

# GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT


March 2022 Edition



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2. Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy: To Achieve Self-reliance in Indian Defence Sector



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## Soil Health Card Scheme: A Complete Report Card of Farm Soil

Recently the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has put forward the successful implementation development of the government's flagship "Soil Health Card" scheme. The vision of the scheme is to make each farm in the country healthy and green in the long term by keeping their fertility and productivity intact. The scheme is getting implemented by the Department of Agriculture of respective Indian states and Union Territories at pan India level.

The scheme was launched by the Union Government in 2015 with the slogan of "Swastha Dharaa, Khet Harra" to give soul to the vision of "Sujalam Suphalam" in the life of Indian agriculture and farmers. The year has been marked by the celebration of the "International Year of Soil" around the globe. The initiative has been launched to evaluate and gauge the nutritional levels of the soil on a farm and help in recommending the fertilizers based on soil test reports.

### Salient Features:

The soil health card, an indicator of soil health is making the way forward for Indian farmers to move towards a high yielding cultivation process. This in turn help in increasing their income while maintaining the health of their farm with the balanced and effective use of fertilizers during the different crop cycles. Some of the major implementation details of the scheme are:

The sample collection has been done by the State Governments through the departmental staff or volunteer students from local Agriculture and Science Colleges.

For Sampling, the cropped area is divided into 2 grids i.e. 10 Ha for rainfed and 2.5 Ha for irrigated land.

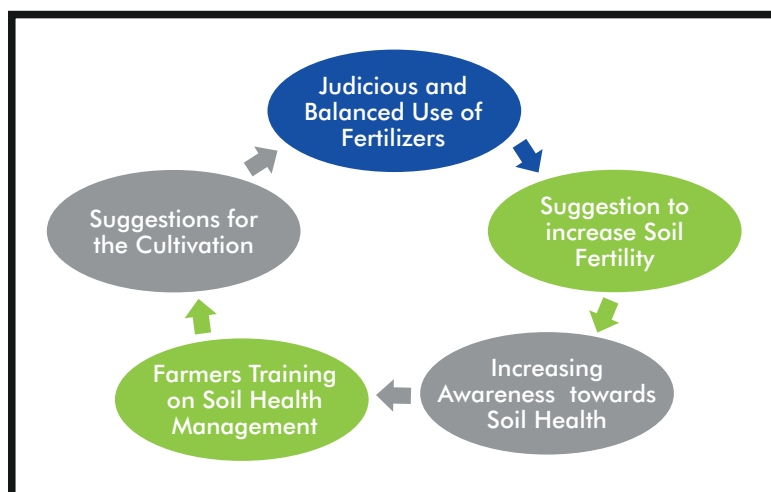
Only 1 sample from each grid has been collected and the soil health card is distributed on the basis of the respective test results to each farmer falling under a particular cropped area grid.

The sample collection takes place normally twice in a year after the harvest of Rabi and kharif Crops.

Basis the report, the farmer will get suggestions for soil amendments to effectively optimize their farm yields by maintaining the nutritional health of the soil on farms.

### Benefits of the Soil Health Card:

The soil health report card suggests farmers for the balanced use of required fertilizers to increase productivity and yields and keep the soil quality intact over the long run. Along with this, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research also helps to train the farmers about the methods and processes to keep the farm soil healthy periodically.



To date, the scheme has been implemented in three phases successfully and increased its ambit at the pan India level effectively. Under this, the farmers receive a detailed soil health report card every three years based on standard testing procedures for parameters such as pH level of soil, electrical conductivity, Organic Carbon level, availability of Micronutrients such as Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), and Boron (B), levels of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), and Sulphur (S) in a particular farm soil to help farmers in nurturing the fertility of their soil.

