



North Eastern Council
Government of India



NE-SPARKS

SUMMARY REPORT ON

NORTH EAST STUDENTS PROGRAMME FOR AWARENESS, REACH AND KNOWLEDGE ON SPACE (NE-SPARKS) 2025



North East Students Programme for Awareness, Reach and Knowledge on Space

(NE-SPARKS / एन ई स्पार्क्स)

A pioneering initiative aimed at igniting curiosity and fostering awareness about space science and technology among students from the North Eastern Region (NER) of India. This program sought to bridge geographical and informational gaps by providing students with an immersive experience of India's advancements in space research and exploration through visits to ISRO Centers in Bengaluru.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and President of NESAC Society, Shri Amit Shah during the 12th meeting of the NESAC Society held on 21st 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.

The NE-SPARKS programme was conceptualized by North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) in consultation with the Science and Technology Sector of the North Eastern Council (NEC). Through this programme, it was designed to inspire young minds, offering them an opportunity to witness cutting-edge technologies, interact with eminent scientists and engineers through a carefully designed guided tour. Students gained insights into ISRO's mission to explore the unknown, enabling them to envision a future in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Each trip comprised around 100 students from the eight states, along with 10 coordinators. The programme was executed in eight batches, with a minimum one-month interval, starting from April 2025 to December 2025.

The initiative was jointly coordinated by NESAC and the Capacity Building Programme Office (CBPO), ISRO with active collaboration and support from the NEC, State Governments of North Eastern States. The programme was funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and the State Governments in a 60:40 ratio respectively.

Out of 800 nominated students, 786 students from eight states successfully completed the programme, comprising 408 female and 378 male participants.

State	Male	Female	Total Students
Arunachal Pradesh	37	60	97
Assam	64	34	98
Manipur	45	54	99
Meghalaya	42	57	99
Mizoram	45	54	99
Nagaland	40	55	95
Sikkim	46	53	99
Tripura	59	41	100

INAUGURATION OF NE-SPARKS



The inaugural session was held at ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network), Bengaluru on 22nd April 2025, chaired by Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO along with other distinguished dignitaries, Dr. A. K. Anilkumar, Director, ISTRAC, Shri M. Sankaran, Director, URSC, Dr. S. P. Aggarwal, Director, NESAC and other senior officials from ISRO.



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NE-SPARKS PROGRAMME IN BENGALURU

Day 1 – Arrival in Bengaluru	
Day 2 – Visit to ISTRAC and ISSDC Byalalu	
0930 - 1230 hrs	Interaction with Secretary, DOS /Chairman, ISRO
	Presentation on Overview Indian Space Programme
	Visit to MOX Control Centre
1230 – 1330 hrs	Lunch at ISTRAC (To be arranged by ISTRAC on official basis)
1330 – 1730 hrs	Travel to ISSDC, Byalalu & Visit to Technical Facilities at ISSDC
1730 hrs onwards	Travel back to Hotel
Day 3 - Visit to URSC and JN Planetarium	
0930 - 1230 hrs	Presentation on Satellite Technology & it's Applications
	Visit to Technical Facilities in URSC
1230 – 1330 hrs	Lunch at ISITE (To be arranged by URSC on official basis)
1330 – 1630 hrs	Visit to Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium
1630 hrs onwards	Travel back to Hotel
Day 4 – Departure to Airport	

ISTRAC **ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network**

ISSDC **Indian Space Science Data Centre**

URSC **U R Rao Satellite Centre**

JNP **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium**

VISIT TO ISTRAC AND ISSDC BYALALU

Students attended an interactive session at **ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network)**, Bengaluru, which included an introduction to the NE-SPARKS programme and inspiring addresses by various ISRO dignitaries.



They visited the **Satellite Control Centre (SCC)**, the centre for continuous monitoring of India's satellites, where critical activities such as uplinking tele-commands, attitude determination, and data archival are performed.

A tour of the **Mission Operations Complex (MOX)** provided insights into mission planning, execution, and the seamless coordination required for managing multiple satellite missions simultaneously.



