

**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

**PRESS NOTE FOR ARUNACHAL PRADESH, DECEMBER, 2025**

**NE-SPARKS: 786 Students from Northeast Visit ISRO Centres**

An initiative of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, the *North East Students Programme for Awareness, Reach, and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS)* is a flagship initiative designed to promote space science and technology awareness among students in India's North Eastern Region. This transformative programme provides selected students with direct exposure to India's space research achievements through guided visits to ISRO centres in Bengaluru, effectively bridging geographical and informational gaps that have historically limited access to such opportunities.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and President of NESAC Society, Shri Amit Shah during the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NESAC Society held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024, advised to organize a visit for 800 talented science students from the all 8 states of the North Eastern Region to ISRO covering 100 students from each state. This directive underscored the government's commitment to inclusive development and educational empowerment in the region.



The initiative represents a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), the North Eastern Council (NEC), the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO), the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), and the State Governments of the North East. The programme is jointly coordinated by NESAC and ISRO's Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), with active support and participation from respective State Governments ensuring effective implementation at the grassroots level.

With a total sanctioned cost of ₹3.83 crore, the programme follows a 60:40 funding ratio, where NEC contributes ₹2.3 crore and the State Governments collectively contribute ₹1.53 crore. This financial arrangement reflects the shared responsibility and commitment of both central and state authorities toward nurturing scientific talent in the region.



NE-SPARKS is executed in eight batches between April 2025 and December 2025, with a minimum interval of one month between consecutive batches. Each batch comprises 90-100 students representing the eight NER states, accompanied by 10 coordinators who facilitated and guided the educational journey.

Through meaningful interactions with ISRO scientists and engineers and direct exposure to advanced space technologies, NE-SPARKS inspires young minds and promotes STEM education among Northeastern students. The programme empowers participants to envision and pursue careers in space science and technology, thereby contributing to India's broader vision of achieving global leadership in the space sector. By investing in the region's youth and providing them with world-class exposure to cutting-edge space research, NE-SPARKS serves as a catalyst for scientific aspiration and technological advancement in India's North Eastern Region.

## **TOTAL FUND RELEASES DURING DECEMBER, 2025 ACROSS ALL NORTHEASTERN STATES & REGIONAL AND OTHER AGENCIES**

During **December 2025**, the **North Eastern Council (NEC)** released a **total amount of ₹76,78,58,035/-**, which includes releases made to the across all Northeastern States as well as to various regional and other agencies across the North Eastern Region. This reflects NEC's continuous commitment to strengthening developmental initiatives in the North East through infrastructure development, livelihood enhancement, cultural promotion, research, and innovation.

### **FUND RELEASES FOR ARUNACHAL PRADESH DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹4,24,48,080/-** for a number of projects including, Construction of Nursing Hostel at District Hospital Yingkiong, Upper Siang District, Construction of Maternity & Child Care Centre at Miao Changlang District and Development of Tissa View Point Near Tissa Camp, Tirap District, Aunachal Pradesh.

### **FUND RELEASES FOR ARUNACHAL PRADESH UNDER NESIDS (ROADS) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

Under NESIDS (Roads), ₹13.50 crore was released to support key road connectivity projects in the state. The fund covers works such as the Murung Gika to Panior Bridge Point via Sarchgai, Mate, Kusuk and Pan (Length 21 km) in Papum Pare district and the Bana EAC to Richukrong Headquarters road, contributing to improved access in remote and administrative areas, benefitting population of around 19500 and 15 villages.

### **REGIONAL / OTHER AGENCIES (PROJECT & NON-PROJECT)**

In addition to state-specific releases, the North Eastern Council (NEC) disbursed a total amount of **₹26,47,42,847/-** (Rupees Twenty-Six Crore Forty-Seven Lakh Forty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Seven only) to Regional and Other Agencies during the month. This support was extended through a range of region-wide initiatives implemented by universities, research institutions, specialised corporations, and cultural organisations across the North Eastern Region.

