

The background of the page is decorated with an abstract geometric pattern. It consists of various-sized teal cubes and hexagons, some of which are solid and others are outlined. These shapes are interconnected by a network of thin, dark grey lines that form a complex, three-dimensional grid-like structure. The overall aesthetic is modern and architectural.

2026

ANNUAL **REPORT**

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I. About CSDD

The Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD) stands as a research and policy advocacy organization, strategically located at the vibrant crossroads of technology and society. With its headquarters in Guwahati, Assam, within the culturally enriched and predominantly tribal expanse of North East India, CSDD is committed to expertly navigating the intricate landscape where digital progress converges with the diverse tapestry of society.

CSDD is a Section 8 not-for-profit under the Companies Act 2013 (CIN: U85300AS2020NPL020529), registered under NITI Aayog DARPAN, with IT exemption under 12A and 80G, and registered under the CSR Act (No. CSR00076977), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and NSDC.

21+ Implementations	34+ Research & Advocacy	17+ Knowledge Networks
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II. Vision & Mission



Vision

A world where the digital revolution empowers every rural, tribal, and indigenous community to thrive with dignity, equity, and self-reliance.



Mission

To bridge the social and digital divide by integrating modern technology with local wisdom and needs, ensuring social justice and sustainable development for the most underserved populations

III. Thematic Domains



Research & Advocacy

Leveraging meticulous research and targeted advocacy to influence policies that address emerging challenges at the intersection of technology and society



Implementation

Translating ideas into impactful actions through field-level projects that directly benefit communities across North East India.



Knowledge Networks

Engaging in workshops, seminars, and panel discussions; facilitating exchange of insights and forming partnerships to shape digital development.

IV. Activities

2025–2026

A. Implementation

During 2025–2026, CSDD executed three significant implementation projects across the Welfare Rights & Entitlements and Livelihood & Entrepreneurship thematic domains, reaching communities in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

WELFARE RIGHTS & ENTITLEMENTS

1. HaqDisha: Entitlements for All — Jorhat Mariani (NEDFi-CSR)

Funder	North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) — CSR Initiative
Location	18 No. Kothalguri Gram Panchayat, Mariani, Jorhat District, Assam
Target Community	Tea Tribe & Adivasi Communities across 4 Tea Estate Wards
Period	December 2025 – March 2026
Co-initiative	Council for Social & Digital Development (CSDD) & North East Development Foundation (NEDF)

HaqDisha — meaning '**Entitlements for All**' — is **CSDD's** flagship initiative to improve last-mile access to entitlements, social security, and government scheme delivery for Tea Tribe and Adivasi communities in Assam, among the most vulnerable and excluded populations in the region. The initiative bridges gaps in information, awareness, and delivery by training local youth fellows (DigiPreneurs / Digi Sakhis), establishing Digital ONE Centres within tea estates, and building sustainable linkages between communities and government systems.

The NEDFi-CSR funded pilot in Jorhat Mariani was implemented across three tea estates — Kothalguri (Ward 8), Hoolunguri (Ward 2), and Dahingeapar (Wards 4 & 5) — covering 4 wards within 18 No. Kothalguri Gram Panchayat.

Project Phases:

Phase 1 Dec 2025	Baseline & Stakeholder Alignment Door-to-door baseline survey across 1,233 households (5,213 individuals)
Phase 2 Jan 2026	Infrastructure & Capacity Building 4 Digital HaqDisha ONE Centres set up within tea estate wards
Phase 3 Feb–Mar 2026	Active Service Delivery & Doorstep Facilitation Aadhaar correction camps, Ayushman Bharat and ABHA health ID generation

Key Outcomes:

1,233 Households Surveyed	5,213 Individuals Covered
4 Digital ONE Centres Established	12 HaqDisha Fellows Trained
43+ Identity & Document Cases Facilitated	48+ MNREGA Applications Submitted
60+ Ayushman / ABHA IDs Generated	200+ Households Directly Facilitated

The four Digital HaqDisha Kendras continue to operate post-project, with Fellows providing ongoing doorstep facilitation. Advocacy is underway to register the centres as official Common Services Centres (CSC) and SIRISH Sewa Kendras, ensuring long-term sustainability.





