



Government of Assam

# Gramya Batori

## গ্রাম্য বাতৰি



SIPRD Assam

Vol 1; Issue 1

A quarterly newsletter from  
State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development

Jul-Sep 2016

I am happy to hear that SIPRD Assam has initiated a quarterly newsletter in collaboration with the UNICEF Assam. With stories from the field and important case studies as well as relevant articles on topics covering Panchayat & Rural Development, the newsletter promises to be a notable effort to document and disseminate the good practices and success stories from the field, illustrating the development of rural areas in Assam.

It is worth noting that for the first time in Assam, the participatory planning process at the grass roots has been systematically institutionalized. This has encouraged our people in the rural areas to put forward their problems and needs which can then be successfully addressed. We are confident that this empowerment and strengthening of local systems of governance will have a positive and beneficial impact on the State as a whole.

I congratulate the team and hope that this newsletter will encourage those working in the field and PRI representatives to bring about collective change.



SHRI NABA KUMAR DOLEY  
*Minister, Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam*



I am extremely happy that SIPRD Assam has taken the initiative to develop a quarterly newsletter with the support of UNICEF Assam. I hope this newsletter will capture the success stories and good initiatives in the field under the various flagship programs of P&RDD and also the convergence with other line department schemes.

I am also pleased as the first issue of the newsletter has focussed on the Gaon Panchayat Development Planning process – a lauded initiative to institutionalize the participatory planning process at the grass root level, aimed at strengthening local governance and sustainable development.

I wish the entire team and the newsletter all success.

SHRI V. B. PYARELAL, IAS  
*Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt of Assam  
Panchayat & Rural Development*

## Gaon Panchayat Development Plan : Amar Gaon Amar Achoni

The 14th Finance Commission Award (2015-2020) has created an enormous opportunity for responsive local governance at the institutional level of the Gaon Panchayats. The FFC has awarded a substantial grant of Rs 4874.92 crore as basic grant and Rs 541.66 cr. as performance grant exclusively for the Gaon Panchayats in Assam for the five-year period. The grants are intended to strengthen core basic services mainly drinking water, sanitation, drainage, road connectivity, street lights, parks, playgrounds, crematoria, burial grounds etc, in sectors such as health, education, nutrition, agriculture, livelihood, disaster preparedness, etc.

### Innovative Steps

For the first time, States were asked to prepare their own State-specific guidelines for the GPDP in accordance with the 14th FC recommendations. Assam was one of the first to come up with the guidelines. Innovatively named 'Amar Gaon Aamar Achoni' (My village, my Plan), the campaign with a local accent aims to mobilize maximum number of people from all sections of the community irrespective of class, sex, caste, religion, political affiliation etc, as well as line department officials, to participate in the planning and implementation of their own GPDP. Institutionalizing the participatory planning process at the grass root

level by involving all stakeholders through specific field exercises, would help to identify problems and needs as well as ensure proper allocation of resources before finalizing the GPDP in Gram Sabhas.

A series of meetings and consultative workshops were conducted by SIPRD with the support of UNICEF and national resource persons to finalize the guidelines. A wide range of participants including SIPRD and ETCs faculty, NRLM officials, resource persons, NGOs, academicians etc, took part in these workshops. The procedures set out in the guidelines were field-tested and validated with GP members, frontline workers, SHG members, villagers, academicians and other officials. The workshops and joint field exercises helped all participants and resource persons to understand the entire process which was to be adopted in preparing the GPDP. A Planning Manual detailing all the thirteen steps of GPDP was prepared both in English and Assamese, with the support of UNICEF.