Major project interventions included the establishment of kiwi orchards; sponsorship of education for 91 boarder scholars and 622 day scholars from North Eastern States; setting up of banana tissue culture facilities; safeguarding heritage and promoting sustainable livelihoods through Geographical Indication (GI) registration of 166 crops/commodities of the region; establishment of pig breeding units (Phase-III); promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP)-based livelihood opportunities; creation of entrepreneurial ecosystems to augment rural income; establishment of high-tech horticultural nurseries with tissue culture facilities; scientific smoked meat production units; multi-agriculture projects for promotion of fishery and piggery; and advanced research initiatives such as 5G use-case development for societal challenges and socio-ecological and economic analysis of Sone Beel for sustainable management.

Non-project activities comprised a wide spectrum of regional-level seminars, cultural programmes, youth exchanges, technology and innovation events, academic and linguistic workshops, and studies on sustainable development. Key initiatives included the District-Level Youth Cultural Exchange Programme for Promotion of Peace and Harmony; Rising Uttar Pradesh; the 14th State-Level Sirarakhong Hathei (Chilli) Festival; participation in Chiang Mai Design Week 2025, Thailand; organisation of state-level handloom and handicrafts fairs; programmes on women empowerment and elimination of violence; Dibang Winter Fest 4.0; promotion of sports festivals in Manipur; construction of multipurpose community infrastructure; studies on physico-chemical water quality in selected areas of Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur; capacity building for academic excellence through AI-enabled digital transformation in higher education; studies on democratic decentralisation and governance institutions; assessments of entrepreneurial readiness of PMEGP beneficiaries; and organisation of the 9th Ranglong Khohui.

These initiatives were implemented through key institutions and agencies, including the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCRMS), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi), North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC), North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC), University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), Assam University, Mizoram University, Thanagong Development Co-operative Society Ltd., Manipur, and the Arunachal Pradesh Eco Adventure Sports & Youth Development Society, collectively contributing to regional development, cultural preservation, capacity building, and technological advancement across the North Eastern Region.

## **COMPLETED PROJECT(S) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

### **Livelihood Generation for Returned Migrant Workers**

The North Eastern Council (NEC) has successfully completed a project in Arunachal Pradesh aimed at generating sustainable livelihoods for migrant workers who returned to the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. Implemented under the Industries sector at an approved cost of ₹2.60 crore, the initiative focused on skill development and promotion of self-employment opportunities. The project has enabled beneficiaries to engage in viable income-generating activities within the state, thereby reducing distress migration, strengthening local economic resilience, and supporting inclusive post-pandemic recovery through sustainable employment.

Under the APEDP initiative, over 4,000 start-up applications were received, out of which 31 start-ups were selected for incubation after a rigorous three-stage evaluation process. The top 10 start-ups were awarded ₹5 lakh each, while the remaining 21 start-ups received ₹4 lakh each as financial support.

In addition, APEDP 2.0 witnessed the selection of 360 youth-led start-ups for pre-incubation and incubation programmes. Out of these, 40 start-ups were chosen for incubation at APIP, of which 60 start-ups (Cohort 1: 31; Cohort 2: 35) have been successfully incubated and progressed under the programme.

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**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

**PRESS NOTE FOR ASSAM, DECEMBER, 2025**

**NE-SPARKS: 786 Students from Northeast Visit ISRO Centres**

An initiative of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, the *North East Students Programme for Awareness, Reach, and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS)* is a flagship initiative designed to promote space science and technology awareness among students in India's North Eastern Region. This transformative programme provides selected students with direct exposure to India's space research achievements through guided visits to ISRO centres in Bengaluru, effectively bridging geographical and informational gaps that have historically limited access to such opportunities.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and President of NESAC Society, Shri Amit Shah during the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NESAC Society held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024, advised to organize a visit for 800 talented science students from the all 8 states of the North Eastern Region to ISRO covering 100 students from each state. This directive underscored the government's commitment to inclusive development and educational empowerment in the region.



The initiative represents a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), the North Eastern Council (NEC), the Indian Space Research

Organisation (ISRO), the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), and the State Governments of the North East. The programme is jointly coordinated by NESAC and ISRO's Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), with active support and participation from respective State Governments ensuring effective implementation at the grassroots level.

With a total sanctioned cost of ₹3.83 crore, the programme follows a 60:40 funding ratio, where NEC contributes ₹2.3 crore and the State Governments collectively contribute ₹1.53 crore. This financial arrangement reflects the shared responsibility and commitment of both central and state authorities toward nurturing scientific talent in the region.



