



e NORTH EAST

TOWARDS A DIGITAL NORTH EAST INDIA

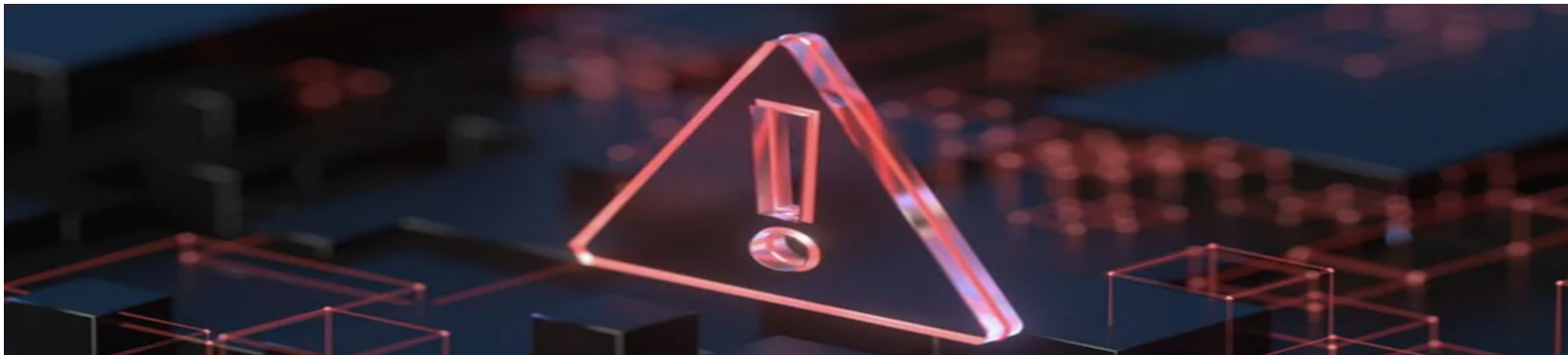
INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Emerging
Challenges in
Internet
Governance in
North East India



Internet governance as a concept came to the view of the wider public with proceedings of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and 2005 under the aegis of the United Nations (WSIS). There were a series of developments after that, the more major ones being the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) in 2005 and Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in 2006. The purpose of the Internet Governance Forum is to provide a platform for multi-stakeholder debate and discussion on a wide range of themes. From the early days when internet governance was limited to discussions around critical systems required for the internet's functioning, the global fora on internet governance have increasingly attempted to address many issues which once would not have been possible. However, the IGF has come under criticism for not leading to decisions and judgements at the end of the discussions. [Read More](#)

NORTH EAST DIGITAL VIEWPOINT



Internet Shutdowns In Meghalaya: Issues And Challenges For An Emerging Digital Society

Internet Shutdowns are defined as intentional disruptions in internet services by government authorities. This practice has been highly adopted in the Indian context, and according to Internet Shutdown Tracker (2022), India has registered 690 internet shutdowns. In addition, a report by SFLC.in titled Let the Net Work: Internet Shutdowns in India (2022) has provided a map of the distribution of reasons for internet shutdowns in India. It was found that terrorist threats accounted for 41 %, communal tension registered 24%, protests and political tension reported for 6 % and cheating in exams recorded 4 %. The duration of internet shutdowns varies from state to state and context to context. In the case of Meghalaya, internet shutdowns have been adopted a total of 16 times which have been spread out across different districts in the state. Gradually, this practice has become a reoccurring trend over the last few years. [Read More](#)

