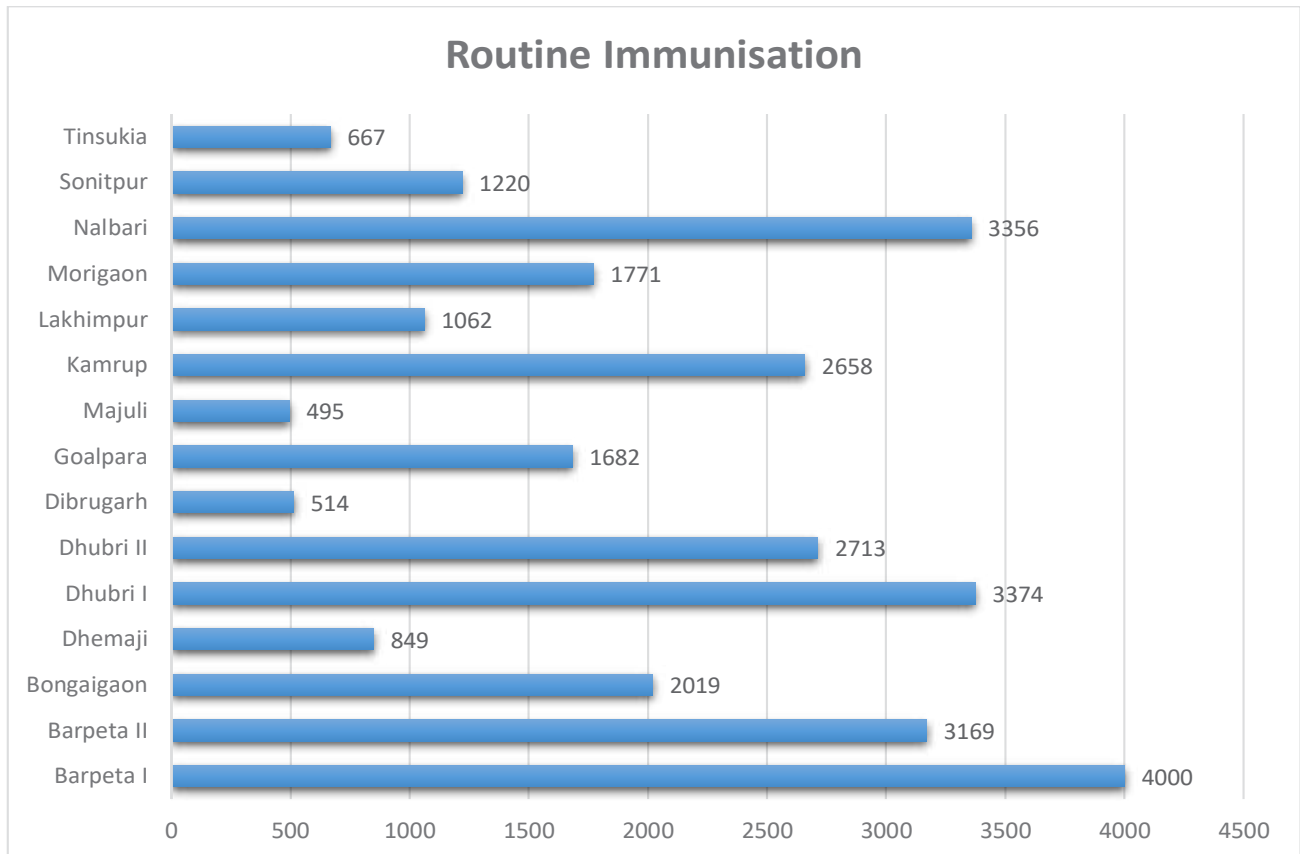
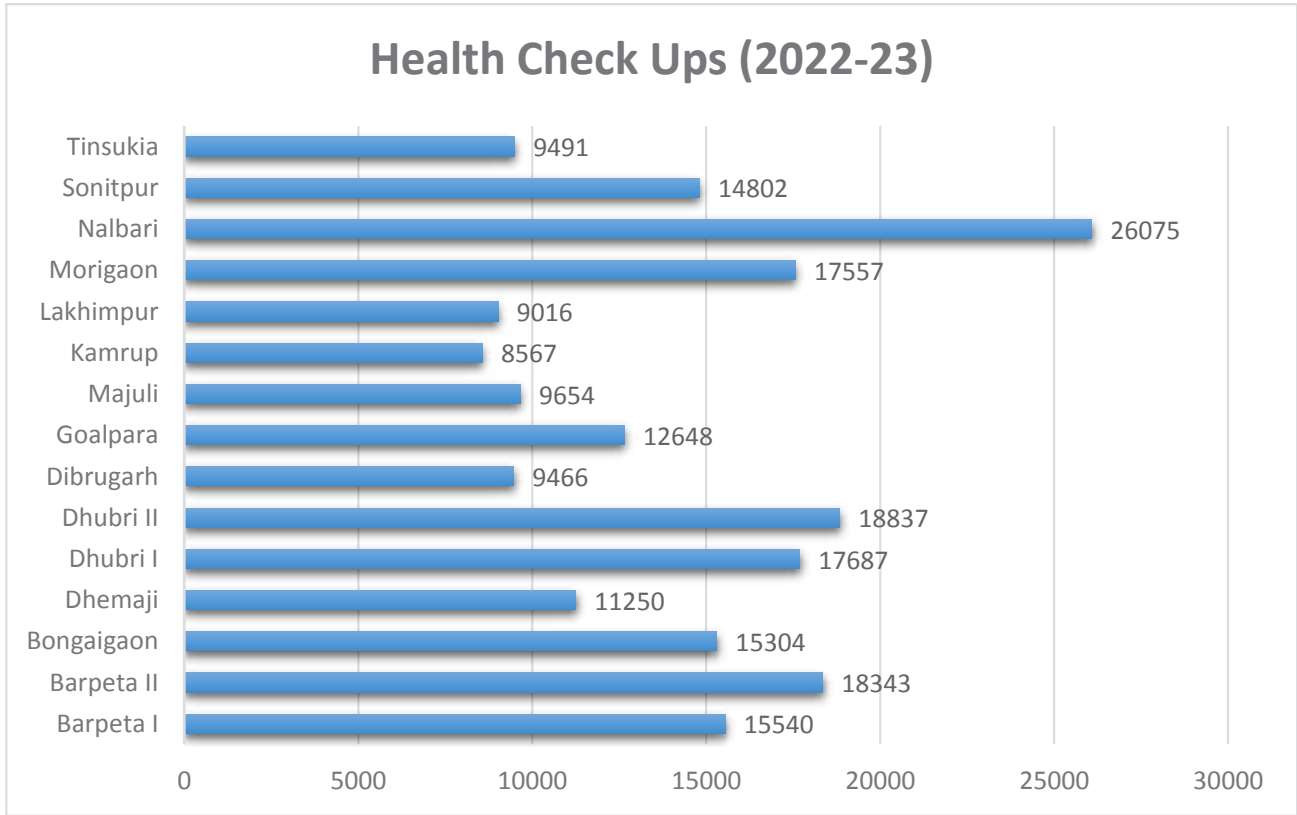
A quote from his speech, “ An issue that has impacts far beyond national borders is the relationship between competing states in the North-east itself. Healthy competition is driven by what investors seek – starting with the critical precondition of safe and secure conditions as well as including good connectivity (infrastructure including net) and a welcoming atmosphere which means smooth processes to handle banking and land laws but also access to high quality health and education facilities There is a simple but fundamental truth – good relations, trust and cooperation are critical among neighbours. That needs hard-nosed negotiations but also a willingness to be open. Equality, Equity and Synergy are the engines of sustainable growth” .