#### Model Village Programme

Target for sample collection and testing – 22,45,454

Samples collected -20,18,522\*  
Samples Registered – 20,07,112#

Samples Tested – 19,64,783\*  
Test Results Entered – 18,70,030#

#### Cycle II

Target for sample collection and testing – 2,72,19,794

Samples Collected – 2,77,44,022\*  
Samples Registered – 2,48,44,403#

Samples Tested – 2,74,31,824\*  
Test Results Entered – 2,33,99,769#

#### Cycle I

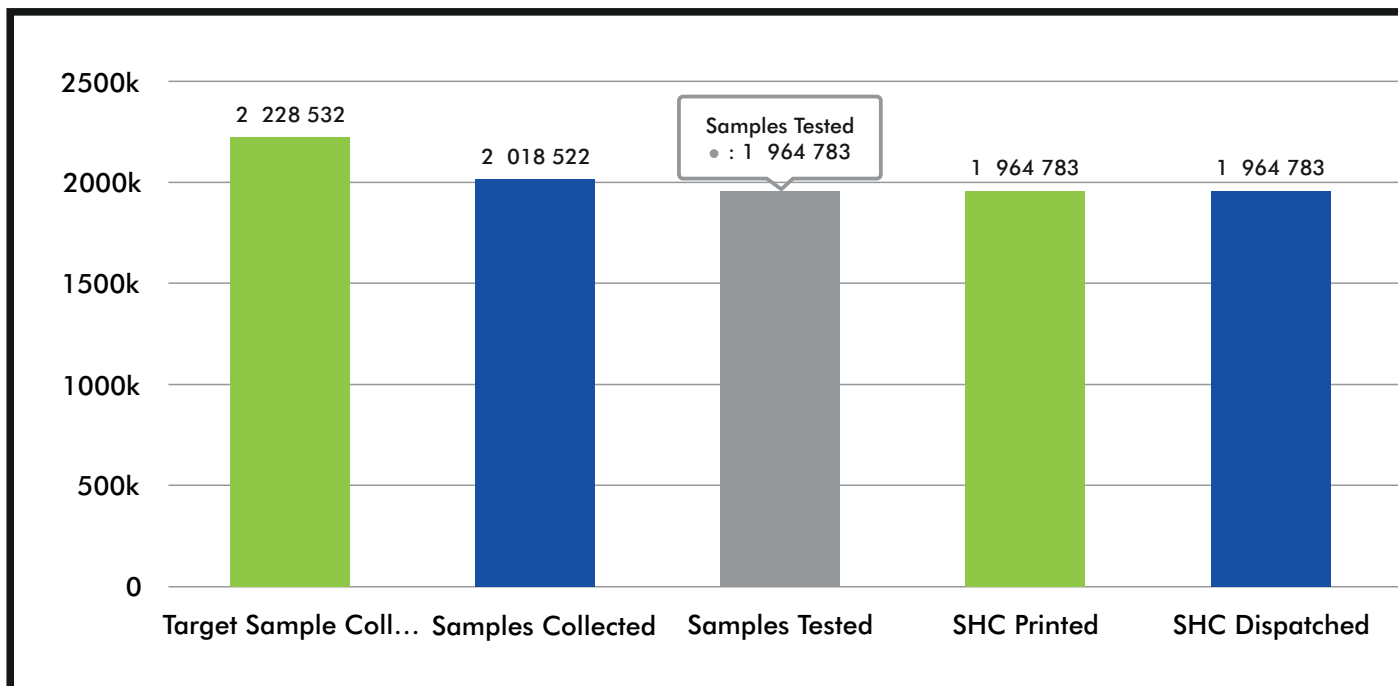
Target for samples collection and testing – 2,53,49,546

Samples Collected – 2,53,49,546\*  
Samples Registered – 2,88,89,471#

Samples Tested – 2,53,49,546\*  
Test Results Entered – 2,52,35,671#

Source: <https://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in/>

The performance under the implementation of the Model Village Programme during the year 2019-20 at the pan India level was as under:



Source: <https://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in/publicreports/dashboardtargetreport>

The Union government has fed more than Rs 750 Crore in the scheme under 3 different phases over the last 6 years in the following manner:

#### Financial Progress of Scheme between 2014-2020 (Rs in Crores)

Year	Funds released
2014 - 2015	23.89
2015 - 2016	96.47
2016 - 2017	133.66
2017 - 2018	152.76
2018 - 2019	237.40
2019 - 2020	107.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>751.42</b>

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1603379>

### Key Achievements:

Some of the key milestones achieved under the scheme which is working as a blessing for Indian farmers and their farm productivity are:

11531 New Labs  
including static,  
mobile, mini and  
village level Labs

More than 6 Lakh  
Demonstration

Around 45,000  
Farmer's Training  
and Awareness  
Programs and  
Events

But, at the pan India level to increase the coverage farmers need more hand holding in terms of understanding, and follow-up of the recommendations, methods, and processes suggested during these follow-up meet and training programs. Here the more robust connection between government officials and farmers will show drastic results. The effectivity of the scheme can also be increased many fold with the inclusion of physical and biological details of the soil like soil moisture, soil texture, cropping history, etc along with chemical indicators during testing.

