WEEKLY

NORTH EAST ECONOMY WRAP

Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers

North East Advisory Council

FICCI

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15th November – 21st November 2025

Assam to roll out 'special policy' to protect 'genuine youths' from fake tea garden claims

Assam is set to introduce a new "special policy" to curb the misuse of benefits meant for tea garden communities after officials detected repeated attempts to claim quotas with fake certificates.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said earlier scrutiny during medical admissions had exposed the scale of the problem, leading the government to separate community lists for the Barak and Brahmaputra regions to better identify inconsistencies. He indicated that the same level of verification would now extend to government recruitment.



Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/assam-to-roll-out-special-policy-to-protect-genuine-youths-from-fake-tea-garden-claims-1306682-2025-11-21

Guwahati to get visa facilitation centre for over 60 countries

Residents of Assam and the North East will soon be able to submit biometric data for visa applications without travelling to Delhi or Mumbai, following an agreement by VFS Global to establish a dedicated visa facilitation centre in Guwahati.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the development on social media on November 20, describing it as a significant relief for people in the region who currently face lengthy journeys to access visa services.

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/guwahati-to-get-visa-facilitation-centre-for-over-60-countries-1306677-2025-11-21

From loom to livelihood: Assam weavers achieve new milestones with Cairn's support



Marking Women's Entrepreneurship Day, Cairn Oil & Gas, Vedanta Ltd., has highlighted the growing success of more than 3,200 women weavers in Assam who have transitioned from traditional craftspersons to confident rural entrepreneurs. The achievement comes through Cairn's sustained investment in community-driven handloom centres across Golaghat and Jorhat districts.

Developed in partnership with the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM), these centres have provided women with modern weaving infrastructure, upgraded looms, and structured technical training.

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/from-loom-to-livelihood-assam-weavers-achieve-new-milestones-with-cairns-support-1306200-2025-11-20

Arunachal's Siang district farmers mobilise to tap high-value medicinal plant market



A push to position Siang as a major centre for medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation took shape on November 17 as more than 100 farmers gathered for a regional awareness programme at Pangin Community Hall.

The event, organised by Koje Jangoo MAP Farmer Producer Company in partnership with Kirat Biotech Private Limited, focused on the commercial potential of Sugandhmantri, a high-value medicinal crop considered suitable for cluster farming and under-utilised land.

Read more: https://www.indiatodayne.in/arunachal-pradesh/story/arunachals-siang-district-farmers-mobilise-to-tap-high-value-medicinal-plant-market-1305261-2025-11-17

Nagaland Government announces Air India Express as official travel partner for Hornbill Festival 2025



The Government of Nagaland has designated Air India Express as the Official Travel Partner for the Hornbill Festival 2025, strengthening connectivity to the state's biggest cultural celebration and reinforcing the airline's cultural engagement initiative, 'Tales of India.'

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/nagaland/story/nagaland-government-announces-air-india-express-as-official-travel-partner-for-hornbill-festival-2025-1305309-2025-11-18

Centre steps up northeast infrastructure push as Sitharaman clears new projects in Nagaland



Nagaland's capital investment pipeline received a fresh boost on November 15 as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated two projects funded under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI): a multipurpose hall in Phek and a guest house for administrative officers in Zunheboto.

The announcement was made during her visit to Chumoukedima, where she later held a detailed review meeting with Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Ministers TR Zeliang and Y Patton, and senior state officials.

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/nagaland/story/centre-steps-up-northeast-infrastructure-push-as-sitharaman-clears-new-projects-in-nagaland-1304438-2025-11-15

North East India Connect Festival begins in Hyderabad, driving cultural and tech partnerships



A major platform linking Hyderabad with the North Eastern states began on November 20 as the North East India Connect: Techno-Cultural Festival started at the Hitex Exhibition Centre. The three-day programme marks the first phase of a two-part initiative aimed at deepening cultural exchange, strengthening technological cooperation and expanding economic opportunities.

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/national/story/north-east-india-connect-festival-begins-in-hyderabad-driving-cultural-and-tech-partnerships-1306584-2025-11-20

Sangai Festival is a strategic platform to boost tourism, not just a celebration: Manipur Tourism Director



Manipur's Tourism Director Lourembam Bikram has emphasised that the Sangai Festival is not merely an entertainment event but a strategic platform to harness the state's vast tourism potential. He made the remarks while addressing a one-day workshop on "Tourism Potential in Manipur" held today at the Manipur Press Club. The programme was jointly organised by the Directorate of Tourism and the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU).

