

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION, ASSAM
KAHILIPARA :..... GUWAHATI
e-mail: directorhigherassam123@gmail.com

No. DHE/PA/Misc/1/2026/120

Dated Kahilipara, the 12th Oct. 2026

From: Smti. Gayatri Naiding, AES.
Joint Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19.

To, All Registrars of Assam State Universities.
All Principals of Govt./Provincialized/ Autonomous/PDUAM/Govt.
Model Colleges of Assam.

Sub: Dissemination of information regarding North East Seva First
Innovation Challenge (NESFIC) 2026.

Ref: 1. Govt. letter no. E-845148/2026/75, dated 07-10-2026.
2. DIIS Letter No.E-679200/18 dated 03/10/2026.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the letter received from the Higher Education Department, Government of Assam, regarding the dissemination of information on the North East Seva First Innovation Challenge (NESFIC) 2026, for information and necessary action.

In this regard, all Heads of Higher Educational Institutions are requested to take necessary steps to disseminate the information among students, faculty members, research scholars and other stakeholders of their respective institutions to ensure wide awareness and participation in the said initiative.

The details of the challenge and registration portal are available at the following link: <https://startup.assam.gov.in/nesfic26>

You are, therefore, requested to take necessary action accordingly.

Encl.: As stated above.

Yours faithfully


Joint Director of Higher Education, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Memo No. DHE/PA/Misc/1/2026/120-A

Dated Kahilipara, the 12th Oct. 2026

Copy to:-

1. PA to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Higher Education Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
2. P.A. to Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Department of Innovation, Incubation & Start-Ups(DIIS), Assam, Dispur, Ghy-06.


Joint Director of Higher Education,
Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
DISPUR:::GUWAHATI-6**

Block-C, Ground Floor, Janata Bhawan, higheredn.assam@assam.gov.in

NO.E-845148/2026/75

From: Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Higher Education Department,
Janata Bhawan, Dispur-06

To: 1). The Director of Higher Education,
Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19.

2). The Director of Technical Education,
Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19.

Sub: Dissemination of information regarding the North East Seva First Innovation
Challenge (NESFIC) 2026.

Ref: Letter no. 679200/18 dated 03-10-2026.

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter received from the Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Department of Innovation, Incubation & Start-Ups (DIIS) requesting for dissemination of NESFIC 2026 details to educational institutions across Assam, which is self-explanatory.

In this regard, you are requested to take necessary action from your end.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
NAYAN KUMAR PATHAK
Date: 07-10-2026
16:40:05

Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Higher Education Department.

Memo.NO-E-845148/2026/75-A

Copy to:-

- 1) P.A. to Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Department of Innovation, Incubation & Start-Ups(DIIS), Assam, Dispur, Ghy-06.
- 2) P.A. to Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Higher Education, Department, Assam, Dispur, Ghy-06.

(Digitally Signed)

Additional Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Higher Education Department.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INCUBATION & START-UPS (DIIS)
Block-I, 4th Floor, Janata Bhawan Dispur, Guwahati -781 006 (Assam) :: dii-startups@assam.gov.in
Website: <https://diis.assam.gov.in/>

No.E-679200/18

Dated –As on e-Sign

From: Dr. Jeevan B., IAS
Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Department of Innovation, Incubation & Start-Ups (DIIS),
Dispur, Guwahati – 781 006

To : The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Higher & School Education Department
Assam Secretariat
Dispur, Guwahati – 781 006

Sub : Request for dissemination of NESFIC 2026 details to educational institutions
across Assam-*regd.*

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I convey to you that the registrations for the North East Seva First Innovation Challenge 2026 under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan are going on.

In view of above and to ensure widespread awareness and participation, I request you to forward herewith the NESFIC 2026 Brochure and Promotion Material along (*attached herewith*) to the educational institutions across Assam.

The institutions may be requested to disseminate the information through their departments, incubation centres, innovation and entrepreneurship cells, research centres, student and alumni networks, and other institutional platforms. They may also be encouraged to facilitate awareness and orientation sessions, physically on campus or virtually, at mutually convenient dates and times.

Further, each institution may be requested to nominate a nodal person or team to coordinate with AISF for the proposed sessions and outreach activities. Your kind support in facilitating this outreach will help make NESFIC 2026 a meaningful platform for collaborative innovation and problem-solving across the State.

Shri Kankan Kharghoria (Mob: +91-98839 62502) is the nodal person and may be reached out for any queries.

The link to the portal is as follows: <https://startup.assam.gov.in/nesfic26>

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
JEEVAN BASAVARAJAPPA
Date: 03-10-2026
15:39:40

Enclosed as stated above.

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Dept. of Innovation, Incubation & Start-Ups (DIIS)

Memo No. E-679200/18-A

Dated –As on e-Sign

Copy to:-

1. The MD, AISF, O/o Assam Startup-The Nest, Ambari, Guwahati – 781 001 for kind necessary action.

Government of Assam
Department of Innovation
Incubation and Startups



Ashtalakshmi for Viksit Bharat 2047



Your College Project • Your Research
Your Prototype • Your Idea.

What if it could move beyond the classroom and become a solution used in the real world?

The North-East Seva First Innovation Challenge 2026 brings students, researchers, faculty and innovators closer to real challenges identified by government departments and industry across the North-East.

Build. Test. Take your idea towards the real world.

WHO CAN Participate?

You can participate if you are:

- A student, researcher or faculty member
- From a school, university, college, IIT, polytechnic or ITI
- From anywhere in India
- An individual or part of a team of up to 5
- DPIIT recognition is welcome, but not mandatory



01 SOLVE A REAL CHALLENGE

Choose from **50 curated problem statements** from government departments, industry and MSMEs across the North-East.