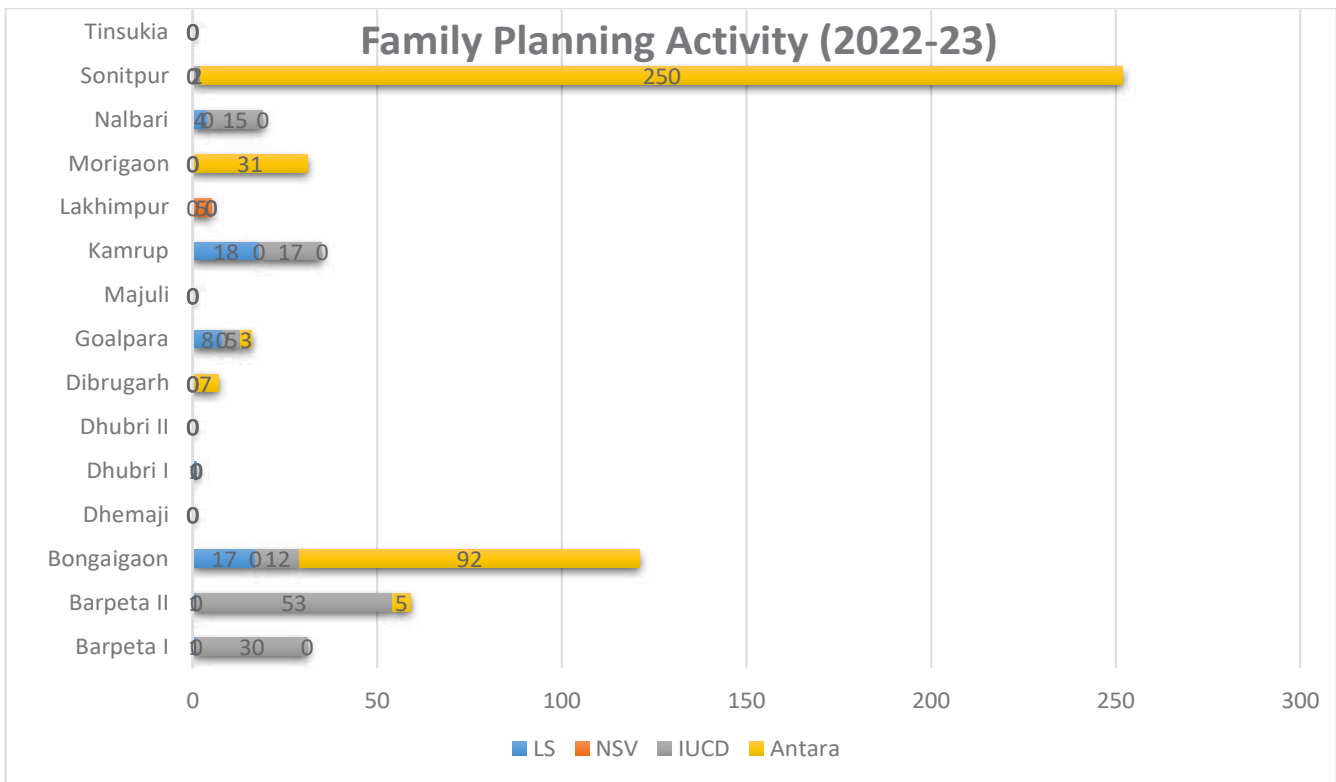
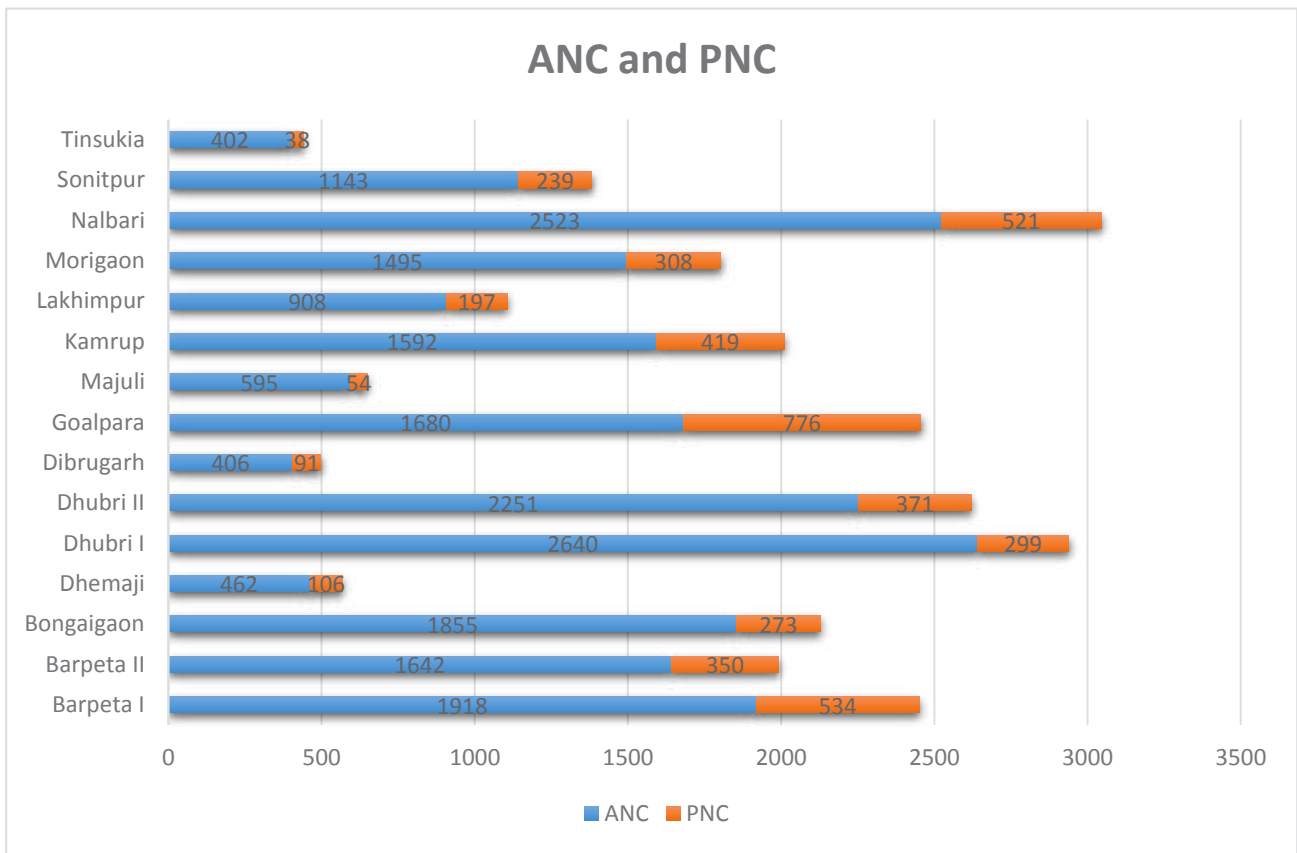
## Districts where Boat Clinics are operating in the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam