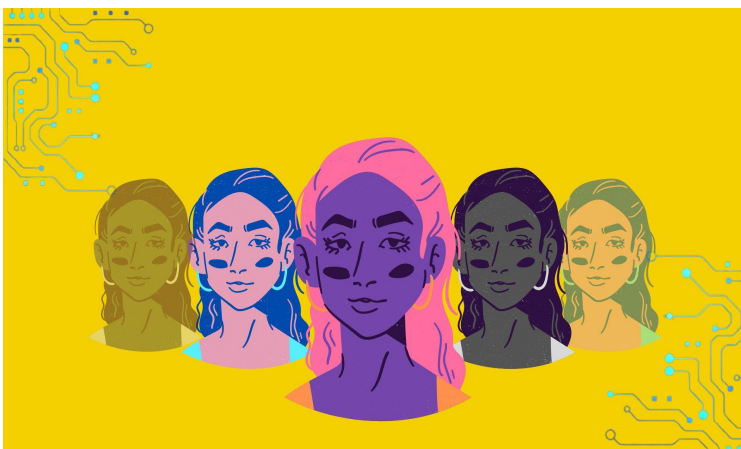
NORTH EAST DIGITAL REPORT

Digital for Rural Women Entrepreneurs Assam Multi-stakeholders Consultation Report

The conference, Enabling Rural Women from Livelihood to Entrepreneurship: Challenges & Opportunities focussed on rural women's entrepreneurship Assam was organised by the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD), and North East Development Foundation (NEDF), at NEDFi campus on 16th November 2022, Guwahati, Assam. The goal of the consultation was to map the issues that persist in rural women's entrepreneurship in Assam and to discuss the scope of meaningful usage of ICTs and digital technology for the purpose of business. The consultation was designed as a roundtable with scope for equal participation for inputs in the discussion. [Read More](#)

Increasing Cyber Crimes threatening digital freedom and rights of Women: A Study in Mapping of Digital Vulnerabilities of Women in Assam and Telangana

The number of cyber crimes has been increasing over the years. According to the data, a total of 50,035 cases were registered under cyber crimes in 2020, showing an increase of 11.8% in



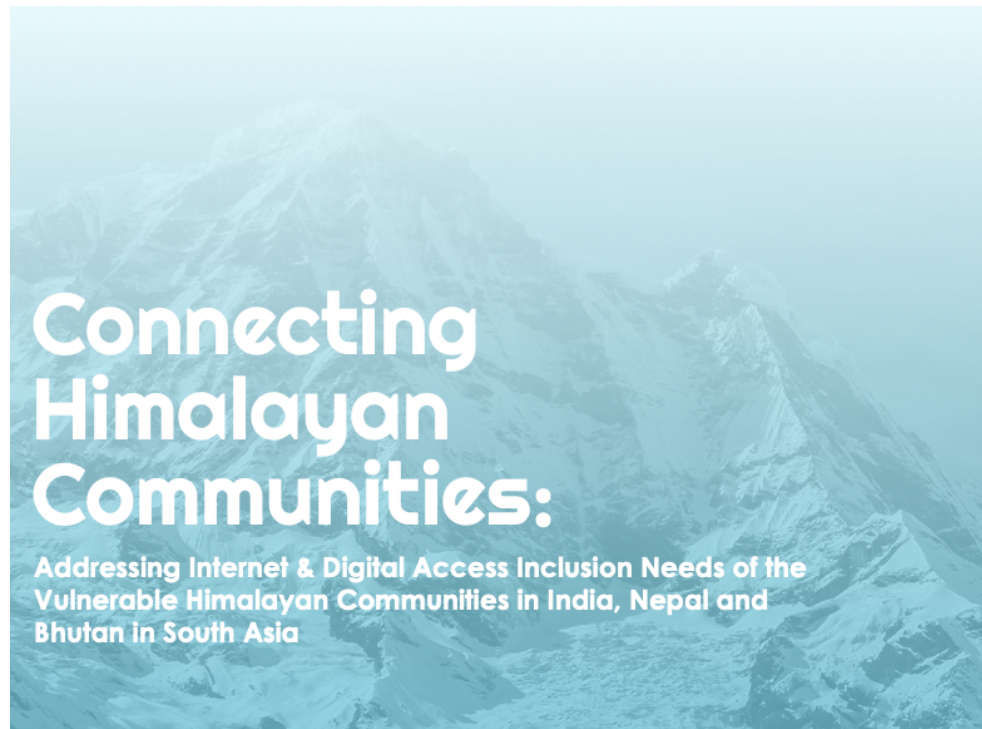
registration over 2019 (44,735 cases). 60.2% of cyber-crime cases registered were for the motive of fraud (30,142 out of 50,035 cases) followed by sexual exploitation with 6.6% (3,293 cases) and Extortion with 4.9% (2,440 cases)¹. It is to be noted that the state of Assam does not fare very well in terms of gender equality as seen from the state's SDG indices. Cyber crimes against women can be

divided into numerous categories like sexual harassment or exploitation, the violence of privacy, bullying, abuse, and publication or transmission of sexually obscene and explicit content. Cyber crimes against women represent not only a violation of women's human rights but also indicated the condition of women in a particular society. [Read More](#)

