

# Annual Report ASSAM SKILL UNIVERSITY 2022-23



MANGALDOI, DISTRICT: DARRANG, ASSAM
Guwahati Office: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, DECT Building, Employment Office Complex
A K Azad Road, Rehabari, Guwahati – 781008

# ASSAM SKILL UNIVERSITY, MANAGALDAI, DARRANG ASSAM Annual Report: 2022-23

## **Introduction:**

Assam sharing its border with seven states and two neighbouring countries is the largest state in the North East in terms of population and is considered to be the gateway to the North East India. It has a growing economy couple with a potential demographic advantage. The state's skilling ecosystem has evolved over the last few years but is mired with some challenges which makes the idea of skill training non-lucrative such as lack of an integrated education and skilling approach, inadequate training infrastructure, shortage of quality trainers and instructors, inadequate strategy to reach out to candidates, limited industry interface, etc. Taking cognizance of these issues and challenges, the State's Legislative Assembly passed the Assam Skill University Bill for establishing Assam Skill University (ASU) in August 2020. The University is expected to serve as a one stop Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET) solution for the entire north eastern region of the country and also cater to skilling needs of industries in neighbouring countries.

The state skill university would formalize the TVET ecosystem with focus on work-integration as well as lifelong training with multiple entry and exit points between vocational education, general education, technical education and job market. The permanent campus of the ASU will have close to 83 acres at its disposal in Mangaldoi, the district headquarters of Darrang district. It will be a home away from home for student with close proximity to Guwahati, giving faculty and staff the option of commuting from the city.

The Detailed Project Report has been developed to chalk out the nuances of the Assam Skill University. The first section provides an introduction to Assam Skill University and skilling ecosystem, detailing out the socio-economic, demographic, labour market aspects of Assam, Indian and Assam skilling ecosystem, rationale for setting up ASU, its vision, mission and objectives and ends by giving a snapshot of the road map and ASU's infrastructure. The second section details out the methodology adopted for preparing the DPR listing all the steps that have been undertaken to meet the study objectives. Triangulating the key output from the secondary and primary analysis undertaken, 13 Schools and Centres have been shortlisted which are delved in section 3 of the report. The section 4 of the report covers key aspects of the recommended operating model of the Assam skill University starting from the overall conceptual academic delivery model, to the type of programs and pathways that they will provide to students, identified potential target segments, entry-exit points, overall curriculum development framework, credit framework, assessment and evaluation methodologies, TVET teacher development framework, mobilization and outreach strategies and focus on research and innovation. Considering that there is a strong imperative in all general education and TVET institutes and universities to lead in engagement with the industry, other institutes (national and international), SSCs, accreditation and affiliation partners, section 5 lists out the recommended strategies and mechanisms for forging such partnerships along with an indicative list of potential partners. The prerequisites for participating in World Skills Competition and preparing students for this national and international level skills competition has also been delved in this section of the report. The sixth section of the report delves into governance, administrative mechanism and an indicative organogram of ASU and also details out the roles and responsibilities of each officer recommended for the university. The best practices resulting from shortlisted national (including Assam based institutions) and international institutions and advanced States in India have been charted out in section 7 of the DPR. Since financial sustainability of the proposed university will play a significant role to provide an enabling environment for its progress and success, the

detailed financial model and the key revenue streams considered for the university have been highlighted in section 8 of the report. The DPR ends with listing out the year wise key activities which need to be undertaken to operationalize the ASU by cooperating suggestions provided in the DPR over the 10-year period.

# Some of the Skill Universities of India

# Government Sector

- ➤ Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Paliwal, Haryana (2017)
- Rajasthan ILD Skill University, Jaipur (2017)
- ➤ Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (2019)

Government of Maharashtra & Gujarat have also started the process of setting up Skill Universities in each state respectively

# **Private Sector**

- > Symbiosis Skill and Professional University, Pune
- ➤ Bharatiya Skill Development University, Jaipur
- > Teamlease Skill Development University, Ahmedabad
- > Centurion University, Orissa
- Medhabi Skill University, Sikkim