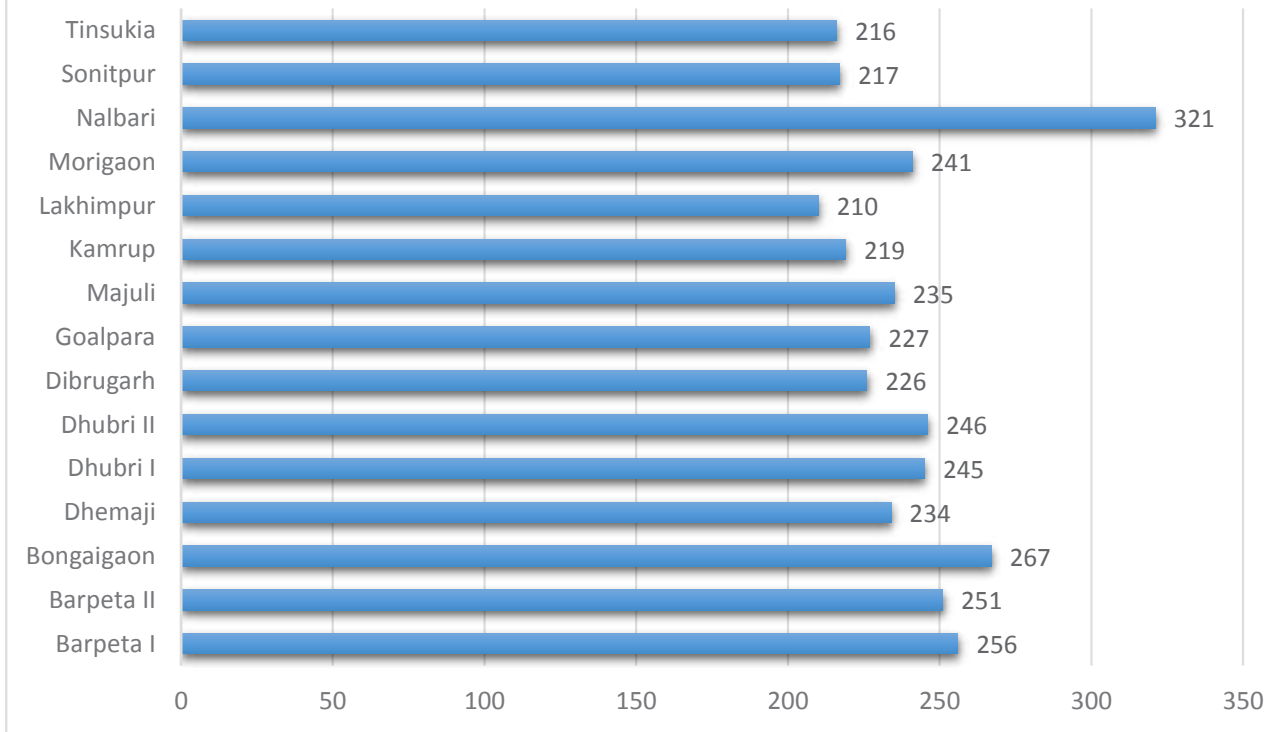
*( Barpeta and Dhubri have two Boat Clinics each due to the size of island population and size of islands)*

# Boat Clinic Figures





## Total Camps (2022-23)



## International Nurses Day

Nurses Day is a special day to honour and celebrate the contributions of nurses all over the world. The day is celebrated on Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary on May 12 every year. The special day was chosen by the International Council of Nurses and has been observed officially since 1974. Like nurses all over, the ones that serve the 15 Boat Clinic units do it with a lot of dedication and sincerity. The team members express gratitude to the dedicated nurses who work tirelessly, passionately and selflessly.



*The team felicitating the nurses of the Majuli Boat Clinic*

## “Neeraj” launched

Eminent economist- columnist Swaminathan Aiyar and Prof Neeraj Kaushal of Columbia University launched a new boat clinic, SB Neeraj in Kamrup district, Assam on the 26th December 2022. A philanthropist, Aiyar had donated six boats earlier to C-NES, named after members of his family. The launch at Kamrup rural districts Futuri ghat was attended by Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika, PMU members Mousumi Dowerah, Bhaswati Goswami, DPO Nalbari Parvis Ahmed and the Kamrup Boat Clinic team

After the launch, the visitors accompanied by the C-NES team attended a health camp at Bhokuwamari island village. Glimpses of the event follow:







*The health team updating Mr Aiyar about common prevalent diseases while Sanjoy Hazarika listens*



*Post school children being given a check up at the camp*



*A group photograph onboard with the visitors*

## C-NES staff felicitated



*The District Programme Officer of Nalbari Boat Clinic, Parvis Ahmed recognized as the best employee of Nalbari district being felicitated by the Health Minister of Assam Keshab Mahanta on 27th September at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.*

## Bongaigaon Team Awarded

The Bongaigaon Boat Clinic received the best performing award for delivering health care services in the most remote island villages in the district on 12th October 2022. The award was given to DPO Monjur H Mandal on behalf of the team in the District Library Hall. The award was handed over by the MLA of Bongaigaon constituency Phani Bhushan Chaudhury



## C-NES Interns

Interns from TISS interns

Nandinee Sikdar and Safwan T, final year Masters (MASW Public Health) students of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati interned with C-NES during May 2022 as part of fieldwork necessary for their academic requirements.

Follow their experience with the Boat Clinics at Kamrup and Majuli below:

*Amidst every storm there is hope and this fieldwork experience with C-NES taught us the true essence of this possibility. From 9th of May, 2022 as an instrumental part of our curriculum we started our fieldwork with C-NES. We engaged for a 21-day period within which our primary task was to work with the Boat clinics of Kamrup and Jorhat (Majuli) in Assam and work around a central theme: 'Health, livelihoods and poverty in the islands'. In Kamrup, we had the opportunity of attending the day-camps while with the Jorhat boat clinic team we had the opportunity to work on overnight medical camps. We were able to cover 8 saporis or island villages altogether namely Taparpathar, Kalardia, Burhakatapam, Noljuhi, Balagaon, Bhekali 1, Sikolichapori and Kartik across both the districts.*

*The medical camps primarily designed to provide routine immunization services, maternal and child health care services, family planning services and general checkups are clearly serving a wide spectrum of patients especially pregnant women, lactating mothers, children between 0-5 years and children between 5-10 years in the isolated and medically inaccessible islands. Thus, in turn bridging the larger healthcare access issues of the population residing in the islands resting in the Brahmaputra valley. In order to understand these nuances of accessibility from service provider and user-perspectives, we engaged in a wide range of activities such as conducting transect walks with kids and boat crew members, conducting interviews of the service providers as well as the users, documentation of existing medical systems in the islands through sub-center visits and understanding the linkages between NHM Assam and the boat clinic intervention through Block PHC visit in Chhaygaon. However, within this stipulated time period, our expectations were quite minimal yet the outcomes and learnings went far beyond our perceived consciences. It was an eye opening experience for us to observe and learn a diverse range of ground realities and the everyday challenges of access of the service providers in dedicatedly providing services to the char populations since the last 10-12 years.*

*During the medical camps with both the Kamrup and Jorhat teams, we had a great on-field experience and their friendly behaviour made us feel comfortable and welcomed. Each one of the team members were wholeheartedly willing to guide us, clear our queries and make this field-work experience an enriching one. Not only the medical team, the rest of the crew members were also very helpful especially the two DPOs were very informative and we got the opportunity to learn and reflect from the on-ground insights they provided us about the socio-demographic features of the populations, the major disease trends in the islands and how far the boat clinics have been able to penetrate as a concrete medical healthcare institution for the islands. With the help of a wide range of stakeholders, we were able to experience realities and our learnings from the field have been innumerable,*

however, as young public health professionals our whole perspective of looking at accessibility from the standpoint of merely the users has transformed and this fruitful fieldwork experience has been the fundamental driver of this perspective change. But though the experiences were quite ground breaking, the experience of travelling in a boat especially staying overnight during Jorhat boat clinic trips, heavy rains, strong river currents and high-risk storms during the Kamrup boat clinic visits were in itself massive challenges as interns yet the enriching experience and optimism we received from the teams helped us to overcome such challenges with ease making the entire experience remarkably fruitful.

Thus, for this eye opening experience we undoubtedly would like to present our gratitude to C-NES for providing us this immaculate opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn from the ground realities of the populations residing in the chars and helping us to reflect on how issues of accessing basic healthcare still remains a luxury for many poverty stricken islanders of the Brahmaputra valley. And how interventions like the Boat Clinic initiative of C-NES remarkably is playing a fundamental role in eradicating many such issues of access and bringing hope closer to the people.