ISSUE BRIEF

Connecting Himalayan Communities

The Himalayas is a mountain range globally recognised as a hotbed of ecological biodiversity. It spreads over 2500 km in length and is estimated to be 300 km wide. The region encompasses ecologically sensitive zones and is home to many ethnicities, economies and cultures. Typically, the



Himalayas pass through countries such as India, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh (Rao, Saxena and Tiwari, 2015). However, the degree of Himalayan coverage can vary from part to fully. These frontiers are sensitive ecological zones with the paradoxical characteristic of being remote and possibly a bridge between the

geopolitical imagination of nations and states. Furthermore, the geographical landscapes are biodiversity hotspots ranging from foothills, lush grasslands, valleys and steep mountain slopes; each carrying its local economy, challenges and resources.

According to the Human Development Index (UNDP, 2022), the Himalayan countries ranked poorly; Bhutan ranked the highest at 127, and Afghanistan ranked the lowest at 180. This generally is a reflection of the quality of life of the population. [Read More](#)

PERSPECTIVE

North East Internet Governance (NEIG)

The North East Internet Governance (NEIG) is a regional initiative that aims to promote and advocate for the development and implementation of policies and regulations that govern the use of the internet in the North East region of India.

The NEIG is a multistakeholder platform that brings together various actors, including government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector entities, and academia, to discuss and deliberate on issues related to internet governance. The NEIG seeks to provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among

stakeholders to foster an inclusive and transparent governance structure for the internet in the North East. The NEIG works towards creating awareness about the importance of internet governance and its impact on the socio-economic development of the North East. It also seeks to promote the adoption of best practices for internet governance that can help address the unique challenges faced by the region. [Read More](#)



EVENT

North East Internet Governance (NEIG) 2023

The goal of the North East Internet Governance (NEIG) 2023 is to engage individuals from various stakeholder groups in, of and for North East Region (NER) of India in talks on Internet-related public policy issues in NER on an equal footing. The NEIG seeks to educate and motivate individuals in charge of developing policy in both the public and corporate sectors, even when there is no agreed-upon outcome.

Objectives

- Discuss public policy problems relating to essential aspects of Internet governance in NER in order to promote the Internet's reach, sustainability, robustness, security, stability, and progress in the distinct topography and landlocked region;
- Promote and facilitate discourse between stakeholders dealing with different cross-cutting themes and aspects of public policies regarding the Internet specific to the region; [Read More](#)

NORTH EAST DIGITAL REVIEW



'Be Internet Awesome': Google Teams Up With Assam Govt To Drive Digital-Led Learning Among Youth.

Google and Assam's Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Department (SEED) have partnered to promote digitally guided learning and skill development among the state's youth. Additionally, the principles of online safety and digital citizenship will be promoted through this collaboration. The programme will improve students' digital literacy, preparing them to be future leaders and safe internet users.

According to a release, Google will work with the Assam Skill Development Mission

(ASDM) to offer scholarships to Assamese youngsters for Google Career Certificates. In accordance with the agreement, Google will work with ASDM to offer scholarships and comprehensive training to kids so they can meet the demand for digital skills.

The programme will help qualifying candidates seek Google career credentials in popular categories including project management, data analytics, IT support, and IT automation, among others.

Through a hiring pool that accepts the certificates, "these learners will also be able to connect with firms who have an ongoing demand for these talents," the statement continued. [Read more](#)

Web portal launched in Assam for the evaluation of government school teachers

In order to increase transparency in the educational system of Assam's government schools that belong to the state of Assam, the Assam government has revealed its plans to digitally evaluate the teachers.

Additionally, the government of Assam introduced the app under the Samagra Shiksha Mission, which tracked the teaching effectiveness of contractual teachers.

