

PRESS RELEASE

Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme Concludes at Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh.

14th November, 2025: The fourteen-day Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme, organized by the North Eastern Council (NEC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India, concluded today at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Rono Hills, Doimukh. This is the first batch of the Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme with participation of 39 students and 4 guides from Goa and Uttarakhand.

The Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme aims to strengthen youth-to-youth connect, foster inter-regional understanding, and promote cultural appreciation in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" initiative. This exchange programme involves 1,280 students in 40 batches from 28 States / UTs visiting and experiencing all North Eastern States.



The Ashtalakshmi Darshan initiative is a visionary youth exchange programme designed to promote national integration, cultural understanding, and mutual respect between the North Eastern Region (NER) and the rest of India. It aims to cultivate youth ambassadors of unity and harmony, thereby strengthening emotional and cultural integration across the nation. The first edition of the programme, hosted by Rajiv Gandhi University from 1–14 November 2025, brought together delegates from Goa and Uttarakhand for a dynamic blend of academic learning, experiential exposure, and cultural exchange. The programme began with orientation and context-setting sessions, followed by nine days of academic lectures delivered

by eminent scholars, experts, and policymakers on themes relating to the eight Ashtalakshmi states— Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, including geography, biodiversity, ethnic diversity, culture, governance, sustainable development, industry, tourism, and environmental challenges. Complementing the academic component, participants engaged in sports, yoga, and recreational activities, along with vibrant cultural performances showcasing the traditions of both the host and visiting states.

A major highlight of the programme was the extensive field exposure arranged for the delegates. Participants interacted with the Registrar of the Hon'ble High Court (Itanagar Bench), innovators at the Arunachal Pradesh Innovation Park, and folk artists at the Department of Art and Culture. They also had the opportunity to meet the Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and the Hon'ble Speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, gaining valuable insights into governance, leadership, and public service.



As part of their experiential learning, delegates explored the ecological heritage of Ziro, engaged in rural immersion and community interactions, learned about tea cultivation and processing, and visited Ita Fort and the Gompa in Itanagar to appreciate the region's historical, cultural, and spiritual significance. During the programme, while interacting with students from Goa and Uttarakhand, Hon'ble Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia encouraged the youth to become ambassadors of Arunachal Pradesh and uphold the spirit of *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*. He urged them to contribute to the nation's progress with unity, friendship, and the values of a *Viksit Bharat*.

The valedictory ceremony held on 13th November 2025 at Rajiv Gandhi University marked a vibrant and fitting culmination of the programme, graced by distinguished dignitaries, senior university administrators, Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and resource persons. The valedictory proceedings commenced with a welcome address delivered by Dr.

Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Nodal Officer of the Ashtalakshmi Darshan Youth Exchange Programme, who extended gratitude to all participants, faculty members, and officials for their contributions and enthusiastic participation.

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. K. Nayak, in his address, emphasized the importance of embracing and understanding the rich cultural diversity of Arunachal Pradesh. He encouraged students to document their experiences, reflect on their learnings, and share them with relevant stakeholders for future academic and cultural enrichment. Special Invitee Ms. Vishakha Yadav, IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Papum Pare, addressed the gathering with an inspiring account of her experiences as a civil servant in Arunachal Pradesh. She highlighted the opportunities and challenges of administrative service in the region and motivated the delegates to consider civil services as a meaningful career path, contributing to the development of the "Land of the Rising Sun" for Viksit Bharat 2047. Registrar of Rajiv Gandhi University, Dr. N. T. Riram, and Shri Bamin Tarang, Director (HRD&E), NEC Shillong, also shared their insights and encouraged the students to carry forward the values of leadership, cultural respect, and national unity nurtured through the programme.



As part of the ceremony, a colorful cultural segment highlighted the spirit of exchange, with delegates from Goa and Uttarakhand presenting dance performances based on popular Arunachali songs, while RGU students showcased cultural presentations inspired by Goan and Uttarakhandi musical traditions—symbolising a harmonious blend of cultures between the host and visiting states. Academic awards were also presented to the top performers of the assessments conducted during the programme. From Uttarakhand, Mr. Deepak Kumar secured the first position, while Ms. Ahuti and Mr. Prince Mehra jointly achieved the second position. From Goa, Ms. Nempithem Touthang secured the first position, with Ms. Raima and Ms. Rucha jointly attaining the second position. Dignitaries also distributed Certificates of Participation to all delegates in recognition of their successful completion of the programme. During the ceremony, both teachers and students shared their reflections and experiences,

highlighting the transformative impact of the programme on learning, cultural awareness, and personal growth. The valedictory programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Gomar Basar, Deputy Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and contributors for making the event a resounding success.