Thank you, C-NES Team

Nandinee Sikdar (MASW Public Health) and Safwan T. (MASW Public Health)



A group photograph of the TISS interns with the Majuli Boat Clinic team onboard Boat Clinic Nahor

## Vrije university students share their experiences (March-May 2022)

### Lard's experience with the online internship at C-NES

*I am a biomedical analyst. Doing this project with C-NES was a very interesting experience. Before this project I had little experience with mixed-methods research, and familiarizing myself with the literature regarding maternal health in India was a good way of learning how to investigate these types of health issues.*

*The way of life on the islands of the Brahmaputra was completely foreign to me, and in the beginning, it was hard to comprehend the challenges that living on the Brahmaputra brings. The boat clinic project was inspiring to read about, as the river seems to be quite difficult to navigate. This fact makes the progression that the project has made a great achievement.*

*It was enlightening to hear the stories of the crew on the boat-clinics; their information was key in understanding the health care situation on the islands and how physical and social factors influence it. The knowledge of the boat crews regarding the local community seems to me a very important factor in the success rate of the project.*

*Investigating health care issues so different from my own situation has given me insight in the challenges many people across the world may face. This is something I will carry with me as I continue my studies, along with a great respect for the people working on these types of projects.*

### Luke's experience

*I am a lifestyle coach/research assistant. Before starting with the course 'international health' I was doubting between the course's international health, and public health and prevention. I eventually decided to follow the course international health because I wanted to widen my scope on health in an international context. Together with my group members, we were given the opportunity to conduct a needs assessment for the C-NES organisation where we focussed on the boat clinics. Only after the first interview with workers with several backgrounds from the boat clinic in upper Assam, did I start seeing the complexity and severity of several problems which are present today. Of course, we did our back research and saw skyrocketing numbers when it comes to the prevalence of some diseases, mortality rates or crucial determinants of health such as poverty, lack of education and/or environmental threats. However, after conducting the interviews and footage which were shown to us by the friendly workers of the boat clinics, it made an impact on me. To see under what circumstances these people live, with what an environment they must cope each day, and yet how they maintain their daily routines, it is unbelievable how privileged we (Dutch students) are.*

*It's good to see what the boat clinics are doing for the people of the Brahmaputra River, what they already have done and what they are still striving for. With the workforce and materials, they have, they can do a lot to improve the overall health of these people, but there are still many barriers which cannot be solved by the boat clinics on their own. Environment, poverty, infrastructure and education are severe contributors to the lower overall health of the people in the Brahmaputra River. I hope the problems which the boat clinics are trying to beat do get the (inter)national attention it deserves. Collaboration with the government is a need.*

### Lindsay's experience

*Rosanne and I are community nurses. We spoke with stakeholders from the C-NES organisation who provided us with the essential information to start our research. We had the privilege to conduct our research in two districts of Assam: Bongaigaon and Jorhat (Majuli). We had group interviews with several key informants, such as the community workers and the medical teams from the boat*

clinics who know much about the (tribal) communities living in these two districts. Our meetings and interviews took place online via Zoom. We could understand each other well and see the people we were talking with. I'm glad that the internet has made it possible for us to connect with the organisation and learn about the connection they have with the islanders and about their traditions concerning maternal health.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Media Coverage

The Deccan Herald covered the Bongaigaon Boat Clinic in May 2022. The link: [https://www.deccanherald.com/amp/specials/when-a-clinic-comes-sailing-1111062.html?fbclid=IwAR3\\_WOY7Ls-q6akDJGk0qvcvwQYZFIkZmP MvBXnxN2n-ct1Uhvzb9q875U](https://www.deccanherald.com/amp/specials/when-a-clinic-comes-sailing-1111062.html?fbclid=IwAR3_WOY7Ls-q6akDJGk0qvcvwQYZFIkZmP MvBXnxN2n-ct1Uhvzb9q875U)



# When a clinic comes sailing

Boat clinics in Assam make daily trips to treat thousands of people living on islands.

**Sumir Karmakar goes downstream with a medical team, and watches them dispense medicines and hope**

**C**ommunities in progress, and change as the Jangghoga river winds through the islands that the service providers to those who live when they say 'boat clinic'.

It is 8.30 am. The sun is small, something and makes life difficult in the area, but a calm, morning breeze is blowing when I stand there in my May. You have come at the right time. The water is calm, and the service is good," says Malati Malati at the mouth of the river in the Bongaigaon district during the flood as she watches the water rise in the river bed.

The 27th Boat Clinic has a compartment: a medicine cabinet, a doctor's chair, an oxygen tank with a bed and two pairs of children and a few a laptop and the medical team.

The 15-member medical team led by Malati Malati, a medical officer at the Boat Clinic, is on a boat. It is a 15-member medical team led by Malati Malati, a medical officer at the Boat Clinic, is on a boat. It is a 15-member medical team led by Malati Malati, a medical officer at the Boat Clinic, is on a boat.

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**A 15-member medical team travels from the Jangghoga river port in Assam's Bongaigaon district to 22 chara (river islands) on the Sankha, a boat clinic. It provides consultation and medicines to the residents. Malati Malati, a medical officer, is seen with her husband and daughter.**

**Snapshot**

Over 2,000 river islands and 20,000 people live on them in Assam.

Sanjoy Hazarika, who heads the Centre for Northeast Studies and Policy Research.

The National Health Mission is supporting this boat clinic project since 2008.

15 boat clinics are operating in 13 districts of Assam. The Bongaigaon Boat Clinic provides healthcare to over 15,000 people living on 22 islands.

Doctors visit about 15,000 people every month.

**Life on the islands**

K... Bongaigaon is a small town in Assam, where over 20 lakh people live. The river Jangghoga flows through the town. The islands are small, sandy, and fertile. They are surrounded by water. The people living on the islands are mostly farmers. They grow rice, vegetables, and fruits. They also have some small businesses. The islands are connected to the mainland by boats. The boat clinics provide healthcare to the people living on the islands. The boat clinics are run by medical officers and nurses. They provide consultation and medicines to the residents. The boat clinics are a lifeline for the people living on the islands.

# Media on Boat Clinics

## Bridging the Healthcare Divide on the Brahmaputra with Boat Clinics

By Arunima Rajan

How an innovative boat clinic programme is bringing health care services to underserved riverine communities in Assam.

The islands along the Brahmaputra River are known as 'chars' and 'saporis'. Beautiful and remote, they are hard to access, a problem compounded by annual flooding in this part of the North East. This poses problems for the inhabitants of these islands - who make up 10% of Assam's population - when it comes to accessing healthcare. In most parts of India, we're used to quick, convenient road access to medical care. The islanders of the Brahmaputra have to depend on unreliable boat services, taking them through choppy waters to distant hospitals on the mainland. Fortunately, an innovative program using boat clinics and community workers is changing how these remote communities access healthcare.



Annual flooding places tribal communities at risk

Assam is located in the northeast region of India. The Brahmaputra River, the longest river in Asia, flows through the state. The river is navigable for large boats for about 6 months of the year and is prone to flooding during the rainy season. Flooding causes extensive damage to crops and livestock.

Disruptive Healthcare Innovation using community workers and boat clinics

The eminent author, filmmaker and journalist Sanjoy Hazarika conceptualised the innovative rural healthcare programme called the Boat Clinic, which has taken shape into an established, successful programme today.

In 2004, C-NES was selected as one of the 20 finalists in the World Bank's India development marketplace competition in New Delhi. C-NES' design was lauded by the judges for its innovative approach to solving problems in rural areas, and C-NES received a cash prize of \$20,000. The prize money enabled the building of the first boat clinic, which was designed by MIT's design team, local boat builders and local river surveyors. The vessel was named Akha (Asha), meaning hope in Assamese.

"Soon after the boat clinic programme first took off in May 2005, UNICEF came forward to support the Dibrugarh health outreach initiative in July 2006 with an emphasis on improving immunisation coverage of children and pregnant women. Health care delivery system on curative and preventive care was also streamlined. UNICEF is not directly involved with the Boat Clinics which is totally supported by National Health Mission, Assam under the Public Private Partnership mode," says Sanjoy Hazarika.