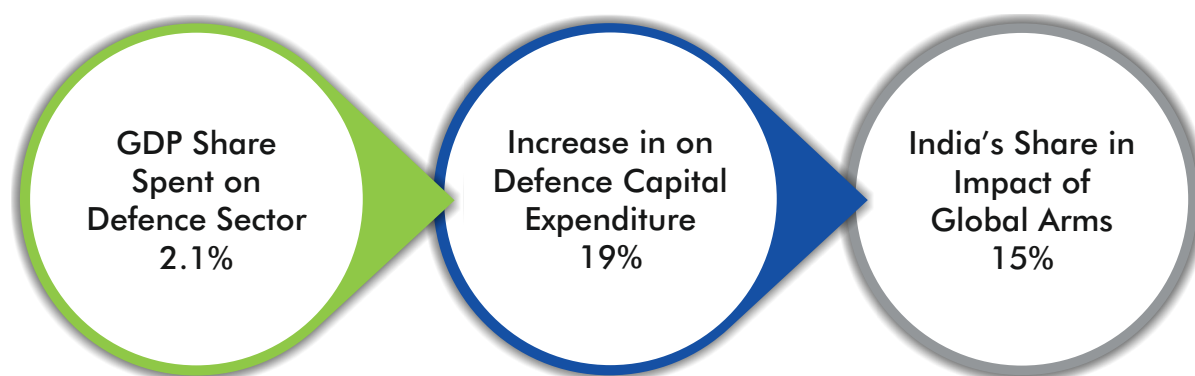
Thus, data shows that the scheme needs a further push in some of the agriculture intensive Indian states like Punjab, Bihar, etc to achieve high yields by keeping the nutritional values of the soil. A specialized nodal agency at the centre and state level can better help in monitoring and assessment of the implementation details on regular basis and keep a check on the quality of service of testing facilities to help in realizing the government's vision into reality over time.



# Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy : To Achieve Self-reliance in Indian Defence Sector

Under the Union Budget 2022-23, the Indian government has ratified its strong commitment toward achieving self-reliance in the Indian Defence sector through provisions like a 10% rise in the capital procurement budget to energise domestic industries in the sector. The allocation of a 25% budget for Defence Research and Development for a collaborative effort of industry, startups, academia, etc. The total budgetary allocation of Rs 5,25,168 crore for the sector is well synced with the provisions of the draft Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020 to achieve a turnover of US\$ 25 Billion including an export of US\$ 5 Billion in the Indian Aerospace and Defence goods and Services Market by 2025.

## Quick Facts of Fiscal Year 2021-22:



As per the government statistics, the Indian defence export has reached Rs 8,434.84 crore in the fiscal year 2020-21 from the level of Rs 1,904.64 crore in the fiscal year 2014-15. The valuation of the Indian defence industry in 2019-20 was around Rs 80,000 crore whereas the share of the private sector was merely Rs 17,000 crores. Thus the major market share is still in the hands of Public Sector Units (PSUs) such as Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), etc due to strategic reasons in the national interest.

But the recent R&D provisions will help the private sector and startups to be major stakeholders in the industry to cater for the rising domestic and export demands. The

