

ISSUE-V

JAN-MARCH, 2026



the ant

the action northeast trust

QUARTERLY Field Updates

This edition reflects progress and key engagements during January–March 2026

MITA



MENTAL ILLNESS TREATMENT ALLIANCE

A new MITA campsite was started by JMECT (Jubayer Masud Educational and Charitable Trust) in Santoshpur, Bongaigaon, on 24th January, 2026.

Strengthening Mental Health Initiatives

The MITA Annual Meet was held from 28th to 30th January, with around 40 members from 13 of 14 partner organisations participating. The sessions included an overview of the programme, discussions on illnesses addressed under MITA, and key interventions being implemented.

Participants engaged in interactive activities such as app-based history taking and presentations by alliance members. The final day included recap sessions, discussions on seizure disorders, and processes on mental status examination (MSE) and counselling. The meet concluded with a valedictory session.



MITA Annual Meet discussions



Session on mental health and substance abuse

A two-day training on Prevention of Suicide and Substance Abuse was conducted on 16th–17th February, with 21 participants (4 staff members, 13 youths, and 4 MITA team members).

The sessions focused on mental health, suicide prevention, gender issues, and substance abuse. Dr. Mintu discussed mental health and mental illness, including epilepsy, addressing stigma, while Priyanka, MITA's clinical psychologist, facilitated sessions on self-harm, warning signs, and support strategies through case-based discussions, encouraging participants to reflect on real-life situations.

The second day included a participant-led recap and sessions on gender and gender-based violence by Nizra Narzary and Anil Muchahary (AVAHAN), along with an introduction to the Suicide Safety Plan. The training concluded with discussions on substance abuse, where participants explored its impacts and prevention strategies.

Digital violence & mental health sessions (One Billion Rising - AVAHAN) across Ulubari, Basugaon, and Rowmari covered cyberbullying, online harassment, misuse of personal information, their impact (stress, anxiety, social withdrawal), and safe practices, reporting, and support systems.



A two-day camp for children with developmental disorders was organised in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi on 27th and 28th February, focusing on early identification, basic assessment, and guidance to caregivers; a total of 8 children attended, receiving individual attention from trained professionals.

FLC

Forest Learning Centre

TLM cum Math Mela

The Math Mela cum TLM Mela was held on 3 March 2026 at the High School Playground, Shantipur, bringing together 250 participants, including 204 students, 22 teachers, 1 Education Executive, 3 mentors, 2 supervisors, and 18 community members from 18 Forest Learning Centres.

The mela provided a platform for students to learn beyond textbooks by showcasing their knowledge, creativity, and skills through exhibitions and interactive activities. Key highlights included the exhibition of teaching learning materials (TLMs) developed by teachers and students, along with fun learning corners on measurement, puzzles, and estimation.



School visit group photo, Deosiri.

School Visit and Student Engagement

On 25 March 2026, students and teachers from Delhi Public School, Dhaligaon visited two Forest Learning Centres in Koraihari and Bhangapara, Deosiri, Chirang district, interacting with 112 children. The visit included informal discussions that encouraged children's interest in education and sports.

Educational materials such as school bags, pencil boxes, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, water bottles, notebooks, colours, and rulers were distributed, along with sports items including badminton rackets, cricket bats, stumps, balls, and footballs.

The visit aimed to motivate and support children in their learning while promoting participation in sports, bringing enthusiasm and joy among the students.

CTR

Colouring the Rainbow

From January to March 2026, parent engagement sessions were conducted across 30 villages in Chirang and Udalguri districts, reaching 887 parents (234 men and 653 women). The sessions focused on strengthening parent involvement in children's education and well-being, covering child safety and the use of games as a learning tool, and encouraging active parental support for holistic child development.



Sus-FARM



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS



Eri Spinning Machines Installation

Installation of 13 Eri spinning machines was carried out across Koraisali, Fwrmaisali, and No.2 Aojarguri villages under the Sus-FARM project, in collaboration with SELCO Foundation, enabling trained women to begin or expand home-based spinning activities. The initiative supports livelihood diversification by improving production efficiency and allowing women to apply skills gained through earlier training, while also creating opportunities for income generation and small-scale enterprise development.

Livestock Vaccination Camp

Livestock vaccination camps were conducted across six villages, covering a total of 310 animals (179 cows and 131 goats) to prevent Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The initiative contributed to improved livestock health and reduced the risk of disease-related losses, strengthening livelihood security for smallholder farmers.



Malnutrition Survey

A recipe-making programme along with a malnutrition survey was conducted across four villages, engaging 65 mothers and assessing 67 children. The sessions focused on preparing nutritious food using locally available ingredients and promoting hygienic practices, while growth monitoring helped identify children requiring further nutritional support.

Gender & Health Awareness Programme

An awareness programme on gender inequalities and their impact on women's and child health was conducted with community-level workers and participants, focusing on issues such as domestic violence, anaemia, and maternal and child nutrition. The sessions also highlighted available support systems and encouraged improved health practices.