Follow the link for more : [https://www.healthcareexecutive.in/blog/boat-clinics?fbclid=IwAR3XtTTY2dhV2-XoP2IbxXIFzcl8hzSPUqP\\_\\_6o\\_Bua3wsvQLYkOhLSTjME](https://www.healthcareexecutive.in/blog/boat-clinics?fbclid=IwAR3XtTTY2dhV2-XoP2IbxXIFzcl8hzSPUqP__6o_Bua3wsvQLYkOhLSTjME)

## Visitors



State Planning Consultant, Nilim Borah, Consultant, Dr Dhurba Rajbongshi, NHM Assam DPM, Sonaton Ishwary, and DCM Arif Ahmed, NHM Dhubri, were present at a camp conducted by the Dhubri Boat Clinic I team. The camp conducted on 1st July 2022 was held at the Chalakura pt-3 island village. The visitors seen with DPO, Mehebab Alom Hazarika onboard

## JSSM team visit

The Joint Supportive Supervision Mission (JSSM) Team from Central TB Division (CTD) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) led by Dr Uma Shankar- JSSM team lead, Central TB Division, NTT Bengaluru visited the Nalbari Boat Clinic unit on 27th July 2022 and held a meeting with Boat Clinic team at Mukalmua Ghat. Said Dr Shankar, "The primary health care services provided by the team in boat clinics is highly appreciated. They reach out to the unreached living in the islands and are the only source of primary health care for the island dwellers. May extend TB services like sputum collection and transportation, ATT distribution and home visit and counselling of TB affected families"

Added Ananya Singh, a member of the visiting team, "The services - regular and relief provided by the boat clinic is brilliant. The team has set an example for the rest of the country and the world. Team should provide TB services as part of their checklist." Glimpses of the visitors with the team and at the health cum immunization session at Barballa II





## APPI Visit

A two member team comprising Hyma Vadlamani from Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) Pvt Ltd and Pradyut Bhattacharjee, Independent Development Consultant, visited a health camp conducted by the Goalpara Boat Clinic on the 19th October 2022. The team interacted with the health team, observed the camp being held and discussed the challenges and issues faced by the team and the beneficiaries living in these remote islands. Socio economic issues of the communities living here were also discussed. General checkups and routine immunizations was conducted at the camp

The visitors appreciated the challenging work of the team. This is what Hyma Vadlamani wrote in the visitors book - “Met the entire team of the Boat Clinic Unit. Exceptional commitment and dedicated service provided to the most vulnerable people of these char areas cut off from the mainland. The team of 15 people is doing such a precious service. NHM support for these kinds of last mile solution is commendable. There seems to be a need for boat ambulance. Wishing the team the best. . . .”



## MSF Team Visit

A four member team from MSF led by Dr Farhat Mantoo visited the C-NES regional office on 12th January 2023 and interacted with the senior members. They also visited the Morigaon Boat Clinic conducted health camp at Meetmari island village accompanied by Associate Programme Manager, Mousumi Dowerah. An international, independent medical humanitarian organisation, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders provides medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare



*The MSF led by Dr Farhat Mantoo (third from left) at the C-NES regional office with C-NES members*



*The visitors accompany the health team to a Morigaon Boat Clinic conducted health camp*



*A group shot of the visiting MSF team with the Morigaon health team*

## APPI supported Research team visits Boat Clinic camp

The Research Team of Azim Premji supported C-NES' The Riverine Study led by Sanjoy Hazarika, Team leader and Managing Trustee, C-NES, including Lakshminarayana K R, the Chief Endowment Officer managing investments of the Endowment Fund set up by Azim Premji, Pradyut Bhattacharjee, Independent Development Consultant, C-NES Advisor, Dr Milan Barooah, Adviser, Programme Manager Ashok Rao and officials from the Azim Premji Foundation visited a health camp conducted by the Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit II on 6th Feb 2023. The project will underline the extensive changes visible in the Brahmaputra. Photographs of the visit follow:



## Niti Ayog team at Barpeta health camp





A team from NITI Ayog accompanied the Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit II to a regular health camp organized at Jahanara ghola island village under Mowamari sub centre on January 10, 2023.

## Health Officials visit Morigaon Boat Clinic



Joint Director Health Services, Morigaon District, Dr. Phani Pathak accompanied the Boat Clinic team to Goribor Char for Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND). He was joined by Dr. Dulal Medhi (CM&HO, CD) Dr. Chitoranjan Haldar (SDM&HO) Lahorighat BPHC and Dr A Salam, I/C Moirabari CHC. The officials actively took part in the awareness session on early marriage, immunization, institutional delivery and interacted with villagers regarding various health related issues.

## Zonal Head, Hindustan Coca Cola visits Boat Clinic

Mukund Trivedy, Zonal Head, Stakeholder Engagement, North East Region, visited the Morigaon Boat Clinic on 19th July 2022. Follows a piece from his blog on the experience



**Mukund Trivedy** · Following

Happy Man | Storyteller | Brand Guy | Communication Professional | ...  
5m · 🌐

### Boat Clinics - Harbingers of Hope

They even defy God to reach the unreachable. Come rain or shine, they set out every morning on their mission. Sure enough, for about 3 lakh people spread over almost 420 far-flung islands of the river Brahmaputra in Assam, the selfless souls on these boats bring healthcare to their doorstep for free.

Awestruck by their stories of service to humanity, I pounced on the opportunity to accompany a group of dedicated volunteers on one of the 15 boats. Besides the crew, the team included two doctors, two nurses, a pharmacist, a laboratory technician, a few community workers, and a cook. Armed with requisite stock of food, water, and medicines, we began our journey drifting along the river Brahmaputra towards our destination.

No sooner did I settle into a vantage position than the boat came to a halt with a sudden jerk. Except for me, no one seemed to panic. "The boat has struck a shallow", said someone just as a matter of fact. A couple of crewmen immediately jumped off the boat and pushed it back into water using a long bamboo stick.

I intently listened to their stories of how their boats often got caught in the proverbial eye-of-the-storm. After a couple of hours of our journey, we finally reached our destination.

"Let's go fast, we need to immunise people before the ice melts", shouted a volunteer. More than hundred villagers, mostly women and children were waiting for us. The team immediately got into an overdrive, laying plastic sheets on the ground, arranging chairs, and setting up counters for doctor consultation and disbursements of medicines.

What was most remarkable was the calm disposition with which they carried on their work, without complaining and faltering in that sweltering heat. No one even appeared to be jaded.



Leave your thoughts here...



Post



It's heartening to know that the initiative is supported by the National Health Mission and the Government of Assam. Besides, there are some organisations and individuals as well who have donated boats to these Samaritans. They, however, at times discontinue their service for want of sufficient fund.

"We need constant cash flow to be able to repair and maintain our boats", rued a team member.

I would like to salute, Sanjay Hazarika, who launched Boat Clinics under the aegis of the Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research (C-NES) with a simple mission to reach out to millions of people who had no access to basic healthcare facilities.

More power to these unsung heroes.

[#assam](#) [#assamfloods2022](#) [#boatclinics](#)



The Deputy Commissioner, Bongaigaon, Nabadeep Pathak visiting the district boat clinic unit to conduct a survey during flood at Bhutkura island village on 21 st June 2022 . He was shown the solar panels of the Solar ILR installed at the Bongaigaon Boat Clinic supported by UNICEF and DIO on 7th June 2022. The solar ILR will ensure efficient storage of ready vaccines

## Review Meet

A review meeting of C-NES' flagship health program was held at Guwahati on 17th December 2022, attended by the District Programme Officers of the Boat Clinic Units, members of C-NES' Programme Management Unit including Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika and Special Advisor Dr Milan Barooah and Trustees HS Das and Dr Mahfuza Rahman.

Chairing the meeting Managing Trustee, Sanjoy Hazarika, congratulated all members present and expressed his gratitude to all for full filling his dream and making the Boat Clinics a very successful model of service deliver. Dr Barooah highlighted the importance of boat safety and requested the teams to be vigilant as their safety cannot be compromised at any cost. He also spoke about the technical aspects of ANC, PNC, RI and the need to give priority to family planning to improve the overall health status of women.