Nearly 3499 contractual instructors will need to show up and pass an online test in order to keep their positions.

[Read more](#)

Assam Governor Launches 'U-Report' – Digital Tool For Community Participation, Reporting Authorities About Cyberbullying

Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi introduced the "U-Report" for the Suraksha Campaign for the state's youth. The National Service Scheme volunteers who participated in Covid 19 chose cyberbullying and physical punishment as two concerns that The U Report, an interactive digital tool, will centre on. The U-Report for Suraksha campaign is an interactive digital tool that attempts to raise youths' awareness of corporal punishment, cyberbullying, and the redress processes.

Once a U-Reporter has liked the U-Report India Facebook Page or followed @UReportIndia on Twitter, quizzes and alerts are delivered through direct message, and replies are gathered in real-time on this website.

The community of young people and policymakers are informed of the findings and proposals. U-Report India has so far covered topics such as youth unemployment, HIV/AIDS, illness outbreaks, and water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges.

[Read more](#)

Three Digital Banking Units Launched In Sikkim

To promote financial inclusion in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) on Sunday. It will "simplify the banking process," according to Modi, and offer a "strong and secure" financial system.

DBUs are used in Sikkim to give distant areas in the region access to digital banking. Both self-aided zones and digitally assisted zones make up the DBU's two sorts of inventory. In a self-assisted zone, consumers can just walk in and start their transactions and other banking-related activities because they are familiar with how the facility works. The DBU staff gives necessary assistance and support to the customer in carrying out their required banking activities in the digital-assisted zone, he said. [Read more](#)

Manipur boy develops mobile app in less than a week

Baldeep Ningthoujam, who is from Kha-Naorem Leikai, Canchipur in Imphal East, has launched his own mobile app called "Scanner Call" in Imphal.

He finished the app in less than a week.

In the past, Baldeep had created a number of websites and applications, such as "E-Thabak," "Receipt App," and the game "Coroboi," all of which were made available during the Covid pandemic in 2020. The "Scanner Call" app, which may currently be found on the Play Store, gives users access to the phone numbers found in an image.

According to Baldeep, users can capture a new image using the phone's camera or quickly retrieve one from the gallery. The app will then detect all the phone numbers in the image and allow users to choose any of them without having to type the digits in again.

He noted that the programme would be quite helpful, particularly when handling a long list of phone numbers or while the user is multitasking.

He added, "New functions will be made available in this app soon." Additional updates to the software are already planned, including the addition of many functionalities including OR scan, text scan, and others. [Read more](#)

Mizoram Assembly session goes completely digital

In an effort to eliminate paper, the National E-Vidhan Application, or NeVA, was first presented in the 8th Mizoram State Legislative Assembly.

Speaker of the State Assembly Lalrinliana Sailo encouraged everyone present to improve their technological literacy throughout the meeting. He claimed that steps are being taken to fully automate the procedures. The Mizoram Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill and the Mizoram Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill were both introduced as legislation in the House in 2022.

[Read more](#)

Arunachal CM Launches e-ILP Portal To Facilitate Movement Of Tourists

The online eILP Portal, a web-based tool for the hassle-free issue of Inner Line Permit (e-ILP) to tourists, was launched by the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, on Thursday.

The Arunachal CM hailed its launch as "a great step to serve exclusively the tourists and smoothen their entry into the state, thereby facilitating the process of obtaining Inner Line Permit (ILP)" after it was created by the IT Department of Arunachal Pradesh in partnership with the National Informatics Center (NIC).

Tourists will travel more quickly thanks to "ID card-based registrations with mobile OTP-based self-verification and QR Code-based digitally issued

ILP, which can be validated by police personnel at check gates using the specially built mobile-based application," the CM continued.

To allow an Indian citizen to enter a protected or restricted location for a brief length of time, the ILP involves a permit for official travel documents granted by the Central government.

ILP, a rule from the British era, requires all Indian citizens to obtain a special permit for entry into the border states and territories of North-East India in order to protect the ethnicity and culture of the northeastern tribals.