40 Government Challenges + 10 Industry Challenges

Each challenge has a defined problem and challenge owner, with opportunities for data, testing and a route towards procurement or purchase.

02 BRING YOUR OWN INNOVATION

Have your own idea or working solution?

Bring it forward through the **Open Innovation** route.

Explore opportunities across:

Technology

AI, North-East languages, geospatial, electronics, IoT, drones, clean energy, biotech and cybersecurity.

Non-Technology

Business models, design, market access, tea, bamboo, handloom, handicrafts, food processing and tourism.

Social Impact

Health, education, livelihoods, inclusion and environment.

REAL PROBLEM **IDEA** **PROTOTYPE** **TESTING** **DEPLOYMENT**

Turn what you are building into something that can be used.

MORE THAN A COMPETITION

NESFIC is designed to help promising ideas move towards development, testing and real-world implementation.

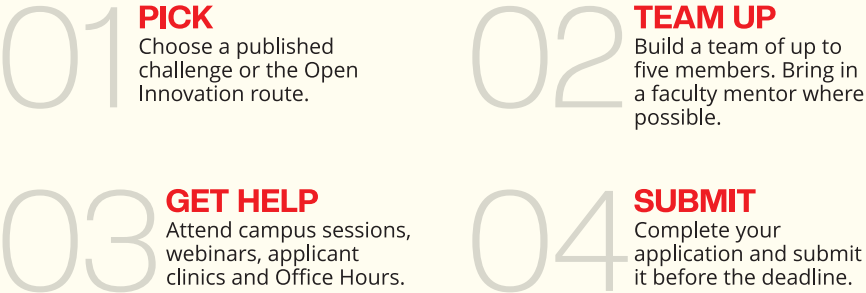
WHAT CAN YOU GET?

Use 5 or 6 compact benefit blocks:

₹10 lakh Idea-stage grant ceiling for selected teams.	₹20–40 lakh MVP grant at Demo Day, with the higher amount for deep-tech.	MENTORSHIP Technical validation and testing support from IIT Guwahati, business-model support from IIM Calcutta, along with faculty and industry mentors.
BUILD & TEST Access to incubation, laboratories, workshops and other facilities through the programme ecosystem.	REAL-WORLD OPPORTUNITY For Open Challenges, solutions can move towards a government department or industry partner that identified the problem, with a defined route towards procurement or purchase.	ACCELERATION Selected high-potential innovations can receive research mentoring, IP and patent support, product development support and showcase opportunities.

HOW DO I START?

Make this a simple 4-step horizontal flow:



KEY DATES

I'd make this visually prominent,
perhaps as a vertical timeline:

- ▶ **25 SEPTEMBER 2026**
National Launch & Challenge Bank
- ▶ **25 SEPTEMBER – 10 OCTOBER 2026**
Webinars, orientation, workshops & outreach
- ▶ **25 OCTOBER 2026**
Last date for queries
- ▶ **8 NOVEMBER 2026**
Registration closes
- ▶ **10 NOVEMBER 2026**
Applications close
- ▶ **LATE NOVEMBER 2026**
Grand Finale
Northeast Innovation Conclave, Guwahati



SCAN to
have a detailed
understanding of the
Problem-Statements



**DON'T JUST BUILD A PROJECT.
BUILD SOMETHING THAT CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

REGISTER BY 8 NOVEMBER
APPLY BY 10 NOVEMBER 2026

startup.assam.gov.in/nesfic26



Ashtalakshmi for Viksit Bharat 2047

OPEN TO

STUDENTS RESEARCHERS FACULTY INNOVATORS

Individuals or teams of up to 5 people from Universities, Colleges, IITs, IIMs, Polytechnics & ITIs



TWO STREAMS



Open Challenges: problem statements from government and industry, each with a named owner, data, test sites and a route to procurement.



Open Innovation: your own idea in technology, non-technology or social impact.

WHO CAN APPLY?



Startups, innovators, researchers, professionals and student teams from anywhere in India. Individuals or teams of up to five.

DPIIT recognition not mandatory. Mentoring by IIT Guwahati, IIM Calcutta, IIT Bombay, IISc Bangalore and IIT Tirupati.

Upto **₹ 10 lakh**

idea-stage grant for each selected startup

Upto **₹ 40 lakh**

MVP grant for deep-tech (₹20 lakh general)

Registration closes:
8 November 2026

**REGISTER AND
APPLY ONLINE**
startup.assam.gov.in/nesfic26



Academic Partners



Industry Partners

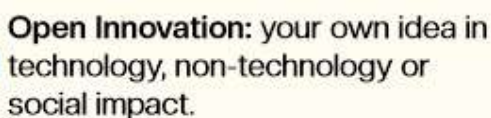
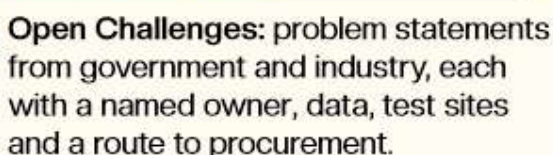


State Mission Partners





Individuals or teams of up to 5 people from Universities, Colleges, IITs, IIMs, Polytechnics & ITIs



WHO CAN APPLY?

Startups, innovators, researchers, professionals and student teams from anywhere in India. Individuals or teams of up to five.

DPIIT recognition not mandatory.
Mentoring by IIT Guwahati, IIM
Calcutta, IIT Bombay, IISc
Bangalore and IIT Tirupati.



idea-stage grant for each
selected startup



MVP grant for deep-tech
(₹20 lakh general)

**Registration closes:
8 November 2026**

**REGISTER AND
APPLY ONLINE**

startup.assam.gov.in/nescic26



Academic Partners



Industry Partners



State Mission Partners