Speaking at the meeting, Trustee Mr HS Das said that Boat Clinic Programme was appreciated both nationally and internationally as an innovative initiative. He said that it was the hard work and dedication of each team member of the clinics which has made this recognition possible. He highlighted the importance of good documentation for enabling better assessment of the work of the teams, dissemination as well as research.

The focus was on streamlining the process, meeting gaps and local shortcomings as well as measures which would lead to improved rates of immunization among children and women, the main focus group of the programme



*(From left) Trustee Dr Mahfuza Rahman, Special Advisor Dr Milan Barooah Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika and Programme Manager Ashok Rao at the meet*



*Trustee HS Das addressing the DPOs*

## Board Meeting

C-NES' Board Meeting was held on January 7th 2023 at the Regional Office, Guwahati, chaired by Sanjoy Hazarika Managing Trustee. Trustees Gopal Pillai, Prof. Mahfuza Rahman, and Patricia Mukhim joined the meeting online. Advisor Dr.Milan Barooah was present along with members of PMU, C-NES.

Among other issues, Programme Manager Ashok Rao and APM Mousumi Dowerah updated the Board about the challenges in boat repairs. Communications Officer informed that repairing of the Dhemaji Boat "Shahnaz" has been completed and Dibrugarh Boat "Akha" is undergoing overhaul. She updated that after lying unused for over two years, the Dhemaji Boat Clinic, repaired and renovated with funds from Oil India Limited was delivering service since December 2022. She also informed the members about the progress in the renovation and building of Akha, C-NES'

first boat Clinic with funds donated by BCPL. Akha was also lying in a state of disrepair since 2019. The entire process of fund release, monitoring and site visit where the boat is being built, is under the DCs administration.

PM informed that the Majuli BC was also undergoing repairs while APM informed that repairing of main body of the Sonitpur Boat Clinic was completed in Aug'22, NHM funds were awaited for the hull, the budget for which was submitted in Sep'22 along with the camp budget.



*A presentation on the Hospital Ship project being given by the builders at the Board Meeting*

An update on the Progress on Hospital Ship was given by CryptoIndia's Divyarth Bansal. CryptoIndia and Give India has supported the revived project. A presentation on the Hospital Ship was made on behalf of the builders P Das & Co, by Ravi Deka who mentioned that all safety checks including fire safety were ensured as also medical waste disposal properly planned. There would be a boat crew of 9-10 members and the Ship would accommodate as many 32 medical staff. Labour room, recovery room were all properly planned. There would be eight full time berths. Supplementary remarks were made by PM on the new boat clinics being built for the HS by the same funders

The PM updated the members about the upcoming C-NES project Maternal Health with Population Council Consulting (PCC) for a period of 3 years from January 2023. Another upcoming C-NES project will be "Riverine Study" supported by APPI project across three districts of Barpeta, Dhubri and Majuli on climate change impacts on char populations, local adaptations, livelihoods, agricultural challenges and displacement on riverine communities The project will work with APPI partners but also focus on villages where C-NES has conducted health care programmes for several years.

## **VHAI-UNICEF Project Monitoring and Review meeting**

A project, "Empowering community-based institutions for supporting Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for COVID-19 and Routine Immunization" was carried out by C-NES in 4 blocks of two districts in Lower Assam for a period of six months, starting from March 2022.

The projects aimed at mobilising eligible population for the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination with special focus on increasing the second dose coverage, mobilize the teenage population (15-18 years) and 60 plus population for COVID-19 vaccination and precautionary (booster) dose, promote COVID appropriate behaviours and support the overall routine immunization uptake while delivering COVID-19 vaccine promotion. Goalpara Urban block and



Lakhipur block in Goalpara district and South Salmara Urban block and Gazarikandi block in Barpeta are where the project is being implemented. The VHAI team evaluated project activities and financial aspects of the project.



*A group photograph at the review meeting at Guwahati Address Hotel on 11th and 12th May. Members of the project from various organizations including C-NES attending the review meeting. C-NES members in the picture: First column from right - Anup Kalita, Accountant and Abhinoy, Assistant Program Manager. Third column from left Mustafijur Rahman, District Coordinator*

## **Project on Covid 19 Vaccination for Adolescents**

From March 2022, C-NES, supported by Dasra worked together for a project on vaccination of adolescent age group (12-18) yrs in island villages of selected districts - Barpeta, Lakhimpur and Morigaon. Field studies undertaken underlined that these districts had the lowest vaccination coverage within the boat clinic covered districts. It was imperative, to further achieve the immunization target in these difficult to access areas, to prioritize vaccine accessibility for the adolescent population. 7299 households were surveyed, 4600 adolescents (target beneficiary) out of the surveyed were identified as either partially vaccinated/unvaccinated. 2092 adolescents vaccinated till 30.09.2022. The communication and dissemination has been largely conducted by mobilized community volunteers. C- NES liaised with 249 external stakeholders including district administration officers and, ASHA workers to execute this project.

The photographs below show the challenges of accessing these remote islands, motivating communities about the need for vaccination and the actual vaccination of target group-





A day long training program to familiarize the participants with the project objectives was conducted by C-NES on 30th April 2022 at the regional office, Guwahati for the twelve newly appointed employees working on the project. The speakers were Dr. Milan Barooah, Special Advisor, Ashok Rao, Programme Manager, Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, Abhinoy Sinha, Associate Programme Manager and Nirmali Das, Research Analyst who is seen introducing the project to the newly recruited participants. Communications Officer, Bhaswati Goswami (right) welcoming the newly recruited participants

## Orientation Workshop

An Orientation Workshop for Research Team of Azim Premji supported C-NES' The Riverine Study was organized on 24th January 2023. Sanjoy Hazarika, Team leader and Managing Trustee, C-NES provided an overall introduction to the Study and Workshop, underlining the extensive changes visible in the Brahmaputra. The study, supported by APPI, sought to examine how people in the islands and riverbank/riverine areas were coping with a range of issues including erosion and migration due to climate uncertainty. The short time research will be a scoping effort which would focus on factors that reflected basic conditions of vulnerability -- climate change, status of livelihood linked to agriculture, erosion, health status and connectivity. There would be a look at the scale and reach of government interventions. There was a need to enter these villages and take a feedback. "There is a need to capture people's narratives," Hazarika said.

An overall introduction to C-NES was given by Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami who spoke of its work since its inception in 2000, the various studies it had conducted as well as interventions on the environment, gender issues, media fellowships besides the ongoing health outreach programme through the boat clinics.

Sharing his thoughts, Pradyut Bhattacharjee, Independent Development Consultant, said that this study would fill a gap as few such studies had been undertaken on the chars or river islands. Much has depended on anecdotal references. People-centric research was needed –for health, education, child marriage, social issues and migration.

Examples where communities have been contributing and taking initiatives on their own for development would also be visible through this study. Prof Mahfuza Rahman, former Head, Dept of Geography, Cotton College in her remarks, added that unlike Bangladesh, where she has had the opportunity to visit such islands, the inhabitants of the Assam char islands “lack aspiration”. Erosion, child marriage linked to illiteracy has aggravated the inherent challenges here aggravated by gender discrimination and poor status of women. Moreover, migration has increased and society had undergone changes. She said that ecosystem service is changing gradually due to climate change and there is a need to understand how people are adapting to this..

Resource person Dr Parthajyoti Das, Programme head WATCH, at Aaranyak, said that ‘our mission has to be fulfilled after the field visit’. The life style of the people, how they survive and adapt with climate change as also their capacity to survive, vulnerability and resilience are crucial factors to consider. It is imperative to listen to the people patiently and hear their stories before documenting them.



