

NECTAR IMPACT

Showcasing Achievements and Innovations

Editorial | From the Editor-in-Chief

We are pleased to present the inaugural issue of NECTAR Impact, the official e-newsletter of the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR). Conceived as a platform to document and disseminate NECTAR's efforts, it showcases initiatives aimed at technology-driven, inclusive, and sustainable development in the North Eastern Region of India.

In recent months, NECTAR has strengthened its role as a catalyst for innovation by translating scientific and technological solutions into tangible outcomes for farmers, artisans, entrepreneurs, students, and institutions. Initiatives spanning organic farming, value-chain development, drone-enabled solutions, skill development, and international cooperation reflect our commitment to addressing region-specific challenges while empowering communities.

This issue highlights key milestones, including technology-led outreach programs, the launch of mobile processing infrastructure for farmers, progress under flagship initiatives such as PM-DevINE, and NECTAR's growing international engagement, with recognition by the Ministry of External Affairs enabling cross-border knowledge exchange.

As NECTAR Impact evolves, it will serve as a record of achievements as well as a forum for ideas, partnerships, and shared learning. We acknowledge and thank our stakeholders, collaborators, and team members whose sustained efforts continue to advance NECTAR's mission of regional transformation through technology.

—Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma

Cover Story



NECTAR successfully organized an Organic Festival cum Exhibition under the PM-DevINE scheme on 6th – 7th March 2026 at Sarokri, Guwahati. The event reinforced NECTAR's commitment to promoting sustainable and scientific agriculture across the North Eastern Region

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In another major milestone, on 13th March 2026, the Hon'ble Governor launched NECTAR's Mobile Food Processing Unit, designed to bring processing facilities directly to farmers, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance farm-level value addition. This innovation marks a significant step toward decentralized agro-processing and improved rural livelihoods

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Electrical potter's wheel to transform terracotta handicraft in Asharikandi

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Inauguration of the Agartala CFC under PM-DevINE Banana project

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"One-day Workshop on road map formulation for implementation of the project " Survey and mapping of mining affected areas in Meghalaya using Airborne Lidar and Hyperspectral sensing for assessment of biodiversity loss, restoration, planning and carbon sequestration accounting" on 10th March 2026".

NECTAR Goes International...

NECTAR's proposal for establishing a "Digital Technology Centre for Design and Processing of Bamboo" in Ghana has been officially referenced by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This recognition underscores NECTAR's growing reputation as a technology partner and sets the stage for international project implementation in the forthcoming financial year. [Read More](#)



Capacity Building & Community Engagement

A Two-Day Training cum Workshop on Organic Farming and Integrated Farming Clusters (IFC) was jointly organized by NECTAR and MSRLS on 20th -21st January 2026, strengthening grassroots-level technical capacity.



The Mobile Processing Unit underwent its first field trial at the Puriang Organic Cluster, validating operational feasibility and economic performance on 24th January 2026

Bee boxes and colonies were distributed to beneficiaries in Papumpare district, Arunachal Pradesh, under the NBB NBHM project, supporting livelihood diversification on 25th January 2026



Product Launch: Champhai Honey

Supported by NECTAR and implemented by Centre of Learning, Knowledge & Services (COLKS), "Champhai Honey" launched by COLKS on 25.03.2026 is a community-driven brand from 50 beekeepers in Champhai, Indo-Myanmar border with a newly inaugurated CFC to enhance sustainable beekeeping and livelihoods.



Partnership Highlights

NECTAR expanded its institutional collaboration framework through multiple Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs), strengthening implementation capacities across sectors and states.



12.02.2026: MoA signed between NECTAR and Assam Don Bosco University at Hazra, Guwahati



20.2.2026: MoA signing and meeting held at DC office, Wokha district Nagaland.



20.3.2026: MoA signed between NECTAR and Skills Root, the Project Management Agency for Skills related training program in NE states.



