WEEKLY
NORTH EAST ECONOMY WRAP

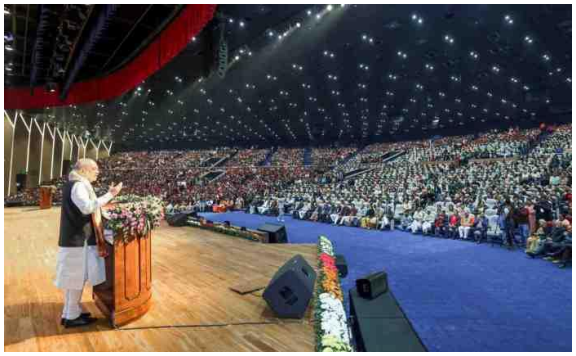
Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers

North East Advisory Council

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27th December 2025 – 2nd January 2026

Amit Shah inaugurates Northeast's largest auditorium in Guwahati



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on December 29 inaugurated the Northeast's largest auditorium, Jyoti-Bishnu Antarjatik Kala Mandir, in Guwahati, marking a major addition to Assam's cultural and public infrastructure.

Built at a cost of Rs 291 crore, the auditorium complex has a seating capacity of 5,000 and is spread across 45 bighas, or about 14.85 acres, in the Khanapara area of the city, officials said. The facility is being projected as the largest auditorium in the entire Northeastern region.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/amit-shah-inaugurates-northeasts-largest-auditorium-in-guwahati-1323818-2025-12-29



Assam is the fastest growing state in India: RBI report

Assam has emerged as India's fastest-growing state economy over the last five years, underscoring the Northeast's rising contribution to national growth.

Reserve Bank of India data on Gross State Domestic Product at constant prices show that Assam's economy expanded by 45% between FY20 and FY25, outpacing all other major states and significantly exceeding the national growth rate during the same period.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/assam-is-the-fastest-growing-state-in-india-rbi-report-1323170-2025-12-27

Assam to install Rs 500 crore proton therapy unit for cancer treatment at GMCH



The Assam government has approved the installation of a Rs 500 crore proton therapy machine at the State Cancer Institute of Gauhati Medical College Hospital, marking the first time such advanced cancer treatment will be available in India's public health system.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the decision during a media interaction under the 'Natun Diner Alap' (Conversations of a New Day) programme on January 1, 2026. Proton therapy machines are currently available in only two private hospitals in the country, located in Mumbai and Chennai.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/assam-to-install-rs-500-crore-proton-therapy-unit-for-cancer-treatment-at-gmch-1325223-2026-01-01

Guwahati–Kolkata Vande Bharat sleeper train approved, flag-off soon



India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper train will run on the Guwahati–Kolkata route, marking a major push for faster overnight rail travel in eastern and northeastern India. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the service will be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the coming days, following the completion of testing and certification.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma welcomed the approval in a post on X on January 1, thanking the Prime Minister "for approving India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper train from Guwahati–Kolkata, which will greatly cater to passengers of both States", and expressing gratitude to Vaishnaw "for supporting Assam's railway needs".

https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/guwahati-kolkata-vande-bharat-sleeper-train-approved-flag-off-soon-1325172-2026-01-01

White Owl Literature Festival 2026 in Nagaland to spotlight Northeast storytelling

The third edition of The White Owl Literature Festival & Book Fair will be held in Nagaland from February 5, celebrating the Northeast's rich literary and storytelling traditions, from ancient oral narratives to contemporary writing, organisers said.
The three-day festival, themed "Celebrating Stories, Inspiring Minds", is being organised by Penguin Random House India in collaboration with literary institute The White Owl. It will be hosted at Zone Niathu by The Park in Chümoukedima, Nagaland, and will conclude on February 7, 2026.



https://www.indiatodayne.in/nagaland/story/white-owl-literature-festival-nagaland-celebrates-northeast-stories-2026-1324574-2025-12-31

Manipur assistant professor Atom Annupama turns waste into wealth, builds green start up from banana fibre

Translating the knowledge gained from years of research, Dr Atom Annupama began a pathbreaking initiative to convert waste into wealth from banana pseudo-stems and, within almost a year, emerged as a successful entrepreneur.



