



Transforming Northeast India into a Saffron Hub

[Source: PIB](#)

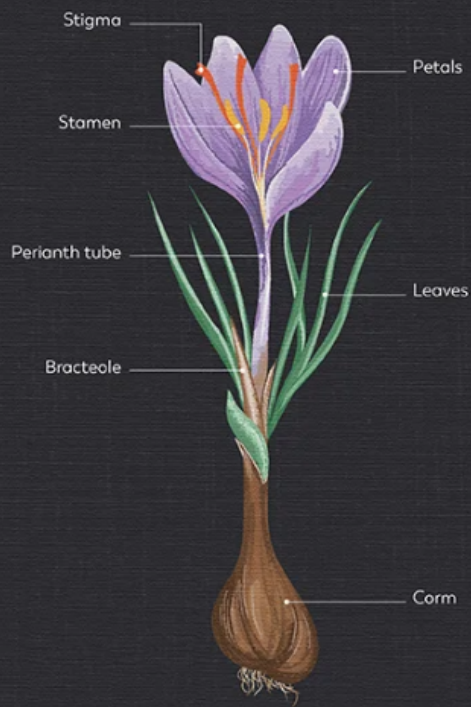
India has identified the **Northeast as India's next saffron cultivation hub**, following Jammu & Kashmir's Pampore. This initiative, part of **Mission Saffron**, was highlighted during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the [North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach \(NECTAR\)](#) permanent campus in Shillong.

- **Mission Saffron:** It is a centrally-funded project launched in 2010-11 to support saffron cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir. Since 2021, it has expanded to Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya under the ["Saffron Bowl Project"](#) by NECTAR.
- **Saffron:** Highly valuable spice derived from the [stigmas of flower *Crocus sativus*, known as the saffron crocus.](#)
 - Saffron thrives at 2000m altitude, in loamy, sandy, or [calcareous soils](#), with pH ranging from 6-8, requiring a dry to moderate climate with summer temperatures below 40°C and winter temperatures as low as -20°C.
 - Kashmir saffron got [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag status.](#)
- **NECTAR:** An autonomous body under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, established in 2014, it focuses on technology-driven solutions to enhance agriculture, infrastructure, and economic development in the Northeast.

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Saffron

Flower Anatomy



Read more: [Saffron Bowl Project](#)

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