NE-SPARKS is executed in eight batches between April 2025 and December 2025, with a minimum interval of one month between consecutive batches. Each batch comprises 90-100 students representing the eight NER states, accompanied by 10 coordinators who facilitated and guided the educational journey.

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## **Bridges of Unity: 'Ashtalakshmi Darshan' Youth Exchange Programme Commences at IIT Guwahati**

The Mini Auditorium at IIT Guwahati hosted the inaugural ceremony of the *Ashtalakshmi Darshan* – Youth Exchange Programme, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) aimed at strengthening national integration and cultural understanding between the Northeastern and non-Northeastern states.

IIT Guwahati, hosting the second batch of the programme, welcomed 40 student delegates and four faculty guides from Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The participants will explore the eight Northeastern states—collectively known as *Ashtalakshmi*—to experience their rich ethnic, cultural, and ecological diversity.



The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Rajkumar P. Thummer, Nodal Officer, IIT Guwahati, who encouraged students to go beyond textbooks and experience the region firsthand. Shri Niraj Kumar, Joint Secretary, MDoNER, the Chief Guest, described the Northeast as the *frontier of India's economic growth*, highlighting its potential in trade, resources, connectivity, and its spiritual significance as a confluence of Hindu, Buddhist, and Sufi traditions. He urged students to engage deeply with the local people, culture, and music.



Prof. Devendra Jalihal, Director, IIT Guwahati, emphasized the Northeast's deep historical and cultural roots reflected in ancient literature and reiterated its integral role in India's identity, wishing the participants a meaningful and enriching journey.

The 15-day programme includes academic sessions, field visits to historical and industrial sites, and cultural interactions to provide a comprehensive understanding of the region's heritage and contemporary potential.

The inaugural session concluded with a get-together, followed by an orientation session addressed by Mr. Bamin Tarang, Director (HRD&E), North Eastern Council, who outlined the significance of the programme and encouraged participants to act as future brand ambassadors of the Northeast. He highlighted the region's largely unexplored diversity and advised students to maintain discipline, follow prescribed guidelines, and uphold the dignity of their respective states throughout the programme.

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### **FUND RELEASES FOR ASSAM DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹5,70,00,000/-** for a number of projects including, Integrated Development of Agnigarh with development of adjacent Riverfront Park towards Ganeshghat at Tezpur, Development of Daranggiri Banana Market at Daranggiri, Goalpara.

### **FUND RELEASES FOR ASSAM UNDER NESIDS (ROADS) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

An amount of **₹38.00 crore** was released under NESIDS (Roads) for multiple road improvement and upgradation projects across Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong and Tinsukia districts. Major works include improvement of the Rajagoan–Dalimbari road, construction of the NH-515 at Lakhi Nepali to Junakarang via Rayang Army Camp road, Bogamati–Umananda via Naobandha and Khaagrabari village, and Chowkikhola–Tarapung via Borpung road. These projects are aimed at strengthening rural and border connectivity, easing transportation bottlenecks, improving access to markets for agricultural and forest produce, and supporting overall socio-economic development in remote areas.

### **REGIONAL / OTHER AGENCIES (PROJECT & NON-PROJECT)**

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Major project interventions included the establishment of kiwi orchards; sponsorship of education for 91 boarder scholars and 622 day scholars from North Eastern States; setting up of banana tissue culture facilities; safeguarding heritage and promoting sustainable livelihoods through Geographical Indication (GI) registration of 166 crops/commodities of the region; establishment of pig breeding units (Phase-III); promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP)-based livelihood opportunities; creation of entrepreneurial ecosystems to augment rural income; establishment of high-tech horticultural nurseries with tissue culture facilities; scientific

smoked meat production units; multi-agriculture projects for promotion of fishery and piggery; and advanced research initiatives such as 5G use-case development for societal challenges and socio-ecological and economic analysis of Sone Beel for sustainable management.