Manipur has been grappling with conflict since May 2023, severely affecting the state's economy and leaving many unemployed. Amid this critical situation, several young entrepreneurs have come up with innovative ideas to generate employment instead of becoming job seekers. Among them is Dr Atom Annupama, who launched her company, Chankorb Private Limited, in March this year.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/manipur/video/manipur-assistant-professor-atom-annupama-turns-waste-into-wealth-builds-green-start-up-from-banana-fibre-1324149-2025-12-30

Manipur solar entrepreneur's grassroots work finds mention in Mann Ki Baat



Solar entrepreneur Moirangthem Seth from Manipur has drawn national attention after his efforts to bring off-grid electricity to remote communities were highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 129th edition of Mann Ki Baat.

Seth's work focuses on addressing chronic power shortages in far-flung parts of Manipur, where access to reliable grid electricity remains uneven despite recent improvements. Having grown up in a region marked by frequent outages, he turned to solar energy as a practical alternative for villages that continue to remain outside dependable power networks.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/manipur/story/manipur-solar-entrepreneurs-grassroots-work-finds-mention-in-mann-ki-baat-1323580-2025-12-29

Tripura mulls EMRS in all 58 blocks to boost tribal education: Manik Saha



Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on January 1 said the state government is considering establishing Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in all 58 blocks of the state with the objective of expanding access to quality education for tribal students, particularly those living in remote and rural areas.

Addressing a programme, the Chief Minister said the government has placed special emphasis on improving educational opportunities for Scheduled Tribe students and ensuring that quality schooling reaches the grassroots. The EMRS scheme, funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, is aimed at providing residential education to tribal children and enabling them to pursue higher education.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/tripura/story/tripura-mulls-emrs-in-all-58-blocks-to-boost-tribal-education-manik-saha-1325326-2026-01-02

Tripura becomes Northeast's first state to strengthen power grid cyber security

Tripura has moved ahead of other northeastern states on power sector cybersecurity, with the Tripura State Load Dispatch Centre becoming the first in the region to receive the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification.

The certification, which focuses on information security management systems, was announced by Power Minister Ratan Lal Nath while addressing the second foundation day programme of the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited in Agartala.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/tripura/story/tripura-becomes-northeasts-first-state-to-strengthen-power-grid-cyber-security-1325247-2026-01-01

Meghalaya's Ryndia flagged as key success story in India's textile reforms



The Ministry of Textiles has flagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag granted to Meghalaya's traditional eri silk fabric, ryndia, as one of the most notable success stories of India's textiles sector in 2025, underlining its role in strengthening rural livelihoods and sustainable production.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/meghalaya/story/meghalayas-ryndia-flagged-as-key-success-story-in-indias-textile-reforms-1324041-2025-12-30

Sikkim startup draws German FDI, signalling shift towards AI-led growth



A Sikkim-based artificial intelligence startup has secured foreign direct investment from Germany at a valuation of about USD 4.4 million (around Rs 40 crore), marking one of the State's first instances of structured overseas funding in the technology sector.

Apuphi, co-founded by Diwash Kapil Chettri and Sulabh Raj Gurung, received the investment through Series I compulsorily convertible preference shares, structured in compliance with Indian regulations. The funding gives Sikkim a rare presence in India's AI startup space, which has largely been dominated by metropolitan hubs.

https://www.indiatodayne.in/sikkim/story/sikkim-startup-draws-german-fdi-signalling-shift-towards-ai-led-growth-1325252-2026-01-01

Tourism boom pushes Sikkim to record highs, sparks overtourism concerns

Sikkim is witnessing an unprecedented tourism boom, with visitor numbers soaring to record levels and popular destinations struggling to cope with the sudden influx. From the bustling streets of MG Marg in Gangtok to the snow-laden valleys of North Sikkim, the Himalayan state has emerged as one of India's most sought-after mountain destinations in 2025.



https://www.indiatodayne.in/sikkim/story/tourism-boom-pushes-sikkim-to-record-highs-sparks-overtourism-concerns-1323390-2025-12-28