



INFOWATCH



An In-house Monthly Communication (August, 2026)

National Space Day 2026 Celebration held at CSIR-NEIST Jorhat

CSIR-NEIST celebrated National Space Day 2026 with a day-long programme on 18 August, 2026, at J N Baruah Auditorium. The programme was organised by the Assam State Space Application Centre (ASSAC) in collaboration with the North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Umiam; CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat; Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), Guwahati; and Jorhat Science Centre & Planetarium. The event was graced by Dr Jaideep Baruah, Director, ASTEC; Dr K K Sarma, Group Director, NESAC; Shri P L N Raju, Director, Assam State Space Application Centre (ASSAC); Dr S P Agarwal, Director, NESAC; Shri Pankaj Borah, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat; Dr D K Das, Former Director, Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad; Austeeka Atri, Scientist/Engineer, UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bangalore; Prof Madhurjya Bora, Department of Physics, Gauhati University; Dr Aishawnniya Sharma, Bahona College Jorhat; and many more prominent scientists, academicians, administrators, students, project associates and space-technology enthusiasts. The proceedings of the inaugural session were conducted by Dr B K Handique, Chairman, Local Organising Committee, National Space Day 2026 for North East and West Bengal. Addressing the gathering, Dr B K Handique spoke about the history, objectives and evolution of the Assam State Space Application Centre (ASSAC) and its role in promoting the application of space technology for the development of the state.

Shri P L N Raju, Director, ASSAC; in his welcome address, highlighted India's remarkable achievements in space exploration, particularly the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the south polar region of the Moon, marking a historic achievement for the country. He also recalled the significant contributions of Dr Jitendra Nath Goswami to India's space application programme.



Shri P L N Raju, delivering welcome address

Referring to the growing space ecosystem in Assam, he mentioned the upcoming establishment of an ISRO centre at Chandrapur and the emerging opportunities for space related industries and activities in Assam. He further noted that Assam is moving towards developing its own satellite based systems, which could open up new opportunities for technological development and employment for the youth of the state.

In his speech, Dr S P Agarwal shared his experiences as part of the team associated with the Chandrayaan-3 mission and appreciated the dedication and hard work of the scientists behind India's successful lunar mission. He emphasised how determination, perseverance and focused efforts can lead to historic achievements. Tracing the evolution of space exploration, he referred to landmark missions such as Sputnik-1 and Luna-2, and highlighted the importance of Chandrayaan-1, which provided significant evidence supporting the presence of water molecules on the Moon.

Dr Agarwal also highlighted the role of NESAC in applying space technology for regional development, including monitoring food security, agriculture, deforestation, urban development and other critical sectors across the Northeast. Recalling the contributions of eminent Indian space personalities such as Dr A P J Abdul Kalam and Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, he encouraged

students to remain curious, work harder and not be afraid of failure.



Dr S P Agarwal delivering his speech on the occasion



Dr V M Tiwari, while delivering his welcome address

Addressing the gathering, Dr V M Tiwari, Director, CSIR-NEIST, expressed his gratitude to the distinguished guests and participating organisations for joining the celebration. He highlighted the significant contributions of ISRO and NESAC in harnessing space technology for societal development and appreciated the technical capabilities of NESAC in monitoring and understanding the Northeast region. Dr Tiwari also spoke about the history and significance of National Science Day and the contribution of Nobel laureate Prof C V Raman, drawing attention to the broader importance of scientific achievements in inspiring generations. Dr Tiwari emphasised that space technology has become an important tool for society, particularly in observing and monitoring natural and other potentially devastating events for preparedness, preplanning and decision making. He appreciated the contributions of space scientists and organisations towards improving the quality of life and strengthening science driven development.



Dr V M Tiwari, Director, CSIR-NEIST and Dr S P Agarwal, Director, NESAC along with officials from both institutes during MoU signing ceremony.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CSIR-NEIST and NESAC was also signed to facilitate collaborative research and resource sharing between the two parties. A departmental brochure and ceremonial souvenir were also released by the distinguished guests during the event.