# **Rationale for the Assam Skill University**

Assam, at present, is facing the twin challenges of increasing unemployment and a mushrooming young population. The working age population generally lacks skills as required by local industries. Many students obtain higher education every year, but most of them remain unemployed because of nonavailability of proportional jobs within the State matching their education and skills. Though skill development is one of the priority agendas of the State government as reflected by the creation of a robust State Skill Development Mission, endowed with the responsibility of meeting the entire value chain's requirements of appropriately skilled manpower both in quantity and quality, the core problem faced by the State is the low employability, especially of its youth. One of the major reasons is mismatch between the delivery cost to impart training viz a viz the paying capacity which impacts quality and thereby employability. Even the candidates graduating through formal channels of higher education have been facing the challenges of being industry ready and employable. This can be primarily attributed to some challenges with which the state's training ecosystem is mired with which makes the idea of skill training non-lucrative. Some of these challenges include lack of an integrated education and skilling approach, inadequate training infrastructure, shortage of quality trainers and instructors, low women participation, inadequate strategy to reach out to candidates dropped out before batch freezing through drop-out counselling, limited to no mapping of aspirations of youth, inadequate focused counselling for skill training programmes as a result of higher focus on achievement of targets (commencement and trained numbers) and poor focus on improving soft skills in addition to technical skills with a focused approach. These challenges have been delved in detail in section 1.2.1 of the report. These challenges in the skills ecosystem reduces their chance of securing decent, high paying jobs leaving them with meagre local job opportunities in the formal sector. Lack of employability skills has repeatedly been echoed by industries, industry associations and various other stakeholders as a part of numerous studies. The higher education system not only in Assam but the country as a whole seems to be imparting theoretical or knowledge-based learning making students less employable. In 2018-2019, the

employment rate for graduates from polytechnics and engineering colleges was around 32–34%, while that for graduates from ITIs was a little over 50%. In addition, as per MoLE Report on Employment & Unemployment Situation in India 2015-16, more than 50% of total unemployed graduate/post-graduate/ certificate/diploma holders stated unavailability of jobs matching with their skills as the primary reason for their unemployment stressing the need for industry/market relevant skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling. This underlines the need for a 'Finishing School' concept/model that would address all abovementioned issues and challenges of the existing skilling ecosystem at national and State level. Taking cognizance of abovementioned issues and challenges with respect to skills ecosystem at national and State level, the government came up with the concept of Skill Universities. Such Skill Universities as envisaged in National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015 are expected to offer industry-aligned skills training programs leading to NSQF level 5 and above qualifications ensuring pathways for progression and mobility through multiple entry and exist channels. In addition, Skill Universities would also undertake applied research and development (R&D) as per industry requirements, conduct ToTs serving needs of quality trainers of general education and TVET institutes and serve as a hub for promoting quality and industry relevant training courses and programs.

In August 2020, complying to University Grants Commission regulations, the State's Legislative Assembly passed the Assam Skill University Bill for establishing Assam Skill University (ASU). The University is expected to serve as a one stop TVET solution for the entire north eastern region of the country filling gaps in the existing training and higher education system.

The government also expects ASU to cater to skilling needs of industries in neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal facing similar challenges. ASU shall be established in Mangaldoi, located about 74 km east of Guwahati with estimated 60,000 square meter of built-up space and having good connectivity to neighbouring States and countries. Further, based on numerous ADB studies, Mangaldoi has been identified as a potential manufacturing center for electrical equipment, electronics, plastics, and pharmaceuticals. This provides ASU a competitive edge over other institutes in the State due to significant placement and industry exposure opportunities for students and faculty members. Moreover, with major infrastructure projects such as hydro-power, multi-modal logistics parks, etc. which are either ongoing or are in the pipeline, Assam will require highly skilled manpower, especially at NSQF level 5 and above reiterating the need for ASU.

The University campus shall comprise of administrative building, Academic Blocks, Workshops and Laboratories, Library Block, Computer Centre, Media Production Centre, Auditorium &, Convention Centre, Canteen, Incubation and entrepreneurship centre, Residential complex, Student service centre and numerous recreational activities for students. Several interim campuses including North East Skill Center, and ITI Guwahati have been identified to commence pilot training courses in January 2021 under the Assam Skill University.