### Building Support Systems

Building resource persons at various levels was a key factor in rolling out the GPDP in the State. A State-level resource team was developed with 100 persons including SIPRD faculty, officials from P&RD, PHED, NRLM, SSA, NGOs and academicians. About 200 functionaries at the district level and 1500 at the block

### PRIs at a Glance in Assam

Districts	27 (21 PRI, 6 ADC)	Average area per GP	: 36 sq. Km.
Population (Census 2011)	: 3.11 Crores	No. of Anchalik Panchayats	: 185
Rural Population	: 86%	Total AP Members	: 2202
Urban Population	: 14%	No. of Zilla Parishads	: 21
No. of Gaon Panchayats	: 2200	Total ZP Members	: 420
Total GP Members	: 24222	Total PRI members in State	: 26844
Average population per GP	: 10,543	Last PRI Election Held	: Feb.'13



level from different line departments, MGNREGS, NRLM, NGOs were developed as resource persons and field facilitators. The Government of Assam issued notifications on the formation of a State-level Steering Committee, a Project Implementation and Review Committee at State, District and Block levels including the line departments as well as a GP Resource Team and four Working Groups in each GP. Accordingly 2200 GPs formed the GP level Resource team with 13206 members and 8804 working groups (4 working groups in each GP) have been formed with 70432 members in the State.

## Training & Capacity Building

A series of training programmes, workshops, consultations and review meetings have been organized simultaneously by the ETCs and SIPRD at Block, district and State level. Separate training modules covering all the steps of GPDP including participatory planning exercises, various formats for data collection, preparation of Draft Status Report, preparation of Plan, etc. were developed for the Resource Team, Working Groups, district level officials, BDOs, ZP and AP representatives, etc. Sensitization workshops were organized in all districts for the elected representatives from AP and ZP, GP Secretaries and BDOs by the Zila Parishad. Separate training programmes were organized for the Accountant-cum- Computer Operator on GPDP including PlanPlus and PriaSoft (online reporting software). A State-level workshop on GPDP was conducted for the ZP Presidents and CEOs. This was followed by a district-level one day orientation for all line department officials, ZP and AP representatives.

## Tie-up with UNICEF

UNICEF's involvement and support from the start of this process gave an extra impetus. The setting up of a State Resource Centre on Women, Children and Panchayats at SIPRD with the support of UNICEF has

given an added dimension to the process.

## Achievements so far

For the first time in Assam, a systematic effort has been taken to institutionalize the participatory planning process at the grass root level, which would identify the needs of the rural people before placing them before the Gaon Sabhas. The steps and PRA techniques to find out problems, needs, prospects, gaps etc, have become very popular among the rural masses. To date, all 2200 GPs have conducted at least one or two Gaon Sabhas on GPDP. About 1558 GPs have prepared their GPDP for 2015-16 with the approval of the Gaon Sabhas. About 883 GPs have started implementing the various activities of their GPDP. The overall pace of GPDP in the State slowed down during February-March 2016 as the model code of conduct for the State assembly elections was in place. From June 2016, a State-wide campaign has been initiated for preparing the plan for 2016-17 as well as a perspective plan. Major emphasis has been given on the involvement of the line departments. The Zila Parishads of all the districts organized workshops with the line departments for better coordination and convergence at the grass roots while preparing the GPDP. The groundwork has already been done and the ambitions and aspirations of the new government for empowering local systems and strengthening the Panchayats is sure to make a positive impact.



## State Resource Centre on Children, Women and Panchayats

With the technical support of UNICEF, a state resource centre (SRC) for Women, Children and Panchayats in Assam has been initiated by SIPRD. The main objective of the Centre is to increase the capacity of the PRI members on children and women-related issues and also to incorporate them in the GP development plan. Key areas of intervention of the SRC are to facilitate awareness generation and decentralised planning on child rights and governance issues in order

to have child and women-friendly Panchayats. Databases on women and children in the State, a knowledge management hub in respect of capacity building, developing modules and resource material with updated existing child-related information, would also fall under the purview of the SRC. Social research, action research, process documentation and policy analysis would also be undertaken on the issues relating to children and women in Assam.