Shri Pankaj Borah delivering his speech

Shri Pankaj Borah, in his speech, appreciated CSIR-NEIST, ASSAC and NESAC for organising the programme and for bringing the importance of space technology closer to students and the general public. He highlighted the growing impact of space technology in everyday life and spoke about the use of GIS and GPS technologies, including their applications in the digitalisation of land ownership and governance. Dr Jaydeep Baruah, in his speech, spoke about the potential of space technology in everyday life and various sectors of public development. He highlighted its applications in healthcare and governance as well as initiatives such as Mission Basundhara in Assam. He also recalled the contributions of Dr Jitendra Nath Goswami to India's space missions. Dr Baruah also highlighted the Government of Assam's growing interest in adopting space technology for development.



Dr Jaideep Baruah, while delivering his speech

The first session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Mr Prasanna Baruah.

The inaugural session was followed by an expert session featuring talks on satellite technology, Chandrayaan missions, stellar evolution, the Aditya-L1 mission and the broader applications of space science for humanity.

Dr D K Das delivered a talk on “Satellite Technology: Reaching the Unreached”, Austeeka Atri spoke on the evolution of Chandrayaan missions and India's lunar exploration journey. Prof Madhuriya Bora presented sessions on the journey of a star and the vastness of the universe, and Dr Aishawnya Sharma spoke on the dynamic Sun and the Aditya-L1 mission. An interactive session on exploring space for humanity was moderated by Dr K K Sharma.

As part of the programme the final round of a quiz competition for school students was also featured following preliminary round held on 17 August, 2026. The day long programme was concluded with a Valedictory Session and a Vote of Thanks by Dr Mantu Bhuyan, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEIST.



Dr D K Das, delivering his talk during the technical session

CSIR-NEIST inaugurated the Second Comprehensive Training programme on Animal Research & Experimentation and Good Laboratory Practices

CSIR-NEIST inaugurated the 2nd Comprehensive Training on Animal Research and Experimentation (CARE) and Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) on 17 August 2026. The training programme, sponsored by the Department of Health Research (DHR) will be conducted from 17 August to 11 September 2026.

The inaugural programme was graced by Dr Dipjyoti Rajkhowa, Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, as the Chief Guest. Dr V M Tiwari, Director, CSIR-NEIST, along with scientists, staff members and research scholars of the Institute, was also present on the occasion.

The objective of the training programme is to strengthen knowledge and skills in animal research and experimentation and Good Laboratory Practices, with emphasis on responsible and scientifically sound practices in laboratory research.

In his welcome address, Dr V M Tiwari expressed his appreciation towards Assam Agricultural University for their continued support in strengthening scientific and human resource capabilities in the region. He also appreciated the participation of the attendees despite the communication and transportation challenges caused by the ongoing flood situation in the region.



Dr V M Tiwari felicitating Dr Dipjyoti Rajkhowa

Dr Tiwari highlighted that good laboratory practices and adherence to ethical norms are among the most important pillars of quality education and research. He also stressed the importance of the training programme that aims to strengthen scientific knowledge, practical skills, ethical practices and laboratory standards among researchers and professionals involved in animal experimentation. Dr

Himangshu Kaushik Bora, Scientist E & Coordinator of the programme provided an overview of the training programme, highlighting its objectives, structure and workflow. He stated that the programme has been designed to provide participants with both scientific understanding and practical knowledge of animal research, experimentation and Good Laboratory Practices.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Dipjyoti Rajkhowa thanked CSIR-NEIST for organizing the training programme and described it as a valuable opportunity for researchers and professionals across the North Eastern region.



Group photo of the participants

He highlighted the importance of integrated farming systems as climate resilient and sustainable approaches and noted their growing relevance in the context of changing climatic conditions. Dr Rajkhowa also spoke about the emergence of new diseases, including zoonotic diseases, which may be influenced by environmental and climatic changes. He emphasized the need for their timely diagnosis, scientific understanding and appropriate treatment, noting that training programmes such as CARE and GLP can play an important role in building capacity to tackle such emerging challenges in the region. Encouraging the participants, Dr Rajkhowa urged them to pursue their work with perseverance, dedication and commitment. The inaugural session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr Rinku Baishya.

