



# भौतिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला, अहमदाबाद Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

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**81\_PRL Ka Amrut Vyakhyaan**

**Wednesday, 14 June 2023**

**@ 04:00 PM (IST)**

**“PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION IN  
NORTH-EAST INDIA”**

**COL. CHRISTOPHER REGO (RETD.)**

Founder And CEO,  
Sunbird Trust,  
Bengaluru, Karnataka



**Venue: K R Ramanathan Auditorium, Main Campus, PRL, Ahmedabad**



## **81\_PRL ka Amrut Vyakhyaan**

**Title: "PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION IN NORTH-EAST INDIA"**

**Speaker: COL. CHRISTOPHER REGO (RETD.)**

*Founder And CEO, Sunbird Trust, Bengaluru, Karnataka*

**On**

**Wednesday, 14 June 2023**

### **Abstract**

"Many parts of India's North East have been plagued with insurgency and ethnic conflict for decades. This has cost the country heavily in terms of lives, livelihoods and development of this region. Importantly, given the threat posed by our aggressive northern neighbour, this instability is severely impacting the security of this strategic limb. With the obvious linkage of lack of education and empowerment to the radicalization of youth and perpetuation of ethnic divisions, this talk of Peace through Education in Northeast India by Col Christopher Rego is about a sustainable solution to insurgency and conflict through his innovative approach executed through his organization Sunbird Trust."

### **The Speaker**

A graduate of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Col. Chris Rego served eight years insurgency and conflict-affected Mizoram and Manipur. During this time, he and his wife Myrna Rego noted the obvious connection of lack of education and empowerment to the radicalization of youth against their country and to ethnic conflict. Wishing to "be" the difference, they conceived of the concept of "Peace through Education" and, with their own resources, commenced sponsoring underprivileged children. Towards that objective, Sunbird Trust, a humanitarian, non-sectarian and non-religious NGO, was founded in 2014.

In 2016, for his innovative approach to building peace and amity, Col. Chris was awarded the prestigious international Ashoka Fellowship from South Asia. Last year, he was featured as one of the ten-Armed Forces karma yogis in a book: Success from Being Mad by Col R S Sidhu. In February this year, the work and impact of Sunbird Trust was selected by Azim Premji University amongst the top 10 NGOs across the country for publication in their annual "Stories of Change" competition.

Sunbird Trust has a team of 35 dynamic young professionals from across the country. It has helped raise 25 schools or hostels in remote and conflict-affected areas and positively impacts the lives and destinies of over 10,000 lesser privileged children.

Col. Chris is a Civil Engineer and holds postgraduate qualifications in Public Administration and Management. He is an author, traveller, pianist, nature enthusiast and amateur herpetologist. He has written three books including a travelogue on Kerala and "Cradle of Valour," the history of the Bombay Engineer Group Centre at Khadki, Pune.