# FIELD NOTES

## Stories from Rural Korea : Notes from an official visit

I was fortunate to get an opportunity to visit the Republic of Korea from 27th July to 17th August 2015. The programme on Sustainable Agricultural Development was sponsored by the Korean International Co-operation Agency (KOICA) and was a collaborative programme between Africa Asia Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and KOICA. There were 22 participants from 15 countries. The Republic of Korea is a lively country and the professors and officials were very co-operative and friendly.



The best thing about this programme was our visit to *Saemaul Undong*. This is a Korean word meaning New Village Movement, and was a political initiative launched on April 22, 1970 by President Park Chung-Hee to modernize the rural economy of South Korea. The idea was based on the Korean traditions of *Hyangyak* and *Doora*, which provided the rules for self-governance and cooperation in traditional Korean communities. The movement initially sought to rectify the growing disparity in the standard of living between the nation's urban centres, which were rapidly industrializing, and the small villages, which continued to be mired in poverty. Diligence, self-help and collaboration were the buzz words to encourage community members to participate in the development process. The early stage of the movement focused on improving basic living conditions and environments whereas later projects concentrated on building rural

infrastructure and increasing community income. The movement promoted self-help and collaboration among the people during its first phase, as the central government provided a fixed amount of raw material to each of the participating villages free of charge and entrusted the locals with the task of building whatever they wished. The government first selected 33,267 villages and provided 350 bags of cement and 50 tons of iron bars. The 16,600 villages that demonstrated success were then granted additional resources of 500 bags of cement and 10 tons of iron bars.

The New Village Movement did much to improve infrastructure in rural South Korea, bringing modernized facilities such as irrigation systems, bridges and roads in rural communities. The programme also marked by the widespread appearance of orange tiled houses throughout the countryside, replacing the traditional thatched or *choga-jip* houses. Encouraged by the success in rural areas, the movement spread through factories and urban areas as well, and became a nationwide movement for modernization. In this community-driven programme, the planning is done by the community through consensus among the village people as there is no local self-government system. This classic example of the transformation of rural Korea into a thriving modern economy is a motivating example for our Panchayats that are now involved in preparing and developing the Gaon Panchayat Development Plan.

**PABITRA KALITA**  
Dy. Director, SIRD, Assam

## e-Governance and Panchayats

Gaon Panchayats, the lowest tier of the three tier system of the Panchayati Raj, are a fulcrum of developmental activities and a focal point for citizen-centric services at the grass root level. Funds under various Government schemes are now being transferred directly to the beneficiaries. In such a scenario, transparency, efficiency, accountability

and dissemination of information are the challenges facing the implementing agency and policymaker. Institutionalizing e-Governance alongside routine governance in the day-to-day activities of the Panchayat has become a felt need. The Panchayat and Rural Development Department in Assam has made an effort to facilitate this by rolling out the following

major e-governance applications and modules with the support of Project Management Units in the State and Districts.

- **NREGASoft** (<http://nrega.nic.in>): A transaction-based Web-enabled MIS with several modules which makes all documents of the MGNREGA program like job card, muster roll, demand for works, employment register, etc. available in the public domain. It can also transfer funds from the State to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries
- **AWAASSoft** (<http://iay.nic.in>): A Web-enabled MIS for the Prime Minister's Awaas Yojana, with several modules such as target setting, beneficiary management, inspection and verification of houses, transaction of finances, convergences, personal grievances etc.
- **MIS for NSAP** (<http://nsap.nic.in>): There are more than 9 lakh beneficiaries under the National Social Assistance Program. Data including photographs of beneficiaries and bank account numbers are uploaded with the help of this application.
- **Local Government Directory** (<http://lgdirectory.gov.in>): LGD is an application which helps State Departments to update the directory with information about Panchayats/local bodies, re-organization in panchayats, conversion from rural to urban areas etc.