Non-project activities comprised a wide spectrum of regional-level seminars, cultural programmes, youth exchanges, technology and innovation events, academic and linguistic workshops, and studies on sustainable development. Key initiatives included the District-Level Youth Cultural Exchange Programme for Promotion of Peace and Harmony; Rising Uttar Pradesh; the 14th State-Level Sirarakhong Hathei (Chilli) Festival; participation in Chiang Mai Design Week 2025, Thailand; organisation of state-level handloom and handicrafts fairs; programmes on women empowerment and elimination of violence; Dibang Winter Fest 4.0; promotion of sports festivals in Manipur; construction of multipurpose community infrastructure; studies on physico-chemical water quality in selected areas of Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur; capacity building for academic excellence through AI-enabled digital transformation in higher education; studies on democratic decentralisation and governance institutions; assessments of entrepreneurial readiness of PMEGP beneficiaries; and organisation of the 9th Ranglong Khohui.

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**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

**PRESS NOTE FOR MANIPUR, DECEMBER, 2025**

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### **FUND RELEASES FOR MANIPUR DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹6,35,14,000/-** for a number of projects including, Dairy farming - A way of life for Schedule Caste Farmers of Manipur.

### **FUND RELEASES FOR MANIPUR UNDER NESIDS (ROADS) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

An amount of **₹39.67 crore** was released for improvement and upgradation of important road corridors under NESIDS (Roads), including the Henglep–Thingkhew–Tipaimukh road, Construction of PSC Bridge over River Leimakhong in front of Inter State Truck Terminus including approach road to proposed PSC Bridge and proposed Bridge to PHE Khurkhul and the Tadubi–Chowainamei–Khunou–Maopungdung road. The projects are expected to improve inter-district connectivity, reduce travel time, and enhance access to essential services, markets and livelihood opportunities for the rural population.

### **REGIONAL / OTHER AGENCIES (PROJECT & NON-PROJECT)**

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**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

**PRESS NOTE FOR MEGHALAYA, DECEMBER, 2025**

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### **FUND RELEASES FOR MEGHALAYA DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹13,45,38,500/-** for a number of projects including, Construction of Tourism Infrastructure at Laitlyngkot (Lamlyer) in East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, Development of Cultural Complex of Seng Khasi Ri Raid Laban at Lum Shat Sngi, Kenches Trace, Shillong, Construction of RCC G+4 Commercial Building of Iewdak Laban Municipal Market, Shillong for sale of Agriculture, Horticulture, Handicraft, Piggery, Floriculture Products, Construction of School Building at RKM School, Laidiengsai, Mawrah, Laitryngew, Wahlong, Pynursla, Pomsohmen and Nongkynrih, Re-Alignment of Pipelines, provisions of Utility Ducts, Public Toilet at 5 (five) location, Waste Management Vehicles/Waste bins/WRC, providing lighting, painting and beautification of buildings and replacement of supply line along the main approach road to Iewduh market etc.

### **FUND RELEASES FOR MEGHALAYA UNDER NESIDS (ROADS) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

Funds amounting to ₹3.00 crore were released under NESIDS (Roads) for road improvement works, including the Shillong City to Umroi Airport road. The project will strengthen connectivity in Meghalaya and is expected to benefit around 10 villages with a population of approximately 7,287.

### **REGIONAL / OTHER AGENCIES (PROJECT & NON-PROJECT)**

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## **COMPLETED PROJECT(S) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

### **Setting up of Model Handloom Production Centre at Ri-Bhoi District**

The NEC has also completed the setting up of a Model Handloom Production Centre at Marngar, Ri-Bhoi District in Meghalaya under the Industries sector, with an approved project cost of ₹1.43 crore and implementation through an implementing agency. The project was undertaken to revitalise traditional handloom practices by providing improved infrastructure and facilitating skill upgradation among local weavers. The centre has contributed to improved product quality, enhanced skills—particularly among women weavers—and diversification of handloom products. It has strengthened sustainable livelihood opportunities, preserved indigenous weaving traditions, and improved the market competitiveness of Meghalaya's handloom products. The project was completed in December 2025.

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Date 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

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Hon'ble Union Home Minister and President of NESAC Society, Shri Amit Shah during the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NESAC Society held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024, advised to organize a visit for 800 talented science students from the all 8 states of the North Eastern Region to ISRO covering 100 students from each state. This directive underscored the government's commitment to inclusive development and educational empowerment in the region.



The initiative represents a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), the North Eastern Council (NEC), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), and the State Governments of the North East. The programme is jointly coordinated by NESAC and ISRO's Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), with active support and participation from respective State Governments ensuring effective implementation at the grassroots level.

