B20 INDIA INITIATIVES IN THE NORTHEAST

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The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community and among the most prominent Engagement Groups of G20. It leads the process of galvanizing consensus on issues of global economic and trade governance and speaks in a single voice for the entire G20 business community.

India has assumed G20 presidency for the period 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as the B20 Secretariat, is facilitating B20 convenings in the North East States of India in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs and the respective state governments. The intent is to highlight the economic potential of the region and pave the way for partnerships with business communities from G20 countries.

The North East region of India has eight states-Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Assam. While the region is known for its incredible natural beauty, it is fast emerging as a strategic investment destination in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, trade, and tourism. The region also has a geographical advantage. It shares more than 4,500 kilometres of international border with China in the north, Myanmar in the east, Bangladesh in the southwest, and Bhutan to the northwest. This, along with the Government’s Act East Policy, is paving the way for North East India to become an economic corridor and a strategic gateway to Southeast Asia. B20 India initiatives in the North East States of India are a great way to get a ringside view of the opportunities in the area.

Facilities offered to the participating delegates
- Gratis Visa
- Chartered Flight
- Food & Accommodation
- Local Transportation
- Excursion & Sight Seeing
- Cultural Evening & Dinner

PROGRAMMES
17–19 Feb 2023
Imphal, Manipur
1–3 Mar 2023
Aizawl, Mizoram
15–17 Mar 2023
Gangtok, Sikkim
4–6 Apr 2023
Kohima, Nagaland
MANIPUR
Manipur is known for its breathtaking scenic beauty and strategic location. It is at the eastern most corner of the North East region and acts as India’s ‘Gateway to the East’ for trade between India and Myanmar, as well as other Southeast Asian countries.

ADVANTAGES

**Abundant bamboo acreage:** Manipur is one of India’s largest bamboo producing states and a major contributor to the country’s bamboo industry, with a total bamboo bearing area of 10,687 sq. kms.

**A tourist’s paradise:** Due to its wealth of flora and fauna, Manipur is variously described as a ‘flower on lofty heights’, ‘a jewel of India’ and the ‘Switzerland of the East’. Its breathtaking scenic beauty makes it a tourist’s paradise.

**Strong handicrafts industry:** Manipur has the highest number of handicraft units and the highest number of craft persons in the entire North East region. Handlooms is the largest cottage industry in Manipur.

**Conducive agro-climatic conditions:** Entrepreneurs get easy access to process and market a wide variety of rare, medicinal and aromatic plants grown in Manipur.

KEY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES

**Manipur Textile Policy, 2020:** To strengthen and encourage the handloom and handicrafts industry to produce value added items for global markets.

**The Industrial and Investment Policy of Manipur, 2017:** To develop good infrastructure for planned and accelerated industrial development.

**Information Technology Policy for Manipur State, 2022:** To promote and position Manipur as the most preferred destination for IT/ITeS related services, R&D, Product and Service Hub in the North East region.

CONFERENCE ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR MULTILATERAL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS IN ICT, MEDICAL TOURISM, HEALTHCARE & HANDLOOMS
17–19 February 2023, Imphal, Manipur
In November 2021, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Mr Piyush Goyal, announced that a Rs 30 crore (USD 3.91 million) mega handloom cluster will be set up in the Imphal East district.
MIZORAM
Mizoram borders Myanmar and Bangladesh. It offers a gateway for engaging in international trade with Southeast Asian countries. Improving road, rail and air connectivity and the establishment of trade routes with neighboring countries have improved trade facilitation over the last decade.

ADVANTAGES
Abundant natural resources: Contributes 14% of country’s bamboo production. Climatic conditions ideal for all kinds of silkworm.

Rich labour pool and infrastructure support: Offers a highly literate workforce with literacy rate of 91.33%. Improvement in road, rail and air connectivity has strengthened trade routes with neighbouring countries.

High economic growth supported by constructive policies: The blue economy fuelled by fisheries, aquaculture and seaweed farming will accelerate with the growth of modern infrastructure in Mizoram.

Location advantage and trade opportunities: Industries in the state enjoy a unique location-specific advantage. It offers a gateway for engaging in international trade with Southeast Asian countries.

KEY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES
Mizoram Responsible Tourism Policy, 2020: To enhance livelihood of people and funding support from the Centre and other stakeholders.

