

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA

Unstarred Question NO. 2910

To be answered on

Thursday, August 13, 2026/ 22 Shravana, 1948 (Saka)

QUESTION

Exchange Programmes

2910 Shri Devendra Pratap Singh:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry, in coordination with national integration schemes, has organized student and youth exchange programmes between Chhattisgarh and the North Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the details of participation levels and cross-cultural learning achieved under these initiatives;
- (c) whether best practices in bamboo crafts and organic farming from the North East are being shared with Chhattisgarh's tribal artisans; and
- (d) the details of subsequent livelihood benefits generated?

ANSWER

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

[Dr. Sukanta Majumdar]

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has launched the flagship initiative “Ashtalakshmi Darshan – Youth Exchange Programme” under the visionary leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, on 1st November 2025. The programme aims to deepen national integration, foster emotional integration, promote people-to-people connections, and enhance understanding of the North Eastern Region among the youth through fourteen (14) days immersive experience (9-day academic curriculum covering geography, culture, governance and diversity of North East Region and 5-days of field exposure to heritage sites, industries and ecological zones). Under the said programme, twenty (20) students from Chhattisgarh visited IIT Guwahati, Assam from March 15 to 28, 2026.

(c) & (d): Aadi Mahotsav, the flagship initiative of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, is an annual national event dedicated to showcasing and promoting the rich tribal heritage, culture, traditional arts and crafts, cuisine and commerce of India. The Aadi Mahotsav 2026 was organised at Agartala, Tripura, from 14th to 21st February 2026. The Mahotsav brought together tribal artisans from the North-Eastern region and Chhattisgarh along with the tribal artisans from other states.