

Press Release- Manipur

NEC Secretariat welcomes New Secretary



Shri Satinder Kumar Bhalla, a senior officer of the Indian Telecommunication Service (ITS), 1992 batch, has been appointed as the new Secretary of the North Eastern Council (NEC), effective April 1, 2025.

With over 30 years of rich experience in telecommunications and public administration, Shri Bhalla has held several key positions in the Department of Telecommunications and other central government bodies, including the Ministry of Home Affairs. His career has encompassed strategic planning, policy development, project execution, and regulatory oversight—playing a pivotal role in advancing India's telecom sector.

As he takes charge as Secretary of the NEC, Shri Bhalla aims to enhance the Council's mandate as the central agency for the economic and social progress of the North Eastern Region. His leadership is expected to drive renewed emphasis on regional connectivity, infrastructure development, and inclusive growth.

Project completed

The road project titled **“Construction of Yaripok Bazar to Changangpat Road”** in Manipur, sanctioned at a cost of ₹7.026 crore on August 16, 2017, was successfully completed on April 9, 2025. The completion of this road has significantly improved regional connectivity,

boosted local economic activities, and enhanced access to essential services for nearby communities.



Funds released

In a significant boost to road infrastructure in Manipur, the North Eastern Council (NEC) has released a total of ₹10.570575 crore under the NESIDS (Roads) scheme- ₹10.415 crore released on 28th April 2025 for the improvement/upgradation of road connecting Tadubi to Chowainamei Kunao and Maopung Dung (Senapati District, Length: 10.046 Km) and ₹0.155575 crore released on 29th April 2025 for the upgradation of Moirang Sendra Road (Length: 8.50 Km) in Bishnupur. These road projects aim to strengthen regional connectivity and facilitate smoother transportation in hilly terrains of the state. In addition, the NEC had also released Rs. 0.6985 crore in April 2025 for the ongoing project “Skill cum Rural Entrepreneurship Development Centre” at ADC Senapati District, Manipur to promote skill development and promote local entrepreneurship.

North East Students' Programme for Awareness, Reach, and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS)

This idea was conceptualized by the Hon'ble Home Minister. This pioneering initiative aims to spark curiosity and raise awareness about space science and technology by organizing a visit for 800 bright science students—100 from each of the eight North Eastern states—to Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Bengaluru. So far, 100 students have visited the center. Over the coming months, up to November 2025, additional student batches from each state will participate, culminating in a landmark initiative to engage the North East's most promising students in the fields of space science.

This is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Development of

North Eastern Region (MDoNER), the North Eastern Council (NEC), ISRO, North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), and the respective State Governments of the North Eastern States. The total sanctioned budget is ₹3.83 crore, funded in a 60:40 ratio—₹2.3 crore from NEC and ₹1.53 crore collectively from the State Governments (₹19.18 lakh per state).



Group photo of students with Dr. V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space/Chairman, ISRO, taken during their visit to ISRO, Bengaluru from April 21 to 24, 2025.

North Eastern Region Agri-Commodity e-Connect (NERACE) portal: This was launched on 12 July 2024 by Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Hon'ble Union Minister of DoNER. NERACE is expected to significantly enhance the Agro-horti landscape of our region by leveraging technology to connect producers, buyers, and service providers. It facilitates seamless transactions and fostering mutual growth, empowering our farmers by addressing the most vertical aspect of market linkage and supply chain management.

The month of April 2025 witnessed robust Agri-trade activity across the North-Eastern states of India, with a total transaction value of ₹49 Lakhs and cumulative trade volume of 188 MT. This reflects the growing momentum of inter-state agricultural marketing and the strengthening of farmer-to-buyer digital trade linkages in the region.

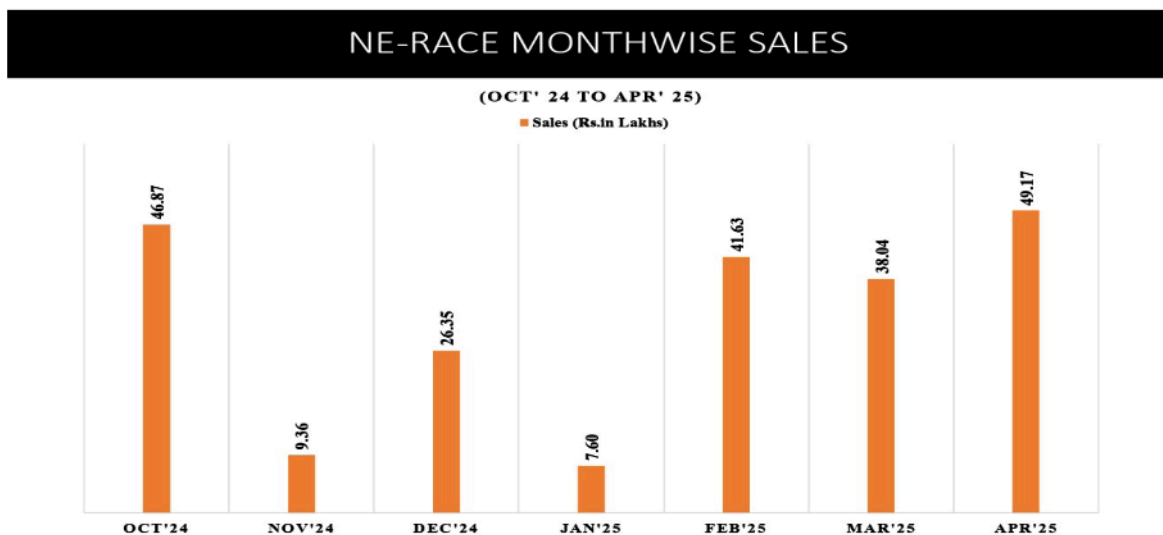
Key highlights of the April, 2025 sales data include:

- Ginger remained the most traded commodity, with varieties like Local and Nadia contributing significantly. Over 184.5 MT of ginger were sold, amounting to ₹47.57 lakhs and Sikkim emerged as the major supplier.
- King Chilli, a premium product from Nagaland and Assam, fetched the highest price per kg (up to ₹3,000), with small yet high-value trades totaling ₹53 Thousands.
- Other traded commodities included Turmeric, Maize Paddy, Black

Rice, and Birds Eye Chilli, sourced from states like Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam, and Manipur.

- Assam emerged as a major buyer state, while Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Sikkim served as key seller states.

The NERACE Month-Wise sales (Rs. in Lakhs) from October, 2024 to April, 2025.



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Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region,
North Eastern Council Secretariat, Nongrim Hills,
Shillong-793003,
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