### New India. Paving the Way for Self-Reliance in Defence Sector

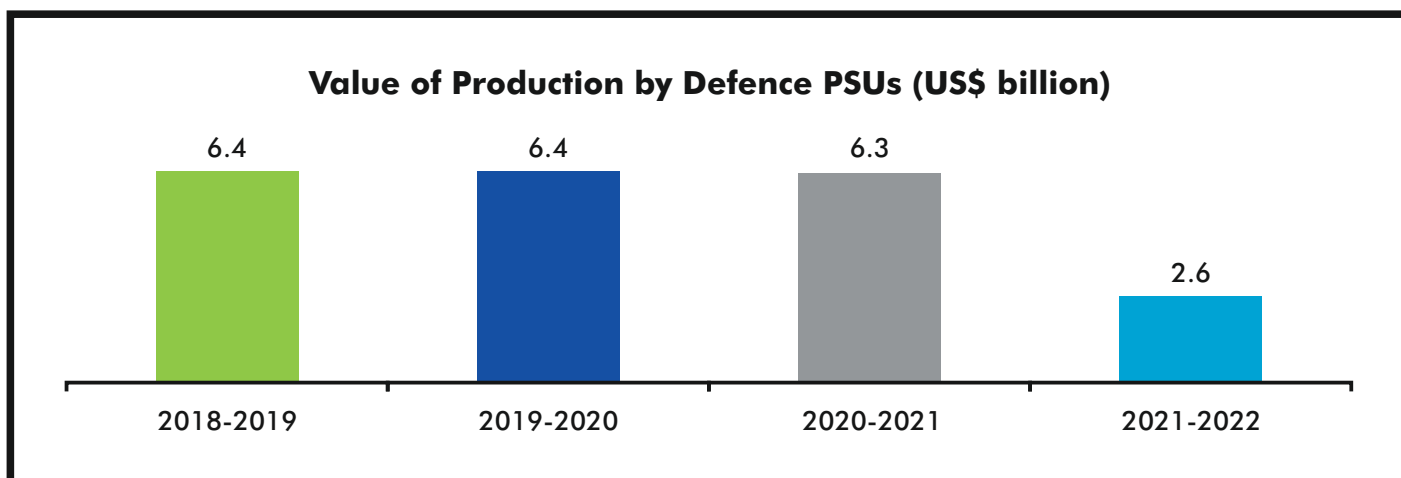
#### Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

- Outlay of INR 400 Cr
- Envisages to set up 6-8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry
- Up to 75% govt. funding in the form of grant-in-aid
- Remaining 25% of the project cost to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), comprising of Indian private entities and state govt.

Source: Atmanirbhar Bharat, Achieving Strategic Autonomy in Defence Production by FICCI & Ministry of Defence



strong base of more than 8000 MSMEs is also providing adequate strength to the supply chain of this strategically important industry in the country.



Source: <https://www.ibef.org/uploads/industry/Infographics/large/defence-manufacturing-infographic-february-2022.pdf>

The draft Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020 is an ambitious guiding document to provide a structured and focused growth and thrust to the Indian defence production and export capabilities in the coming years. The vision outlined in the policy document are:

By 2025, achieve the turnover of Rs 1,75,000 Crores (US\$ 25 Bilion) with the export target of Rs 35,000 Crore (US\$ 5 Billion) in Aerospace and Defence Goods & Services Industry.

Development of a robust, dynamic, and competitive Defence Industry (including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry) to provide quality products to the Armed Forces

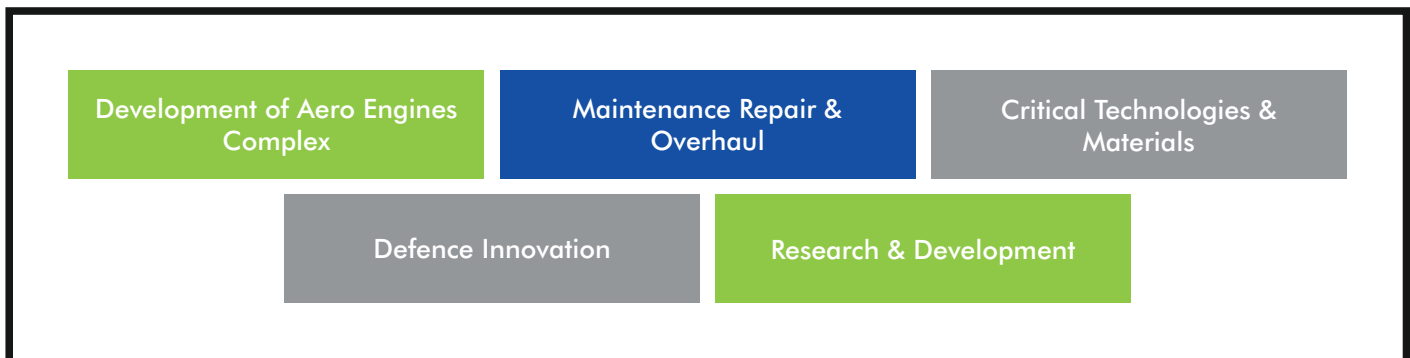
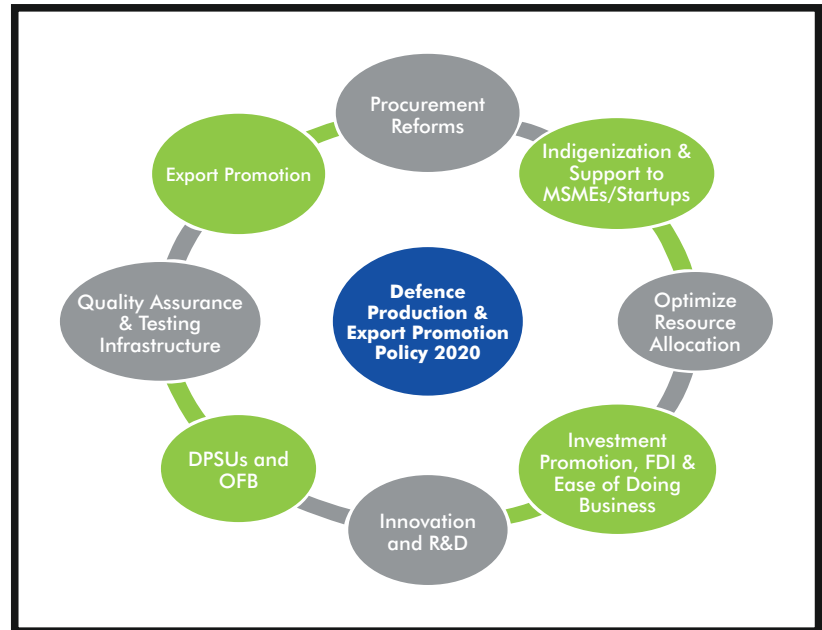
Through Domestic Design and Development under "Make in India" initiative reduce the import dependence in the sector

