

“SON BEEL UTSAV - 2026”

A Celebration of Nature, Culture & Community

<https://necouncil.gov.in>

Date of Event: **7th February, 2026.**

Venue: **Anandapur, Son Beel, Sribhumi District - 788733 (24.67'N, 92.45'E)**

Organizing Agency: **Assam University Silchar.**

NEC Sponsorship: **Rs. 10.00 Lakhs**

Objective of the Event:

1. Promote Wetland Conservation:

Raise awareness about the ecological importance of Son Beel and the need for its conservation. Address environmental challenges such as encroachment, deforestation, pollution, siltation, and unsustainable fishing practices.

2. Support Sustainable Livelihoods:

Promote sustainable tourism to create income opportunities for homestays, fishermen, artisans, self-help groups, and local entrepreneurs. Strengthen the local economy through tourism and cultural exchange.

3. Preserve Cultural Heritage:

Showcase traditional fishing practices, folk music, local cuisine, handicrafts, and indigenous traditions. Encourage the preservation of the rich cultural identity of the Barak Valley.

4. Promote Environmental Awareness:

Inspire communities and visitors to adopt sustainable practices for the protection of wetlands and biodiversity. Foster a balance between environmental conservation and regional development.

5. Encourage Research and Knowledge Sharing:

Provide a platform for seminars, field visits, and discussions involving researchers, students, policymakers, and local communities. Promote scientific understanding of wetlands, biodiversity, and sustainable development.

6. Strengthen Community Participation:

Encourage collaboration between academic institutions, local communities, and government agencies. Enhance the role of community-led conservation initiatives.

7. Develop Son Beel as a Sustainable Tourism Destination:

Position Son Beel as a model for sustainable wetland management that integrates conservation, tourism, and community welfare.

Brief Proceedings and major highlights:

Brief Proceedings:

- Son Beel Utsav 2.0 was organized on 7 February 2026 at Anandapur, Son Beel, Sribhumi District, Assam by Assam University, Silchar in collaboration with Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai, with financial support from the North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of DoNER.
- The event was inaugurated by Air Chief Marshal (Retd.) Arup Raha, Chancellor of Assam University, in the presence of Vice Chancellors, academicians, policymakers, researchers, local leaders, students, and community members.
- The programme commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting, invocation song, traditional welcome, cultural performances, and addresses emphasizing wetland conservation, sustainable tourism, and preservation of indigenous culture.
- The official souvenir and festival magazine were released during the inaugural session. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks acknowledging the contribution of all stakeholders, volunteers, and local communities.

Major Highlights:

- Promoted awareness on wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, sustainable livelihoods, and eco-tourism development centred around Son Beel.
- Conducted eight digital competitions (Essay, Article, Poetry, Painting, Digital Poster, Photography, Reel, and Slogan Writing) with participation of more than 400 youth from across the state.
- Organized extensive pre-event activities, including wall painting campaigns, release of the official promotional video, stakeholder meetings, and media outreach to generate public awareness.
- Showcased vibrant folk songs, traditional dances, fishermen's cultural performances, inter-village competitions, storytelling, and poetry recitations, highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the Barak Valley.
- Hosted a photo exhibition on Son Beel's biodiversity, fisheries, birds, and socio-cultural life, along with prize distribution for winners of various competitions.

- Organized traditional fishing competitions, kite-flying festival, local cuisine stalls, and recreational activities, attracting wide participation from villagers, youth, and tourists.
- Facilitated academic discussions and awareness programmes on wetland ecology, biodiversity conservation, climate change, eco-tourism, and sustainable development, strengthening collaboration among academia, local communities, and policymakers.
- The festival successfully strengthened community participation, promoted cultural preservation, enhanced tourism visibility, and reinforced the vision of developing Son Beel as a sustainable eco-tourism destination.

Participants:

- More than 400 youth participated in the digital competitions.
- The inaugural programme was attended by thousands of enthusiastic participants, including academicians, policymakers, students, villagers, and tourists, though no exact figure is provided.