- **PRIs Accounting Software (PRIASoft)** (<http://accountingonline.gov.in>): An online application which aims to keep track of all the inflow (Receipts) and outflow (Expenditure) of the Panchayati Raj institutions for better financial management of PRIs by bringing about transparency and accountability in the maintenance of accounts. This accounting software is being used by all the three levels of Panchayati Raj i.e. Zila Parishads, Anchaliks and Gaon Panchayats.
- **PlanPlus** (<http://planningonline.gov.in>): In order to demystify and strengthen the decentralized planning process, this Web-based software captures the entire planning workflow starting from identification of needs and the plan approval process till the final approval by the competent authority.

- **National Asset Directory** (<http://assetdirectory.gov.in/>): The National Asset Directory acts as a repository of various assets created/ controlled/maintained by RLBs/ULBs/ Line Departments and assigns a code to each asset for its unique identification, leading to effective utilization of the assets.
- **National Panchayat Portal** (<http://assampanchayat.gov.in>): All the Panchayats (GPS, APs and ZPs) in Assam have their own functional dynamic websites. This has been designed to be a versatile front-end for citizens and businesses to access the information and services provided by the Panchayats.
- **Area Profiler** (<http://areaprofiler.gov.in>): This aims to help the local government bodies manage their socio-economic and demographic information, as well as information on public infrastructure and amenities, elections and elected representatives and other officials working in local governments.
- **Dristi** (<http://pnrdassam.nic.in>): A premier application developed by the Panchayat & Rural Development Department with technical support from Assam Electronic Development Corporation Ltd., this is a Web-based GIS tool for planning and monitoring. Various reports and photographs are also available in the public domain.
- **e-Directory** (<http://pnrdassam.nic.in>): An e-Directory of elected members is another application developed by the Commissionerate, Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam with the support of UNICEF. This application captures the data relating to all elected representatives under PRIs, including photographs and other details such as educational qualifications, age, caste, work experience, etc.

**ABHIJIT MISRA**  
State Project Manager



## Chief Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Swaniojan Yojana

The SIRD, Assam has been implementing Chief Minister's Jeevan Jyoti Swaniojan Yojana since 2005. The Yojana has become very popular among rural unemployed youth, young farmers, weavers etc. Several persons, mostly unemployed youth, farmers and weavers have been assisted with bank loans and government subsidies. From 15%, the subsidy has now gone up to 50% of the project cost



with a ceiling of Rs 1.60 lakhs for 4 members (Rs 40,000 each). The Joint Liability Swabalambi group has introduced provisions for assisting 2 individuals coming together or a single individual. It has gained popularity among the youth who want to set up micro enterprises individually or jointly with one or more person. Upto March '16, a total of 89,169 people have benefitted from the bank loan and subsidy of Rs 572 cr.

### Success story of 4-member Milijuli JLSG, Pabhojan, Gaurisagar

Led by the young and energetic Biswajit Barua, the JLSG was formed with four other like-minded youth. With the SIRD's guidance, they secured a loan of Rs 2 lakh from UBI on May 14, 2010 with subsidy and since then there has been no looking back. The project was implemented in a scientific manner. They first constructed a bamboo structure which could house 300 chicks and soon they added another structure in which 1000 additional chicks could be added at a time. They bought the BB-300 type of chicks which produce more than 300 eggs per bird per year. As per their calculation, the yearly income of the group is around Rs 4,35,000.