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Students also visited the **Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN)** at Byalalu, Bengaluru South, which plays a crucial role in supporting India's interplanetary and deep space missions. The IDSN, operated by ISTRAC, features fully steerable 18-meter and 32-meter Deep Space Network (DSN) antenna systems, enhancing tracking for missions like Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission. The students were briefed on critical aspects of deep space communication and signal tracking.



To make the experience engaging and practical, students **participated in a hands-on demonstration of launching water rockets.**



Visit to URSC, Bengaluru and Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium

The second day included a tour of the **U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)** in Bengaluru, formerly known as the ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC). URSC serves as the lead centre for the development and integration of spacecraft and satellite technologies for various ISRO missions, including Communication, Navigation, Meteorology, Remote Sensing, Space Science, and Interplanetary Exploration.

Students were taken on a detailed tour of the **ISRO Satellite Integration and Test Establishment (ISITE)**, which houses state-of-the-art clean room facilities for spacecraft integration and testing, including a 6.5-metre thermo-vacuum chamber that simulates the harsh environment of space.

An **extensive space exhibition** at URSC, featuring satellite systems and scaled models, was specifically established to rekindle scientific temperament and inspire students to pursue careers in space science.





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The enriching journey concluded with a visit to the **Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP)** in Bengaluru. Administered by the Bangalore Association for Science Education (BASE) since 1989, JNP popularises science and astronomy. Equipped with a 15-meter dome and a hybrid projection system, it offers an immersive cosmic experience. Students attended an engaging **science sensitization lecture delivered by Dr. B.R. Guruprasad, Director of the Planetarium**, and witnessed a planetarium show which deepened their fascination with the universe and inspired interest in STEM careers.



INTERACTION SESSION WITH HONOURABLE MINISTER

On September 18, 2025, the Hon'ble Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia fruitfully interacted with students from the first four batches to gather their feedback and perspectives on the programme's progress. The session was attended by distinguished dignitaries from ISRO/NESAC/NEC, including the Scientific Secretary, ISRO; the Secretary, NEC; the Director, NESAC and Senior scientist/ engineer from NESAC.



INTERACTIVE & CONCLUDING SESSION

The interactive concluding session was held at ISRO Headquarters, Bengaluru, and was chaired by Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, in the presence of senior officials and dignitaries from ISRO/DoS. The session included an overview of the NE-SPARKS programme, followed by a welcome address by the Scientific Secretary. The Chairman, ISRO delivered an inspiring address, sharing insights into India's space journey and key missions such as Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan, and encouraged students to strive for scientific excellence and engage with cutting-edge technologies.



DETAILS OF RESOURCE PERSONS

Batch	Dates	No. of Students	Key Dignitaries / Speakers	NESAC	NEC
1 st	22nd–23rd April 2025	99 (Male: 42 Female: 57)	Dr. V. Narayanan (Chairman, ISRO), Dr. A. K. Anilkumar (Director, ISTRAC), Shri M. Sankaran (Director, URSC), Dr. S. P. Aggarwal (Director, NESAC)	Dr. Jonali Goswami, Dr. Francis Dutta, Shri Sumanth B C	Dr. Sanabam Sujen Singh
2 nd	26th–27th June 2025	100 (Male: 49 Female: 51)	Shri M. R. Raghavendra (Associate Director, ISTRAC), Shri Harikrishnan (Director, CBPO), Shri B. Sankar Madaswamy (Division Head, HRLD)	Shri Himangshu Jyothi Das, Shri Sumanth B C	Shri Chandan Jena
3 rd	24th–25th July 2025	99 (Male: 49 Female: 50)	Shri T. Subramanya Ganesh (Deputy Director, ISTRAC), Shri B. Sankar Madaswamy (Division Head, HRLD)	Dr. Victor Saikhom, Dr. Francis Dutta	Dr. Saumitra Mishra
4 th	28th–29th August 2025	96 (Male: 49 Female: 47)	Dr. A. K. Anil Kumar (Director, ISTRAC), Smt. Nandini Harinath (Deputy Director, SPOA, ISTRAC) Shri Satish Chandra Mishra (Deputy Director, CBPO), Shri B. Sankar Madaswamy (Division Head, HRLD)	Dr. Dhruval Bhavsar, Shri Sumanth B C	Maj. Raishe PA
5 th	25 th –26 th September 2025	99 (Male: 46 Female: 53)	Shri Satish Chandra Mishra (Associate Director, CBPO) Smt. Nandini Harinath (Deputy Director, SPOA, ISTRAC) Dr. Madhusudhana C S (Group Director, URSC)	Shri. Sanjay Pandit, Shri Sumanth B C	Ms Shrutimala Rajbongshi
6 th	30 th –31 st October 2025	97 (Male: 43 Female: 54)	Shri Satish Chandra Mishra (Associate Director, CBPO) Shri Leo Jackson John (Group Director, SPOA, ISTRAC) Dr. Madhusudhana C S (Group Director, URSC) Vineeth Joen Alexie D'Souza, (Deputy Project Director, Overall System Engg & Proj, URSC)	Shri Sumanth B C, Dr Pradesh Jena	Shri Richard J. Lalnunkima
7 th	25 th –26 st November 2025	98 (Male: 52 Female: 46)	Dr. A. K. Anil Kumar (Director, ISTRAC), Dr Manikantan Ramadas (Group Head, FDSS, ISTRAC) Dr. Madhusudhana C S (Group Director, URSC) Vineeth Joen Alexie D'Souza, (Deputy Project Director, Overall System Engg & Proj, URSC)	Shri Himangshu Jyoti Das, Shri Rosly B Lyngdoh	Shri Shekhar Nag