To be a part of Global Defence Value Chain through the Promotion of Defence Product Exports

Establish an environment to encourage R&D, innovation, IP Ownership in the domain

To realize this vision for a robust and self-reliant Indian Defence Industry the government has also identified some of the major strategic focus areas which are as under:

To provide an additional push to Defence production and export, the policy also has detailed provisions to promote the investments in the sector. The technological development in various sub-sectors will be encouraged with the help of concerned ministries under the Government of India. In the last 5 years according to trends, many esteemed engineering organizations have diversified themselves into Defence Equipment Production by seeing the growth avenues. As a result, around 460 licenses have been issued to the private sector entities in the field during this tenure. The main areas identified for attracting more investments through public and private players under the policy are:



The “Atmanirbharta” will prove to be a cornerstone in implementing the defence production and export promotion policy in the country and has the power to establish India as a defence export hub for Asian countries and around the globe. The rising manufacturing capabilities with the successful testing of BrahMos Missile is boosting the defence production in the country at a high level. The latest development of contract signing between BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd with the Philippines for the export of Shore Based Anti Ship Missile System is one such historic moment to witness the growing capabilities of India's Defence Production and Export Promotion.

Thus the effectiveness of increasing defence manufacturing abilities will help India to preserve its sovereignty and protect its national interest with military strength along with diplomacy. The policy will help in setting up a cost-effective domestic defence equipment production industry to counter the imports and attract foreign reserves through export promotion by boosting the Indian economy and the country's pride beyond the bars.



## Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)

In the Union Budget 2022-23, Under the Gati Shakti National Master Plan, to cater social developmental needs of culturally rich and diverse North-Eastern states, the Indian Government has launched the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE). Over time, the Prime Minister on many occasions has put forth his vision to develop this beautiful region at par with the other parts of the country and make it a valuable part of the economic and strategic growth story of India. Under this scheme, the government made a provision to provide livelihood opportunities to the local youth and women along with the establishment of cancer management facilities in the region.

**PM'S DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR NORTH EAST REGION (PM-DevINE)**

**UNION BUDGET 2022-23**

**In Spirit of PM GatiShakti**

- Funding Infrastructure & Social Development Projects
- Initial Allocation: Rs 1,500 Cr

**Objective:**

- Enable Livelihood Activities for Youth & Women
- Filling Gaps in Various Sectors

North East, the easternmost region of the country has been constituted of eight geographical and unique cultural administrative states named Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim.