## Vision Assam Skill University (ASU) (Draft)

"To become a leader in TVET in the north eastern region of the country acknowledged by people, industry and society supporting the transition of traditional based education and economic system to a skill, knowledge and innovation base by providing high calibre educational experience, ensuring student access and success and offering a rich diverse and inclusive environment."

# Mission of ASU (Draft)

- ✓ Offer occupation-ready skill courses
- ✓ Authentic learning facilities
- ✓ Champion education technologies implementation
- ✓ Enterprise-institution cooperation model for close industry linkages
- ✓ Entrepreneurship innovation center to support start-ups
- ✓ Provide a platform for self-employment and entrepreneurship capability
- ✓ Improve the quality of trainers, instructors and faculty members
- ✓ Nurture talent for local and national requirements
- ✓ Holistic learning experience for the students
- ✓ To commit to equality, diversity and inclusion as a fundamental part of the university

# **Objectives of ASU**

Key objectives of the Assam Skill University (as enshrined in the Assam Skill University Act-2020) are:

- a) to emerge as one of the foremost institutions of quality in skill education recognized by industry, nationally and internationally.
- b) to develop qualified youth with skill proficiency and competency at different levels as per National/State qualifications of skill education.
- c) to promote skill education in an integrated and holistic manner with higher education to ensure pathways for progression and mobility.
- d) to provide opportunities for flexible learning systems and skill development.
- e) to frame credit framework for competency-based skill and vocational education.
- f) to exchange expertise and best practices in support of skill developments efforts with any other college, institution, organization, university etc.
- g) to disseminate knowledge/skill through seminars, conferences, executive education programmes, community development programmes, publications and training programmes.
- h) to undertake programmes for the training and development of faculty members and teachers of the University and other institutions.
- i) i)to undertake collaborative research and development with other organizations.
- j) to create entrepreneurs by providing necessary skill and support.
- k) to provide consultancy to government, semi-government, public and private industries.
- l) to create an Industry Academia partnership by inviting industry and institutions for mutual benefits.
- m) to ensure that the standard of degree, diploma, certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by statutory regulatory authorities in India; and to pursue any other objects, as may be prescribed.

## **Proposed Schools and Courses of ASU**

Triangulating the key output from the secondary and primary analysis undertaken, 13 Schools and Centers have been identified which the Assam Skill University can consider operationalizing. The proposed Schools are aligned with key existing and emerging sectors and sub-sectors, whereas the Centers are cross-cutting in nature.

#### The 9 Schools:

- 1. School of Agricultural and Food Technology
- 2. School of Technology
- 3. School of Design and Creativity

- 4. School of Manufacturing and Construction
- 5. School of Sustainability
- 6. School of Mobility
- 7. School of Management and Finance
- 8. School of Tourism, Hospitality and Wellness
- 9. School of Healthcare

## **4 Centers**

- 1. Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- 2. Center for Life Skills and Languages
- 3. Center for Lifelong Learning (distance learning and online learning)
- 4. Center for Faculty and Curriculum Development

As per the DPR of ASU, the University shall be running approximately 150+, both long-term & short-term, courses under its fold. A consultancy service, CS03 shall be engaged to design and develop all the courses and curriculum based on present and future demand.

# Assam Skill University; Journey so far

- Assam Skill University Act-2020 was passed by State Legislative Assembly and was notified vide Gazette notification no.LGL.122/2020/6 on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- ➤ The Act came into force w.e.f. 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 from the date of joining of the Vice Chancellor.
- Executive Council under Section 17(a) & (b) of the Act was notified by the Government of Assam vide notification No. SKM.04/2021/Pt-2/38 on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2021
- ➤ Skill Universities in India are being set up in pursuance of the National Policy for Skills & Entrepreneurship 2015