DWIMU

DIVERSIFICATION WITH INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT FOR UPLIFTMENT OF PEOPLE'S LIVES



Co-operative Formation Meeting

A meeting with 35 Sun Cluster members was held on 26th March 2026 at Chumuapara village to discuss forming a Co-operative Society under the DWIMU project. Facilitated by Smitha Murthy and the DWIMU team, the session covered the concept, benefits, and process of forming a cooperative. Members engaged through group discussions and expressed willingness to move forward. An initial share contribution of ₹550 per member was finalised to support the setup and basic operational costs of the cooperative, and a follow-up meeting was planned to take the process ahead.

Frame Loom with Jacquard Distribution

On 3rd March 2026, six frame looms with Jacquard attachments were distributed to six weavers across Kuruabahi (2), Korigaon (3), and Landangchuburi (1) under the DWIMU project, supported by LEA and implemented through a revolving fund model. Weavers will contribute a nominal 1% annual interest on the asset value, with clusters responsible for collection. The initiative aims to improve production efficiency and increase income.



Solarised Eri Spinning Machines Distribution

On 24th February 2026, six solarised eri spinning machines were distributed and installed across Udalguri and Mazbat blocks under the DWIMU project, benefiting six weavers and sericulture practitioners, in collaboration with SELCO Foundation. Four machines were sourced from Saraswati Enterprise and two from Resham Sutra and were provided at subsidised rates of 85% and 75% respectively to ensure affordability. The initiative aims to enhance income and promote value addition through improved spinning practices.

CHAUPAL Programme

A one-day CHAUPAL programme was organised by the ant in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles at Kapurpura village, Tamulbari VCDC Hall, with participation from over 100 weavers along with government officials and DWIMU team members.

The programme focused on awareness of government schemes, subsidies, and training opportunities, while also providing space for weavers to share challenges related to raw materials, marketing, and income. Sessions were led by Ringkang Muchahary, ACS, ADC Udalguri, and Chandan Das, Assistant Director, Handloom Department, followed by an interactive discussion.



ITDPS

INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SHANTIPUR

Strengthening Livelihoods through Orchard-Based Farming

The ITDPS initiative in Shantipur supports 200 tribal families across 8 villages under the VCDC through orchard-based farming, with a focus on building more resilient and diversified livelihoods.

So far, 363 bighas of land have been brought under cultivation, with 28,798 saplings planted, strengthening the base for long-term income and environmental sustainability. To support landless households, weaving and arecanut plate-making units have been introduced, while 14 women have initiated micro-enterprises, contributing to increased economic participation.

These efforts are beginning to reflect in earnings, with 99 farmers collectively generating ₹19,51,470 through intercropping and related activities. With improved practices, average income has reached ₹19,913 per farmer, indicating a gradual strengthening of livelihoods. These shifts are also influencing how families are engaging with their land and income sources.



PRAKRITIK

PRAKRITIK Initiative: Strengthening Livelihoods in Deosri Cluster

The PRAKRITIK initiative was launched in January 2026 in the Deosri Cluster, focusing on sustainable, nature-centred livelihoods to strengthen rural livelihood security through eco-friendly practices. The initiative is being implemented collaboratively by Avahan (Women Empowerment), CTR (Children and Youth Development), FLC (Education), and ITDPS (Orchard-Based Livelihoods), bringing together an integrated approach to community development.

As part of the initial activities, 20 farmers have been supported with 40 bee boxes along with colonies to promote beekeeping as a sustainable income source. Training on beekeeping and exposure visits on organic agriculture have also been initiated, helping farmers build practical knowledge and skills.

The initiative is supported by Caring Friends, contributing 80% of the total project cost (₹5.6 lakh), with the remaining 20% contributed by staff towards the project. The initiative is being taken forward within the cluster by the project teams, with early steps towards livelihood diversification becoming visible.



BARDWI

BOOSTING AGROBIODIVERSITY FOR RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE INITIATIVE

Community Exchange Programme



In February 2026, four Community Exchange Programmes were conducted across Kwdwmguri, Hatkata, and Borigaon in Udalguri, and Kadabeel and Jamuguri in Mazbat, bringing together participants to share knowledge and learn from each other's practices.

Seed mapping activities were carried out in groups, identifying locally available, less available, and rare seeds, along with discussions on cropping patterns. Participants also explored organic farming practices, traditional seed preservation methods, and the importance of community seed banks.

A total of 174 women participated in the programmes, making the sessions highly interactive.

Biodiversity Walk Programme

During February and March 2026, six biodiversity walk programmes were organised with students from Alari LP, Nijwmpur LP, and Bineswar Brahma LP schools in Mazbat, and Tila Garobasti LP, Kapurpura ME, and Kapurpura LP schools in Udalguri. Guided by an elder resource person, students visited nearby fields and riversides, observing indigenous plants, herbs, and natural resources while learning their uses through traditional knowledge.

The walks helped students connect with their local environment and understand the importance of preserving biodiversity. A total of 197 students participated.