LIVELIHOOD & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

2. Project Udyamita: Women in Entrepreneurship (WiE) — Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh (NEDFi-CSR)

Funder	North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) — CSR Initiative
Sanction Reference	NEDFi/CSR/GEN/25-26/Vol-II/2943, dated 25 November 2025
Location	Lekang & Namsai Block, Namsai Aspirational District, Arunachal Pradesh
Period	December 2025 – March 2026
Target	400 Rural Women Entrepreneurs (RWEs) from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under ArSRLM

Project Udyamita: Women in Entrepreneurship (WiE) is a pilot initiative implemented by CSDD with CSR funding from NEDFi in Namsai Aspirational District, Arunachal Pradesh — one of India's most remote and underserved regions. The project aimed to enable rural women empowerment through entrepreneurship by focusing on three interconnected pillars: Education, Skills, and Access. It targeted 400 Rural Women Entrepreneurs (RWEs) from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) affiliated to Primary Level Federations (PLFs) under the Arunachal State Rural Livelihood Mission (ArSRLM).

Two cluster-level Udyamita Sakhis (Rural Women Entrepreneurship Promotion Resource Persons) were recruited, trained, and deployed — one each in Lekang Block and Namsai Block — as community enterprise enablers providing continuous handholding and facilitation to women transitioning from livelihoods to sustainable businesses.

Two Udyamita Kendras were established as permanent digital facilitation hubs:

Kendra 1 — Sitpani Miri Lekang Block Serves Aadum PLF & Ujjval PLF 20 SHGs Led by: Ms. Rupa Morang	Kendra 2 — Pathergaon Namsai Block Serves Moya Kamko PLF & Nang Musungtri PLF 22 SHGs Led by: Nang Purnima Chowpoo
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Each Kendra was equipped with a Digital Kit comprising a desktop computer, multifunction printer, UPS power backup, Aadhaar-certified biometric scanner, and lamination machine — all fully operational as of March 2026.

Key Training Programmes Delivered:

- Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) Orientations: 291 women across 30 SHGs trained in business planning, loan management, digital marketing, and government scheme awareness
- Financial Literacy & Banking Camps (with SBI, Namsai): 4 camps; 216+ SHG members engaged; KCC and Mudra loan applications facilitated
- Mushroom Enterprise Training (with KVK Namsai under Tribal Sub-Plan): 72+ women across 3 training events
- Scientific Piggery Training (with District Veterinary Office): 20 SHG members
- Advanced Pickles Making Training (ArSRLM certified): 20 women, covering FSSAI-compliant packaging and digital marketing
- Digital & Social Media Training: 30 women from 4 PLFs; skills passports awarded; WhatsApp Business and e-commerce onboarding completed

Landmark Event — Multi-Stakeholder Meeting (22 January 2026):

A landmark multi-stakeholder meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mr. C.R. Khampa at the DC Conference Room, Namsai. Participants included the District Administration, NABARD, KVK, SBI, ICICI Bank, Bank of Baroda, ArSRLM, Arunachal University of Studies, ICAR, Piramal Foundation, and all four PLFs. The meeting produced actionable recommendations on product specialisation, import substitution, outcome-based training, and group lending approaches — and established a convergence platform that will endure beyond the project period.

Key Achievements:

400 RWEs Identified & Mobilised	291 Women Trained (EDP)
2 Udyamita Kendras Established	2 Udyamita Sakhis Deployed
216+ Women in Financial Literacy Camps	72+ Women Trained in Mushroom
10 KCC Loan Applications Submitted	7+ Formal Stakeholder Engagements

The project demonstrated that digital hesitancy — not lack of access — is the primary barrier in aspirational districts (89.7% of women feared online banking despite 100% bank account ownership). Peer-led, community-embedded facilitation through Udyamita Sakhis proved far more effective than instructional approaches.



3. Project Udyamita: Women in Entrepreneurship (WiE) — Kamrup, Assam (Slice Bank)

Funder	Slice Bank — CSR Initiative
Location	Rani Block & Sualkuchi Block, Kamrup Rural District, Assam
Target	300 Progressive SHG Members
Period	2025–2026
Status	Implementation Ongoing — Full Report to Follow

CSDD implemented a second instance of the Project Udyamita: Women in Entrepreneurship programme in Kamrup Rural District, Assam, with CSR funding support from Slice Bank. The project targeted 300 progressive SHG members across Rani Block and Sualkuchi Block — two blocks well-known for weaving, silk production, and rural livelihoods — with a focus on transitioning Self-Help Groups (SHGs) into Self-Help Entrepreneurs (SHEs)

Core Objectives

- **Financial Capability:** Delivering practical training on savings, budgeting, and debt management tailored for rural settings.
- **Entitlement Access:** Improving awareness of key Central and State funding schemes, including MUDRA and NRLM, and providing direct guidance through application processes.
- **Digital Inclusion:** Facilitating the opening of zero-balance accounts and driving the adoption of UPI for daily business transactions to ensure full financial inclusion.
- **Capital Linkages:** Increasing access to credit by promoting and distributing Entrepreneur Development Loans (EDL) via small finance banks.