**Major Initiatives of the Government for Development of North Eastern Region (NER)**

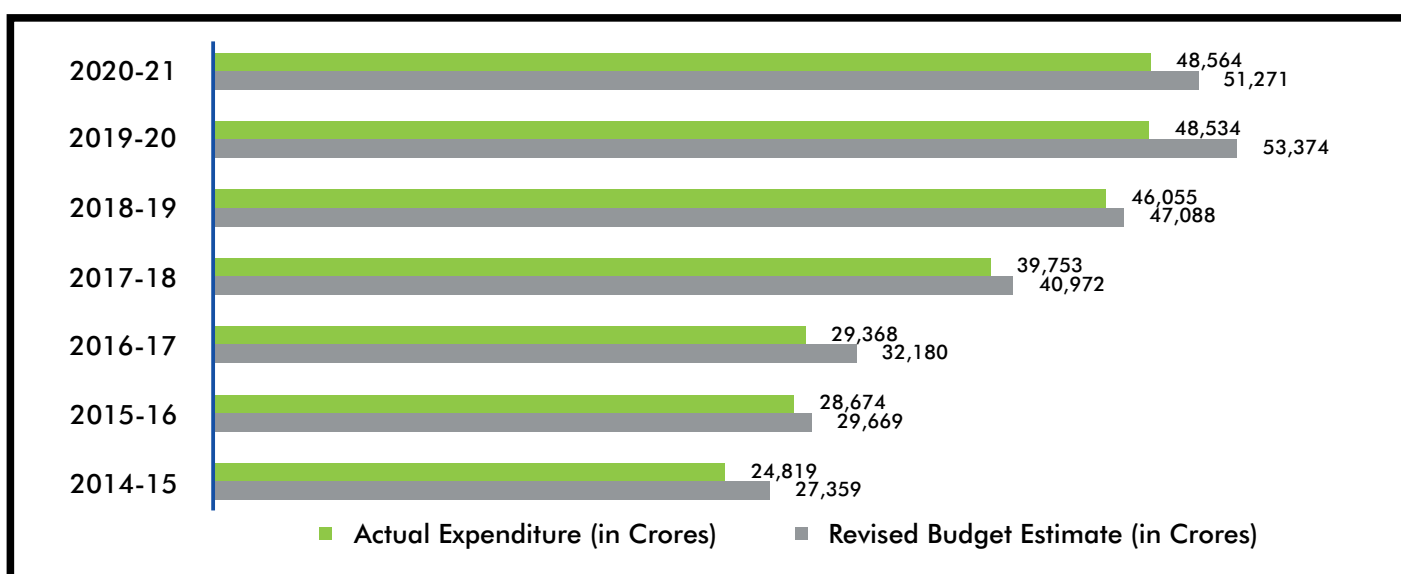
- Highest priority for development of NER
- Many Infrastructural and Connectivity Projects
- Priority to Livelihood projects
- Initiative for Inclusive growth of NER

It has immense potential to participate in the marathon of India's economic growth yet has been neglected in the past since Independence. This underdeveloped beautiful region thus faced many local insurgencies and discrimination from political and administrative viewpoints.

**“It is my conviction to bring North-East at par with the other developed regions of the country.” - Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India**

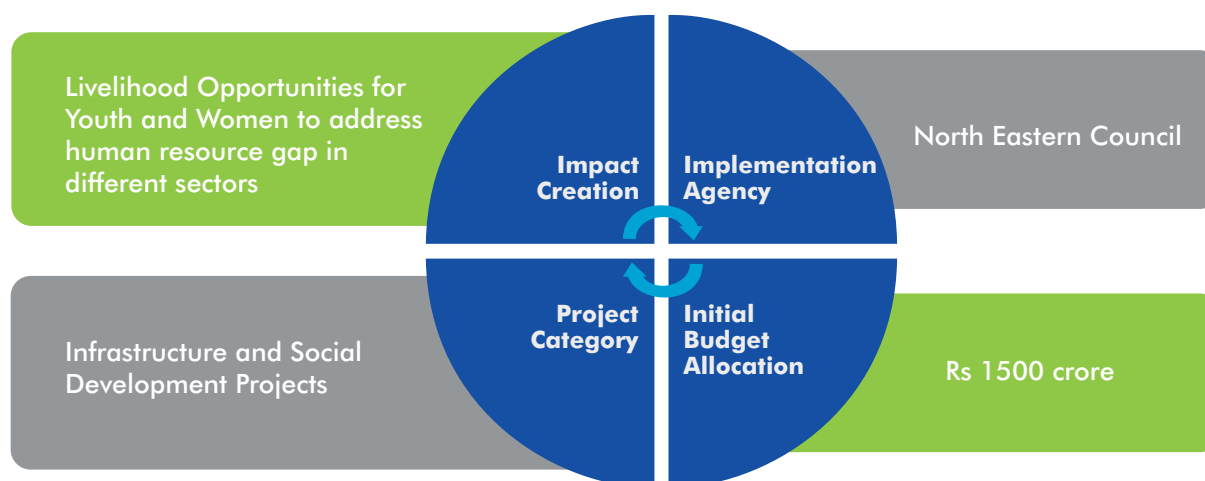
But, the recent government has acknowledged the huge potential of the beautiful landscape of this region and utilized their unique strengths and identities for the growth of their human, natural, and geographical resources. The government has continuously addressed the bottleneck infrastructure and connectivity issues to find its true potential and attract tourism to the region.