Industrial Rooftop Solar Policy 2020 in Mizoram: To ensure reliable power supply and a sustainable energy mix for the state.

Mizoram Socio-Economic Development Policy, 2019: To prioritise bio-diversity and the ecosystem during socio-economic development.
National Bamboo Development Agency has set up 8 bamboo handicraft clusters, 11 bamboo furniture clusters, 3 bamboo agarbatti clusters and 5 other bamboo clusters under the cluster development programme in the state. The Indian government has allocated Rs 100 crore (US$ 13.10 million) for the construction of Bamboo Link roads at different locations in Mizoram.
SIKKIM
Sikkim known for its incredible natural beauty is also home to rare and exotic flora and fauna. This includes 5,000 species of flowering plants, 515 rare orchids, 60 primula species and 36 rhododendron species. Of the 6,000 medicinal plants in India, over 424 plants are grown in Sikkim.

ADVANTAGES
High economic growth and stable political environment: Sikkim’s GSDP grew at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12.66% between 2015–16 and 2020–21. Rail and air connectivity as well as optical fibre networks are being developed in the state.

Rich labour pool and infrastructure support: Has a high literacy rate of around 81.42% and a skilled labour force. Quality and number of employable graduates in the state has steadily grown.

Conducive agro-climatic conditions: It has been certified as the first fully organic state in India by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare. Its favourable agro-climatic conditions support agriculture, horticulture & forestry.

Policy and institutional support: The Union Budget 2021, allocated funds worth Rs 581 crore (US$ 80.14 million) to the central pool of resources for the North Eastern region and Sikkim.

KEY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES

Information Technology, Electronics and Telecommunication Policy, Sikkim 2020: Develop IT, electronics and Telecommunication sectors as the critical sectors for growth, employment and transformation of the state.

Sikkim Policy on Organic Farming 2010: Minimize the use of agrochemicals as well as other hazardous materials in various agro-based plants and expand the conserved traditional agricultural knowledge in the state.

North East Industrial Development Scheme 2017: The scheme will cover manufacturing and service sectors and empower MSMEs in the space.
The Sikkim Tourism Policy 2018 looks to develop tourism as a key sector in Sikkim’s economy and promote low impact sustainable tourism.
NAGALAND
Nagaland is rich in natural minerals, petroleum, and hydropower. The agro-climatic conditions in Nagaland provide multiple commercial opportunities for floriculture and horticulture.

ADVANTAGES
Policy and infrastructure: The ‘Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project’ to impact ~150,000 students and ~20,000 teachers in the government education system in Nagaland.

Institutional support: The state provides institutional support through various central and state Government agencies viz., the North East Council, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and the Nagaland Industrial Development Council.

Favourable location and abundant resources: Nagaland’s agro-climatic conditions favour agriculture, horticulture and forestry, offering immense potential in these areas.

Availability of skilled labour: Nagaland has a high literacy rate of 80.11%. Most of the population in the state speaks English, which is the official language of the state. The state strongly focuses on technical and medical education.

KEY GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES
Agriculture: Nagaland could increase its annual agricultural production by seven to eight-fold by 2025.

Skilling the youth: High proportion of youth in the state’s demography is a primary resource and is an opportunity to boost the economy.

Telecommunication: Create robust telecommunication infrastructure across the state with optical fibre utilising power transmission lines.
The state offers excellent policy and fiscal incentives for agro-based and forest-based industries, horticulture, food processing, mining, tourism, and the handloom and handicraft sectors. Industrial centres and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being developed to enhance the marketability of products.
ABOUT CII, THE B20 SECRETARIAT

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 286 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India’s development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry’s engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

As India completes 75 years of Independence in 2022, it must position itself for global leadership with a long-term vision for India@100 in 2047. The role played by Indian industry will be central to the country’s progress and success as a nation. CII, with the Theme for 2022-23 as Beyond India@75: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Internationalisation has prioritized 7 action points under these 4 sub-themes that will catalyse the journey of the country towards the vision of India@100.

With 62 offices, including 10 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 350 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Contact us:  
Ms Sneha Sethi  
Email: sneha.sethi@cii.in  
M: +91 97180 62073  
Mr Chizuknok Longkumer  
Email: chizuknok.longkumer@cii.in  
M: +91 62812 93472