The Assam Government has opened the Act East Policy Department to ensure the implementation of Act East Policy in a time-bound manner. The Act East Policy Department will facilitate an environment for investment and rapid industrialization in the state.

The Geographical Location of the North Eastern Region (NER) stands itself as the most favorable location to focus on the implementation of India's Look East Policy which is stated to be India's vision. The entire North Eastern Region is the gateway to South East Asia. Therefore, the development of the communication infrastructure of the northeastern region is very important so that it can be linked to the neighboring South East Asian countries of Bangladesh Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bhutan & China.

Major infrastructure initiative needed to connect the NE Region to the South East Asian neighbors. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in recent time has initiated/undertaken many major National Highway development projects in the North Eastern Region. Early completion of these projects will be much helpful towards materialization of the Look East Policy.

Assam as a hub of defence manufacturing:

Over the last few years, Assam has emerged as an important investment destination for the industry, making Advantage Assam a robust brand. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lauded the tagline of Advantage Assam – India's Expressway to ASEAN – as an apt one that encapsulated the vision of India's Act East Policy and the huge opportunities offered by the prosperous ASEAN market.
As an economy, seeking more and more investment, continuously

identifying and exploring new are- as or sectors for investment and adding the required elements to an already existing vibrant ecosystem for the success of such sectors are the key drivers of industrial-economic transformation.

In pursuing such an objective, it can be stated that Assam has huge potential to emerge as a prominent hub of defence manufacturing. The recently launched defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu can work as models in this regard, and the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan in the defence sector, envisioned and encouraged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sets the context and motivation for building a new area of industrial development of Assam and the entire Northeast. This will make not just fast-pacing our industrial progress an incredible reality, but at the same time, hike Assam's brand value by many notches as defence manufacturing in itself is marked by being a high-profile, tech-heavy and strategic sector directly connected with

New India’s comprehensive national strength and power projection.

Assam as a strategic defence industrial corridor:

As the
Prime Minister has always propagated Assam and the Northeast as the launch pad of India’s Act East Policy, and because of the locational advantage the region enjoys with Southeast Asia, Assam can contribute by turning and projecting itself as a defence manufacturing hub or as an important defence industrial corridor which can be utilised not just for fulfilling many defence requirements of our armed forces fighting the China challenge in the Northeast’s international border, but also for manufacturing and exporting various defence equipment to the ASEAN countries and other nations of the Indo-Pacific. In fact, Assam can be a very crucial strategic defence in-

dustrial corridor connecting the rest of India with the ASEAN region and can become a huge catalyst for further economic prosperity of the entire region.