*Sanjoy Hazarika, Team leader and Managing Trustee, C-NES providing an overall introduction to the Study with Resource person Dr Parthajyoti Das, Programme head WATCH, at Aaranyak*

## **C-NES Participation**

World Resources Institute (WRI) India in collaboration with AEDA launched the Energy Access Explorer (EAE) platform for Assam on 31st August 2022. Along with the launch there were presentations on the importance of an integrated, inclusive, data-driven approach to energy planning. Assistant Programme Manager C-NES Mousumi Dowerah and Programme Coordinator, Saif Sheikh participated at the event. EAE platform provides a unique opportunity to visualize the energy, health, education and livelihood indicators and aid in decision-making processes for the accelerated development of the state.



*Assistant Programme Manager C-NES Mousumi Dowerah and Programme Coordinator, Saif Sheikh with the other participants at the workshop*

## Consultative Meeting



A consultative meeting on health data analysis needs in NE India by Population Council Consulting (C-NES' partner in Assam) Rasta and USAID was held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Guwahati on February 10th, 2023. Communications Officer, Bhaswati Goswami represented C-NES at the meeting. It needs mention that C-NES has started a project on Maternal Health with Population Council Consulting (PCC) for a period of 3 years in early 2023. The objective of the meeting was to brainstorm questions that are important from Health and Nutrition program and policy angles for the region. The consultation also aimed to explore pathways to extend RASTA's work to inform policies and programmes and form partnership with academic/research institutions in the northeast region of the country. Seen in the photograph (above) are PCC State Programme Manager Namrata Goswami (second from right) and C-NES' Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami (second from right) at the meeting along with other health functionaries.

## From The Field



*The Sonitpur Boat Clinic operating in middle Assam ushered in the New Year 2023 with Managing Trustee, C-NES Sanjoy Hazarika onboard. Mr Hazarika spent the New Years Eve with the team*

## Boat Clinics and Har Ghar Dastak campaign

The two month long "Har Ghar Dastak campaign 2.0" to accelerate the pace and coverage of COVID19 vaccination across India commenced from the 1st of June 2022. C-NES' Boat Clinics were actively involved in this campaign where the health teams visited homes in the remotest of island villages that they serve in a door to door campaign. A few photographs from the field teams:



*Har Ghar Dastak campaign by Dhubri Boat Clinic unit- II at Majerchar NC island village on June 6th, 2022*



*The Bongaigaon Boat Clinic Unit conducts Har Ghar Dastak campaign cum health and immunization camp from a country boat in flooded island villages*



*On way to Har Ghar Dastak campaign 2.0 and health camp at Lotibari II island village by Goalpara Boat Clinic on 9th June 2022*



*The Nalbari Boat Clinic team on way to conduct Har ghar dastak campaign and a regular health camp at the flooded Kabaitari pt 3 island village*

## **Mission Shakti-**

The Boat Clinic Units were actively involved in the Mission Shakti campaign launched by NHM, Assam. The objective of the week long campaign from 31st May to 5th May 2022 was to mobilize all pregnant women for ANC checks up during the campaign as also to help woman plan and prepare for birth and the presence of an attendant the time of the delivery. The beneficiaries were given counseling on the advantages of institutional deliveries along with emphasis on the importance of seeking ANC and PNC, importance of diet (nutrition), hygiene and adequate rest.



*Special ANC drive - Mission Shakti by Kamrup Boat Clinic at Koltuli and Batahadia island villages.*



*The Dibrugarh Boat Clinic team on way to conduct the special ANC drive as part of Mission Shakti at Charkholia and Pakhori sapor on 1st June 2022*



ANC checkup by Dibrugarh Boat Clinic team as part of Mission Shakti at Charkolia island village



September is the Rashtriya Poshan Maah part of the National Nutrition Mission. Activities related to nutrition awareness conducted by the Majuli Boat Clinic

Health camp by the Tinsukia Boat Clinic in the remote island village of Chilling inhabited by the ethnic Mishing tribe.



*Swacch Bharat: Far from crowds and cities, a lesson in hand washing and sanitation on an island on the Brahmaputra from the C-NES boat clinic team. Team Barpeta BC I - 28th July, 2022*



*A high risk underage ANC patient, 15 years old Ripi Kr Doley of Morton Sapori fainted onboard during a check up at a health camp at Adisuti island village by the Lakhimpur Boat Clinic on 24th July 2020. The Medical Officer found that she was bleeding a few days before and her hemoglobin was very low. She was immediately referred to Lakhimpur Medical College and Hospital. She was reported to have improved during the next visit*



## Boat Baby

A baby was successfully delivered by the Barpeta Boat Clinic unit II on 26th October 2022. Providing ANC, PNC checkups along with advocating institutional deliveries has been priority with all the health teams especially crucial for a state like Assam which has one of India's worst Maternal Mortality and a high Infant Mortality Rate. The regular camp was being conducted at Ramapara pam char when the team was informed of the need for prompt medical action. Dr Jemima Akhtar conducted the delivery assisted by ANM Himamani Talukdar. The mother and child were both healthy post delivery



*ANM Himamani Talukdar holds the new born infant*



*Weighing the infant during the PNC check up by the health team*



The Sonitpur Boat Clinic team on way to a routine immunization session at Niz - Tintikia on 25 th Oct 2022. With the onset of winter and river water subsiding bigger boats cannot reach the island villages so the health teams make use of country boats to reach destination



Camp conducted by Lakhimpur Boat Clinic at Aunibari on 14 th Oct 2022



*Infants being immunized at routine immunization sessions conducted by the Dhemaji Boat Clinic at Borong Kankan and Sengajan Gowala island village*



*A pregnant woman being given checked up for anemia*



*RI session conducted at Lamba Mishing and Lamba Milon island village in Dhemaji*



Women and children wait patiently for their turn. Health Camps at Majuli district's Bhakat saponi and Gopalchuk, Kerker island village



Special Health Camp (Swasthya Sewa Abhiyan-3) at Gyan Bikash Academy, Barballa IV by the Boat Clinic, Nalbari in October 2022

The Nalbari Boat Clinic team on way to a Health cum immunization camp at Tildardia, on 13 oct 2022



An infant being immunized at the health camp at Tildardia

Community based participatory meeting with mothers on the importance of routine immunization by the Bongaigaon Boat Clinic Team



Glimpses from Health and Routine immunization camps conducted by the Boat Clinic Dibrugarh at remote in Mesaki, Udaipur, Tengabari and Sarisuti island villages in the district. Dibrugarh is where the Boat Clinic programme started way back in May 2005 supported by the district administration. Boat Clinic Akha which the first boat in C-NES' fleet servicing Dibrugarh is undergoing major repairs. The team has been conducting camps travelling in small country boats since 2019

A meeting on health issues of adolescent girls was organized by the Nalbari Boat Clinic team at Char Anchalik ME Madrassa, Na-Para Pam under Mukalmua BPHC of the district supported by the National Health Mission, Assam. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has emphasized expanding awareness as the key to interventions to improve and maintain their health for girls in the age group of 10-19 years, including nutrition, reproductive health and substance abuse. The key principle of this program is adolescent participation and leadership, inclusion, and gender equity.