Outcome of the Event (Brief)

- Raised awareness on wetland conservation and sustainable tourism. Promoted the cultural heritage and biodiversity of Son Beel.
- Strengthened collaboration among academia, local communities, government agencies, and youth.
- Created opportunities for community-based tourism and local livelihoods.
- Encouraged research and knowledge sharing on wetland conservation and sustainable development.
- Reinforced Son Beel's potential as a major eco-tourism destination in Northeast India.

Details of NEC Assistance:

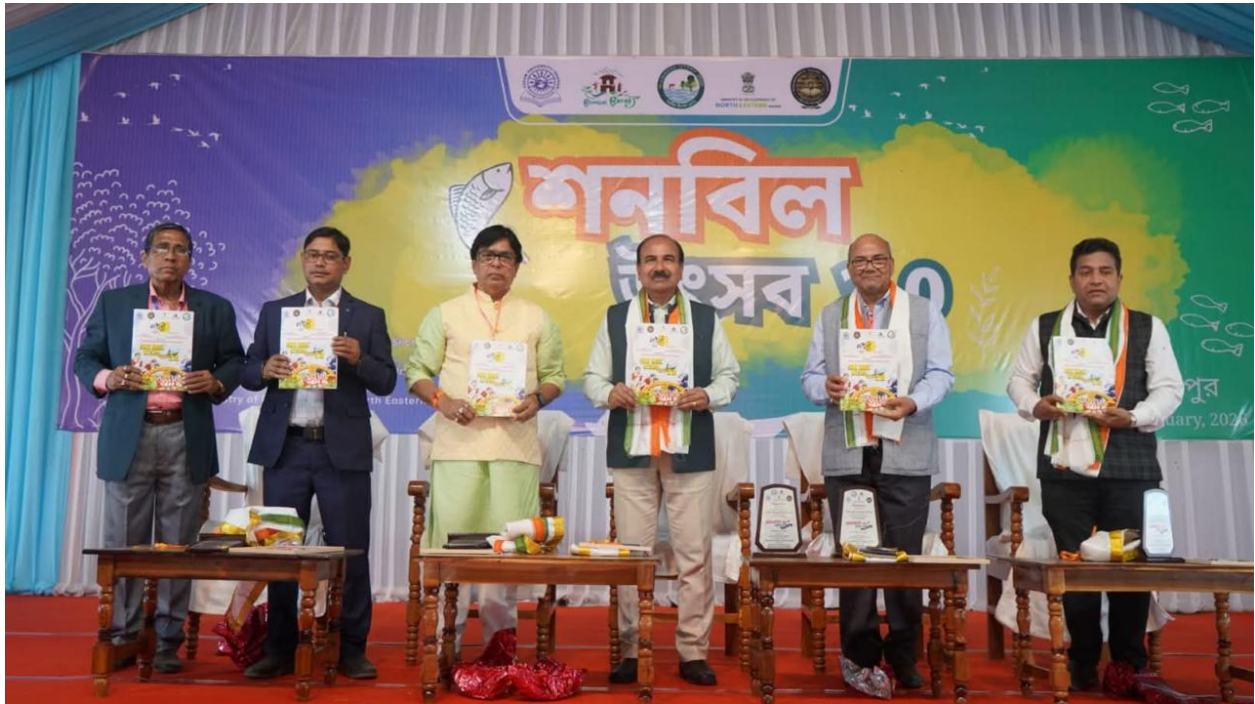
The North Eastern council (NEC) has provided Financial Assistance of Rs. 10.00 Lakhs (Rupees Ten lakhs) for organizing Son Beel Utsav 2.0. The funding supported the conduct of the festival, including awareness campaigns, cultural programmes, community participation, and activities promoting wetland conservation and sustainable Tourism.



Inaugural Speech



Cultural Event



Release of Official souvenir and Festival magazine



Solo Traditional Performance by Student of Assam University