NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL ADVANCES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH ₹79.53 CRORE FUND RELEASES DURING OCTOBER

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Strategic connectivity, rural infrastructure, agro-based enterprise and educational facilities receive a boost; key projects in science, livelihoods and cultural preservation reach completion

Shillong, November 7, 2026

The North Eastern Council (NEC), under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), continued to drive development across the Northeast during October 2026, supporting initiatives aimed at improving connectivity, strengthening rural infrastructure, promoting agro-based and industrial activities, expanding scientific and educational facilities, and preserving the region's rich cultural heritage. Funding was released under the Schemes of NEC (SoNEC) and the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme-Roads (NESIDS-Roads), alongside support for strategic projects in the region.

Fund releases support priority projects across the region

The major state-wise allocations and supported initiatives included:

Meghalaya received ₹26.56 crore, with a major share directed towards the rehabilitation and strengthening of the 46.08-km Chokpot–Kharukol road under NESIDS-Roads. The project is expected to benefit 78 villages and more than 15,000 residents. Support was also provided for the establishment of a Multi-Disciplinary Training-cum-Resource Centre in Shillong.

Sikkim received 15.51 crore for initiatives aimed at strengthening organic agriculture and improving₹ veterinary healthcare. These included support for the 'Empowering Organic Growth' initiative through the strengthening of Internal Control Systems (ICS) and trade facilitation, as well as the upgradation of district veterinary hospitals into modern polyclinics in Pakyong, Soreng, Mangan and Gyalshing.

In Assam, ₹14.79 crore was released under SoNEC and NESIDS-Roads for a range of connectivity, livelihood and heritage-related initiatives. These included rural road links such as Mangaldoi– Mazikuchi and the Bogamati–Umananda link via Naobandha and Khaagrabari, an RCC bridge in Udalguri, a 20,000-litre dairy processing plant at Patacharkuchi, support for Deori tribal weavers in Lakhimpur, and the Sepoy Mutiny War Memorial at Hailakandi.

Arunachal Pradesh received ₹11.18 crore, with support focused on strategic road connectivity in border and remote areas. Key projects included the Riaga–Sango road in Kra Daadi district and the 21km Amuli–Athuni road via Leyaka Pass at Anini. Funding was also directed towards the construction of a girls' hostel at Donyi Polo Government College, Kamki.

Nagaland received ₹7.99 crore for initiatives spanning enterprise development, trade facilitation, mineral-resource assessment and road connectivity. These included the proposed establishment of a Supercritical Extraction Unit and a Community Trade Link Centre at Jalukie, evaluation of strategic and critical minerals, upgradation of the Lampong Sheanghah–Nyasa road in Mon district, and support for backward-area development in Phomching.

Tripura received ₹3.50 crore for the establishment of the Agar International Trade and Research Centre, aimed at strengthening commercial value chains in the agarwood sector. Support was also extended to research documenting the contributions of tribal freedom fighters.

In Manipur and Mizoram, support was extended for a number of important initiatives. These included road projects such as Lamlai–Thoubal Dam and Kamjong–Phungyar, a PSC bridge over the Leimakhong River, infrastructure for the Barak Heritage Festival in Senapati, facilities at Oriental College in Imphal West, a modern jaggery processing centre at Phulpui, and a market at West Phaileng.

Projects completed across infrastructure, science and culture

Alongside the release of funds for new and ongoing initiatives, several projects across the region were completed or formally closed during October, reflecting progress in infrastructure development, scientific research, agriculture, livelihood promotion, education and cultural preservation.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the 6-km strategic road connecting BRTF Road to Pidi in West Siang was completed at a cost of ₹19.55 crore, improving access to the Mechukha area. The newly constructed Mini Football Stadium at Chowkham in Namsai district was also operationalised.

Assam recorded notable progress in scientific and rural development. The Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, commissioned its expanded Tissue Culture Laboratory, increasing its bamboo tissue-culture capacity tenfold—from 3,000 to 30,000 plantlets. Other completed initiatives included the integrated development of Socheng Development Block in West Karbi Anglong, the provision of essential services at Rongmongwe Block in Karbi Anglong, and the development of a high-tech horticulture nursery. In Meghalaya, North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, completed the design and development of low-cost laboratory instruments.

In Nagaland, two capacity-building initiatives were successfully completed: a post-harvest rubbersheet processing support project that provided roller machines to farmers, and a specialised technical training programme in commercial fruit-wine making.

Mizoram completed the construction of the Aizawl Institute of Art and Music at Tuivamit Tlang and formally closed its project on integrating socio-cultural events with economic value chains. Progress was also recorded in culture, heritage and education. In Manipur, heritage conservation works were completed for the historic Panam Ningthou Immortal Fire and ancient monuments at Andro. Academic and infrastructure-related strengthening of Hindi sections in ten government colleges was also completed.

Strengthening financial inclusion and preserving regional heritage

Beyond infrastructure and sector-specific development, NEC also supported the recently concluded North East Bankers Conclave 3.0 in Aizawl. Besides deliberations on big project financing, it also discussed ways to strengthen institutional credit flows to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and women's self-help groups (SHGs) across all eight Northeastern states.

The Council also advanced historical research documenting the contributions of tribal chiefs and freedom fighters of the 18th and 19th centuries from across the region. These initiatives reflect NEC's continued emphasis on a development approach that combines improved infrastructure and economic opportunity with the preservation and promotion of the Northeast's distinct cultural and historical legacy.