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8 th	29 th -30 th December 2025	98 (Male: 48 Female: 50)	Dr. V. Narayanan (Chairman, ISRO), M. Ganesh Pillai (Scientific Secretary, ISRO) Shri Harikrishnan (Director, CBPO, ISRO), Dr. J. V. Thomas (Director, EDPO, ISRO) Shri Satish Chandra Mishra (Associate Director, CBPO) Shri B. Sankar Madaswamy (Division Head, HRLD) Dr. Madhusudhana C S (Group Director, URSC)	Dr Jonali Goswami, Dr Gopal Sharma, Shri Sumanth B C	Dr. Saumitra Mishra
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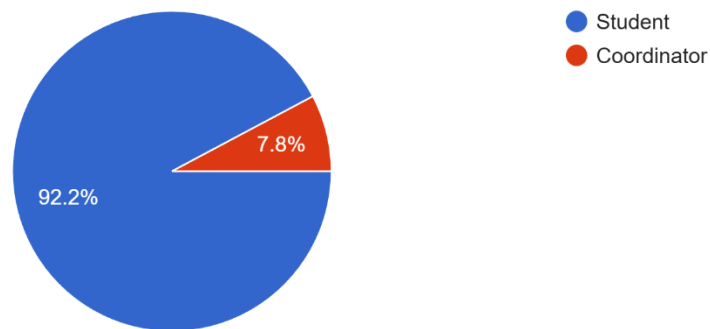
STATE-WISE DETAILS OF STUDENTS & COORDINATORS

SN	State	Category	1st batch	2nd Batch	3rd batch	4th batch	5th batch	6th batch	7th batch	8th batch	Total
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Male	3	10	4	5	2	5	4	4	37
		Female	10	3	9	5	10	7	8	8	60
2	Assam	Male	7	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	64
		Female	6	5	3	4	4	4	5	3	34
3	Manipur	Male	6	7	7	7	2	4	6	6	45
		Female	7	6	6	6	10	7	6	6	54
4	Meghalaya	Male	4	0	6	0	12	6	6	8	42
		Female	8	13	7	13	0	6	6	4	57
5	Mizoram	Male	5	5	6	7	3	6	7	6	45
		Female	7	7	6	5	10	7	5	7	54
6	Nagaland	Male	4	6	7	6	4	4	5	4	40
		Female	8	6	5	6	8	8	6	8	55
7	Sikkim	Male	5	7	4	8	7	3	8	4	46
		Female	7	5	8	4	6	9	5	9	53
8	Tripura	Male	8	6	6	8	8	7	8	8	59
		Female	4	6	6	4	5	6	5	5	41
Total		Male	42	49	49	49	46	43	52	48	378
		Female	57	51	50	47	53	54	46	50	408
		Total Students	99	100	99	96	99	97	98	98	786
		Coordinator	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80