### Year-wise Budget Allocation for the Development of North East Region (Rs In Crores)



Source: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/mar/doc20223321801.pdf>

To accelerate the shining growth of this region, the PM-DevINE has been launched by the government with the following implementation details:



This scheme will not be meant to substitute any existing union or state government schemes for the infrastructure and social development of the region and thus will provide additional support to achieve the required pace of development to overcome the delayed development. The development will in turn help in attracting domestic as well as foreign travellers to the scenic beauty of the Eastern Himalayas and Barak valley plains and give the financial upliftment to its local artisans and human resources. Thus, the projects to be covered under the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the schemes are as under:

S. No	Name of the Project	Total tentative cost (Rs. In crore)
1.	Establishment of Dedicated Services for the Management of Paediatric and Adult Haemotolymphoid Cancers in North East India, Guwahati (Multi-State)	129
2.	NECTAR Livelihood Improvement Project (Multi-State)	67
3.	Promoting Scientific Organic Agriculture in North East Indian (Multi-State)	45
4.	Construction of Aizaw By-pass on Western Side	500
5.	Gap funding for Passenger Ropeway system for Pelling to Sanga-Choeling in West Sikkim	64
6.	Gap funding for Eco-friendly Ropeway (Cable Car) from Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in South Sikkim	58
7.	Pilot Project for Construct in of Bamboo Link Road at Different Locations in Various Districts in the State of Mizoram	100
8.	Others (to be identified)	537
<b>Total</b>		<b>1500</b>

Source: <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/mar/doc20223321801.pdf>

The policy is all set to utilize the energy and water resources of the region along with the fertile land and inoperative human resource over time. That will help in writing the growth saga of the region with the focus on improving the infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture, and livelihood opportunities for local regional people. Some of the significant aspects of this initiative are:

Significant Increase in Investment in Infrastructure, Healthcare, Agriculture, and Livelihood	State-Specific Projects for Better Connectivity and Accessibility
Complete Management and Care of Paediatric and Adult Haemotolymphoid Cancers in the Region	Complementing the Ongoing Schemes of the Region in Place of Substitution

The government's Act East Policy has provided needed thrust to the development of this region but due to sharing international borders with various countries like China, Bangladesh, Tibet, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan, the region has high strategic importance. Thus to fortify this with high capability all-weather infrastructure development is equally important for the sovereignty and security of the region as well as the country along with the economic and social upliftment.

## Resources

1. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1808329>
2. <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/soil-health-card#tab=tab-2>
3. <https://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in/>
4. <https://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/INM27072015%20%281%29.pdf>
5. <https://pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?Id=148602>
6. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1783882>
7. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1776580>
8. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1809580>
9. <https://www.ddpmod.gov.in/sites/default/files/pdfupload/DraftDPEPP.pdf>
10. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1780863>
11. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1794165>
12. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1793209>
13. <https://www.ibef.org/industry/defence-manufacturing>
14. <https://www.investindia.gov.in/sector/defence-manufacturing>
15. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1643194>
16. <https://www.makeinindiadefence.gov.in/>
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19. <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/mar/doc20223321801.pdf>
20. <https://www.ibef.org/blogs/pm-devine-scheme>
21. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1794156>

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### Contact Details

☎ +91-11- 45356553, 54    📞 +91-9810046249  
✉ info@aggrp.in    🌐 www.aggrp.in

★ New Delhi   ★ Mumbai   ★ Hyderabad   ★ Imphal

