

Report of 6th DPE- UNICEF Joint Regional Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with focus on Aspirational Districts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura organised on 19th September, 2025 at Guwahati

The 6th Regional Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was jointly organized by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and UNICEF on 19th September, 2025 at Hotel Vivanta Guwahati, Assam. The workshop focused on the aspirational districts of eight North-East Indian states, viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The objective of the workshop was to provide a platform for dialogue among key stakeholders to deliberate on prevailing challenges, probable solutions and emerging opportunities within the CSR ecosystem of aspirational districts of the respective states. The workshop was attended by around 110 participants including officials of DPE, District Commissioners (DCs) from the aspirational districts of Chandel, Dhalai, Namsai, Hailakandi, Ri Bhoi and Barpeta, state government officials, CSR nodal Officers of CPSEs, UNICEF and implementing agencies. The Schedule of the workshop is attached.

In the inaugural session of the Workshop, Welcome address was delivered by Dr. Madhulika Jonathan, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF North East. She highlighted the region's vulnerabilities arising from floods, earthquakes, and geographical isolation. She underlined concerns regarding women's and children's health and acknowledged positive strides, such as Tripura's progress against child marriage and Mizoram's HIV/AIDS initiatives. She emphasized the importance of resilient communities, improved access to health services, and strengthening self-help groups. Shri Kailash Bhandari, Joint Director, DPE, in his address, highlighted that this workshop was part of an ongoing series aimed at strengthening the CSR ecosystem in aspirational districts by connecting district administration, CPSEs, and implementing agencies. Delivering the keynote address, Shri Lucas L. Kamusan, Joint Secretary, DPE elaborated on the context and objectives of the workshop, highlighting the need for convergence, accountability, and innovation in CSR interventions. He also urged for enhanced CSR investment in states such as Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura.



In the first session of the workshop, District Commissioner of Aspirational Districts shared their successful projects and insights on the CSR activities of CPSEs. Officials from six districts (Chandel, Dhalai, Namsai, Hailakandi, Ri Bhoi and Barpeta) presented their perspectives, highlighting the importance of CSR in bridging developmental gaps in healthcare, nutrition, education, infrastructure and stressing the need for community consultations, scalable models, measurable impact, and long-term partnerships to improve developmental indicators.



The Second Session of the workshop had presentations on CSR perspectives from state government officials. The speakers of the session were Shri M N Dahal, CEO, Assam CSR Authority, Ms Machi Gao, Deputy Director WCD Arunachal Pradesh and Dr. Lakshmanan S, Secretary Industries and Commerce, Government of Assam who emphasized CSR's complementary role in targeting government priorities while pointing out challenges such as bureaucratic delays, rigid structures, and fragmented implementation. Flexible, district-driven, collaborative CSR approaches with a focus on sustainability and genuine impact were recommended by the speakers.



The third session was taken by Dr. Maulik Shah, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Assam and Northeast. She highlighted the value of integrating government initiatives, CSR interventions, and community participation and underscored the fact that investments in health, nutrition, and disaster-resilient infrastructure could deliver significant socio-economic returns and thus reduce vulnerabilities in the society.



In the fourth session, best practices in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) were highlighted. Key Speakers of CPSEs such as REC, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Oil India Limited (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), presented their best practices on CSR interventions which had reported substantial contributions in healthcare, education, renewable energy, sanitation, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods. Persisting challenges in execution, sustainability, and identifying capable implementing agencies were also highlighted.



In the Fifth Session, Dr. Bharti Goel, Young Professional, CSR Technical Support Unit, DPE presented an overview of the CSR framework, expectations from CPSEs, CSR theme-wise priorities indicated by the Aspirational Districts of North East India and proposed mapping of CPSEs with Aspirational district of North East. The session outlines the importance of strategic deployment of CSR resources to address malnutrition, anaemia, education, and healthcare across North East.



The sixth Session had interactive discussion among the representatives of Aspirational Districts (ADs), Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), and implementing agencies. Each district was assigned a dedicated space where representatives from CPSEs and implementing agencies integrated with district officials to explore potential partnerships. The primary goal of this activity was to strategise future CSR projects based on the mutual interests of stakeholders, employing the principle of "One Aspirational District, One CPSE." This approach aimed to foster collaboration and ensure targeted efforts to address the unique challenges faced by each district, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of CSR initiatives targeting health, education, infrastructure, and livelihood development through collaborative projects.



During the last session of the workshop, several key outcomes, including the successful mapping of Aspirational Districts with respective CPSEs were presented. Participants engaged in valuable learning, sharing experiences and best practices, which further strengthened collaboration among all stakeholders. This collective effort is expected to lead to more impactful CSR initiatives tailored to the specific needs of each district, ultimately driving sustainable development in the region. The workshop ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Subhrajyoti Bhowmik, Partnership Officer, UNICEF.



**6th Regional Workshop on CSR with focus on Aspirational Districts of
Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim
and Tripura
Organized by DPE & UNICEF**

Date : 19th September, 2025 (Friday)

Venue :- Hotel Vivanta Guwahati, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam

Schedule

Time	Session
08:30 AM - 09:30 AM	Assembly, Registration & High Tea
09:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Inaugural Session
	Welcome Address by Dr. Madhulika Jonathan, CFO, UNICEF North East
	Introduction to Workshop by Shri Kaliash Bhandari, Joint Director, DPE
	Keynote Address by Shri Lucas L Kamsuan, Joint Secretary, DPE
	Group Photograph
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Session 1: Perspectives from Aspirational Districts :- DCs of ADs to share their perception on CSR activities
	Shri L Nandakumar Singh, DC, Chandel
	Shri Vivek HB, DM, Dhalai
	Shri C R Khampa, DC, Namsai
	Shri Gaurab Dutta, Assistant Commissioner, Hailakandi
	Ms Moushumi Chetia, ADC, Barpeta
	Shri Chaitanya Awasthi, SDO, Ri Bhoi
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Session 2: CSR from the perspective of State Government Departments :- Officers from State Governments to share their priorities
	Shri M N Dahal, CEO, Assam CSR Authority
	Ms Machi Gao, Deputy Director, WCD Arunachal Pradesh
	Dr. Lakshmanan S, Secretary Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Assam

12:15 PM - 01:00 PM	Session 3: Implementation framework for CSR interventions by CPSEs in North-East States- UNICEF
	Dr. Maulik Shah, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Assam and NE States
LUNCH	
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Session 4: CSR Activities of CPSEs :- Sharing of Best CSR Practices by CPSEs in North-East States
	Shri Sandeep Fellows, ED, REC
	Shri Anand Kumar, GM, NHPC
	Shri Mintu Handique, CGM,NRL
	Shri Arunjyoti Baruah, CGM,OIL India Ltd
	Shri M. Prabhakardas, CGM, Power Finance Corporation
	Shri I. Changsang, Under Secretary, Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland
03:00 PM - 03:15 PM	Session 5: CSR activities of CPSEs in North East India
	Presentation by CSR-TSU, DPE on CSR ecosystem of CPSEs in North East India
03:15 PM - 04:30 PM	Session 6: Interactive Session
	Discussions between CPSEs, ADs & IAs on CSR Collaborations
04:30 PM - 05:00 PM	Session 7: Outcomes
	Presentation on Collaboration/Networking/Agreements between CPSEs & District Administration
	Summing Up & Vote of Thanks
5:00 PM	
Tea/Coffee will be served concurrently during Sessions	