

REPORT ON
A 2 DAY CBDE PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP
Organized at Tezpur University
(18-19 March 2025)

The 2 day Pedagogy workshop on Capacity Building Programme on Design and Entrepreneurship was organized at Tezpur University during 18-19 March, 2025 with 36 participants including PI/Co-PIs from three institutes of the Northeastern region of India: NIT Silchar, NEHU, and Tezpur University, Assam. This programme was hosted in partnership with IIITDM, Kancheepuram with Dr. Sudhir Varadarajan, from IIITDM, Kancheepuram, and the National Programme Coordinator of CBDE as the facilitator and in presence of mentors Prof. Khanindra Pathak, and Prof. Manabendra Bhuyan.

I. Detailed schedule of the program was as below:

Day& Date	Time	Event/Activity
Day – 0 17-03-2025	13:00-17:00	Picking up Participants as per need from airport/Railway Station/ ISBT
	20:00-21:00	Dinner
Day – 1 18-03-2025	08:00-09:00	Breakfast
	09:00-10:00	Registration
	10:00-10:30	Workshop inauguration in presence of Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University and Programme Director, CBDE & Participant Introductions
	10:30-11:00	High Tea (venue)
	11:00-11:45	Participants interaction with student teams , identified by the host institute for CBDE support in presence of Mentors.
	11:45- 13:45	Session by Programme Director-01: Pedagogy to promote observation, critical thinking, creative thinking and design for value creation
	13:45 14:45	Lunch
	14:45-16:15	Session Coordinated by Programme Director-01: Participants in groups of 3 to design 3 new learning activities for each of their courses in Jan-Apr; Review
	16:15 16:45	Tea (venue)
	16:45 17:30	Session by Programme Director-02: Pedagogy to promote empathy, spontaneity, collaboration and improvisation
	20:00-21:00	Workshop Dinner with Guest and Key functionaries from University(Hotel Greenwood)
Day – 2 19-03-2025	08:00-09:00	Breakfast
	09:30-11:00	Brainstorming on practices to improve coordination and alignment between mentors-faculty-student teams in presence of Mentors and Programme Director
	11:00-11:30	Tea (venue)
	11:30-13:00	Session Coordinated by Programme Director-02: Participants in groups of 3 to design 2 new learning activities for each of their courses in Jan-Apr; Review
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-15:30	Participant feedback and valedictory in presence of Programme Director, Dean, School of Engineering and Dean, School of Management Sciences.

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	15:30-15:45	High Tea (venue)
	15:45-21:30	Local tour to Kanyaka BahumukhiPaam i. Experiencing local culture at Kanyaka BahumukhiPaam ii. Refreshment at Kanyaka BahumukhiPaam
Day – 3 20-03-2025	08:00-09:00	Breakfast for external participants
	08:30-11:00	Vehicle starts from Guest House for dropping participants, as per need, at the nearest airport/Railway Station/ ISBT
Day – 4 21-03-2025	08:30-11:00	*Extra stay by participant at own cost. However, dropping will be facilitated to the nearest airport/Railway Station/ ISBT .

II. Reports of the events and activities in each session

The Inaugural Session (10:00-10:30 AM on 18-03-2025) was graced by the presence of the Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University Professor Shambhu Nath Singh, Dr. Sudhir Varadarajan, the National Programme Coordinator of CBDE, from IIITDM, Kancheepuram, Prof Sankar Chandra Deka, Dean, School of Engineering, Prof. Manabendra Bhuyan, former Pro Vice Chancellor and mentor of the CBDE Programme, Prof. Khanindra Pathak, MD of STEP IIT, Kharagpur, and Mentor, the, Heads of various departments, faculty members and students of the University.

- Prof. Sankar Chandra Deka, the Dean, School of Engineering welcomed the participants to the workshop and spoke about the need of introducing design thinking and entrepreneurial spirit in students from a young age.
- Prof. Manuj Kumar Hazarika, the Co-PI of the CBDE programme in Tezpur University explained the rationale behind the Capacity Building for Design and Entrepreneurship program which has been launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India under the **Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP)** with Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, (IIITDM) Kancheepuram as nodal centre to empower faculty members and students with innovative methodologies and entrepreneurial skills.
- In his Inaugural address, Professor Shambhu Nath Singh, the Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University informed the gathering about how the mechanism for continuous innovation support is strengthening the ambience of the University for entrepreneurial activities and cutting edge research. Appreciating the initiatives taken at various Schools to incorporate design thinking pedagogy at course level, he said that the University looks forward to reaping the rewards from the facilities and provisions it has created to promote startup culture among its faculty and students.
- The National Programme Coordinator of CBDE, Dr. Sudhir Varadarajan from IIITDM, Kancheepuram who was also the resource person of the Two Day Workshop maintained that the workshop aimed to change the pedagogy of teaching to cultivate innovative behaviors in students, ultimately leading to the creation of new product categories and successful startups. The focus of the workshop is on designing new