Seed and Sapling Distribution

On 6th and 7th January 2026, local seeds and saplings were distributed to 123 women beneficiaries with established homestead gardens in Jogyapur VDC, Mazbat Block. The distribution included indigenous varieties such as peas, coriander, spinach, radish, mustard, ladyfinger, beans, tomato, king chilli, cabbage, cauliflower, and brinjal.

The initiative aimed to promote household nutrition and encourage the preservation of local seed varieties through homestead gardening.

Sifung Harimu Afad



AN INITIATIVE FOCUSED ON SAFEGUARDING, PRESERVING, AND PROMOTING BODO CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND HERITAGE

3rd Sifung Cultural Festival, February 2026



The 3rd Sifung Cultural Festival was held on 27-28 February 2026, bringing together nearly 900 people to celebrate Bodo culture through music, performances, and community participation. The festival began with ceremonial flag hoisting, welcoming of guests, and the unveiling of a wall magazine, setting a tone of pride and collective identity.

Participants engaged in competitions on traditional instruments such as Kham, Sifung, and Serja, alongside discussions on Bodo folk songs that highlighted the importance of preserving cultural practices. The evening featured the folk drama Aduani Songri Pwnai, drawing strong audience engagement.

The second day began with a cultural rally led by Rwingwra Narzary, MP (Rajya Sabha) followed by school competitions, traditional dances, and an open mic where participants shared reflections on sustaining cultural heritage. The release of Udang Okwranngni Singao and prize distribution recognised contributions across age groups.

The festival concluded with dance performances and the drama Black Mirror, reinforcing the importance of continued community engagement in preserving cultural traditions.



Sifung Harimu Afad – Progressive Learning and Engagement

Under the Sifung Harimu Afad initiative, four consecutive activities were conducted as part of a progressive learning and engagement process. The Capacity Building Training (7-8 March 2026) focused on strengthening participants' sense of self-responsibility and leadership, followed by the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme (11-15 March 2026), which enhanced participants' skills and prepared selected individuals for facilitation roles.

These trained participants then served as resource persons in workshops held from 16-19 March 2026, facilitating sessions on traditional cultural practices. The process culminated in the Interschool Interbranch Cultural Exchange Programme (20-21 March 2026), which provided a platform for participants to showcase their learning, interact across schools and branches, and strengthen collective cultural engagement.



Infrastructure Upgrade | KGVB

TO REPAIR AND UPGRADE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE A SAFE AND FUNCTIONAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Infrastructure Upgradation at KGBV, Borobazar

An infrastructure upgradation initiative was undertaken at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Borobazar in February 2026, supported by APRAAVA Energy Ltd. and implemented by the ant, with the aim of improving safety and learning conditions for students and staff.

The intervention addressed key areas including damaged flooring and plastering, leakage-prone roofing, worn-out doors and windows, electrical fittings, sanitation facilities, and expansion of an Assam-type classroom. Major improvements included refurbishment of the hostel building, renovation of toilets, damp-proofing of the terrace, and construction of a 40 × 17 feet classroom to address space constraints.

Additional upgrades included installation of a 120-litre drinking water system (Eureka Aqua Guard), repainting of the school building, improved electrical lighting, replacement of doors and windows with aluminium fittings, strengthening of water supply through four 2000-litre tanks, and reconstruction of wash and kitchen areas.

These improvements have enhanced safety, hygiene, and the overall learning and living environment within the school campus.



THEN



Before and after improvements at KGBV, Borobazar

Improving safety and learning conditions

THEN



NOW

NOW



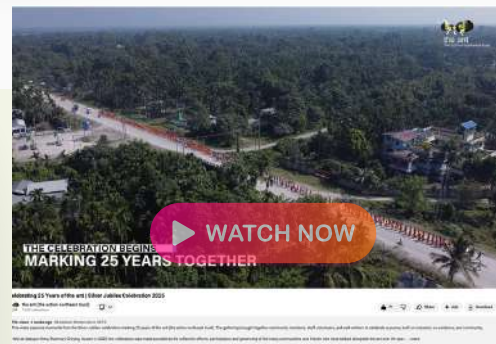



Community Media Unit

Media and Communication Outputs

During the reporting period, the Community Media Unit produced and shared digital content highlighting community voices and organisational milestones, including a podcast, short videos, and reels to enhance engagement.

This included a podcast and video features, along with documentation of the 25 year silver jubilee celebration (2025). The unit also supported content translation, designed organisational brochures, and contributed to the visibility of key events and campaigns through social media.

Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting

The Board of Trustees meeting was held on 21st and 22nd March 2026. On the first day, project staff presented their progress, challenges, and updates to the Board members, providing an overview of ongoing work across various initiatives.

On the second day, the Board members and senior team held a separate discussion to consider the way forward. The discussion focused on strengthening the organisation's work, making it more responsive to current issues, and guiding its direction in line with its mission and vision.

The Board encouraged the team to continue working with commitment and dedication towards achieving the organisation's mission and vision.





the ant
the action northeast trust

Thank You!

for reading



[theant/fb](https://www.facebook.com/theant/)

[theant/insta](https://www.instagram.com/theant/)



STAY
CONNECTED



[theant.org](https://www.theant.org)

[theant/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/theant/)