## **Executive Council of ASU**

SI.	Name and Designation	Designation in the Executive	
No.		Council	
1	Vice Chancellor, Assam Skill University	Chairman	
2	Senior Most Secretary to Government of Assam-Skill,	Ex-officio Member	
	Employment, and Entrepreneurship Department or his nominee		
3	Senior Most Secretary to Government of Assam-	Ex-officio Member	
	Department of Finance or his nominee		
4	Senior Most Secretary to Government of Assam-	Ex-officio Member	
	Department of Commerce & Industries or his nominee		
5	Senior Most Secretary to Government of Assam-	Ex-officio Member	
	Department of Higher Education or his nominee		
6	Prof. (Dr.) R. S. Rathore, Dean Academics and Dean	Member	
	Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Haryana Policy &		
	Planning		
7	Prof. Munidra Kakati, Professor, Department of	Member	
	Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam Business		
	Administration		
8	Prof. Shikhar Kumar Sarma, Dean, Faculty of	Member	
	Technology, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam		
9	Shri Ranjit Borthakur, Chairman-Balipara Foundation	Member	
	etc.		
10	Registrar, Assam Skill University	Ex-officio Secretary	

# Skill Council of ASU (Equivalent of Academic Council of State Universities)

SI. No.	Name and Designation	Designation in the Executive Council
1	The Directorate of Technical Education or his nominee	Ex-Officio Member
2	The Chief Executive Officer, National Skill	Ex-Officio Member
	Development Corporation or his nominee	
3	The Director General, National Skill Development	Ex-Officio Member
	Agency or his nominee	
4	The Mission Director, Assam Skill Development	Ex-Officio Member
	Mission or his nominee	
5	The Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Assam	Ex-Officio Member
	or his nominee	
6	The Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	Ex-Officio Member
	or his nominee	
7	The Director, Indian Institute of Management, Shillong	Ex-Officio Member
	or his nominee	
8	The Director, State Institute of Panchayat & Rural	Ex-Officio Member
	Development, Assam or his nominee	
10	The Chairman & Managing Director, North Eastern	Ex-Officio Member
	Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFI)or his	
	nominee	
11	The Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship,	Ex-Officio Member
	Assam or his nominee	
12	The Director, Tourism Department, Assam or his	Ex-Officio Member
1.0	nominee	
13	The Director, Directorate of Employment and	Ex-Officio Member
1.4	Craftsmen Training or his nominee	
14	Prof. (Dr.) R. S. Rathore, Dean Academics and Dean	
	Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Haryana Policy & Planning	
15	Prof. Munidra Kakati, Professor, Department of	Member, Professors and Dean of
	Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam Business	Other Universities
	Administration	
16	Prof. Shikhar Kumar Sarma Dean, Faculty of	
	Technology, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam	
17	Mr. Sarat Kr Jain, Chairman of ICC, Assam State	
	Council	Member, Representative from
18	Mr. Pankaj Kr. Goswami, Chairman, CII, Assam State	Industries
	Council	
19	Mr. Abhijit Barooah, Industrialist, Assam	
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# **Present Employees of the University**

Vice Chancellor : Shri Subhash Chandra Das, IAS (Retd.) Joined on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 : Shri Hanif Noorani, ACS & Joint Secretary-SEED (Part-time)

# Assam Skill University: Journey so far...

- ➤ Project was conceptualized and uploaded on DEA website 11th on July 2019 through Finance Department, Assam.
- > Presentation made to Dept. of Economic Affairs, GOI in the month of August 2019.
- Concurrence obtained from 6 Ministries / Departments namely NITI Aayog, MEA, MDoNER, MSDE, MHA and Ministry of Finance.
- ➤ Department of Economics Affairs, GoI posed the proposal for a financial assistance of \$112 Million to ADB on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 by the 98th Screening Committee of the Department of Economic Affairs (FB & ADB Division), Ministry of Finance
- ➤ Interim PMU was constituted from the ASDM officers to implement the current ongoing project preparation.
- First meeting held with ADB at ASDM Office on 2nd January 2020.
- The first technical workshop to discuss the Project Scope was organised on 13th February 2020
- ➤ The Assam Skill University Act, 2020 passed in the state Legislative Assembly and was notified on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2020.
- > Tender for Civil works issued on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021
- Notification of the award of contract on 08<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021
- Contract for Civil Works Signed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2021
- Foundation Stone of ASU Campus laid by CM, Assam on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021
- ➤ Loan Negotiation with ADB held in July, 2021
- ➤ Loan Approval received in August, 2021
- ➤ Appointment and joining of VC on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021
- ➤ Appointment and Joining of PMU Executives on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2021
- ➤ Loan Agreement with ADB Signed on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

# **Main Campus**

Government of Assam has allocated a total of 250 Bighas of land for construction of the main campus of ASU at Mangaldai, Darrang.