[Read more](#)

Portal for e-Indigenous Folklore and Folk music launched in Arunachal Pradesh

As a one-stop digital platform that promotes and unifies all of the indigenous tribes' traditions, cuisines, folklore, music, costumes, and festivals in Arunachal Pradesh, the Portal for e-Indigenous Folklore and Folk music was launched.

By allowing residents to connect through a single server, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh hopes to promote and raise awareness of the traditions, cultures, crafts, occupations, folklore, and cuisine of Arunachal Pradesh both inside and outside of the state through the

e-Indigenous Folklore and Folk Music Integrated Portal.

[Read more](#)

108 remote villages in Tripura get internet

Internet access was made available to 108 panchayats and village governments by Tripura's deputy chief minister, Jishnu Dev Varma. The 4G saturation initiative will provide internet access to locals in these areas. 129 isolated communities will have mobile towers installed by BSNL. The program will encompass 583-gram panchayats in total. To determine whether they are eligible for the program, more than 100 additional communities are being resurveyed. [Read More](#)

E-Filing 3.0 Portal” – Facilitating Digital Filing Of Cases; Launched In Tripura

On the recommendation of the Judge in-charge ICT of the e-Courts Project, the "e-Filing 3.0 Portal" created by the Supreme Court of India's e-Committee is being implemented in Tripura.

In order to facilitate online electronic filing of specified categories of cases in the Courts of the District Judiciary along with the facility to make online payment of Court fees while filing such case via different mode i.e., Debit Card, Credit Card, Internet Banking, e-Wallet, UPI etc., the “e-Filing 3.0 Portal” has been started.

[Read More](#)

India to showcase development and digital transformation of north-eastern states during its G20 presidency

India, which is quickly becoming a leader in the global digital transformation, is eager to present the rest of the world with its accomplishments. In the coming months, a key area of India's G20 presidency and diplomatic outreach will be accelerating digital change across the board.

The G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure for Economic Transformation, Financial Inclusion, and Development was established by the Union Government of India in January. Amitabh Kant, the G20 Sherpa for India, and Nandan Nilekani, the CEO of Infosys, will serve as co-chairs.

The task force will oversee and facilitate achieving India's G20 Presidency agenda and priorities on digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, promoting digital identity, and improved and innovative technology-based services including digital payments systems like UPI along with the governance frameworks. [Read More](#)

Mizoram needs e-connectivity for development

Union minister Devusinh Chauhan said that e-connectivity needed to be improved

in Mizoram to usher in development in various fields.

The Union minister of state for communication, who was on a two-day visit to the northeastern state, said development works are easily expedited in places that have good communication and e-connectivity. [Read More](#)

North Eastern States to get 'Digital State Secretariats'

The northeastern states are preparing to implement digital state secretaries along the lines of the digital central office of the federal government.

Official sources state that the development of e-Office in 75 Central Ministries and Departments has made it feasible to establish a digital central secretariat, ensuring that work-from-home options were available during the COVID-19 lockdown. [Read More](#)

Assam Police launched a campaign on Sharenting - #DontBeASharent

Assam Police's campaign on Sharenting - #DontBeASharent focusses on the need of times to sensitize parents on the perils of over-sharing photos, videos, and sensitive details of their children on social media, as this can lead to identity theft, future discrimination, bullying and violation of the privacy of children.

It is one of the first initiatives of a South Asian organization. An essential topic that

was previously not even discussed was brought up by the Assam Police and is now being discussed in relation to children's rights and safety. People were unaware that the term "Sharenting" existed, and there is very little knowledge of it. This program educates parents about appropriate online conduct and emphasises the significance of digital hygiene in contemporary parenting.

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The **Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD)** aims to highlight, network, seek solutions through research, advocacy, actions on core issues around social and digital inclusion and empowerment in the North East India Region, to connect unreached and underserved communities to bring them out of digital darkness and empower them with information access through last mile connectivity, digital literacy and digital interventions.

The **Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)** is a pan India ICT for development agency working towards digital inclusion and empowerment since 2002 in key areas including access and connectivity, education, skill development & entrepreneurship, digital innovations and solutions.

The **North East Development Foundation (NEDF)** is a sustainable development organisation in North East India.

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