With a total sanctioned cost of ₹3.83 crore, the programme follows a 60:40 funding ratio, where NEC contributes ₹2.3 crore and the State Governments collectively contribute ₹1.53 crore. This financial arrangement reflects the shared responsibility and commitment of both central and state authorities toward nurturing scientific talent in the region.



NE-SPARKS is executed in eight batches between April 2025 and December 2025, with a minimum interval of one month between consecutive batches. Each batch comprises 90-100 students representing the eight NER states, accompanied by 10 coordinators who facilitated and guided the educational journey.

Through meaningful interactions with ISRO scientists and engineers and direct exposure to advanced space technologies, NE-SPARKS inspires young minds and promotes STEM education among Northeastern students. The programme empowers participants to envision and pursue careers in space science and technology, thereby contributing to India's broader vision of achieving global leadership in the space sector. By investing in the region's youth and providing them with world-class exposure to cutting-edge space research, NE-SPARKS serves as a catalyst for scientific aspiration and technological advancement in India's North Eastern Region.

## **TOTAL FUND RELEASES DURING DECEMBER, 2025 ACROSS ALL NORTHEASTERN STATES & REGIONAL AND OTHER AGENCIES**

During **December 2025**, the **North Eastern Council (NEC)** released a **total amount of ₹76,78,58,035/-**, which includes releases made to the across all Northeastern States as well as to various regional and other agencies across the North Eastern Region. This reflects NEC's continuous commitment to strengthening developmental initiatives in the North East through infrastructure development, livelihood enhancement, cultural promotion, research, and innovation.

### **FUND RELEASES FOR MIZORAM DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹4,89,22,800/-** for a number of projects including, Fish Farmer Training Centre at Lengpui, Establishing Mizo Cultural Heritage Centre for protecting the Historical and Natural Heritage of Mizoram at Kawlri, Serchhip District, Enhancement of State Revenue through Application of Information Technology in Monitoring Mineral Exploitations & Resource Mapping, Mizoram etc.

### **REGIONAL / OTHER AGENCIES (PROJECT & NON-PROJECT)**

In addition to state-specific releases, the North Eastern Council (NEC) disbursed a total amount of **₹26,47,42,847/-** (Rupees Twenty-Six Crore Forty-Seven Lakh Forty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-Seven only) to Regional and Other Agencies during the month. This support was extended through a range of region-wide initiatives implemented by universities, research institutions, specialised corporations, and cultural organisations across the North Eastern Region.

Major project interventions included the establishment of kiwi orchards; sponsorship of education for 91 boarder scholars and 622 day scholars from North Eastern States; setting up of banana tissue culture facilities; safeguarding heritage and promoting sustainable livelihoods through Geographical Indication (GI) registration of 166 crops/commodities of the region; establishment of pig breeding units (Phase-III); promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP)-based livelihood opportunities; creation of entrepreneurial ecosystems to augment rural income; establishment of high-tech horticultural nurseries with tissue culture facilities; scientific smoked meat production units; multi-agriculture projects for promotion of fishery and piggery; and advanced research initiatives such as 5G use-case development for societal challenges and socio-ecological and economic analysis of Sone Beel for sustainable management.

Non-project activities comprised a wide spectrum of regional-level seminars, cultural programmes, youth exchanges, technology and innovation events, academic and linguistic workshops, and studies on sustainable development. Key initiatives included the District-Level Youth Cultural Exchange Programme for Promotion of Peace and Harmony; Rising Uttar Pradesh; the 14th State-Level Sirarakhong Hathei (Chilli) Festival; participation in Chiang Mai Design Week 2025, Thailand; organisation of state-level handloom and handicrafts fairs; programmes on women empowerment and elimination of violence; Dibang Winter Fest 4.0;

promotion of sports festivals in Manipur; construction of multipurpose community infrastructure; studies on physico-chemical water quality in selected areas of Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur; capacity building for academic excellence through AI-enabled digital transformation in higher education; studies on democratic decentralisation and governance institutions; assessments of entrepreneurial readiness of PMEGP beneficiaries; and organisation of the 9th Ranglong Khohui.

These initiatives were implemented through key institutions and agencies, including the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCRMS), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi), North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC), North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC), University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), Assam University, Mizoram University, Thanagong Development Co-operative Society Ltd., Manipur, and the Arunachal Pradesh Eco Adventure Sports & Youth Development Society, collectively contributing to regional development, cultural preservation, capacity building, and technological advancement across the North Eastern Region.