*Beneficiaries gathering onboard for an ongoing camp at Fenching Sapori, island village conducted by Lakhimpur Boat Clinic in February 2023*



*With the water level subsiding with onset of winter the Barpeta Unit 2 team members struggling to take the boat forward as it gets stuck in the shallow water bed*

## Family Planning intervention

A holistic development of the insular communities they serve is one important component of the health outreach programme of C-NES supported by NHM of which family planning is an important component. San Banu Bibi (25), mother of 2 children successfully underwent LS in May 2022 at Kanaklata Civil Hospital. She is a perfect example of beneficiary who was inspired by the health awareness talks including the need to plan a healthy family. The Sonitpur Boat Clinic Unit DPO Mousumi Dowerah and ASHA Majeda Khatun were able to convince her. Amid bad weather, carrying her 7 month old baby, ASHA Majeda accompanied the beneficiary to the hospital. Working in areas where family planning is a daunting and challenging issue the Boat Clinic and related health workers such as ASHA Majeda has been able to bring small but significant change in the community mind set,



*The beneficiary being brought to the Kanaklat Civil hospital along with DPO and ASHA (Right) DPO Sonitpur at a one to one awareness session on family on 23rd April, 2022*



*While as many as twenty five pregnant women of Rongchar I & Rongchar II being brought to Bhalakhati char for Ante Natal Check up through the Boat Clinic, Nalbari from their flooded villages in June 2022*

# Floods in Assam : Boat Clinics to The Rescue



*Proceeding to the next camp site*



*Somewhere in middle Assam's Morigaon district- an entire island village swept away*



*Hope and healing – the Boat Clinics bring*



*Actively a part of flood relief operations supporting the district administration*



*SB Shekhar, servicing Bongaigaon on way to a flood relief camp in one of the districts flooded island villages- bringing hope and succour*



*On way to the next camp carrying medicines and health equipments*



## Brahmaputra Community Radio Station (BCRS)

BCRS or Radio Brahmaputra as it is commonly known, is based at Dibrugarh, very close to where the mighty river flows by at Maijanganhat. The station is unique in the sense that it caters to the needs and aspirations of people belonging to as many as five communities residing around the area in as many local languages – Shadri (dialect of the tea tribe community), Assamese, Bhojpuri, Bodo, and Mishing. While BCRS seeks to reach the most marginalised groups in 14 islands and 30 tea plantations and more than 180 villages in Dibrugarh district, its footprint reaches across the Brahmaputra to other districts as well.

## Poshan Pakhwada

Poshan Pakhwada is celebrated every year in the month of March for 15 days. Similarly, the month of September is celebrated as Rashtriya Poshan Maah across the country. Poshan Abhiyan was launched during 8th March 2018 with the aim to improve nutritional outcomes in a holistic manner. Behavioral change at individual and community level is an important component to achieve the desired goals.



Poshan Pakhwada aims to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and promote healthy eating habits. The photograph depicts the BCRS held community interaction with Front Line Workers including ASHA, Anganwadis on nutritional issues among the pregnant, lactating and children using interactive tools for better learning for sustain nutritional practices among the community at Maijan Tea Estate, Dibrugarh March 29, 2023

## BCRS invited to Judge Food Event

The Ministry of Women & Child Development is the nodal Ministry for coordinating activities during the Poshan Pakhwada. In the State/UT, Department of Women & Child Development /Social Welfare Department is the nodal department for Poshan Pakhwada. The theme of 2023 Poshan Pakhwada was “Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India”. With the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets, this year the focus of Poshan Pakhwada was to popularise millets ‘Shree Anna’- the mother of all grains, as a valuable asset to address malnutrition. BCRS coordinator Bhaskar Bhuyan was invited as a judge in one such millet based food competition.



As a radio station, working in the sector of community health with different components of health communication, BCRS got an opportunity to share core maternal and child health issues of the districts with the participants and the coordinator Bhaskar Bhuyan was invited to judge a recipe competition among the Anganwari Workers of Dibrugarh ICDS project with a special focus on millets as part of the Poshan Pakhwada 2023 on March 28th 2023



While BCRS makes an assessment on their food practices, consumption habits, economic and other factors including agricultural practices towards sustainable nutrition and food security, members of Women SHGs of tea gardens pledge to setup their own kitchen garden to make their family's nutritional needs self sustainable in August 2023





BCRS hold regular community nutrition sessions (such as the one above) on food habits and availability trying to understand the issues related to nutrition and promoting awareness of a balanced diet among the community. Most children are deprived or not able to access an adequate diet. As per NFHS 2019-22, Assam, children aged 6-23 months receiving a balanced diet is only 7.9% in rural and 8.0% in urban (Assam)

# Financials

<b>CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH</b>			
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH ' 2023</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>AMOUNT (In ₹)</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>AMOUNT (In ₹)</b>
<b>CORPUS FUND</b>		<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	1,431,281
Opening Balance	35,158,099	(As per Schedule-1)	
Add: Surplus of the year	3,436,255	Capital Work In Progress	22,976,128
	38,594,354		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>INVESTMENTS</b>	
Other Payable	276,124	Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Banks	5,342,428
TDS Payable	57,546	(Include Accrued Interest)	
GST Payable	35,460	<b>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS</b>	
PF Payable	725,623	<b>&amp; ADVANCES</b>	
Professional Tax payable	385,831	GST Receivable	29,558
Advance from District Programme Officer	1,291,686	Other Advances	869,648
Sundry Creditors	64,440	PF Receivable	8,756
Unreconciled Credit in Bank Account	755,000	Advance with District Programme Officer	653,264
Expenses Payable	18,000	TDS Recoverable	2,227,636
Rent Payable	50,000	Salary & Camp Advaces	72,000
Salary Payable	3,232,635	Advance for Boat Building	1,373,418
Payable to Sanjoy Hazarika	500,000	Loans & Advances	159,663
		Amount Recoverable from Milan & Pinku	3,130,225
		Cash in Hand	251,652
		Bank Accounts (NET)	7,461,042
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,986,699</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,986,699</b>

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Note to Accounts Schedule-2

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

As per our separate report of even date

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
FRN: 000129N

SANTOSH  
KUMAR JHA

Digitally signed by  
SANTOSH KUMAR JHA  
Date: 2023.10.27  
12:46:12 +05'30'

(SANTOSH KUMAR JHA)  
PARTNER  
M.No. 532638



Sanjoy  
Hazarika

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Sanjoy Hazarika  
Date: 2023.10.27  
12:43:02 +05'30'

(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

Place: New Delhi  
Dated : 27.10.2023

**CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31ST MARCH ' 2023**

<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>AMOUNT (₹)</b>	<b>PARTICULARS</b>	<b>AMOUNT (₹)</b>
Project Expenses	22,246,428	Grant - in - Aid	69,986,541
Licence Fees	49,275	Interest Received	405,490
Advertisement Expenses	19,963	Donation Received	3,623,000
Bank charges	12,302	Misc. Receipt	459,569
Depreciation	258,157	Profit on Sale of Assets	18,359
Electricity & Water	60,298	Consultancy Receipt	197,000
Insurance Expenses	117,820		
Gift & Facilitation Exp.	28,799		
Flood Relief Exp	45,000		
Assets Written off	42,999		
Bank Guarantee Commission	346,920		
Vehicle hiring Charge	26,700		
Vehicle Maintenance	14,676		
Laptop Hiring Charge	40,000		
Mobility & Monitoring	183,333		
Other Expenses	89,172		
Office Expenses	208,302		
Postage & Carriage	20,503		
Printing & Stationery	14,935		
Project, Seminars & Program Expenses	245,122		
Professional Charges	145,690		
Rent Expenses	60,000		
Staff Welfare	72,001		
Repair & Maintenance	146,252		
Salary, Honorarium & Incentives	46,265,269		
Travelling and Dearness Allowances	427,469		
Telephone & Internet Charges	56,314		
Training Expenses	10,005		
Excess of Expenditure Over income	3,436,255		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,689,959</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,689,959</b>

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Note to Accounts Schedule-2

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

As per our separate report of even date

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
FRN: 000129N



SANTOSH KUMAR JHA  
Digitally signed by SANTOSH KUMAR JHA  
Date: 2023.10.27 12:46:38 +05'30'

(SANTOSH KUMAR JHA)  
PARTNER  
M.No. 532638  
Place: New Delhi  
Dated : 27.10.2023

Sanjoy Hazarika  
Digitally signed by Sanjoy Hazarika  
Date: 2023.10.27 12:43:39 +05'30'

(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

## **Board of Trustees:**

GK Pillai, former Union Home Secretary, Chairman

Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee

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CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST  
STUDIES & POLICY RESEARCH

# Annual Report : 2022-2023

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