The "Udyamita Sakhi" Model

To provide sustained, localized support, the project implemented the Udyamita Sakhi(Cluster Enterprise Resource Person) model. Two selected entrepreneurial women were trained to act as enterprise enablers, providing handholding and digital services to beneficiaries across diverse value chains, specifically focusing on handloom and textiles

Key Achievement Stats

2 Women Entrepreneurship Clusters
successfully enabled in the Rani and Sualkuchi blocks.

2 Udyamita Sakhis trained and deployed
to support nearly 300 WIEs with skills and linkages.

2 Udyamita Kendras established at the cluster level,
each equipped with a digital kit comprising a laptop, printer, and biometric machine.

300 Beneficiaries engaged
through digital skills training, ICT services integration, and scheme facilitation

Financial Literacy (FLC) Camp organized for 50+ women entrepreneurs
to strengthen financial independence and long-term stability.





B. Knowledge Networks

CSDD's Knowledge Networks pillar continued to bring together diverse stakeholders — government, academia, civil society, and practitioners — through high-impact events focused on digital development, entrepreneurship, and emerging technology for social good.

1. 2nd Rural Udyamita Conference 2025

Theme	Building & Enabling Sustainable Rural Entrepreneurship Ecosystem
Date	Dec 12, 2025
Venue	NEDFi, Guwahati, Assam, India
Organised by	CSDD, Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), and North East Development Foundation (NEDF)
Initiative	Rural Udyamita — Empowering Rural Women Entrepreneurs since 2022

The 2nd Rural Udyamita Conference 2025 brought together key stakeholders to focus on empowering rural women entrepreneurs as pivotal drivers of economic change in North East India. Building on the foundation of the 1st Rural Udyamita (2022), the conference featured interactive sessions, technical workshops, and collaborative discussions aimed at creating an enabling environment for sustainable enterprise development and inclusive growth.

Key Components:

- High Level Plenary Discussion on 'Building & Enabling Sustainable Rural Entrepreneurship Ecosystem'
- Rural Udyamita Townhall Session on 'Ease of Doing Business for RWEs: Challenges, Needs, Opportunities for Enterprise Development'
- Rural Udyamita Policy & Strategy Session on 'Just Transition from Livelihood to Entrepreneurship: Enabling a Sustainable Policy and Support System'
- 2nd Rural Udyamita Mela — showcasing products and businesses of rural women entrepreneurs
- Knowledge & Solution Xchange — connecting rural women entrepreneurs to share ideas and solutions for growth

Key Themes Deliberated:

- Access to resources, finance, technology, and markets for rural women
- Policy and institutional frameworks for supporting women-owned enterprises in rural areas
- Capacity building and training programmes tailored to rural women entrepreneurs
- Market access, value chain participation, and product branding and marketing

Rural Udyamita is an ongoing initiative founded by CSDD, DEF, and NEDF, dedicated to empowering rural women entrepreneurs in Assam and Northeast India. The platform focuses on transitioning rural women from livelihood activities to full-fledged entrepreneurship by providing training, resources, mentoring, and market linkages. It also runs complementary programmes including Digital Udyamita (digital skills training) and Cyber Shakti (cyber safety for women).

2. AI Impact Summit 2026 — Official Pre-Summit Seminar

Event Title	AI for Indigenous & Mountain Communities: Our Readiness, Our Digital Future
Organised by	Council for Social and Digital Development (CSDD)
Co-organised by	Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) & Dept. of IT, Gauhati University
Supported by	Ministry of Electronics and IT, Digital India Corporation, IndiaAI
Date	Jan 29, 2026
Venue	Dept. of Information Technology, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam
Format	Hybrid (In-Person & Online)
Attendance	72 Onsite + 3 Online
Authorised Signatory	Dr Syed Sultan Kazi, Director, CSDD

As an Official Pre-Summit Event of the AI Impact Summit 2026 (Ministry of Electronics and IT / IndiaAI), CSDD organised a full-day seminar titled 'AI for Indigenous & Mountain Communities: Our Readiness, Our Digital Future' — focused on unlocking 'AI for Social Good' for the digital readiness and future of North East India's indigenous communities. The event was held at Gauhati University's Department of Information Technology and conducted in hybrid mode.