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**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

**PRESS NOTE FOR NAGALAND, DECEMBER, 2025**

**NE-SPARKS: 786 Students from Northeast Visit ISRO Centres**

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Hon'ble Union Home Minister and President of NESAC Society, Shri Amit Shah during the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NESAC Society held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024, advised to organize a visit for 800 talented science students from the all 8 states of the North Eastern Region to ISRO covering 100 students from each state. This directive underscored the government's commitment to inclusive development and educational empowerment in the region.



The initiative represents a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), the North Eastern Council (NEC), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), and the State Governments of the North East. The programme is jointly coordinated by NESAC and ISRO's Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), with active support and participation from respective State Governments ensuring effective implementation at the grassroots level.

With a total sanctioned cost of ₹3.83 crore, the programme follows a 60:40 funding ratio, where NEC contributes ₹2.3 crore and the State Governments collectively contribute ₹1.53 crore. This financial arrangement reflects the shared responsibility and commitment of both central and state authorities toward nurturing scientific talent in the region.



NE-SPARKS is executed in eight batches between April 2025 and December 2025, with a minimum interval of one month between consecutive batches. Each batch comprises 90-100 students representing the eight NER states, accompanied by 10 coordinators who facilitated and guided the educational journey.

Through meaningful interactions with ISRO scientists and engineers and direct exposure to advanced space technologies, NE-SPARKS inspires young minds and promotes STEM education among Northeastern students. The programme empowers participants to envision and pursue careers in space science and technology, thereby contributing to India's broader vision of achieving global leadership in the space sector. By investing in the region's youth and providing them with world-class exposure to cutting-edge space research, NE-SPARKS serves as a catalyst for scientific aspiration and technological advancement in India's North Eastern Region.

## **Nagaland Hosts 4th Batch of Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme**

The 4th Batch of the Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme was inaugurated on 4 January 2026 at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Nagaland. The programme brought together 19 students from Punjab and 20 students from the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, accompanied by two guides from each participating region.

The inaugural session was attended by Dr. Manoj E. Prabhakar, Registrar; Dr. Themrichon Tuithung, Dean (Student Affairs); and Dr. Amit Kumar Singh, Coordinator, Ashtalakshmi Darshan, NIT Nagaland. Ms. Ibanri J. Kharshiing, Executive Engineer (Power) and In-charge Deputy Adviser (IFC & WM), NEC, addressed the gathering and emphasized the programme's significance in fostering national integration, cultural understanding, and unity among youth from diverse regions of India.



The exchange programme aims to strengthen bonds between students from different states and union territories while promoting cultural appreciation and national cohesion.

## **TOTAL FUND RELEASES DURING DECEMBER, 2025 ACROSS ALL NORTHEASTERN STATES & REGIONAL AND OTHER AGENCIES**

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### **FUND RELEASES FOR NAGALAND DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹4,55,00,000/-** for a number of projects including, Setting up of Demonstration units (Hazelnut, Kiwi, Peach, Nectarine, Apricot & Plum) & value chain development in Nagaland, Post Harvest Coffee processing facilities for sustainable Economic Development, Creation of Amenity Centre at Kigwema etc.

### **FUND RELEASES FOR NAGALAND UNDER NESIDS (ROADS) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

Funds amounting to **₹11.46 crore** were released under NESIDS (Roads) for road improvement works, including the Phomching Headquarters to Longding Headquarter, and NH-29 at 7<sup>th</sup> Mile Model Village to Siethekema, strengthening connectivity in Nagaland.

In addition, foundation stones were laid for six major road projects, namely Old Peren via Chalkot Junction at an estimated cost of ₹46.32 crore, Jalukie (NH-129A) to DC Complex, Peren at ₹21.91 crore, Khonoma village to NH-29 via Dzüdza River at ₹26.46 crore, Tizama to Kohima Bypass at ₹42.60 crore, Phomching Headquarters to Longding Headquarters (AP) at ₹58.00 crore, and Coco Road Emlomi (Old British Bungalow) to Ghukiye Junction at ₹29.79 crore. These projects are expected to enhance inter-district connectivity, promote tourism, facilitate smoother administrative movement, and contribute significantly to long-term socio-economic development in hilly and remote regions.