## সাঁৰথি যুটীয়া দায়বদ্ধ স্বাৱলম্বী গোট, বেকাৰী, টিহু, নলবাৰী

সাঁৰথি গোটৰ সদস্যই আৰম্ভ কৰাৰ আগতে টিহু অঞ্চলৰ বাইজে বাহিৰৰ পৰা যোৱা বিস্কুট, কেক, ব'ন, পাউৰুটি আদি কিনিব লাগিছিল। এতিয়া ৰাতিপুৱাই তেওঁলোকে নিজ ঠাইতে প্ৰস্তুত কৰা বিস্কুট, পাউৰুটি কিনিবলৈ পায়। সাঁৰথি গোটৰ সদস্যকেইজন অতি সক্ৰিয় আৰু তেওঁলোকে ২০০৮ চনতে মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ জীৱনজ্যোতি আঁচনিৰ অধীনত স্থানীয় মাখিবাহা শাখা এচ বি আইৰ পৰা ৩,০০,০০০ টকাৰ ঋণ লাভ কৰি এই বেকাৰী উদ্যোগটো গঢ়ি তুলিছিল। প্ৰথম অবস্থাত তেওঁলোকে চাইকেলত ঘূৰি ঘূৰি ব্যৱসায় বঢ়াবলৈ কষ্ট কৰিব লগা হৈছিল। এতিয়া তেওঁলোকে কেবল অৰ্ডাৰ অনুসৰি নিজৰ অটোভানৰ জৰিয়তে সামগ্ৰী যোগান ধৰে। বৰ্তমান চাহিদা অনুসৰি তেওঁলোকে নিতৌ প্ৰায় ১৫,০০০ পাউৰুটি আৰু ব'ন প্ৰস্তুত কৰে। বিভিন্ন ধৰণৰ বিস্কুটৰ লগতে অৰ্ডাৰ অনুসৰি জন্মদিনৰ কেক প্ৰস্তুত কৰে। বৰ্তমান তেওঁলোকৰ মাহিলি প্ৰায় ৪০,০০০ টকা উপাৰ্জন হয়। তেওঁলোকে ইতিমধ্যে বেঞ্চৰ ঋণ পৰিশোধ কৰিছে। তেওঁলোকৰ সফলতাৰ বাবে ২০১২ চনত তেওঁলোকক গ্ৰামোন্নয়ন সন্মিলনত পুৰস্কৃত কৰা হয়। দীপেন বড়োৰ নেতৃত্বত গঢ় লোৱা গোটৰ বাকী

সদস্য সকল হ'ল সঞ্জীৱ কলিতা, প্ৰাঞ্জল গোস্বামী আৰু কৈলাশ কলিতা।



## গ্রামোন্নয়ন- এক অবিৰত যাত্ৰা

২০০৮ চনত শ্ৰী বিক্ৰম দাসে মনহা গাওঁ পঞ্চায়তৰ সচিব হিচাপে কামত যোগদান কৰাৰ সময়ত গাওঁ পঞ্চায়তখনৰ কাৰ্যালয়টো আছিল পকী বেৰৰ দুটা কক্ষৰ সৈতে কেঁচা মাটিত নিৰ্মিত একেবাৰে সাধাৰণ ঘৰ এটা। কাৰ্যালয়টোত আছিল সামান্য চকী-মেজ। ঘৰটোত বিজুলী বাতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাছিল। আনহাতে তাৰ শৌচালয় তথা প্ৰসাৰাগাৰো আছিল অতি নিম্ন মানৰ। তদুপৰি গাওঁ পঞ্চায়তখনত পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাছিল। প্ৰয়োজন সাপেক্ষে ওচৰৰ বিদ্যালয়খনৰ পৰা পানী আনিব লাগিছিল।

দায়িত্বভাৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰিয়েই শ্ৰী বিক্ৰম দাসে সংশ্লিষ্ট খণ্ড উন্নয়ন বিষয়া আৰু ASEBৰ স্থানীয় উপ-সংমণ্ডল কাৰ্যালয়ৰ সৈতে যোগাযোগ কৰি, MGNREGA আঁচনিৰ উপনিমিত্ত শিতানৰ পুঁজিৰ পৰা ত্ৰিশ হাজাৰ টকাৰে কাৰ্যালয়টোত বিজুলী সংযোগৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে। ইয়াৰ কিছুদিনৰ পিছত পিছপৰা অঞ্চল উন্নয়ন পুঁজিৰ অধীনত পঞ্চায়তৰ নতুন গৃহ নিৰ্মাণৰ আঁচনি গ্ৰহণ কৰা হয় আৰু তাৰ জৰিয়তে পঞ্চায়তৰ সভানেত্ৰী আৰু সচিবৰ নতুন কক্ষৰ চাহিদা পূৰণ কৰা হয়। বৰ্তমানে পঞ্চায়তখনৰ দুমহলীয়া কাৰ্যালয় ভৱনটোৰ উপৰিও এটা সভাকক্ষ, শৌচাগাৰ আৰু পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ সৈতে এটা পূৰ্ণাঙ্গ কাৰ্যালয় আছে।

