

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1317

To be answered on

Thursday, July 30, 2026/ 8 Shravana, 1948 (Saka)

QUESTION

NE-SPARKS Programme

1317# **Smt. Seema Dwivedi:**

Shri Ujjwal Deorao Nikam:

Dr. Kalpana Saini:

Will the Minister of **Development of North Eastern Region** be pleased to state:

- (a) the objective and the present status of the North East Students' Programme for Awareness, Reach and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS);
- (b) the beneficiary coverage achieved under the Programme;
- (c) the measures undertaken to promote awareness of space science, technology and STEM education among students of the North Eastern Region; and
- (d) the expected outcomes of the Programme?

ANSWER

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

[Dr. Sukanta Majumdar]

(a) The North East Students Programme for Awareness, Reach and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS) sponsored by North Eastern Council (NEC), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region with the objective to create awareness on space science and technology among students of the North Eastern Region by providing first-hand exposure to India's space programme, interaction with ISRO scientists and encouraging students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

The programme was implemented by North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Umiam, Meghalaya, in coordination with the North Eastern Council (NEC), ISRO and the

Governments of the eight North Eastern States. It was conducted in eight batches from April 2025 to December 2025.

(b) A total of 786 students (408 Girls and 378 boys) guided by 80 State Coordinators, (10 from each State) successfully completed the programme.

(c) The measures undertaken under NE-SPARK to promote awareness of space science, technology and STEM education among students of the North Eastern Region include:

- Exposure visits to ISRO facilities including ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Satellite Control Centre (SCC), Mission Operations Complex (MOX), Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN), U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), ISRO Satellite Integration and Test Establishment (ISITE) and Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium.
- Interaction with the Chairman, ISRO, senior scientists and engineers.
- Presentations on the Indian Space Programme, satellite technology and its applications.
- Demonstration of satellite mission operations and deep-space communication systems.
- Hands-on water rocket demonstration for experiential learning.
- Science sensitization sessions and planetarium shows to foster scientific temperament and encourage students towards STEM education.

(d) The programme is expected to enhance awareness of space science and technology among students of the North Eastern Region, promote scientific temperament and innovation, encourage students to pursue higher education and careers in STEM disciplines, provide exposure to India's space research ecosystem, and strengthen collaboration among NEC, NESAC, ISRO and the State Governments for science and technology outreach in the North Eastern Region.