Independence Day Celebration at CSIR-NEIST

Along with the rest of the country, CSIR-NEIST celebrated the 80th Independence Day with great enthusiasm on 15 August, 2026. Dr V M Tiwari, Director, CSIR-NEIST hoisted the National Flag followed by a ceremonial Guard of Honour. Addressing the gathering, Dr Tiwari highlighted the role of eminent Indian scientists in strengthening the nation through scientific research, innovation and technological advancement. He acknowledged the contributions of CSIR-NEIST researchers and highlighted the institute's significant achievements in research and technology development. Dr Tiwari highlighted the

installation of the Bioreactor Unit for Bio-Fertilizer Production at the CSIR-NEIST Branch Laboratory, Lamphelpat, Imphal, with an aim to promote and support local bio-fertilizer production and sustainable agricultural practices in the state. The facility was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh. Highlighting CSIR-NEIST's engagement with the farming community, Dr Tiwari also spoke about various farmer oriented programmes undertaken by the institute across the North East Region and the progress achieved through these initiatives. Dr Tiwari underscored CSIRNEIST's commitment to contributing towards a scientifically advanced India and supporting the national vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. The celebrations also featured sports activities including cycle rally, football, marathon etc.



Dr V M Tiwari, Director, CSIR-NEIST addressing the gathering during Independence Day celebration.



Marathon race in the institute's campus



Cycle rally organized by CSIR-NEIST on the occasion

Activities under Floriculture Mission:

CSIR-NEIST's Contribution to Advancing Floriculture Entrepreneurship in Nagaland

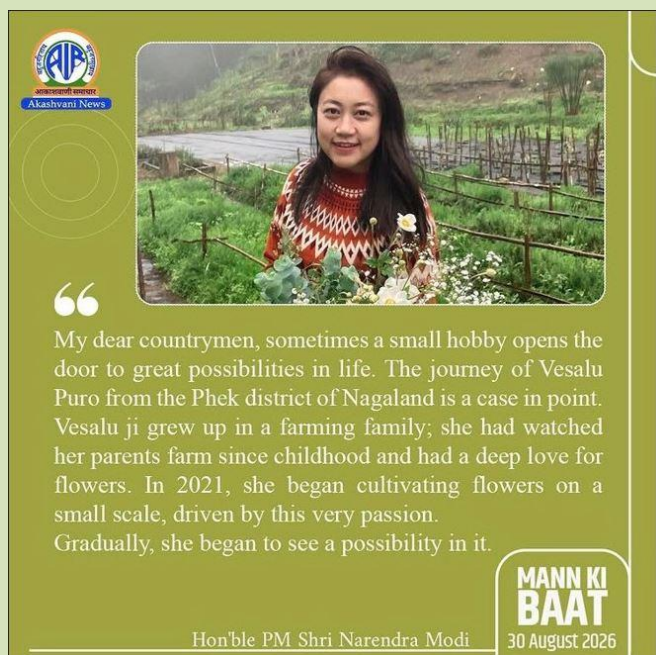
The success of Ms Vesalu Puro, a progressive flower grower and an entrepreneur from Porba village in Phek district of Nagaland, stands as an inspiring example of how science and technology interventions can transform rural livelihoods. Her journey, which has taken her from a modest flower-growing initiative to a diversified commercial enterprise, recently received national recognition when Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted her story during Mann Ki Baat on 30 August, 2026.



An important chapter in this journey has been Vesalu's association with the CSIR Floriculture Mission implemented through CSIR-NEIST. Through the Mission, the Institute extended technological and infrastructural support aimed at strengthening floriculture as a viable livelihood option in the region.

The intervention provided an opportunity for Vesalu to adopt improved cultivation practices and move towards a more organised and commercially oriented flower enterprise.

A key component of the support was the establishment of a Polyhouse in 2022. With the support received under the Floriculture Mission, Vesalu gradually diversified her production. Her farm now features a wide range of flowers, including gladiolus, hydrangeas, peonies, delphiniums, stocks and eucalyptus, among other seasonal and premium cut-flower varieties. Vesalu's enterprise has now grown into a livelihood-generating venture with an annual turnover of approximately ₹5 lakh. Beyond income generation, her work has encouraged local employment and motivated the generation towards entrepreneurship. Her farm has also developed into a site for educational visits and agro-tourism activities.



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