The contract for construction of the main campus has been awarded in two packages, (i) Civil Works-01 (CW-01) for the boundary wall, and (ii) Civil Works-02 (CW-02) Details design and construction of ASU campus and facilities.

# Status of Civil Contracts of Assam Skill University Project:

SI. No	Package Name	Awarded To	Estimated Cost (₹ Crores)	Status
1	CW01: Construction of ASU Campus Boundary Wall	M/s AS Enterprise	5.23	Boundary wall design for total area of 250     Bighas ( 82 acre) land has been prepared
2	CW02:Detailed Design and Construction of ASU Campus and Facilities	M/s PCPL & BIL (JV)	293.88	I) Site handed on 21st January 2022  II) Layout of the ASU campus has been approved by GoA  III) Preparation of Master plan of the ASU
				III) Construction is undergoing at full swing.

# **Status of Consultancy Service Packages**

SI.	Package Name	Awarded To	Estimated Cost (₹ Crores)	Status
1	CS01: Project Management Support	Ernst & Young LLP in JV with Vision EIS Consulting Pvt. Ltd .	8.6	Onboarded and is operational
2	CS02: Costruction Supervision and Quality Assurance	Shah Technical Consultant Pvt Ltd	5.5	Onboarded and is operational

# Funding and budgetary provision of ASUP:

# Funding & Budgetary provision of ADB

- ➤ The value of Project estimated as \$140 Million including the state share
- ➤ Approval to the project for an external assistance of\$112 million from Asian Development Bank
- ➤ The project duration is till 2027.

	Amount	Amount	Share of Total	
Stakeholder	(\$ million)	(INR Crore)	(%)	
Asian Development Bank Ordinary capital resources (regular loan)	112	813.34	80	
Government of Assam	28	203.34	20	
Total	140	27-05-2022	100	

Out of 80% of the loan amount, 90% would be central assistance and 10% would be State's liability besides 20% as counterpart funding i.e. 28% in total.

# Cost Break-up of the project:

# Costs break-up of Assam Skill University Project

51.	Description	Estimated Amount (in USD Million)	Estimated Amount (in CR.)
1	Civil Works	41.9	304.28
2	Equipments	35.88	260.56
2.1	Furniture	13,15	95.50
2.2	IT laboratory and Training Equipment	18.8	136.53
2.3	IT Products and Services	3.6	26.14
2.4	Other equipments	0.33	2.40
3	Printing and Materials	3.35	24.33
4	Training and Workshops	5.32	38.63
9	Consulting Services	11.78	85.55
6	Project Management	23,38	169.79
6.1	Project Management	2.16	15.69
6.2	ASU Operations	21.22	154.10
Α	Sub Total	121.61	883.13
В	Contigencies	14.13	102.61
c	Financial Charges during Implementation	4.27	31.01
	Total Cost (A+B+C) 27	05-2022	1016.75

# Activities taken up in the year 2022-23:

➤ UGC moved for listing ASU in its list of universities.

- ➤ 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.
- Proposal for creation of various posts, both teaching and non-teaching categories, was prepared and submitted to Government for approval. As per initial assessment, proposal for creation of a total of 346 posts (Teaching-279 & non-teaching-67), in a phased wise manner across five years, have been have been submitted to the government for approval. For the first year (2022-23), the proposal is for a total of 64 posts, (Teaching-28 nos. & non-Teaching-36 nos.), for first phase would be taken up in this financial year (2022-23). University is awaiting the approval from the government for the creation of the posts.
- ➤ Proposal for setting up Skill Development Center under PPP mode in tune with "hub & spoke" model has been submitted to Government for approval.
- ➤ Initial discussions on tie-up and partnership for industry-academia interface with few prospective partners have been undertaken.
- ➤ The website "asu.ac.in" is live and working.
- Few draft rules and regulations for university operations have been prepared and would be submitted to the EC for review / approval.
- ➤ Proposal for setting up of Interim campus of ASU is prepared and forwarded to Government of Assam for approval.