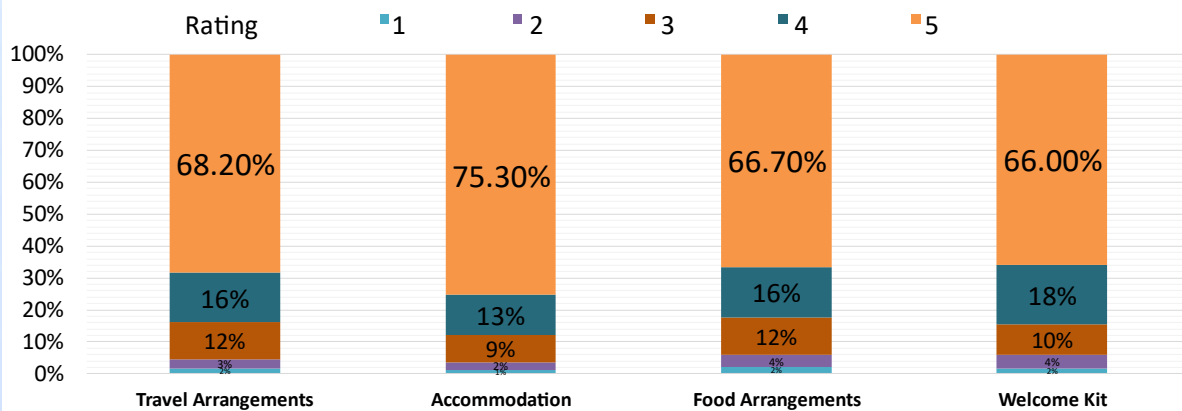
Grand Total (Students + Coordinators) = 866

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS & COORDINATORS

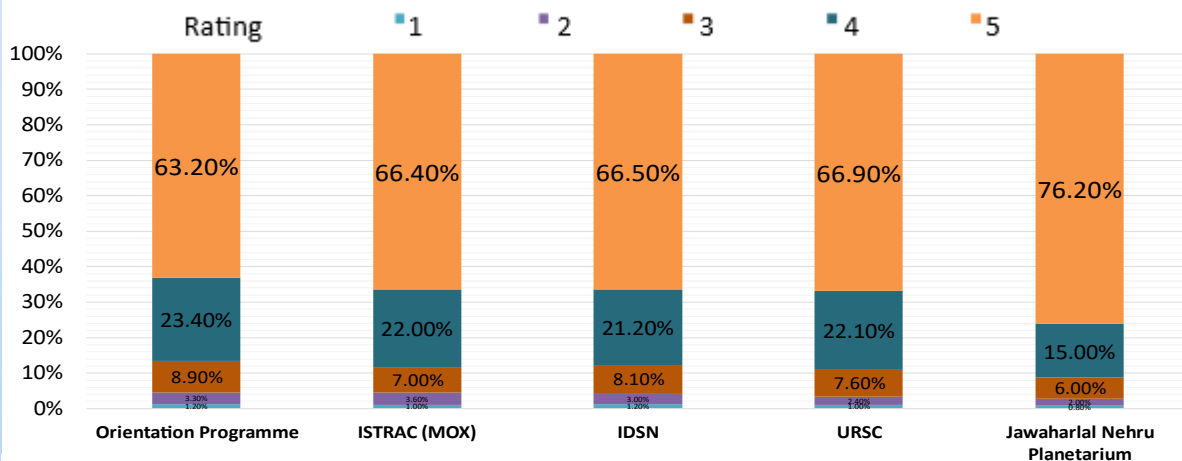
Participant Type



How satisfied were you with the Travel & logistics?



Feedback on Specific Programme Components



Overall Program Rating

Average rating (4.71)





SPECIAL MOMENTS



PREPARED BY TEAM NESAC

नवमि शिक्षण संस्था
NESAC

DR JONALI GOSWAMI, NODAL OFFICER, NESPARKS
SUMANTH B C, FOCAL OFFICER, NESPARKS