24.03.2026: MoA signed with CAU Umiam as an implementing partner, PMDevINE Organic

Moments @ NECTAR



7.01.2026: Two bee-boxes with apis cerana colony installed at Shillong Office campus



2.02.2026: One day Rashtriya Karmayogi large scale jan seva program being conducted at Shillong



04-06.02.2026: Enhancing Governance Excellence: NECTAR CVO Completes INSA Module on Vigilance Administration



25.02.2026: NECTAR celebrates National Science Day 2026 with Student Innovation Exhibition

NECTAR Family – Achievements

A NECTAR Master Trainer from the Jaintia Hills, Smt. Matilda Shadap was honoured by the Government of Meghalaya on the occasion of International Women's Day 2026 for excellence in agri-led entrepreneurship and community empowerment an achievement that reflects NECTAR's impact at the grassroots level.



Interviews from the North East

In Conversation with Professor Pinakeswar Mahanta, Director, NIT Meghalaya

PROF. P. MAHANTA



In this inaugural edition of NECTAR Impact, we are honored to feature a conversation with Professor Pinakeswar Mahanta, Director of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya—a distinguished academic leader, institution builder, and one of the top 2% scientists in the world. His journey, marked by decades of dedication to teaching, research, and transformative leadership, reflects the spirit of innovation and resilience that defines the North Eastern Region.

1. Could you briefly share your academic and professional journey, and what inspired you to take up leadership at NIT Meghalaya?

Answer: My academic and professional journey has been shaped by a deep engagement with teaching, research, and institution-building. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work across diverse domains, contributing to both academic excellence and administrative leadership. What inspired me to take up a leadership role at NIT Meghalaya is the immense potential of this institution, situated in a region that is rich in natural resources, cultural diversity, and untapped talent. I see this as an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to nation-building by strengthening higher education and research in the North Eastern Region.

2. What is your long-term vision for NIT Meghalaya?

Answer: Our long-term vision is to transform NIT Meghalaya into a center of excellence with strong regional relevance, delivering outcome-based education, promoting interdisciplinary research, and addressing local challenges through technology-driven solutions. In the context of the North East, the institute will serve as a knowledge hub that contributes to sustainable development, capacity building, and socio-economic upliftment.

3. How can institutions like NIT Meghalaya address region-specific challenges?

Answer: Institutions like NIT Meghalaya can play a transformative role by developing context-specific technologies, such as solutions for difficult terrains, innovations in connectivity, sustainable resource management, and skill development programs for local livelihoods.

4. How do you view the role of indigenous knowledge systems?

Answer: Indigenous knowledge holds immense value. Integrating traditional wisdom with modern science can lead to sustainable, culturally aligned technologies that benefit local communities.

5. How can NIT Meghalaya and NECTAR collaborate?

Answer: Collaboration is essential for translating research into real-world impact. Partnerships between NIT Meghalaya and organizations like NECTAR can focus on joint research, pilot projects, technology deployment, and capacity-building initiatives.

6. What steps are being taken to promote innovation and entrepreneurship?

Answer: NIT Meghalaya is nurturing a vibrant innovation ecosystem through incubation centres, support for student startups, mentorship programs, and participation in national initiatives like Startup India.

7. What message would you like to give to the youth of the North East?

Answer: I would encourage young students to believe in their potential, remain curious, and pursue their aspirations with dedication, contributing to the progress of their region and the nation.

8. Which emerging technologies are most promising for the North East?

Answer: Technologies like renewable energy, AI, IoT-based smart solutions, sustainable construction technologies, and climate-resilient systems are key drivers of future regional development.


9. How do you view the existing startup ecosystem in the country, and how can NIT Meghalaya contribute to it from a North East perspective?

Answer: India's startup landscape is thriving, however the North East must participate more strongly. NIT Meghalaya aims to encourage region-specific startups through incubation support, technical mentorship, and industry collaboration.

As we present this edition, we extend our sincere gratitude to Professor Mahanta for sharing his insights. His leadership and values echo NECTAR's commitment to fostering innovation, celebrating regional talent, and building a technologically empowered North East.

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