# Action Taken Report on the *Minutes of the Meeting* of the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The Executive Committee took the following decisions in its 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting held on 27-05-2023 and the action taken on the decisions is also mentioned below each of the same:

a) Creation of Posts: It was decided to pursue the matter of creation of posts with the Government, especially the minimum no of administrative posts and the faculties required to start the shortterm courses.

# **Action Taken:** Following proposals on creation of posts for ASU was moved:

- (i) Proposal for 346 posts for teaching and non-teaching staff was moved to govt. on 07.03.2022 (The requirements of posts for the University, as per initial assessment is for a total of 346 posts (Teaching-279 & non-Teaching-67), the recruitments are proposed to be made in a phase-wise (year-wise) manner spread across 5 years from the year 2022-23 to 2026-27. Upon approval, the recruitments of 64 posts, (Teaching-28 nos. & non-Teaching-36 nos.), for first phase was to be taken up in this financial year (2022-23). And the recruitment of the remaining posts was to be taken up in phased manner, as proposed in the plan, keeping in mind the actual requirements.)
- (ii) Proposal of immediate creation of 43 posts for interim campus was sent on 04.07.2022 (As, the creation of posts was not approved till that time, the University proposed for creation of 43 posts on urgent basis to meet the immediate requirement manpower to start its functioning by setting-up the interim campus.)
- (iii) Proposal for Creation of 70 numbers of non-Teaching post was moved on 21.12.2022 (In pursuance of the decision at Point No. 3 of the Minutes of the Review Meeting by Hon'ble Chief Minister dated 15th October, 2022, after a re-assessment, proposal for creation of 70 nos. of non-Teaching posts, including operation of proposed interim campus, was made.)

b) Interim Campus: It was decided that the University authorities should pursue the matter of interim campus in a vacant ITI for which a proposal has already been sent to the State Government. The University authorities may move State Government for Policy decision for attaching NE Skill Centre as a Centre of the Assam Skill University. The skill Development centre may be run in PPP mode with organizations having long experience in TVET education on its own or having tie ups with such organizations.

Action Taken: In this context, ITI Guwahati was identified for setting-up of Interim Campus of ASU and a proposal was submitted to SEED for approval. During the ADB review Mission (Asian Development Bank L4166-IND: Assam Skill University Project Review Mission during 19th to 23rd September 2022), the matter of Interim Campus was put up and they also agreed on the same (As mentioned it the Aide memoire). Subsequently, ASU has received a letter of handing over workshop building at ITI Guwahati (Vide letter No: SEED-16/17/2021-Skill Employment & Entrepreneurship 1/64125/2022, Dated- 21/10/2022). With this reference the ASU authorities has directed ASUP to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for interim campus. Accordingly, a DPR was prepared & was submitted to ADB for approval on 16.03.2022. Subsequently, after few rounds of review, the ADB has approved the DPR (as mentioned in the Aide Memoire L4166-IND: Assam Skill University Project, Loan Review Mission and Safeguards Review Mission dated 26th April, 2023) and suggested ASU to start the operations of Interim Campus by early parts of the year 2024.

c) Proposals received from various organisations for launching courses under Assam Skill University: The EC decided to go ahead with the collaborations and suggested while doing so every possible care and due diligence should be taken ensure quality standards in every aspect.

**Action Taken:** Among proposals received from various organizations like SM Group, HCL Technologies, TT Skill, The Ace Group of Institutions, The Electronic Sector Skill Council of India (ESSI), The skill division of the Confederation of Indian Industries (Cll), the University, after due diligence, have gone ahead with signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HCL Technology Services Limited for running of 1-year courses on IT skills. Under this MoU, HCL Technologies have already selected 35 students who are at various stages of their courses.

**Conclusion:** Assam Skill University ASU) is a work in progress and the work is being carried out in a planned manner to achieve all its objectives. The academic operations of ASU are scheduled to start from July, 2024 with launching of courses from its Interim Campus.

ASU, when fully operational, which is expected by the year 2030, is expected to train average 10,000 candidates per year.