

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME-ASSAM NEWSLETTER

paving the path to sustainability



Hon'ble Minister, Science and Technology Department
Govt. of Assam presenting Best Eco Club Awards

TOP STORIES OF THIS EDITION >>>

- State Level Celebration of World Environment Day (WED) 2025
- Celebration of Earth Day & International Day for Biological Diversity

from the desk of DIRECTOR

It gives me immense pleasure to present the first edition of the Environment Education Programme (EEP) Newsletter for Assam. This publication is a reflection of our shared commitment to fostering environmental consciousness among the youth and nurturing sustainable practices through education and action.

Over the past quarter, we have witnessed the enthusiastic participation of thousands of Eco Clubs from across Assam in celebrating key environmental days like World Environment Day, Earth Day, and the International Day for Biological Diversity. These events not only created awareness but also inspired students and educators to take meaningful actions in their communities.

Our initiative under the "Sustainable Eco Club Campaign" has shown encouraging results, with over 2,000 Eco Clubs now actively practising vermicomposting. This grassroots momentum is a strong testament to what collective action, guided by education and awareness, can achieve.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the stakeholders who have contributed to this journey. Let this newsletter serve as both a record of our achievements and a motivation to scale greater heights in the months to come. Together, let us continue to pave the path to sustainability.

*Dr. Jaideep Baruah
Director, ASTE Council*

ABOUT EEP IN ASSAM

The Environment Education Programme (EEP) is a scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, formerly known as National Green Corps (NGC) programme. Since its inception in 2001-2002, NGC has played a key role in Assam for developing and implementing various programmes to catalyse children towards promoting a mass movement on environmental conservation. Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTE) has been acting as the implementing agency of this programme in the state of Assam and all the activities under it have been carried out in Eco-Clubs set up in schools and colleges across the state. Currently there are more than 8000 school and 100 college Eco Clubs in Assam.

OBJECTIVES OF EEP

The objective of the Programme is to sensitize children/ youth, on issues related to environment and to motivate them to adopt sustainable lifestyle, through varied pedagogical initiatives like workshops, projects, exhibitions, campaigns, competitions, nature camps, summer vacation programmes, etc.

STATE LEVEL CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2025

▶▶▶ ABOUT THE EVENT

Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC), under the Environment Education Programme (EEP), organized impactful activities across Assam to mark World Environment Day (WED) 2025. With wide participation from Eco Clubs and communities, events focused on plastic pollution and sustainable practices. Activities began post International Day for Biological Diversity (22nd May) and continued till 5th June at both state and district levels for broader outreach.

DISTRICT LEVEL ACTIVITIES

The district level activities were conducted through hundreds of Eco Clubs across the state with support from the District Nodal Agencies. Eco Clubs across schools and colleges actively participated these activities that include:

- Paper Bag Making Workshop
- Mass Plantation Drives
- Mass Awareness Campaigns
- Screening of Environmental Videos
- Cycle and Pedal Rallies
- Clean-Up Drives
- Upcycling of Waste Plastics
- Mission LiFE Pledge
- Wall Magazine
- Environmental plays

STATE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- **Radio Jingles** aired on GUP SHUP 94.3 FM across 3 cities of Assam (Dhubri, Haflong and Guwahati) for conveying the messages on environmental conservation and plastic pollution to a wider audience.
- **Art Competition**, engaging young minds to express their environmental concerns and visions through creativity. Students in large number participated in the competition.
- **Plantation Drive**, led by the Hon'ble Minister, Science and Technology Department, Government of Assam, reaffirming the commitment to a greener future.
- **Popular Talk**, delivered by Dr. Binoy Kr. Saikia, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award recipient for Science and Technology and Principal Scientist at the North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat (NEIST) inspired children, youth, and stakeholders towards adopting science and technology for solving modern problems and addressing climate action.
- **Best Eco Club Awards** presented to three outstanding school Eco Clubs and one college Eco Club for their exemplary efforts in environmental education and action. The recipient schools/colleges are:
 - Dhemaji Girls' Higher Secondary School
 - Modern English School, Nikashi
 - Badhakara High School
 - Mangaldai College



EARTH DAY & INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

»»» BACKGROUND

Earth Day (April 22) and the International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22) are two major environmentally significant days actively celebrated by Eco Clubs across the state. These observances serve as important platforms to educate students about critical environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and pollution.

»»» ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

Thousands of schools and colleges across Assam actively participated in statewide campaigns to mark environmentally significant days. These celebrations, led by Eco Clubs under the Environment Education Programme (EEP), aimed to raise awareness about pressing environmental issues and promote conservation values among students.