২০১২-১৩ বৰ্ষৰ MGNREGA আঁচনিৰ অধীনত, স্থানীয় ৰাইজ আৰু নিৰ্মাণ কৰ্মীৰ সহযোগত, মনহা বিলৰ কাষত এখন পূৰ্ণাঙ্গ শ্মশান নিৰ্মাণ কৰি উলিওৱা হয়। পিছলৈ জিলা পৰিষদৰ ১২ লাখ টকাৰ পুঁজিৰে উক্ত ৰাজহুৱা শ্মশানখন উন্নীত কৰি তোলা হয়। সেই বৰ্ষতে, MGNREGA আঁচনিৰ অধীনত, আমকটা ৰামকৃষ্ণ ৰবৰ বাগান নিৰ্মাণ, পৰ্য্যটনৰ আকৰ্ষণৰ ঠাই শ্ৰী শ্ৰী মহেশ ধামৰ

পুখুৰী নিৰ্মাণ তথা আৱাস গৃহ, কুঁৱা আৰু ৰাস্তাৰ ইত্যাদিৰ উন্নয়ন সাধন কৰা হয়। ফলস্বৰূপে গাওঁ পঞ্চায়তখনে ২০১৪-১৫ বৰ্ষত, ৰাজীৱ গান্ধী পঞ্চায়ত সশক্তিকৰণ অভিযানৰ অধীনত ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় বঁটা লাভ কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হয়।

২০১৪-১৫ আৰু ২০১৫-১৬ বৰ্ষৰ ত্ৰয়োদশ বিত্তীয় আয়োগ আৰু চতুৰ্থ অসম ৰাজ্যিক বিত্তীয় আয়োগৰ পৰা পোৱা ধনৰে গ্ৰহণ কৰা আঁচনিৰ অধীনত, ফুলতলিৰ পৰা বাৰুকটা স্বাস্থ্য উপকেন্দ্ৰলৈ, নসত্ৰৰ পৰা গেলগেলী পথাৰলৈ আৰু মুক্তিযোদ্ধা স্বৰ্গীয় ভোগৰাম ডেকাৰ গৃহলৈ যোৱা পথ আদি চি.চি. ব্লক ৰাস্তালৈ ৰূপান্তৰ সাধন কৰা হয়। বিশেষকৈ, ২০১৪-১৫ বৰ্ষত MGNREGA আঁচনিৰ অধীনত, হাতীউঠা গাঁৱত সংগীত সূৰ্য্য ড° ভূপেন হাজৰিকা ৰঙ্গমঞ্চৰ লগতে মুকলি উদ্যান নিৰ্মাণ তথা উক্ত গাওঁলৈ চি.চি. ব্লক পকী পথ নিৰ্মাণ কৰা হয়। তদুপৰি, ২০১৪-১৫ বৰ্ষত গাওঁসভাৰ অনুমোদনক্রমে পঞ্চায়ত আইনৰ অধীনত, গৃহকৰ আদায়ৰ এক যুগান্তকাৰী পদক্ষেপ গ্ৰহণ কৰা হয়। উক্ত গৃহকৰ আদায়ৰ ফলস্বৰূপে ২০১৫ বৰ্ষত, ASEBৰ স্থানীয় ৰাৰগাওঁ কাৰ্যালয় আৰু গৃহৰ মালিকসকলৰ সহযোগিতাত ৰাস্তাৰ দাঁতিত বিজুলী চাকিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পৰা হৈছে। তদুপৰি MGNREGAৰ অধীনত গাওঁ পঞ্চায়তখনত দহ লাখ টকাৰে ৰাজীৱ গান্ধী সেৱা কেন্দ্ৰৰ ভৱনটো নিৰ্মাণ কৰা হৈছে। আমি প্ৰত্যাশা কৰা অনুসাৰে পঞ্চায়তখনৰ এই উন্নয়নৰ যাত্ৰা হ'ব এক অবিৰত যাত্ৰা।