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learning activities that encourage innovation and critical thinking within and outside the classroom. The long-term goal is to see a shift in the types of startups emerging from these institutions, moving away from mere variations of existing products and towards entirely new products and solutions.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS:

- **Two technical sessions** were conducted by the Program Director as the resource person (**Session - 01 by Programme Director, 11:45 to 13:30 and Session - 02 by Programme Director, 16:45 17:30**) with active involvement of the participants. The sessions were on the theme of pedagogy to promote observation, critical thinking, creative thinking, and divergent thinking and Pedagogy to promote empathy, spontaneity, collaboration and improvisation. The resource person also emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and revisiting problems from different perspectives to foster innovation. Proposing that teaching should be an instrument of learning, unlearning, relearning and creation of new learning, he introduced the idea of experiential learning - which should be a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down approach. Involving the participants in hands on activities, he demonstrated by examples certain activities that can enhance observation skills, critical thinking, creative thinking, and divergent thinking. These activities are aimed towards promoting experiential learning synergistic with research.
- **Two hands-on sessions** for Participants spread across two days (14:45-16:15 on 18-03-2025 and 11:30-13:00 on 19-03-2025) to design new learning activities were facilitated by the programme director as the resource person. In these two sessions, groups of 3 nominated faculty members were formed to design 5 new learning activities each for the courses taught by them in the current semester keeping in mind the various CBDE competencies targeted through these learning activities such as observation, empathy, divergent thinking, collaboration, risk taking, social engagement among others. **Around 160 learning activities were designed by the faculty participants** from the 3 HEI who participated.
- **One session for Participants interaction with student** teams was arranged on 11:00 to 11:45 on 18-03-2025. Twenty student teams were present for the session and 07 teams had presented their ideas and future plans, In the session the program director as a resource person emphasized the importance of validation before starting a business including market research, technical feasibility assessment, and personal conviction. He also highlighted the need for a strong team and a long-term commitment. The mentors and faculty participants too have

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expressed views based on the critical appraisal of the innovative projects. The program director as a resource person then discussed the importance of innovative teaching and mentoring, encouraging students to actively participate in design activities and to continue their engagement beyond the initial stages.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON MENTOR-FACULTY-STUDENT INTERACTION:

One brainstorming session for improving participation and effectiveness of the mentor faculty student interaction was held on **19-03-2025, at 09:30-11:00**, which was participated by both the mentors Prof K Pathak and Prof M Bhuyan, and workshop participants

- For improved mentor-faculty-student interactions, suggestions were made towards fixing a certain amount of time every week for mentor-faculty interaction and faculty-students interaction.
- Prof. K. Pathak suggested the use of a faculty-mentor diary to document the activities/experiences of the student groups under a particular faculty.
- It was suggested that mentor-faculty interaction could also be conducted online in case the mentor is unable to travel.

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK:

- The participants from the participating institutes expressed appreciation for the workshop conducted though many of them wished that the programme was of a longer duration.
- The asynchronous progress in attainment of the goals of the CBDE was shared which resulted from late participation by Institutions like NIT Silchar.
- Participants expressed their willingness for continuation of mutual interactions with CBDE forums, and sessions by the nodal office, for a more fruitful participation and to take advantage of the process of knowledge sharing.

VALEDICTORY SESSION:

- The **Valedictory Session** was graced by Dr Prof. Chandan Goswami, the Dean of the School of Management and Professor Sankar Chandra Deka, Dean School of Engineering. The faculty participants from NIT Silchar, NEHU, Meghalaya and Tezpur University also shared their feedback with the organizer and the resource person. Certificates were distributed to the participants during the Valedictory session. The Vote of thanks for the Valedictory session was delivered by Dr. Partha P. Dutta, the Co-PI of the CBDE Programme Implementation Unit, Tezpur University.

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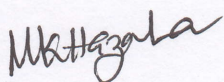
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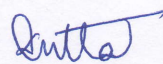
III. Deliverables:

1. Around 150 new learning activities

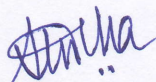
2. A model for Moodle based interface for asynchronous interaction (as online interaction) complimenting the in person interaction; and for knowledge sharing among the CBDE group. As a prototype it will be initially developed for interaction among participants from the 03 participating HEIs and with the nodal office.



Prof. Manuj Kumar Hazarika
Co-PI of CBDE Program at Tezpur University



Prof. Partha Pratim Dutta
Co-PI of CBDE Program at Tezpur University



Prof. Sankar Chandra Deka
Dean, School of Engineering
PI of the CBDE Program at Tezpur University

Prof. Sankar Chandra Deka
Dean, School of Engineering
Tezpur University

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