

PRESS RELEASE

Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme Commences at Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

November 1, 2025

The first batch of the *Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme*—an initiative of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and the North Eastern Council (NEC), Shillong—commenced on 1st November, 2025 at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh. The programme aims to strengthen youth-to-youth connect between the eight Northeastern states and the rest of India. In the coming months, student delegations from various States and Union Territories will be hosted in leading institutions across the eight Northeastern states.



The inaugural context-setting session at RGU was attended by 40 student delegates from Goa and Uttarakhand, along with their guides and over 100 students of RGU. The event was graced by Mr. Chanchal Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of DoNER; Prof. S.K. Nayak, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), RGU; Dr. N.T. Rikam, Registrar, RGU; and Smt. Sherry Lalthangzo, IES, Economic Adviser, NEC, Shillong, who addressed the gathering.

In his welcome address, Dr. N.T. Rikam, Registrar, highlighted RGU's academic journey, its pivotal role in advancing higher education in Arunachal Pradesh, and the state's rich biodiversity and strategic importance in India's development framework.

Addressing the gathering virtually, Mr. Chanchal Kumar, IAS, emphasized the programme's objective of fostering inter-regional understanding, cultural appreciation, and youth engagement under the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He also outlined various government initiatives and investments aimed at improving connectivity and promoting inclusive growth in the Northeastern region.

Smt. Sherry Lalthangzo, IES, lauded RGU and the Ministry for establishing a vibrant platform for youth exchange, describing the delegates as "ambassadors of unity in diversity."

Prof. S.K. Nayak, Vice-Chancellor (i/c), encouraged the visiting delegates to engage closely with local communities, learn about indigenous traditions, and uphold the spirit of national integration envisioned under the *Ashtalakshmi Darshan* and *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* initiatives.

Earlier, Prof. (Retd.) Amitava Mitra, former Pro Vice-Chancellor, RGU, and Mr. Bamin Tarang, Director (HRD&E), NEC, Shillong, conducted orientation sessions introducing the delegates to the socio-economic landscape and cultural diversity of the Northeastern region.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Programme Coordinator, followed by the National Anthem and a group photograph symbolizing unity and collaboration.

The Uttarakhand delegation is led by Dr. Deepa Singh and Dr. Arun Chaturvedi, while the Goa delegation is headed by Mrs. Subhasini alias Gitali Santosh Kudnekar and Mr. Sujan Shankar Sawant.

Over the 14-day *Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme*, the student delegates will participate in classroom sessions, interactive discussions, field visits, and cultural exchanges aimed at deepening inter-state understanding and strengthening the spirit of national integration.