### **REGIONAL / OTHER AGENCIES (PROJECT & NON-PROJECT)**

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Major project interventions included the establishment of kiwi orchards; sponsorship of education for 91 boarder scholars and 622 day scholars from North Eastern States; setting up of banana tissue culture facilities; safeguarding heritage and promoting sustainable livelihoods

through Geographical Indication (GI) registration of 166 crops/commodities of the region; establishment of pig breeding units (Phase-III); promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP)-based livelihood opportunities; creation of entrepreneurial ecosystems to augment rural income; establishment of high-tech horticultural nurseries with tissue culture facilities; scientific smoked meat production units; multi-agriculture projects for promotion of fishery and piggery; and advanced research initiatives such as 5G use-case development for societal challenges and socio-ecological and economic analysis of Sone Beel for sustainable management.

Non-project activities comprised a wide spectrum of regional-level seminars, cultural programmes, youth exchanges, technology and innovation events, academic and linguistic workshops, and studies on sustainable development. Key initiatives included the District-Level Youth Cultural Exchange Programme for Promotion of Peace and Harmony; Rising Uttar Pradesh; the 14th State-Level Sirarakhong Hathei (Chilli) Festival; participation in Chiang Mai Design Week 2025, Thailand; organisation of state-level handloom and handicrafts fairs; programmes on women empowerment and elimination of violence; Dibang Winter Fest 4.0; promotion of sports festivals in Manipur; construction of multipurpose community infrastructure; studies on physico-chemical water quality in selected areas of Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur; capacity building for academic excellence through AI-enabled digital transformation in higher education; studies on democratic decentralisation and governance institutions; assessments of entrepreneurial readiness of PMEGP beneficiaries; and organisation of the 9th Ranglong Khohui.

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**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

**PRESS NOTE FOR SIKKIM, DECEMBER, 2025**

**NE-SPARKS: 786 Students from Northeast Visit ISRO Centres**

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Organisation (ISRO), the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), and the State Governments of the North East. The programme is jointly coordinated by NESAC and ISRO's Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), with active support and participation from respective State Governments ensuring effective implementation at the grassroots level.

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### **FUND RELEASES FOR SIKKIM DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹8,34,49,873/-** for a number of projects including, Construction of Multi-Purpose Community Centre at Soreng, Sikkim, Community Development Programme at Kateng Bokrong, GPU under Namthang Block South Sikkim, CCTV Surveillance of main towns and tourist places in Sikkim, Khey Bumsa - Tekung Tek Rural Mart and Bamboo Recreation Park at Labi and Gaikhana Villages of Kabi Lungchok Constituency Phase II, North Sikkim etc.

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**Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2026**

**PRESS NOTE FOR TRIPURA, DECEMBER, 2025**

**NE-SPARKS: 786 Students from Northeast Visit ISRO Centres**

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### **FUND RELEASES FOR TRIPURA DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During December, 2025, The North Eastern Council (NEC) released a total amount of **₹2,77,41,935/-** for a number of projects including, Construction of 50 seated Girls hostel in Govt. Degree College, Gondatwisa, Dhalai District, Improvement of Infrastructure in Womens Polytechnic, Hapania, West Tripura under Higher Education Department of Tripura etc.

### **REGIONAL / OTHER AGENCIES (PROJECT & NON-PROJECT)**

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### **COMPLETED PROJECT(S) DURING DECEMBER, 2025**

During the period, the improvement of the K/A Road from Erarpur to Ambassa, with a total length of 28.90 km and a project cost of ₹94.39 crore, was completed. The completed road has substantially improved connectivity for 12 villages and population of around 49452, facilitating smoother movement of people and goods.



The project road connects Erarpur on Kailashahar-Khowai Road (NH-208) to Ambassa town on Assam-Agartala Road (NH-8). The road upgradation will significantly enhance socio-economic development in the region and directly benefit local residents.

Currently, the area faces challenges due to remoteness and poor road connectivity, despite being rich in agricultural, dairy, and horticultural produce. The improved road will provide easier market access for farmers to sell their products at better prices, while boosting both tourism and agriculture sectors. The upgradation will also facilitate tourist movement from nearby areas, further contributing to regional development.



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