Programme Structure:

Morning 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Setting the Vision – Inaugural & Technical Deliberation I • Welcome Address: Dr Syed S. Kazi, Director, CSDD • Introduction Note: Prof Shikhar Sarma, Head of Dept. of IT, Gauhati University • Seminar Objectives: Dr Arpita Kanjilal, DEF • Moderated Panel: 'Contextualising AI for Social Good' – Moving beyond generic AI discourse to define a localised approach for Northeast India
Afternoon 2:00 – 4:00 PM	Building Foundational Readiness – Technical Deliberation II & Closing • Panel: 'Building Foundational and Policy Readiness & Financing AI for Social Good' • Topics: Mapping scope of AI for social good, resilient last-mile digital infrastructure, data governance, AI literacy, and developing AI manpower • Moderated by: Dr Arpita Kanjilal, Digital Empowerment Foundation, New Delhi • Concluding Remarks & The Way Forward; Vote of Thanks

Key Discussion Themes:

Data Sovereignty & Ethics Who is accountable if AI harms a farmer? Discussions on Data Justice protocols, grassroots data validation, and inherent biases in Global North AI models applied to indigenous populations.	Language & Culture Current global VLMs lack local context. AI tools must be developed in Assamese, Bodo, and other local languages with multimodal (voice/video) capabilities for communities with low text literacy.	Infrastructure Constraints High-tech AI models are useless without internet connectivity. The seminar highlighted the need for Low Bandwidth Models and offline AI tools suitable for remote mountain communities.
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Sector-Specific AI Use Cases Identified:

Sector	Proposed AI Application
Healthcare	Detection of localised diseases like Sickle-cell Anaemia and Oesophageal cancer; genetic analysis
Agriculture	Identification of Joha rice varieties; pest detection; soil health monitoring for remote farmers
Environment	Monitoring glacier lake expansion in the Himalayas; flood prediction and early warning systems
Heritage	Digitisation and translation of ancient manuscripts; preservation of oral folklore

Action Points for the AI Impact Summit:

- Northeast India Open AI Dataset Initiative — Proposal for each of the 8 Northeast states to contribute ₹1 Crore (₹8 Cr corpus) to fund creation of local datasets and Vision Language Models (VLMs)
- Global IP Policy — Call for a global policy to protect cultural sentiments and Intellectual Property of indigenous regions
- Data Localization — Data collected from the region should be stored locally for security and sovereignty
- Human in the Loop — Training programs needed not just for computer scientists but for 'Grassroots Validators' — community members who verify the data AI uses
- Sector-specific ethical guardrails, particularly for medical and AI applications, with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for all data collection

Outputs: Policy note/brief, Research paper/academic output, and an 'AI for Social Good Framework' submitted to IndiaAI. The seminar team expressed interest in presenting outcomes during the main AI Impact Summit week.



V. Partnerships & Support

We express our sincere gratitude to our valued partners, funders, allies, interns, volunteers, and supporters who have been steadfast co-travellers on our transformative journey. Their unwavering support enables us to persist in our mission to forge a digitally enabled, socially just society across North East India.

NEDFi North Eastern Development Finance Corporation – CSR Funder (HaqDisha & Udyamita Namsai)	Slice Bank CSR Funder – Udyamita Kampur, Assam	Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) Knowledge & Implementation Partner
Arunachal State Rural Livelihood Mission (ArSRLM) Community Infrastructure Partner – Udyamita Namsai	IndiaAI / Ministry of Electronics & IT Supporting Organisation – AI Impact Summit Pre- event	Dept. of IT, Gauhati University Co-organiser – AI Impact Summit Pre-event 2026
North East Development Foundation (NEDF) Sister Concern & Co- organiser – Rural Udyamita	State Bank of India – Namsai Branch Financial Literacy & Loan Facilitation Partner	KVK Namsai / Ministry of Tribal Affairs Enterprise Training Partner – Mushroom Programme

Thank You

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