A wide range of activities were organized, including poster-making competitions, mass awareness rallies, plantation drives, documentary screenings, debates, and interactive sessions on biodiversity and climate action. These engaging initiatives provided young learners with hands-on experiences and inspired them to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. The overwhelming participation reflected a growing sense of environmental responsibility among Assam's youth.



REVIEW MEETING OF EEP

The Annual Review Meeting of EEP has been organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in New Delhi on 14th May 2025. Representatives from various States and Union Territories participated in the meeting, during which state-wise performance was reviewed and roadmaps for future activities were discussed and formulated.



Green story

As part of the "Sustainable Eco Club Campaign" launched in 2023–24, a series of capacity-building workshops on vermicomposting were conducted across Eco Clubs in Assam. As a result, over 2,000 Eco Clubs are now equipped to produce vermicompost within their school and college campuses. The vermicompost generated is being effectively utilized in campus gardens and has also been creatively presented as eco-friendly gifts to guests and dignitaries, promoting sustainable practices and resourcefulness.



World Environment Day 2025

#BeatPlasticPollution

About the theme

The theme for this year's World Environment Day, "Beat Plastic Pollution," highlights the urgent need to tackle the global plastic crisis. Plastic waste has become one of the most pressing environmental challenges, polluting our rivers, oceans, soil, and even entering our food chain. This theme calls upon individuals, communities, and governments to adopt sustainable practices by reducing single-use plastics, promoting recycling, and switching to eco-friendly alternatives. Together, we can take meaningful steps to protect our planet and build a cleaner, greener future.

Suggested Activities

- Plastic-Free Campus Campaign**
 - Declare your school/college campus as a "Plastic-Free Zone." Ban single-use plastic and promote alternatives.
- Plastic Waste Collection & Recycling Drive**
 - Organize a plastic waste collection week where students bring non-recyclable plastic from their homes to be safely disposed or recycled.
- Creative Competitions**
 - Poster/Slogan/Essay Writing Competitions.
 - Upcycling Challenge: Turn plastic waste into useful or decorative items.
- Pledge and Mission LIFE Action**
 - Take a Plastic-Free Pledge under Mission LIFE. Share LIFE Actions under Mission LIFE to students.

Contact Us

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY-2025

22 MAY 2025

Theme

"Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development"

ABOUT THE DAY

Eco Clubs are urged to celebrate this significant day by organising any of the following activities in their schools/colleges with active participation of students and teachers:

- POSTER MAKING/ SLOGAN WRITING**
It will encourage students to creatively express their thoughts on nature conservation. These activities will also help them understand the importance of biodiversity and inspire responsible environmental behavior.
- ADOPT A TREE/ PLANTATION**
It will instill a sense of responsibility in students towards nurturing and protecting nature. It will also help them learn the ecological importance of trees in preserving biodiversity and combating climate change.
- DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**
It will provide students with visual insights into the richness and threats to biodiversity. It will also inspire critical thinking and motivate students to take informed actions for conservation.
- BIODIVERSITY QUIZ**
It will help students expand their knowledge about various species and ecosystems in an engaging way. It will also encourage curiosity and awareness about the need for conserving biodiversity.
- ECO CLUB BIODIVERSITY REGISTER**
Preparing an Eco Club Biodiversity Register will encourage students to observe, identify, and document local flora and fauna. This hands-on activity will enhance their ecological understanding and foster a deeper connection with their natural surroundings.

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Activity corner



Activity Name: Adopt a Tree

Objective:

To foster a sense of responsibility and long-term connection with nature by encouraging students to observe and care for a specific tree over time.

How to Conduct?

Materials Needed:

- Notebook or observation sheet
- Pencil, ruler, measuring tape
- Optional: smartphone/camera for photos, magnifying glass

Steps:

1. Each student (or a pair/group) selects a tree within the school campus, garden, or nearby area.
2. Record basic details: tree species (if known), location, trunk circumference, leaf shape, height (estimated), and any animals/insects seen around it.
3. Regular observation: students observe the tree weekly or bi-weekly for at least a month. They note:
 - New leaves or flowers
 - Falling leaves
 - Animal visitors (birds, insects, etc.)
 - Signs of decay or damage
 - Weather conditions
4. Draw and document: leaf shapes, bark texture, fruit (if any), or bird visits.
5. Final presentation: students share their tree's story—how it changed over time, what they learned, and why it's important.

Ref: Centre for Science and Environment. (n.d.). Green Schools Programme Manual. Retrieved from <https://www.cseindia.org>

EPP ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE (FY 2024-25)