শ্ৰী বিক্ৰম দাস  
সচিব, মনহা গাওঁ পঞ্চায়ত, মৰিগাওঁ



# AWARDS & HONOURS

## 2015-16

- One of 10 Best Gaon Panchayats award to Khetri Gaon Panchayat under Dimoria Block of Kamrup Metro District, selected out of a total of 2.40 lakh Gaon Panchayats in the country by Govt of India for effective implementation of MGNREGA programme.
- Rastriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Award 2015-16 awarded to Khetri Gaon Panchayat under Dimoria Block of Kamrup Metro District. Also selected as one among the 20 best GPs for effective Gram Sabhas in respect of creating improvements in the socio-economic structure of the GP.
- Panchayat Shashaktikaran Purushkar for 2015-16 awarded to Morgaon Zilla Parishad; Titabor Anchalik Panchayat and Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat of Jorhat district; Khetri Gaon Panchayat and Tapatoli Gaon Panchayat of Kamrup (Metro); Baghara Gaon Panchayat of Morigaon district; Pub Mahura Gaon Panchayat of Golaghat district and Cherpai Gaon Panchayat under Jorhat district .
- Limca Book of Records: National Record in the Limca Book of Records by Dibrugarh District

administration, for planting 22,084 roadside saplings on either side of the 56.3 km road in 22 minutes on 7th July 2015.

## 2014-15

- National e-Panchayat Purashkar for Assam , cash prize of Rs.40.00 lakh, 1st Prize
- National Award for effective implementation of MGNREGA program awarded to Morigaon District
- National Award for Best Panchayat under the National Plan for Technical Assistance of RGPSA, cash prize of Rs.145 lakh awarded to Morigaon ZP, Agomoni AP, Boitamari AP, Khetri GP, Halakura GP, Mayong GP, Chandrapur GP and Baghera GP.

## 2013-14

- National Award for Best Panchayat under the Panchayat Empowerment Accountability Incentive Scheme/Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikarn Puraskar, cash prize of Rs.132 lakh, awarded to Sonitpur ZP, Dhemaji AP, Golaghat East AP, Ganeshkuwari GP, Panikhaiti GP and Manipur GP

## Workshop for Zila Parishad CEOs

A GPDP Workshop for Zila Parishad CEOs was organized by SIPRD on 10th May, 2016. The process was reviewed by Mr. Ahmed Hussain, Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Mr. Prabhas Bhattacharya, Additional Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development Department and Mr. A.M.M. Zakir, Director, SIPRD. It was felt that the participation of the officials as well as the frontline workers of the line departments in the GPDP process was poor and all CEOs were asked to take more initiatives to make the GPDP more participatory and meaningful.

## Hon'ble Minister's Visit to SIPRD

The Hon'ble Minister of State (Ind.) for Panchayat and Rural Development, Shri Naba Kumar Doley visited the SIPRD campus on 15th June 2016. SIPRD Director Shri Zakir gave a presentation on the aims, objectives and various activities and achievements of SIPRD, Assam. The Hon'ble Minister took interest in various

aspects of SIPRD, and during the interaction with the staff he appealed to all to work proactively in the best interest of the rural people of the State. The Hon'ble Minister toured the premises and also interacted with the Junior Engineers of Block Technical Resource Team (BTRT) of SAMARTHAYA under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA who were attending a training programme at SIPRD.



**Editorial  
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