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/manipur/story/sangai-festival-is-a-strategic-platform-to-boost-tourism-not-just-a-celebration-manipur-tourism-director-1305953-2025-11-19

Mizoram tourism minister bets on music festivals to lift visitor numbers

Mizoram's tourism strategy is leaning heavily on cultural events, with Tourism Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar highlighting music festivals as a key driver for visitors and local income growth

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the three-day Leitlangpui Music Festival in Lunglei's Pukpui, Hmar said music and cultural expression remain central to the Mizo identity and offer a strong platform for tourism development.

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/mizoram/story/mizoram-tourism-minister-bets-on-music-festivals-to-lift-visitor-numbers-1304764-2025-11-16

Tripura showcases organic farming model at global expo in Dubai

Tripura's progress in organic farming took the global stage this week as Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath presented the state's success story at the Middle East Natural & Organic Products Expo (MENOPE) 2025 in Dubai.

The event, held at the Dubai World Trade Centre, brought together organic producers, buyers, and investors from around the world. Tripura's participation attracted strong interest from international delegates impressed by the state's organic products, including the GI-tagged Queen Pineapple, aromatic rice varieties like Kalikhasa and Harinarayan, Bird's Eye Chilli, Gandharaj Lemon, White Sesame, and Foxtail Millet.

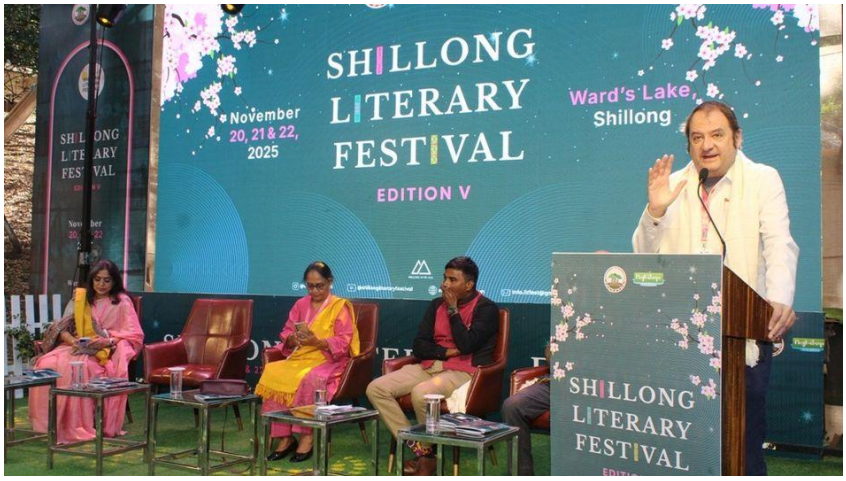


Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/tripura/story/tripura-showcases-organic-farming-model-at-global-expo-in-dubai-1305658-2025-11-18

Shillong literary festival opens with global line-up and new regional focus

Meghalaya's biggest literary gathering opened its fifth edition on November 20 with a clear message: the stories of the state must travel far beyond its hills.

The Shillong Literary Festival returned to the banks of Ward's Lake, now ringed with cherry blossoms, drawing writers from across India and abroad. The setting offered a striking backdrop for three days of discussions on literature, identity and the role of regional voices in a changing cultural landscape.



Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/meghalaya/story/shillong-literary-festival-opens-with-global-line-up-and-new-regional-focus-1306487-2025-11-20

Gas pipeline from Tripura to Mizoram progresses, 23.5 per cent completed



The installation of a gas pipeline from Tripura to Mizoram is underway and progressing steadily, officials said on Wednesday, November 6. Once completed, the project will provide piped gas connections to households in Mizoram, particularly in Aizawl.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister B. Lalchhanzova chaired a review meeting on Tuesday to assess the ongoing project, which falls under the North East Gas Grid (NEGG). The pipeline, stretching from Tripura's Parisagar to Sihhmui near Aizawl, spans a total of 119 km — 104 km within Mizoram and the rest in Tripura.

Read more at: https://www.indiatodayne.in/mizoram/story/gas-pipeline-from-tripura-to-mizoram-progresses-235-per-cent-completed-1299944-2025-11-06